



The Trompette



The Newsletter of the Westchester Chapter - American Guild of Organists

FEBRUARY 2012

VOLUME 11, #6

Greetings from the Dean...

Here we are, galloping into February already, and a new season of interesting programs. To get ready for our next two programs, we would like to hear from *you!*

On February 19th we will share our favorite hymns from varied cultural traditions. How does one define ‘ethnic hymn’ these days? What sounds foreign to one congregation is traditional in another! Let’s expand our hymnal ‘vocabulary’ and teach our congregations that we can be musically inclusive! You can help by introducing your favorite ‘non-traditional’ hymns, Sunday, February 19th at 4:00 at the Rye Presbyterian Church. Please contact me, Alice Avouris, with the hymns you would like to share. The large Casavant organ and a grand piano will both be available to use for your demonstration. Our host **Kevin Walters** is happy to schedule rehearsal time at the organ should you wish it. You can contact him by calling the church at 914 967-0842, extension 16.

The Casavant organ at Rye Presbyterian is one of the largest (if not the largest) in Westchester County. You can see its specifications elsewhere in this newsletter. **NOT TO BE MISSED:** Kevin Walters has graciously invited us to an ‘open bench’ on this wonderful instrument! Just come an hour before the program, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.

With M.L. King Day celebrations and remembrance services now past, I can’t think of another opportunity for an interfaith gathering until next fall. Since early September we have had 9/11 programs, community Thanksgiving services and Dr. Martin Luther King Day. At this past Sunday’s M.L. King Memorial Worship Service at Antioch Baptist Church in Bedford Hills, **Eileen Laurence** was one of three choral directors of an 80-voice interfaith choir with singers from 12 participating houses of worship. For 27 years Antioch has held an extremely successful (packed) seminar on Dr. Martin Luther King, educating young people and questioning adults of all races in the African American experience. At our February program I look forward to presenting some of my favorite hymns which were first introduced to me by Earl Brown, long-time director of music at Antioch Baptist Church. Mark your calendars and come! We will all leave this program with lots more ideas for interfaith services, as well as expanding the experience of our congregations!

REMINDER: Our March 11th program, “Members’ Compositions” is also coming up soon! Please contact our host, **Karen Longwell**, if you would like to contribute your original composition. Anything appropriate for worship, whether for organ, keyboard or voice will be very welcome. This will be an informal program, held in the generously spaced choir loft at St. Columbanus Church in Cortlandt Manor.

The Twelfth Night Party: Thankfully there was no bad weather or other natural disasters to prevent a wonderful afternoon and evening at Jenny and **Bob Chase’s** home January 8th. Many thanks to our hosts, and to everyone who came (with delectable refreshments) to party!

Alice Avouris

WESTCHESTER AGO EXECUTIVE BOARD

DEAN

Alice Avouris

SUB-DEAN

Judith Abel

SECRETARY

Virginia Bender

TREASURER

Kathryn Jones

REGISTRAR

Kevin Walsh

DIRECTORS

Karen Longwell, Class of ‘12
Laura Ravotti, Class of ‘12
Lowell Knauer, Class of ‘13
Janine Wallour-Thwaite, Cl.of ‘13
Eileen Laurence, Class of ‘14
Frank Miller, Class of ‘14

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION

Dr. Robert A. Chase

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

John Ceconi
Lois Simmonds

CHAPLAIN

John Ceconi

CHAPTER COORDINATORS

MEMBERSHIP

Joyce Gardner

PLACEMENT / SUBSTITUTES

Judith Abel
Jayson Rodovsky-Engquist

WEBMASTER

Virginia Bender

WEBSITE

www.agowestchester.org

Westchester AGO
2011-2012 Program Schedule

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 p.m.
“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

SPECIFICATION FOR THE ORGAN AT RYE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Casavant Frères, opus 3506

I. Grand Orgue

Bourdon 16'
Montre 8'
Flûte à Pavillon 8'
Bourdon 8'
Prestant 4'
Flûte Ouverte 4'
Doublette 2'
Cornet III
Fourniture IV
Cymbale III
Basson 16'
Trompette 8'
Clairon 4'
Tremblant
Cloches
Carillon
Harpe
Célesta

II. Positif (Expressif)

Quintaton 16'
Principal 8'
Bourdon 8'
Dulciane 8'
Octave 4'
Flûte 4'
Nasard 2 2/3'
Doublette 2'
Quarte de Nasard 2'
Tierce 1 3/5'
Larigot 1 1/3'
Plein Jeu IV
Trompette 8'
Cromorne 8'
Tremblant
Clochettes

III. Récit (Expressif)

Bourdon 16'
Flûte Ouverte 8'
Flûte Céleste 8'
Viole de Gambe 8'
Voix Céleste 8'
Octave 4'
Flûte Octaviante 4'
Nasard 2 2/3'
Octavin 2'
Tierce 1 3/5'
Plein Jeu V
Cor Anglais 16'
Trompette 8'
Basson-Hautbois 8'
Voix Humaine 8'
Clairon 4'
Tremblant

IV. Solo

Bombarde 16'
Trompette Harmonique 8'
Clairon 4'

Pédale

Soubasse 32'
Contrebasse 16'
Soubasse 16'
Bourdon 16'
Octavebasse 8'
Bourdon 8'
Octave 4'
Flûte 4'
Mixture V
Bombarde 32'
Bombarde 16'
Basson 16'
Trompette Harmonique 8'
Trompette 8'
Clairon 4'
Cloches

Reads & Mixtures

SUBSTITUTE CHECKLIST

Can you imagine that you've been hired to play as a substitute and upon your arrival find the console locked and nowhere to be found? ; Or you have planned to play your favorite Trumpet Voluntary and find that the Trompette rank was removed a month ago?! Such horrors can be avoided if you use a Substitute Checklist at the time you receive the request. You can find a sample on our website. Feel free to download and use as is or modify for your own particular needs. You'll be glad you did!

ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

There are some exciting new offerings in the Organ Historical Society online catalog! Check them out at <http://www.ohscatalog.org/>

HYMNTIME

Here's a website you may wish to check out. It has over 8,700 Christian hymns & Gospel songs from many denominations, including lyrics, sheet music, audio, pictures, biographies, history, & more: <http://www.hymntime.com/tch/index.htm>

The **Nosey Dean** asks: *Although some denominations and individual houses of worship show strength in their numbers, many congregations have shrunk, even to closing. What are some ways that we as professional musicians and ministers of music, who love our work, can help to reverse this trend?*

Okay, before we start, I just have to say "Wow!" The 6 pages of responses show that for many of us this is a very important topic which we have thought a lot about. We can't fit everyone's comments in one *Trompette*; therefore we will continue this in future issues. Answers are given in the order in which I received them. 'Anonymous' gets the ball rolling by expressing what many sacred musicians are feeling, -the threat of what we perceive as non-traditional, too-easy musical expressions of faith taking over, and the art of sacred music being the casualty. As we cover more answers in future issues we'll share other ways to help grow our congregations.

Anonymous: I believe deeply that an excellent, strong music program is a great asset to any church or temple. However, the denomination that I play for now believes that if we appeal to the youth our attendance problems will be solved. They actively campaign to have lighter, folksy-type music, *aka* praise music. Rather than the great hymns of the past the going trend is 'ditties' with little Biblical content but which are easy to sing, accompanied by electric guitars and a very loud drummer. I am unhappy by this trend. Unfortunately, in order to keep my job there is nothing I can do about it.

Jimrae Lenser: I believe a church musician should have an open mind to perform and present a wide variety of music in church. In other words, everything from A to Z! For me, the key has always been "variety." The saying "variety is the spice of Life!" holds true in church music! Second, always perform/present new music to our congregations. Choir members and congregants will find it refreshing! This has been my experience. The key for me is to listen to others, congregants, pastor, choir members, and then proceed with music choice.

Gerald Montagna: Go to Greenwich and visit the 5:30 Saturday service at Harvest Time Church (King St. near the Airport) and the Sunday Evensong service at Stanwich Congregational (back country). The oldest person there is younger than the youngest person in the traditional-music churches. The results speak for themselves. This doesn't mean that you have to unplug the organ, throw away the hymns, and replace it with a deafening praise band. But people, there's a way of meeting these trends half way. A church that clings to a past that doesn't exist any more is just a lemming that is marching mindlessly to its own suicide.

Judith Abel: The sad fact of churches closing their doors has hit home in our chapter several times. One way we as employees who have a vested interest in the continued viability of the religious institution which employs us can help is by becoming a member of the congregation. We can contribute financially, volunteer for fund-raising and evangelical activities, serve on committees, serve as deacon, trustee, warden, or other position in the congregation. I know many AGO members have been helping their congregations in this way for years. I did, when I worked at Hawthorne Reformed Church, which was in danger of shrinking to oblivion. Though someone else has taken my musical place there, that congregation is still thriving. The doors of that church are still wide open.

Frank Miller: We need good cooperation between the minister of music and the pastor. Communication is very, very important. I think that's missing in a lot of churches. Also, pastors don't get more than a semester or less of education in sacred music. "Well, I don't know much about music, but this is what I want" has been the attitude of some people I have worked with. Maybe if the hymns were more honest, like "Onward, Christian Reservists."

Rick Tripodi: I think the most important part of reversing congregational decline is to offer a welcoming and friendly environment – but this all has to start at the clergy level – something as simple as the minister (priest, whatever) going into the congregation and welcoming newcomers, family friends, occasional churchgoer, etc. Greeters at the entrance of the church can make all the difference in the world to make people feel welcome and part of the liturgical experience. First impressions are the most important – people come to a certain church because they feel comfortable and welcome. Music is one of the most important gathering elements – nothing worse than going to church when one feels captive and having to endure bad music throughout the service. People shop around and tend to gravitate to churches with good music and preaching, a welcoming and non- threatening environment and friendly congregation.

Eileen Laurence: In my opinion, the solution to the problem of shrinking congregations falls on the shoulders of a combined group: leaders of the denomination, leaders of the congregation, its clergy and its musicians. The better these 4 categories work together, the greater chance of success. I put musicians at the end of the list because although it is important to do all we can to encourage congregational health, we do not work in a vacuum. Having said that, here are some suggestions that musicians might consider:

1. Choose service keyboard and vocal music that is inspiring, challenging, relevant and diverse, in partnership with the clergy and your participating musicians.
2. Listen to your people.
3. Listen to yourself.
4. Stay current with emerging ideas and music styles.
5. Practice so you are as good as you possibly can be.
6. Get to know your neighboring music colleagues and participate in community musical events when possible. Encourage your musicians to join you.

This issue will continue to be covered in the March issue of The Trompette.

Welcome New Members!

Dale F. Bonenberger
Organist/Music Director Trinity Episcopal Church, Ossining

Laurence Broderick
Director of Music: St. Anthony of Padua, Harrison

*Gerre Hancock has died from a heart attack.
We have lost our patriarch of improvisation.*

*A great symphony is like a man-made Mississippi
down which we irresistibly flow from the instant
of our leave-taking to a long foreseen destination.*

Aaron Copland

Empty Benches

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

(Feb. 2012)

Trinity Lutheran Church

25 Crane Road

Scarsdale, N.Y.

Trinity Lutheran is advertising for a part-time Director of Music (Organist-Choir Director).

Westchester AGO member Arthur Mader retired from this position in August, 2011.

The position requires 7-10 hours per week.

E-mail a resume to the Rev. Merlin Rehm at MerlinandLois@verizon.net.

Church contact info: phone - [914-723-2144](tel:914-723-2144) Fax - [914-722-1624](tel:914-722-1624) www.tlscarsdale.org

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, [845-558-1225](tel:845-558-1225)

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

Ruaraidh Sutherland, the Organist & Director of Music, on [914-967-1749](tel:914-967-1749) ext. 229 or at

music@ccrye.org

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

MARILYN BALLANTINE

~ September 29, 1925 - December 27, 2011 ~

Marilyn Jane Ballantine received a Bachelor of Music Education from MacPhail College of Music in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1947 and a Master of Sacred Music from Union Theological Seminary in New York in 1967. She trained professionally with Rupert Sircom, Carl Weinrich, Robert S. Baker, Alec Wyton, Louise L. Jenkins, Rosalie Snyder, Earl Berg, Byron Hardin and Seymour Lipkin.

Marilyn was the Minister of Music at the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan for 40 years from 1958 to 1998. Joining the church a year after its inception in 1957, she grew the choir from a handful of singers in the beginning to over 70 members. Under Marilyn's leadership, the music program grew as an important aspect of the weekly worship experience and instituted the well-known annual choir concerts. She was instrumental in the acquisition of the English Handbells, learning how to play them and teaching others the joy of ringing these special bells. Along with her husband, Marilyn organized and led four European tours for the choir, the first in 1983 to Scotland and England, in 1986 to England, Wales and Scotland, in 1989 to the Netherlands and Germany and a final tour in 1992 to Switzerland and Austria. Since her retirement in 1998, she has been a substitute organist for many of the surrounding churches in Fairfield and Westchester Counties and was a member both of the Fairfield and the Westchester Chapters of the American Guild of Organists.

A Memorial Service will be held on April 28, 2012 at 11:00AM at the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Marilyn Ballantine Music Endowment Fund, c/o The First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan, 178 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan, Connecticut 06840.

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 **20th of each month** to ensure that we will be able to deliver the Newsletter to the membership on or about the 1st 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.

Thank you!

John Cecconi
Lois Simmonds
The Trompette Editors

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

Inside:

**Alice's musings; Job postings, The Nosey
Dean; The Substitute Checklist...and much
more!**

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

Westchester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
The Trompette
John Cecconi &
Lois Simmonds, Editors