



# The Trompette



*The Newsletter of the Westchester Chapter - American Guild of Organists*

DECEMBER 2011

VOLUME 11, #4

## *Greetings From the Dean...*

### *Connections*

The organ where I 'work' has a problem – it seems to lose volume periodically with no rhyme or reason. Someone suggested that there was probably a faulty wire failing to make consistent 'connection' – and would be better fixed by an electrician rather than the organ maintenance expert. It started me thinking about connections, and how much of this past month could be described using that term.

On Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> ten AGO Westchester members listened to presentations by host Eileen Laurence and Frank Miller. The latter read aloud their detailed job descriptions (contracts), one formally adopted by their house of worship, and the other unrecognized and unsigned, - an unfortunate state of affairs, but one which is too often the case. Working organists take note: have you ever put down on paper all the joys and tasks, big and little, which you do for your job? Maybe it's time to share this with your pastor and congregation!

Following a question and answer session during which Eileen and Frank spoke very frankly (sorry – can't think of a better word!) about their successes and professional challenges, we learned from Chapter member Stanton Daugherty as much as he could pack into an hour's talk. He spoke about how the three different types of pipe organs operate, what advantages one type has over another, how to 'voice,' how pitches are corrected, the difficulties of maintenance in general (when there is often no natural or artificial light, heat, proper ventilation, etc.) It seems a pipe organ maintenance person is often forced to practically stand on his head, while doing extremely delicate operations on the organ works. All of us felt it was a morning well-spent, and I would like to express my gratitude to these three presenters.

It's fortunate that we had two Westchester AGO events this past week, since our October program at Christ Church was impossible for many of us to attend, due to the snow storm. On Tuesday night, November 15<sup>th</sup> a group from our chapter attended the concert given by Jon Gillock at Church of the Ascension in lower Manhattan, where he performed Messiaen's "Meditations on the Mystery of the Holy Trinity." Messiaen was inspired by several texts on the Holy Trinity; there was another obvious trinity in play, consisting of the organ built by Pascal Quoirin, Jon Gillock, and the composer. Or, and this sounds like a headline for a newspaper – "Gillock channels Messiaen; God applauds." It was a pretty shattering experience on many levels, and our warmest thanks are due to Kathy Jones for suggesting this as a Chapter event!

During the intermission we connected with Eva Sze who attended our workshop on AGO Certification which Jan Piet Knijff presented a few years ago. She recognized us, and re-introduced herself. Eva is a doctoral candidate at CUNY in music theory, who also teaches music theory at NYU. She made an interesting comment, which I take to be a compliment. A dual member of the Queens Chapter and NY City Chapter, Eva suggested that the smaller chapters (like ours) offer more practical programs for organists, while the NY City Chapter has more concert programs. I guess that makes sense; there are probably more people who are interested in organs and organ music in NYC, but not proportionally as many working organists (there would be fewer jobs available per capita, anyway.)

Several Chapter members have performed short organ recitals in the chapel at The Osborne, a beautiful retirement home in Rye. Last Sunday I was able to attend for the first time, and heard Sub-Dean Judy Abel play organ works by Bach, a transcription of Grieg's "Hall of the Mountain King", and her own original Thanksgiving song, which we were all encouraged to sing. I think the whole program was just delightful, and so did the rest of the audience.

Good luck with all your connections this wonderful season – spiritually, personally, and musically!

*Alice Avouris*

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# *Westchester AGO*

## **2011-2012 Program Schedule**

**Sunday, January 8, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.** (Snow Date: January 15<sup>th</sup>)

**TWELFTH NIGHT PARTY**  
At the home of **Dr. Robert Chase**, White Plains

**Sunday, February 19, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.**

*Hymn Fest of African-American, Hispanic & other non-traditional ethnic hymns*  
Rye Presbyterian Church  
Host: **Kevin Walters**

**Sunday, March 11, 2012 at 4:00**

**"Members' Compositions"**  
Saint Columbanus Church, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567  
Host: **Karen Longwell**

**April 22, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.**

**Choral Reading**  
The Larchmont Temple  
Host/Presenter: **Jayson Rodovsky-Engquist**

**May 20, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.**

**Member Recital: "Members Choice"**  
The Mount Kisco Presbyterian Church  
Host: **Terence J. Flanagan**  
Coordinator: **Judith Abel**

**June 2012 – Date and venue to be determined**

**Theatre Organ Excursion or Organ Crawl**  
Date and venue to be determined

# Concert Calendar

## *The TreasureHouse Chorale and Chamber Orchestra and Soloists*

will perform their 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Advent-Christmas Concert “*Messiah*”, featuring selections of the renowned oratorio by George Frideric Handel, and also works Vittoria, Rutter and others. Program concludes with a *Festival of Carols*.

**Joseph J. Nigro**, Conducting

**Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 at 7:30 pm**

St. Mary’s Church, 11 Clinton Street, Wappingers Falls, NY

**Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 7:30 pm**

Church of the Annunciation, 470 Westchester Avenue, Crestwood, NY 10707

**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 7:30 pm**

Saint James Church, 16 Gleneida Avenue (Route 52), Carmel, NY 10512

*Tickets /Information for all concerts please call 914-318-3268*

*All tickets available at the doors at the time of the concert.*

For directions or more information, visit our web site at [www.treasurehousemusic.org](http://www.treasurehousemusic.org).

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## ***St. Luke’s Episcopal Church***

*Bedford Road and Katonah Ave*

*Katonah, NY*

### **“HANDEL: MESSIAH SING-ALONG”**

**Sunday Dec. 4, 2011 at 2 PM**

Maestro Harold Rosenbaum, Conductor

**John Lettieri**, Organist

Come and enjoy singing through all the choruses of Handel's Messiah in a relaxed setting. Whether you sing in a choir, or have in the past, whether you have sung this glorious work before or not, join your fellow neighborhood singers in a fun and inspiring afternoon.

Please bring your own score, or borrow one at the door.

General admission: \$10 – Students: \$5

For more information, please call (914) 232-5220

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## ***The Presbyterian Church of Mt. Kisco***

*605 Millwood Road*

*Mt. Kisco, NY*

### **“VIVALDI GLORIA”**

**Sunday Dec. 4, 2011 at 7:30 PM**

The Congregational Choir with soloists and orchestra

**Terence J. Flanagan**, conductor.

Reception following the performance.

914-666-7001 [www.pcmk.org](http://www.pcmk.org)

Suggested donation: \$20. The Sanctuary is handicapped accessible.

***The Osborn Chapel***

*101 Theall Road  
Rye, NY 10580*

**"2ND SUNDAYS at THE OSBORN"**

30-minute Organ Recitals at The Osborn Chapel at 2 PM

**Dec. 11, 2011 at 2 PM: Jayson Rodovsky Engquist**

*Admission is FREE -- All are welcome*

There are open dates to perform at in 2012 - Please contact Jayson Rodovsky-Engquist

An honorarium is paid for each 30-minute program.

*For Information call: (914) 777-1660*

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***St. Luke's Episcopal Church***

*Bedford Road and Katonah Ave  
Katonah.NY*

**"A RENAISSANCE ADVENT"**

**Sunday Dec. 11, 2011 at 3 PM**

THE CANTICUM NOVUM SINGERS

Harold Rosenbaum, Conductor

WITH THE CANTICUM NOVUM YOUTH CHOIR

Edie Rosenbaum, Director

Works by Josquin, Morley, Palestrina, Guerrero, Handel, and others.

Tickets are \$15 (\$5 for Students).

Contact: 914-763-3453 OR 914-232-5220

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***St. Paul's Historic Church***

*South Columbus Ave.  
Mt. Vernon, NY*

**"CHRISTMAS ORGAN CONCERT"**

**Dec. 18, 2011 AT 2 PM: Kathryn Jones**

Featuring classical music on the historic 1833 pipe organ, including some traditional carols and

Holiday favorites. Refreshments served.

For more information: (914) 667-4116 -- [www.nps.gov/sapa](http://www.nps.gov/sapa)

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***Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church***

*197 Manville Road  
Pleasantville, NY*

**"ANNUAL HANDBELL BENEFIT CONCERT"**

**Dec. 18, 2011 AT 4 PM**

The Katonah Celebration Ringers under **Eileen Laurence**, and the Emanuel Ringers under Eiko Cornelius will play. These are 'sister' choirs who have toured the world together.

There is no admission charge, but a free will offering will be collected.

For more information call the church at 914-769-1559.

# Reads & Mixtures

## Interview with an organist: Meet Rick Tripodi

**Rick Tripodi** joined our Chapter last year. Actually, he has dual membership; he also belongs to the Connecticut chapter of the AGO. After having the opportunity to speak with him recently, I thought his musical life history would make for a fascinating interview.

*Alice:* Rick, thanks for agreeing to this interview. We have been using the same opening question for everyone – but I still think it’s a good way to start: How did you first know you wanted to be an organist?

*Rick:* For some reason, I always wanted to play the organ. When I was about 5 years old, my family went to my aunt’s house during the fall and I absolutely refused to rake leaves with my cousins because I was going to be an organist and had to protect my hands. I still don’t rake leaves.

*Alice:* 5 years old – that’s incredibly young to feel that strongly! It’s important for us to remember that our influence as musicians, even on the very young, can have great impact. So, as a child, I guess you must have been pretty impressed by the organist at your house of worship. Please share with us your memories of important mentors.

*Rick:* The organist at my home church was barely passable and played with 2 hands and her left foot – the right foot was firmly planted on the accelerator pedal. I got the key to the choir loft when I was around 9 and practiced every day (my dad was a bass in the choir and I am sure that he held some weight with the pastor). When I was around 11, a friend of mine who was in the boy choir at Christ Church in Greenwich brought me over to a rehearsal where I met my first organ teacher, Claude Means. At my first lesson, he patiently sat me down at a 4-manual Moller and asked “Do you know what those things are” (pedals) and how I could play them. I told him that if I sat at the edge of the bench, I could hit a few with my left foot (sound familiar?). Needless to say, Claude told me I had to grow some before I could learn how to play the organ correctly. The following year, I had grown tall enough to play with both feet and I was delighted that he accepted me as a student.

Claude was a wonderful teacher, exposing me to several types of music compositionally and stylistically. He would take me to concerts before I could drive and was a consummate and patient mentor. I learned organ registration and accompanying from him in a very proper and understated way as he did both exquisitely (although he hardly ever used the chorus reeds as they would go out of tune). Tony Newman, Virgil Fox and Albert Fuller were my other mentors and inspirations. Tony with his ‘new age’ approach to Baroque music; Albert with different stylistic interpretations of chamber music and period performances practices; Virgil with his flamboyant and symphonic style: ‘Honey, if it sounds good, do it’. Think I’ve melded all of these styles into my melting pot of a brain and draw on each sector in my playing.

I terrorized all the churches in the area for practice time and all of them let me practice whenever I wanted for free (thank God, or I would have had to rake leaves)! The only good organs were in non-Catholic churches and they welcomed me with open arms (unless I played too loudly and upset the secretaries and rest of the staff).

*Alice:* What advice do you have for beginning organists, or organists just starting out in a job as organist in a church or temple?

*Rick:* It’s not as easy to be a wonderful church musician as one might think. One has to be multi-talented not just play but plan music that is appropriate to the service, deal with church administration and music committees that may or may not have any knowledge of what one really does, have choir directing skills and know how to inspire the congregation, be able to be on top of the musical requirements of each service, know when to play, when to stop, and when to fill-in just in case

something goes longer or the minister gets lost. Most importantly, one needs to be a great service player: sensitive to the hymns, choir anthems and congregational participation, a wonderful prelude to bring people to prayer & a postlude to send them on their way with a sense of being spiritually uplifted.

**Alice:** It's our vocation to help people, as you say, feel spiritually uplifted. But sacred musicians need a satisfying emotional life, too, with family and friends. What's your advice on how to balance personal life with professional life and its crazy hours?

**Rick:** Family time is very important and often (as in my case), my spouse works a completely opposite schedule than I do. Monday – Friday daytimes and a few evenings for him; some evenings and weekends for me. Holidays can be a real problem (Christmas, Eastertide, etc.) with extended families, but if one has to be in church, I invite them to come along to hear me play so they can see why I'm so crazed around the holidays. I've told everyone I know and love not to ask any serious questions or make any serious decisions that require input from me from the day after Thanksgiving until New Year's Day – just don't ask. If they make the wrong decision, I can always nag them until Holy Week and then after Easter.

**Alice:** Organists and musicians frequently have a variety of other musical talents. Of all of your musical activities, which are the most rewarding to you?

**Rick:** Making music is why I'm here: I love to make music for people who appreciate my talents and years of hard work. One doesn't just swallow a pill and be able to play. I also have installed and voiced many organs, working for several Rodgers organ dealers for over 35 years and consulting on pipe organ design and voicing. My 'kids' are my true treasures as they bring music to others even when I'm playing somewhere else.

**Alice:** All of us at have survived less-than-perfect performance scenarios. Have you any?

**Rick:** Playing an instrument as mechanically complex as is any organ is a disaster waiting to happen – there are huge possibilities as to what will happen next. I have said to many instruments: "Please, please don't do anything you didn't do all week while I was practicing alone, please don't misbehave during the service."

I have played several concerts at St. Patrick's Cathedral in NYC which had a timeframe of 35 minutes which I exceeded. In the middle (quiet section of course) of the Suppe "Poet and Peasant Overture," one of the maintenance men turned on a vacuum cleaner. My page turner was horrified until I told him not to worry; in 12 measures no one would be able to hear that blasted vacuum cleaner. Sure enough when I finished the piece, the reverberation died away, and all you could hear was the vacuum cleaner still whirring away. I think I still have a video copy of this masterly duet.

**Alice:** Someone should write a concerto for vacuum and organ! Wait, I think Peter Schickley may already have done it.

**Rick:** I played at an Italian RC Church in Greenwich Village and had the privilege of playing for several 'family' weddings and funerals (poor Sal, he died from natural causes – internal bleeding from a bullet after Saturday night's family meeting). The priest told me to make sure the gallery door was locked, he was afraid someone would come upstairs and take aim (maybe at me if I played the wrong piece).

At the same place, I played a wedding where John Gotti was best man. After the ceremony, the bride and groom with about 30 bridesmaids and ushers were lined up on the church steps for photos. It was summertime and people were lined up to witness the event on both sides of the street. A child had a helium balloon which burst and the whole wedding party literally 'hit the deck' and disappeared.

**Alice:** You heard it here! Sounds like a scene from a famous movie. Thank you so much, Rick for a very interesting 'Interview with an Organist.'

## CHANGE OF THEME FOR THIS YEAR'S MEMBERS' RECITAL

It was called to our attention that a "transcriptions" theme is not the best choice for our Mount Kisco Presbyterian venue, with its magnificent von Beckerath organ. So, the theme for this year will be "Members' Choice." We will save the "transcriptions" theme for next year. The organ specifications for this year's recital will appear in the Trompette and will also be posted on our chapter website.

Make your choices early and email or phone the titles and program information to Judy Abel, [abeljudith39@gmail.com](mailto:abeljudith39@gmail.com), 914-864-1635. This is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, so let's have even larger participation than last year.

P.S. I have a copy of a piece commissioned for the Regional Convention in Boston (2009).

It is "Veni Creator Spiritus" by Hina Sakamoto.

Anyone interested in performing this piece, please contact me. Thanks. **Judy Abel**

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## Welcome New Members!

Tomoya Kano  
Director of Music, First United Methodist Church, Mt. Vernon

Sally Evans  
Board Member, Charis Chamber Voices

# Empty Benches

## **ORGANIST**

(Dec. 2011)

***St. Aedan's Roman Catholic Church***  
*Pearl River, N.Y.*

Three masses per Sunday, Wednesday night choir rehearsal. Extra masses for holidays  
Pay per mass conforms to Archdiocese of New York guidelines  
Allen three-manual electric organ, a recent model with digital alternatives  
Easy access to building for personal practice times  
Convenient Rockland County location, close to Palisades Parkway exit  
Contact Scott Walters, [elliescottsydney@yahoo.com](mailto:elliescottsydney@yahoo.com), 845-558-1225

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## **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

(Dec. 2011)

***Mt. Kisco United Methodist Church***  
*300 Main St.*  
*Mt. Kisco, N.Y.*

We are seeking an energetic, creative and organized director of music. Knowledge of a wide variety of musical styles required, including traditional Protestant hymnody.

Must be a team player interested in working with musicians of all ages and abilities.

One Sunday service per week, plus Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

Salary is between \$15,000 and \$17,000.

Instruments: Allen Digital organ with antiphonal, Steinway grand piano

Please send cover letter and resume to Matt Curry, [mount.kisco@yahoo.com](mailto:mount.kisco@yahoo.com), 914-666-5014

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## **ALTO/COUNTERTENOR STAFF SINGER**

(Dec. 2011)

***Christ's Church (Episcopal)***  
*Rye, NY*

Join the choir of this traditional Episcopal music program. The parish choir (staff singers, adults, teenagers and choristers) sing at weekly services of either Holy Communion or Morning

Prayer and rehearse weekly on Thursday evenings. There are also regular extra-liturgical events, including services of Choral Evensong, Solemn Requiem for All Souls, the usual Holy

Week liturgies, and events around Christmas. The ideal candidate will be an excellent sight-reader, with a straight-toned, blending voice capable of performing in a wide range of musical styles in the Anglican tradition.

For further information, or to have an informal discussion about the position, please contact Ruairaidh Sutherland, the Organist & Director of Music, on (914) 967-1749 ext. 229 or at [music@ccrye.org](mailto:music@ccrye.org)



***ORGANIST and CHOIR DIRECTOR***

(Nov. 2011)

***All Saints' Episcopal Church***

*Harrison, N.Y.*

The ideal candidate brings strong training credentials and work history, along with a passion for servant ministry and the musical empowerment of the congregation.

Performs on the organ/piano and directs the parish choir(s) for Sunday, Feast Day and other public worship services;

Selects hymns and other liturgical music in consultation with the Rector;

Participates in staff, worship committee and other meetings as requested by the Rector;

Recruits and prepares parishioners of all ages to sing in the parish choir(s);

Maintains the parish's music library and purchases new material within the constraints of the parish budget;

Supervises maintenance of the organ and other parish instruments;

Retains supplemental or substitute musicians within the constraints of the parish budget;

Provides musical support for weddings, funerals and other special services.

The position presumes 15 hours per week. As with all Episcopal Church parish employees, the incumbent serves at the pleasure of the rector and participates in annual performance review.

Position pays a \$16,000 annually plus prevailing taxes and four Sundays of paid vacation leave.

Interested candidates should email a C.V. or resume to [office@allsaintsharrison.org](mailto:office@allsaintsharrison.org).

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***ORGANIST***

(Nov. 2011)

***St. Aedan's Roman Catholic Church***

*Pearl River, N.Y.*

Play 3 masses per Sunday with 1 choir rehearsal on Wednesday night, weddings and special liturgies. Knowledge of Catholic liturgy would be helpful. Position will start in October.

Contact Scott Walters [Scottthetenor@yahoo.com](mailto:Scottthetenor@yahoo.com)

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***ORGANIST***

(Nov. 2011)

***St. Charles Borromeo Church***

*Dover Plains, N.Y.*

Services (Masses) are Saturday 5pm, Sunday 9am and 11:45am; Pipe Organ, small church.

Stipend is \$125 (subject to change)

The contact person is Fr. Anthony Guiliano at 914 963-7474

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***DIRECTOR of MUSIC MINISTRIES***

(Nov. 2011)

***Ridgewood United Methodist Church***

*Ridgewood, N.J.*

***See job posting on AGO website – [www.agohq.org](http://www.agohq.org)***

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***MINISTER OF MUSIC / MUSIC DIRECTOR***

(Oct. 2011)

***Greenville Community Church***

*270 Ardsley Road  
Scarsdale, NY, 10583*

**Job Responsibilities and Duties:**

- Play the organ or piano for Sunday 9:00 a.m. choir rehearsal and 10:00 a.m. worship services, Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Maundy Thursday services.
- Play also for weddings, funerals and other special services as mutually agreed.
- Accompany the children's choir for occasional Sunday rehearsals and performances. Select music in advance of services in cooperation with the minister.
- Arrange for substitute organist/pianists when needed in cooperation with the minister.

**Job Skills and Requirements**

- Love for music and appreciation of multiple musical styles including classical, traditional hymnology, and gospel.
- Formal education in music performance.
- Experience as a pianist and organist in public performance.
- Ability to work well in a church setting with a diversity of people.

We have great Steinway Concert D and a small, but sweet pipe organ in need of a rebuild. We have a choir master who is also our baritone, so the person would not be working alone.

Contact Dorothy Lee: [Dorothy.K.Lee@morganstanley.com](mailto:Dorothy.K.Lee@morganstanley.com) // or  
Edward Schreur, pastor 914-723-1266

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***Note: In addition to the local listings above, Members should check the National AGO website / TAO and the ChoralNet website for jobs within the Region***

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***2-manual Rodgers organ for sale:***

Jamestown Model -- \$3500 or best offer  
Great for practice, needs minor repair. Nice condition  
Call Joe Nigro:

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## From Your Newsletter Editors...

The Dean and the Executive Committee encourage you to send informative articles and any other items of interest for publication in the Newsletter.

*The Trompette* is sent out by email, and by regular mail to those members without an email address. The electronic versions are sent out immediately after finalization, but processing the printed copies can take a week or more, plus the delivery of the regular postal mail can additionally take a week or more. If you have an email address, but are presently receiving your copy by postal mail, consider receiving it electronically instead, saving the Chapter postage expense. Send your email address to: [Lois Simmonds](#)

Please send us your material by the **20<sup>th</sup> of each month** to ensure that we will be able to deliver the Newsletter to the membership on or about the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month. If still relevant, late submissions will be published in the subsequent issue.

Do not send in items more than once. For the Concert Calendar, include event, date, time, location, cost (if any) and an information phone number. (Incomplete or unclear submissions will not be included.) Due to space constraints, articles and notices are frequently edited.

If you have provided a notice for the “Empty Benches” section, please be advised that postings will be carried for 3 calendar months unless we are advised that the position has either been filled or is still active. Newest listings appear first. Listings carried more than one month will be arranged alphabetically by organization and will indicate the month they were first run. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping *The Trompette* accurate and up-to-date.

Send your concert notices, articles, and other materials to:

[John Cecconi](#) (MS Word is preferred)

Be sure to visit the Chapter Website: [www.agowestchester.org](http://www.agowestchester.org).

Thank you!

John Cecconi  
Lois Simmonds  
*The Trompette* Editors

*Here is the LATEST issue of the  
Westchester Chapter AGO Newsletter.....*

*Inside:*

**Alice's musings; Holiday Concert Schedule;  
3 New Job postings, Member Interview  
...and much more!**

*Mark your calendar now and you won't miss an  
important date!*

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Westchester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

*The Trompette*

John Cecconi &

Lois Simmonds, Editors