



PIPE NOTES

a publication of the Vermont Chapter
of The American Guild of Organists

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COMING EVENTS

On **Sunday, March 22** Christ Episcopal Church in Montpelier will host a **Bach Organ Marathon** from 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. Admission is free and all are invited to attend any portion of this event as fits your schedule. More information about this event is included in this newsletter.

A **Progressive Organ Recital** will be held in **Woodstock, Vermont** on **Sunday, March 22** beginning at 4 p.m. The performer will be James Lorenz, organist at St. James Episcopal Church in Woodstock. He holds a Bachelors degree from Concordia College, Bronxville, New York and Masters and Doctorate degrees from the University of Florida. The event is being organized by the Pentangle Council on the Arts. Organs will be featured at the following churches: Unitarian-Universalist Society, St. James Episcopal, and Our Lady of the Snows R.C.

On **Saturday, April 11** our Vermont AGO Chapter is offering a series of workshops at **Bethany Church** in **Randolph, Vermont** starting at 9:30 a.m. A noon bag lunch and music exchange is planned with the last workshop finishing about 2 p.m. More information is included in this newsletter.

Lois Regestein will play the **Whitney Series Recital** at the **Unitarian-Universalist Church** in **Woodstock** on **Sunday, April 26**. More details will follow in the next newsletter.

On **Sunday, May 17** starting at 3:30 p.m. there will be a **members' progressive recital** in **St. Albans**. Members are invited to play a piece or two at one of the following churches: Congregational, St. Paul's United Methodist, St. Luke's Episcopal, or St. Mary's/Immaculate Conception R. C. Church. Do consider it and contact Vaughn Watson at (802) 759-2453, bombardes@aol.com

Artist-of-the-Year Jim Cassarino will present an **organ recital** on **Sunday, June 14** at **Trinity Church** in **Rutland, Vermont** at 3:00 p.m. The Annual Meeting of the Vermont Chapter AGO is to follow at 4:15 p.m.

June 28 - July 1 is our **Northeast Regional Convention of the American Guild of Organists in New Haven, Connecticut**. Register now, online, or call 860-873-9164 for registration forms and information.

The **Essex Community Concert Series** in Essex, New York has finalized its summer 2015 season of evening and Thursday 11:30 a.m. concerts. The complete listing can be found at www.essexcommunityconcerts.org and organ events programmed are:

July 4 (Sat) at 7 p.m. Carol Williams, organist

August 6 (Thurs) at 11:30 a.m. Pam Durant, organist

They are also appreciative of donations to help fund the concert series.

The **Brooklyn Chapter AGO** is hosting a **Pipe Organ Encounter July 26 - 31, 2015**. You can support this event by sending interested students to this wonderful opportunity and by sending donations to help the cause to director Erik Birk, at ebirk88@gmail.com or 212-932-0551. More information is included in this newsletter.

BACH MARATHON IN MONTEPELIER ON MARCH 22

Historic Christ Episcopal Church, 64 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont will host the 1st annual Bach organ Marathon on Sunday, March 22 from 1:30-4:30 p.m. featuring the magnificent music of Johann Sebastian Bach played by seven talented and accomplished Vermont based musicians. Admission is free of charge -- a freewill offering will be taken up to support the repair of the historic church building. Come and go as you wish during the afternoon. There are numerous excellent restaurants a short walk from the church. Parking is available behind the church in the church and city lot.

The instrument at Christ Church is by Karl Wilhelm, (1972).

The schedule of performers for the afternoon is as follows:

1:30	Lynnette Combs
2:00	Mark Howe
2:30	Lisa Willems
3:00	Carl Schwartz
3:30	Karen Miller
4:00	John Weaver with Marianne Weaver, flute

Repertoire that will be presented includes the following larger works: Toccata and Fugue in d (BWV 565), Toccata and Fugue in F (BWV 540), Passacaglia in c (BWV 581), Prelude and Fugue in a (BWV 543), Prelude and Fugue in C (BWV 547), Piece d'Orgue (BWV 572), Fantasia in G (BWV 572-1), and the Flute Sonata in E-flat (BWV 1931).

APRIL VERMONT AGO EVENT FEATURES A SERIES OF WORKSHOPS

Workshops on Saturday, April 11 at Bethany Church in Randolph will include presentations by Kevin Parizo, Marilyn Polson, and David Moore.

Kevin Parizo will lead an open discussion regarding playing piano/keyboard anthem accompaniments at the organ. Also under discussion will be aspects of playing hymns (SATB) from hymnals at the organ.

Marilyn Polson will lead a workshop on playing "last verses", reharmonizations of the last verse of a hymn, and how to approach introducing them to congregations.

This will be preceded by "true confessions", a fun discussion of mistakes we have all made.

David Moore will lead a workshop on what to do until the organ technician gets there. In addition, he will also discuss basic maintenance that can be done by the organist.

A music exchange will also be set up for members to share music, CDs, and records that they no longer use and others might like to acquire. So, go through your collections of these items and set aside some to bring to this event.

Brown bag lunch.

The schedule for the day is:

9:30	registration
10:00	Kevin Parizo
11:00	Marilyn Polson
12 (noon)	bag lunch and music exchange
1:00	David Moore

Directions to Bethany Church in Randolph:

From the north or south on I-89 take Exit 4 and follow the signs to Randolph. Watch the 25 mph speed limit in the residential section! Coming into town swing left over the bridge by Cumberland Farms. You can see the large white frame church on the right. Park in the lot right after the Vermont Conference building on the right, the first building on the right. Walk either behind the house next door or around the front. Enter the church on the side from the driveway. Registration is at 9:30. The first workshop begins at 10:00 a.m.

From the south on Route 12, come into town past the hospital on the right, cross the railroad tracks and you can see the large white frame church on the left. Park in the lot just before the last building on the left. Continue as above. If you have any questions call Marilyn Polson at (802) 685-7725.

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

The American Guild of Organists (AGO) will sponsor a Recital and Gala Benefit Reception honoring international award-winning organist Cherry Rhodes and distinguished organist Ladd Thomas, professor of organ at the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music. The dynamic couple has been selected by the AGO National Council for its AGO Endowment Fund Distinguished Artist Award. The biographies of the honorees can be found online at Agohq.org.

The celebration will begin on Friday, April 17, 2015, at the First United Methodist Church of Glendale, California, where Ladd Thomas has served as organist for 55 years. The honorees will perform as organ soloists in Mendelssohn's **Sonata No. 1 in F Minor** (Thomas) and Moussorgsky's **Pictures at an Exhibition**, transcribed by Jean Guillou (Rhodes). They will combine their talents in a rare organ duet performance of **The Sorcerer's Apprentice**.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the April issue of **Pipe Notes** will be March 20. Be thinking of summer organ events in your area that you can share with our membership.

Pipe Organ Encounter 2015 - Brooklyn!

by Eric Birk, FAGO
Brooklyn POE Director

It's 9:15 a.m. on a Sunday morning and I'm on the organ bench reviewing registrations and my cues to play for a 9:30 mass in a church where I've not substituted before when suddenly a parent with two eager boys asks if he can "show them the organ"? They are piano students and this should be a perfect moment to be showing young people about this wonderful mechanical action pipe organ. But there's only one problem, it's not the perfect moment because I have to begin the prelude music in less than 5 minutes, I still cannot find the email message on my phone with all of the guest organist instructions, and I haven't saved all my registration changes yet! All I could offer is to let them listen to the prelude at the console or to come by after mass, which apparently they couldn't do....

Something similar probably happens every week in houses of worship everywhere. A young, curious potential organist wants to find out about the King of Instruments, but can't get an invitation to a private audience with that musical monarch. This is why the AGO has programs like Pedals, Pipes and Pizza and the Pipe Organ Encounters: to connect young people who are interested in the organ to a thorough and solid introduction to one of the most complicated instruments there is to learn. The Brooklyn Chapter's first Pipe Organ Encounter will be held July 26-31, 2015. For the first time in the 35 year history of the POE program, there will be a focus for beginning and intermediate organists on the skills needed for Roman Catholic liturgy and African American worship styles in class sessions and lessons throughout the week. It is more and more common to see job descriptions that require the ability to provide leadership in a wide variety of styles. The next generation needs to be ready for this reality, and we have had parents of students interested in these areas already contact us specifically because of what we are offering.

The Brooklyn Chapter of the A.G.O. is relatively small but active and fortunate to have access to some really great organs, such as the Aeolian-Skinner at historic Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims. We have a fantastic faculty lined up, and are planning an afternoon in Manhattan which will end at St. Bartholomew's church, home of the largest organ in New York City. The week will include a number of events that will provide fun breaks, and the best possible (yet affordable) housing we could find has been reserved at the Pratt Institute where they have **air conditioning(!)**, which is important for July in NYC.

For those who've never experienced a POE, they soon discover that this is a really intensive experience. For only one week there are lots of organs, daily private lessons, listening to daily performances, and the students perform at the end of the week (yes, some of whom have never played an organ before!).

The Brooklyn Chapter is asking AGO members throughout the northeast region for support in the following ways:

- to spread the word about the Brooklyn POE to potential students. A brochure with application and full details is available at www.brooklynago.org/brooklynpoe2015.
- to make a financial contribution to support the Brooklyn POE. The full cost of a POE per student ranges from \$1,500 to \$2,000, but to make this affordable for young people, we must charge no more than \$450. The rest comes from fund-raising. No gift is too small to make a difference. Contributions can be made online at <http://www.brooklynago.org/poecontribute>.

For information regarding anything about the Brooklyn POE 2015, please contact the director, Eric Birk, at ebirk88@gmail.com or 212-932-0551.