

The Trompette



The Newsletter of the Westchester Chapter - American Guild of Organists

FEBRUARY 2014

VOLUME 12, #6

Greetings from the Dean Dear Colleagues,

I have to start off with a big THANK YOU to Helen Darling for hosting our Twelfth Night Party, and for doing so in such grand style. Did we eat well! And we had a very nice turnout, in spite of the weather. We do have to apologize to anyone who could not come because of icy roads. The forecast was for temperatures several degrees above freezing, but that's not how the afternoon played out. By the time we realized the weather forecaster had hit a clinker, the feast was in the oven. So if you didn't come, don't worry—I ate your share of the turkey so it wouldn't go to waste.

As many of you know, Helen is not an organist, but her husband Howard was a very fine organist and treasurer of the chapter for many years. Helen enjoys the many friends she's made in the chapter, and of course we all enjoy her friendship. I have no doubt that Howard was smiling from above, not only on his wife's wonderful party, but also on what this chapter is—a group of organ lovers who support each other and enjoy each other's friendships through thick and thin.

National President Eileen Guenther has written more than once in *The American Organist* of the need for our chapters to be welcoming and supportive. I don't think it's bragging to say those are two words that describe our chapter, because they are not so much a reflection on the dean as they are on all of our members. May it always be so.

Hate to say this, but there are still a handful of members who haven't renewed. If you didn't receive your January issue of *The American Organist*, that's probably why. I hope that will prompt you to renew right away. There are some good things coming up, and we really want you to be a part of them. If you have any questions or problems regarding renewals, please contact me ASAP.

Speaking of good things, our next meeting is February 9, where we will have a chance to share our favorite spirituals, for both organ and choir. "Favorite" does not have to mean "difficult". Even a simple piece for unison choir can be very useful to your colleagues (and fun, as well). Whenever we have a meeting like this, I'm always impressed by the range of pieces people bring, and at least one piece really surprises me. I don't think a presentation by one individual, or one publisher, will ever have the same breadth.

I'd like to say I'm looking forward to this meeting, and I am...but...if I get there, I'll be late. I'm supposed to land at LaGuardia at 3:00 that afternoon, after a week on Joanie Madden's Folk 'n' Irish Cruise in the Caribbean. It's not exactly an AGO meeting, but there will be good music and good food and good company, so I guess it's the next-best thing.

Kevin Walsh

WESTCHESTER AGO EXECUTIVE BOARD

DEAN
Kevin Walsh

SUB-DEAN
Eileen Laurence

SECRETARY
Karen Longwell

TREASURER

REGISTRAR
Douglas Kostner

DIRECTORS
Laura Ravotti, Class of '14
Frank Miller, Class of '14
Lana Kollath, Class of '15
Edwin Wallace, Class of '15
Terence Flanagan, Class of '16
Mi-Won Kim, Class of '16

**PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
& EDUCATION**
Dr. Robert A. Chase

NEWSLETTER EDITORS
Alice Avouris

Lois Simmonds

CHAPLAIN
John Cecconi

CHAPTER COORDINATORS

MEMBERSHIP

**ACTING PLACEMENT /
SUBSTITUTES**
Kevin Walsh

WEBMASTER
Virginia Bender

Westchester AGO 2013-2014 Program Schedule

Sunday, February 9, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit” at Reformed Church of Cortlandtown.

Bring your favorite spirituals (organ or choir).

Contact Alice Avouris,

Sunday, March 30 at 4:30 p.m.

Sight singing workshop with Liz Fleischer

at Reformed Church of the Tarrytowns

April: No meeting. Easter is April 20.

May tbd. Organ crawl in Pelham/New Rochelle.

Concert Calendar

Second Sundays at the Osborn

101 Theall Rd. Rye, N.Y. 10580

(800) 252-4793; www.theosborn.org

Kyoko Tagami Meredith

February 9, 2014, 2:00 p.m.

Patricia Murphy

Virginia McGrane

Soprano Duet

March 9th 2014, 2:00 p.m.

Noriko Yamada coordinates the organists at the Osborn Retirement Home for their monthly organ recital series. Please contact her at NYamada4@Gmail.com or 914-921-1648.

Reads & Mixtures

HALLELUIAH CHORUS ORCHESTRAL PARTS FOR EASTER: Do any of you have brass parts you could either copy and e-mail me or let me borrow for the Halleluiahs Chorus? I have a brass quartet that wants to play along when our congregation sings it at Easter.

You can contact me at

Eileen Laurence,

Grand Piano desired: If you have one available, please contact Eileen Laurence. Thank you.

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS AWARDED \$15,000 GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

NEA Funding Will Support Performances, Workshops, and New Music at the 52nd Biennial AGO National Convention in Boston, Mass., June 23–27, 2014

NEW YORK CITY — The American Guild of Organists (AGO) has been awarded a grant by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to support the 2014 AGO National Convention in Boston, Mass., June 23–27, 2014. The \$15,000 NEA “Art Works” grant is directed to support performances, educational workshops, publication of the Boston Organ Book, and new music premieres. The grant carries a mandate that it be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources. The 2014 AGO National Convention is the fifth consecutive AGO National Convention that has garnered funding from the arts endowment.

For further information about the 2014 AGO National Convention, please visit Agoboston2014.org. For further information about the National Endowment for the Arts, please visit Arts.gov. ■

\$2.5 MILLION GIFT ENABLES THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS TO ENRICH LIVES THROUGH ORGAN MUSIC

Largest Bequest in the History of the AGO Establishes Endowments for College Scholarship Program, Organ Composition Competition, and Organ Fund to Maintain Tracker Pipe Organ.

NEW YORK CITY — The American Guild of Organists (AGO) is spearheading three major initiatives that have been made possible by the largest bequest in Guild history. Totaling more than \$2.5 million in cash and assets including a tracker pipe organ, the bequest from the estate of Ronald G. Pogorzelski and Lester D. Yankee was first announced at the 2010 AGO National Convention in Washington, D.C.

With the gradual distribution of the assets over the last three and a half years, the Guild has worked diligently and faithfully to honor the donors’ intentions by establishing (1) an endowment to provide college scholarships to dedicated organ students with financial needs, (2) an endowment to provide for the relocation and ongoing maintenance of the donors’ tracker organ, and (3) an endowment to support an annual organ composition competition for that instrument. Two of these endowments are now fully funded, with the third nearing completion.

“This extraordinary bequest helps us accomplish our mission—to enrich lives through organ and choral music—by providing the resources to implement two new programs and establish a lasting relationship with a new academic partner,” said AGO President Eileen Guenther. “The AGO continues to be much more than the world’s largest membership association for organists. At the national level and through our international network of more than 300 chapters, we conduct more educational and outreach programs supporting organ and choral music than any other professional organization.”

The Ronald G. Pogorzelski and Lester D. Yankee Memorial Scholarship will be available to six students (four undergraduate, and two graduate) beginning with the 2014–2015 academic year. Four undergraduate scholarships in the amount \$7,500 each will be offered: one each to an incoming college freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior. Each scholarship will be renewable through completion of the student’s undergraduate years of study. Two graduate scholarships in the amount of \$15,000 each will be offered and will be renewable for a total of two years of graduate study. Eligibility requirements and application details are available online at Agohq.org. The application deadline is March 1, 2014.

The Ronald G. Pogorzelski and Lester D. Yankee Pipe Organ Endowment was established to support the ongoing maintenance of the Pogorzelski and Yankee Memorial Organ. The 2-manual and pedal, 24-stop, 21-rank tracker organ, built by R.J. Brunner & Company in 1991 for Pogorzelski and Yankee’s

private residence in Bucks County, Pa., was inspired by the early Pennsylvania German organs of David Tannenberg (1728–1804). The casework is gilded in 22-karat gold leaf. It will be moved and installed at Indiana University of Pennsylvania in May 2014 where it will be used for teaching and performance. The AGO’s lease of the organ to IUP will be renewable annually.

“The Guild selected IUP because of its thoroughly documented and passionate desire to have this instrument on campus and for its commitment to use the organ regularly for teaching and performance purposes exactly as Messrs. Pogorzelski and Yankee desired,” declared AGO Executive Director James Thomashower. The proposal, he said, “made it abundantly clear to us that IUP’s organ students, faculty, and administration would treasure the opportunity to have this elegant organ at the school and that it would be of immediate and lasting benefit not only to the academic community, but to the larger community around Indiana, Pa.”

The organ will be installed in the IUP Music Department’s Large Instrumental Rehearsal Hall, a room with the size and acoustical properties to provide an ideal setting for teaching and performance on the organ, according to Michael Hood, dean of the College of Fine Arts at IUP. “We are thrilled with the great honor that the American Guild of Organists has bestowed upon the department and IUP, and I can guarantee you that its honor and trust will be fully matched by the care and the respect with which this marvelous instrument will be treated,” Hood said.

Christine Clewell, IUP’s assistant professor of organ added, “IUP will embrace a policy of hospitality with the instrument, using it as a tool for building community relations, where we will continue to encourage the study of organ to vanquish the ever-present problem of the ‘vanishing organist’,” addressing the shortage of organists in the rural, western Pennsylvania region and elsewhere throughout the U.S. She expects the new organ to result in more frequent, higher quality organ performances, which will increase interest in organ study. “The new acquisition will materially raise the profile and expand the reputation of the IUP organ program and will serve as a promotional vehicle for organ study not only for prospective students, but also for those presently enrolled.”

The Ronald G. Pogorzelski and Lester D. Yankee Annual Competition, a composition competition to encourage the creation of new music specifically for the R.J. Brunner organ, is being established by the AGO. Each year, the winning composition will be given its world premier performance in a gala recital at IUP by an internationally recognized organist. The AGO National Council has approved a preliminary statement of the competition rules as drafted by the AGO New Music Committee. The rules will be finalized and published later this year. The winning piece is expected to be performed at IUP in 2015. Complete details including the application process for composers will be posted online at Agohq.org.

Speaking on behalf of Messrs. Pogorzelski and Yankee at the 2010 AGO National Convention in Washington, D.C., Dale J. Marsico noted, “According to my uncles, the heart is reached easier through the use of organ music than any other musical form. Their music collection, music room, pipe organ, and Ron’s playing ability were testimony to their love of the instrument. This gift is a testament to their hopes that future generations might come to enjoy—to love and appreciate organ music as they did. They felt that their bequest to American Guild of Organists offered the best opportunity for that possibility.” ■

AGO PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTERS WITH THE KING OF INSTRUMENTS PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP

Nine Summer Educational Programs for Teenagers and Adults Announced by the AGO with Generous Funding provided by the Associated Pipe Organ Builders of America and the American Institute of Organbuilders.

NEW YORK CITY—The American Guild of Organists (AGO) is proud to announce five PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTERS (POEs) and one POE (Advanced) for students aged 13–18; one POE (Technical) for students aged 16–23; and two POE+ programs for adult students in 2014.

Generous funding from the Associated Pipe Organ Builders of America (APOBA) and the American Institute of Organbuilders (AIO) will support the summer programs, which will be held from coast to coast. Complete contact information for each Pipe Organ Encounter can be found in The American Organist Magazine and online at Agohq.org. The summer schedule follows:

POE for ages 13–18

June 8–13, Fort Collins, Colo.

June 9–14, Indianapolis, Ind.

June 29–July 4, Wilmington, Del.

July 7–11, Manhattan, Kans.

July 13–18, Easton, Mass.

POE (Advanced) for ages 13–18: June 29–July 4, Ann Arbor, Mich.

POE (Technical) for ages 16–23: June 8–13, Stowe, Pa.

POE+ for Adults: June 8–13, Rockford, Ill. And July 13–17, Seattle, Wash.

POE site locations are selected by the AGO Committee on the New Organist and approved by the AGO National Council after application by AGO host chapters. The deadline for applications to host 2015 POE and POE+ programs is March 15, 2014. Applications are available from AGO National Headquarters. Partial program funding is provided to AGO host chapters.

SILENT AUCTION AT 2014 AGO NATIONAL CONVENTION IN BOSTON

The AGO National Council will sponsor a Silent Auction at the AGO National Convention in Boston in June 2014. The proceeds will benefit the Annual Fund, which covers the expenses of educational programs, Pipe Organ Encounters, professional certification programs, competitions, conventions, January Jubilees, and other costs of running the organization. The auction will be run online so that all AGO members and friends may participate, and not just those attending the national convention.

A number of members of the Council have already given items and services for the Silent Auction. These include two round-trip coach airfares to Europe, two expensive bottles of wine, workshops, and CD recordings. We would like to invite Chapters to promote the auction, including donation of items that might be interest to the AGO membership. This might include time share vacations, new scores and books, complimentary registration to a regional convention, a recital or workshop.

Donors will need to establish a reasonable value for each item and a recommended starting bid. For tangible items (books, CDs, artwork, rental equivalency of a time share week, concert tickets), the value should be tax deductible, but check with your tax professional. Unfortunately, services (lessons, a recital or workshop) are not tax deductible. The AGO will set a minimum starting bid where none is advised by the donor.

What to do with the donated items? Wait until you hear who the winning bidder was, and then mail/ship the item to the winning bidder. Shipping expense is to be covered by the donor. Items for which there is no bid will be kept by the donors.

We would like to have a complete list of auction items, and a photograph of each item, by 1 May 2014 in order to prepare the auction. The online auction will begin 1 June 2014 and end on 30 June 2014.

Send your list of donation items, photos of them, and stated values with minimum bids for each item, to:

F. Anthony Thurman
Director of Development and Communications
American Guild of Organists
fathurman@agohq.org
212-870-2311, ext. 4308

Thank you for your consideration,

Calvert Johnson
Treasurer/Councillor for Finance and Development
American Guild of Organists
cjohnson@agnesscott.edu

Evensong Honoring Tim Lewis February 9, 4 p.m., Grace Church, White Plains

Former Dean Tim Lewis and Grace Church of White Plains are celebrating 25 years of Tim's service as music director, Sunday, February 9, 2014, at 4 p.m. in an evensong service followed by a reception. Here are some words about him from the church website:

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Tim Lewis' musical leadership at Grace Church. Tim's role is a varied one. He is an organist, a teacher, a choir director, a pastor, and a worship leader. He works with both children and adults. He is able to play a mean Bach Prelude, but has the range and flexibility to take on Gospel, contemporary, and old chestnut hymns. In all of it, his musical expression finds its root in his spirituality.

Congratulations, Tim!

Empty Benches

If you know of an open bench in your area, please have the institution's official representative (congregation's president, rabbi, cantor, priest, minister, etc.) be in touch with our acting placement director. We'd like to share news of open positions with our chapter members. Please let us know if you hear of an available position. E-MAIL ADDRESS: Placement@agowestchester.org Kevin Walsh, Dean and Acting Placement Director.

Easter Concert Accompanist, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

An accompanist is needed for the New Herrnhut Moravian Church in St. Thomas, U.S.V.I. Easter Concert. **Event Date:** April 12, 2014

Four choirs: Major piece is the Cantata, How Great Thou Art, being performed by the Senior Choir (SATB). Men's Chorale (TTBB), Women's Choir, and "Little Folks" Choir.

One (1) dress rehearsal

Air fare included. Housing accommodations provided by Director of Music.

For additional information contact Lois Simmonds--914-7623962 or 914-907-2768

General Music Teacher, Bronx, NY February, 2014

Listing Date: December 27, 2013 by [Avid Williams](#)

Small, charter middle school seeking a full-time music teacher. General Music program in place with vocal/choral emphasis. Position begins immediately. School located in the South Bronx. Certified applicants preferred but candidates working towards certification will be welcomed with strong classroom management skills. The music position that you applied for is a unique position in an urban district. We are looking for a teacher with a specific skill set that will support our students in their journey to attend college or enter a career. To aid us in this process please keep the following points in mind.

This music position is a full general music program in a middle school, grades 5 through 8. Our successful music candidate will have a deep knowledge of urban music and strong technical skills. The successful candidate will also demonstrate the ability to successfully engage students in developmentally appropriate instruction. A knowledge of the professions one may enter with a strong music background is essential. We are looking for an all-around professional that understands the needs of our student population. More importantly, we are looking for a candidate with the ability to provide a pathway to college and career readiness through music. If you believe that you might be this candidate, please send an attached letter addressing the points above.

Please submit resumes to: Fajones70@aol.com

Temp organist/accompanist, West Haven, CT February, 2014

Listing Date: December 27, 2013 by [Jeff Hutchins](#)

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, in West Haven, CT, seeks an organist for the months of January thru May 1st. This is a temporary position while the Director of Music recovers from a disabling arm condition.

Director of Music will be present at all rehearsals and services, conducting the volunteer choir and otherwise leading the music (in a very friendly and lighthearted manner!).

Rehearsals are Wednesday Night (7:00 Call for a 7:30 rehearsal - out by 9:00) and Sunday Morning, 9:30am call for 10:00am service.

Currently budgeted for this position is \$175 a week.

There will be extra appearances in Holy Week (April 17,18,19,20. Negotiable \$)

Seeking a positive and friendly accompanist/organist with excellent sightreading skills, and an ability to work politely with all people.

Please contact Jeffhutchinsmusic@gmail.com

Assistant Organist, St. Peter's Episcopal, Morristown, NJ (December, 2013)

Job ID: 15484245; Entry Level: No; Job Type: Part-time; Job Duration: Indefinite

Min Education: BA/BS/Undergraduate; Min Experience: 1-2 Years

Location(s): Morristown, New Jersey, 07960; Posted: November 4, 2013

Required Travel: 0-10%; Salary: \$15,000.00 - \$17,000.00 (Yearly Salary)

Salary Negotiable: No; Number of Weekly Services: 2; Number of Weekly Rehearsals: 2
Ensembles: Adult Choir, Choir of Boys, Choir of Girls; Hours per Week: 8 - 15
Organ Description: 1930 IV/ 64 E.M. Skinner; Benefits: Vacation

Contact Person: Joshua Stafford Email Address: jstafford@stpetersmorristown.org Evening
Phone: 716-485-6585 Web Site: www.stpetersmorristown.org
Street Address: 70 Maple Ave Daytime Phone: 973-538-0555 Ext. 18 Fax: 973-538-7790
Congregation Size: 400 - 500

Job Description: St. Peter's Church, located a short train ride from New York City in Morristown, NJ, is actively seeking a part-time organist to assist with the music department. The church boasts a long tradition of musical excellence, including a boys' choir which has been in existence for 125 years. The present make up of choirs includes a semi-professional adult choir which sings at the 11:15 service (Eucharist or Morning Prayer) as well as boys' and girls' choirs which generally sing at the 9am Eucharist. Choral repertoire and hymnody are largely from the Anglican tradition. The church houses an historic 1930 E.M. Skinner organ (IV/64) which remains unaltered from its original state.

The Assistant Organist would primarily be responsible for accompanying the choirs at two Sunday services, as well as at Thursday rehearsals. The Assistant would also share service playing responsibilities with the Director of Music (hymns, voluntaries, etc.). Some special events during the year would include major Feasts, Evensong, and choral concerts. Some administrative work would be required.

Job Requirements: The successful candidate would be skilled in the following:

- Anthem Accompaniment
- Psalm Accompaniment (Anglican Chant)
- Hymn Playing
- Sight-reading
- Transposition
- Organ Literature
- Improvisation

Please submit resumes or inquiries to Joshua Stafford, Director of Music (jstafford@stpetersmorristown.org). Interviews will begin immediately, and the application process will remain open until a successful candidate has been hired.

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.

For singers

Soprano Section Leader, Hackensack, NJ February 2014

Listing Date: December 27, 2013 by [June Marano-Murray](#)

Second Reformed Church is seeking an interim soprano from Jan. 22, 2014 until mid-May. Must have good sight-reading skills and be able to sing solos as well as in a quartet. One mid-week rehearsal on Wed. evenings and one Sunday service. Salary is \$110 per week, extra for holidays. Send resume and/or contact June Marano-Murray at pianoforte4me@verizon.net.

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 chronologically by 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:

Alice Avouris (MS Word is preferred)

Be sure to visit the Chapter Website: www.agowestchester.org.

Thank you!

Alice Avouris
Lois Simmonds
The Trompette Editors

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

Inside:

A friendly letter from the Dean! Lots of news from **AGO Hdqts:** endowments for scholarship, a silent auction, POE schedule. Check out the **Empty Benches** and don't forget to sign up to **share music February 9th!**

Westchester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
The Trompette
Alice Avouris, Editor