


PIPE NOTES



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

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BACH MARATHON IN MONTPELIER ON MARCH 20

On Sunday, March 20th, Christ Episcopal Church in Montpelier will present its annual Bach organ marathon. Starting at 1:30 p.m., six organists will play some of Johann Sebastian Bach's most glorious music. Performers include John Weaver, former head of the organ department at Juilliard, David Neiweem, organist and music professor at UVM, Jan-Piet Knijff, on the faculty at Lyndon State College and former host of a musical talk show, James Lorenz, Karen Miller, and Lynnette Combs. There will be a special demonstration for children and students during the opening segment.

The organ at Christ Church is well suited for the music of Bach. It was built in 1972 by Karl Wilhelm of Canada, who learned organ building in Germany. This instrument is modelled after pipe organs built in northern Germany in the 1600's - instruments Bach admired, instruments that showcase his virtuosity in playing and composition.

Admission is free; donations will benefit local music scholarship funds. Refreshments will also be available, proceeds benefiting the church's soup kitchen.

Come for part or all of this celebration! For more information, visit the church website: www.christchurchvt.org, or call the church office at (802) 223-3631.

CHAPTER NOTES

Many thanks to Lynnette Combs for organizing the second annual Bach Marathon at Christ Episcopal Church in Montpelier.

Enclosed in this newsletter is a ballot for officer elections for our Vermont AGO chapter. Please take the time now to complete this simple form and mail it to the newsletter editor. The address is in the newsletter letterhead. This is an easy way to support your chapter and elect folks to continue its vital work.

POE opportunities really help young people connect to the organ and their like-minded peers. If you know of youth who would benefit from this experience, please contact Secretary Marilyn Polson. Some scholarship money is available.

Have you considered giving another Chapter member a ride to Vermont AGO events? A number of our folks are "getting along in years," can't drive at night or have given up their cars. Riding together is a great way to chat and catch up on news, share information, and just enjoy each other's company. It would also be greatly appreciated.

COMING EVENTS

A **Festive Concert**, celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the dedication of the Casavant Organ at **Saint Michael's College**, will take place on **Monday, March 14, 2016** at **7:30 p.m.** in the **College Chapel**. **Dr. William Tortolano**, Professor Emeritus of Fine Arts/Music, will perform on the 14 stop, 17 rank, two manual organ, with strings, brass, ensemble, timpani, the St. Michael's College Chorale, and the Vermont Gregorian Chant Schola. The concert is free and open to the public. Everyone is welcome.

The **second annual Bach Marathon** at **Christ Episcopal Church** in **Montpelier** will be held on **Sunday, March 20** starting at **1:30 p.m.** See details on the first page of this issue for more information.

Grace Church, Rutland, VT will present Mozart's **Requiem** on **Sunday, April 10** at **4:00 p.m.** Featured will be the Rutland Area Chorus, Orchestra and soloists, under the direction of Dr. Sherrill Blodget. The **Requiem** was not only one of Mozart's most inspired works, it was one of his last. Mozart left this work unfinished at his death but, at the invitation of Mozart's widow, one of the master's pupils worked from oral instructions and sketches to finish the nearly completed work. In the centuries since, Mozart's **Requiem** has come to be embraced as a masterpiece of vocal composition. For more information, visit www.gracechurchvt.org/music or email Diane Chartrand at dchart6010@aol.com or call (802) 775-4301. Grace Congregational UCC is located at 8 Court Street in Rutland, Vermont.

OUR CHAPTER MOURNS THE PASSING OF MARILYN MAXEY ALEXANDER

Marilyn was a long-time, beloved member of our Vermont AGO Chapter. She was Chapter Dean from 1991 to 1993. The following information about Marilyn is from the Valley News, Thursday, February 11, 2016.

From her debut at the Park Hill Maternity Hospital in Spokane, Washington as an extemporary soprano on June 24, 1920 - an entrance cheered by her parents Chester Collins Maxey and Elnora Campbell Maxey - to her final bow at the home of her daughter Denise Alexander-Anderegg in Ashburnham, Mass. on Monday, Feb. 8, 2016, Marilyn Maxey Alexander lived her "hour upon the stage" with gusto, grace, and joy.

A prodigy with perfect pitch, Marilyn first began recognizing melody when she was just two and a half years old, according to her mother, the director of the Whitman College Glee Club in Walla Walla, Washington, then discovered rhythm three months later drumming along with "Yankee Doodle." In November 1923, at the age of three and a half, Marilyn played the air of "Marching Thru Georgia" without a mistake and thus began a long career in music. Later, she would joke she had grown up in the practice rooms of Whitman College's Music Conservatory.

While still in high school, Marilyn participated in regional piano competitions and there met a student from Spokane whose musicianship she admired but whose personality she esteemed "silly." His name was Rodney Wilson Alexander and after he came to study at Whitman College, where Marilyn's father was President and mother taught music, she got to know him better and fell in love. On Sept. 11, 1942, they wed in her parents' garden and remained happily married for the next 56 years, until Rodney passed away in 1998. She would never revise her opinion of his "silliness." Their union was marked by almost daily laughter, often instigated by little more than mismatched socks, a wrong turn taken while trying to follow simple driving directions, or a portly squirrel pestering a birdfeeder outside the kitchen window.

From the age of 14, Marilyn was a church organist and choir master, playing for nearly every church in Walla Walla and later, after relocating to New England in 1967 when her husband accepted a professorship at Dartmouth College, playing for numerous churches in the Upper Connecticut River Valley. She taught piano and organ, gave private voice lessons, and became Dean of the New England Chapter of the Organist Guild. She also spoke three languages and taught high school English and French.

While she was widely known as a keyboardist, vocal coach, musical director, actress and singer, Marilyn had other interests as well. For example, she was a dog breeder and showed Shelties, and loved to travel, visiting England, France, and Spain numerous times. In one of her favorite photographs, she sits atop a camel in Morocco. She also loved cooking and reading but most of all she loved people. She never tired of meeting new people, of hosting rousing parties, and of welcoming generations of students into her home.

Marilyn was 95. A memorial service for Upper Valley family and friends will be held Saturday, April 2, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. at the Church of Christ at Dartmouth College (The White Church), 40 College Street, Hanover, NH 03755.

Our Chapter offers our sincere sympathy to all Marilyn's family and friends.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

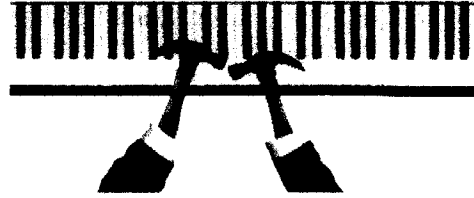
The deadline for the April issue of Pipe Notes will be March 20. The "Bit of Humor" this month is courtesy of Imgur, hands according to pianists.

Hands according to pianists

Chopin



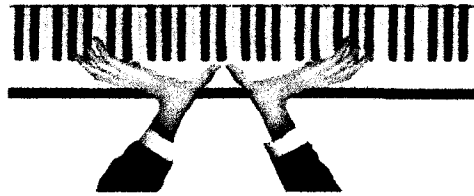
Beethoven



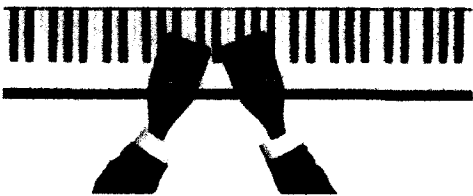
Rachmaninoff



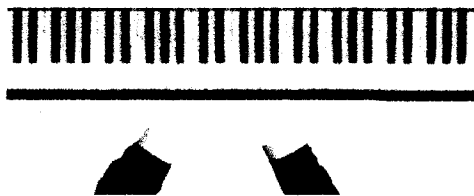
Liszt



BOULEZ



Cage



Bach



Debussy

