

# PIPE NOTES

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

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## COMING EVENTS

Part of the 50th Labor Day Weekend Festival at **The Organ Barn**, off Packer Corners Road in **Guilford**, will be an **organ recital** by **Susan Summerfield** on **Saturday, September 5 at 7:30 p.m.** The organ is a 1897 E. W. Lane, altered by Wilson Barry, c1966. Susan Summerfield, a specialist in Baroque music, is professor of music and college organist at Saint Michael's College in Burlington, Vermont. In addition to teaching courses in music theory and music history of the Baroque and 20th Century, she coaches the chamber ensemble and offers private lessons in piano, organ, and harpsichord--and performs solo and ensemble concerts on all three. Her repertoire for this concert includes two or three pieces performed here by late founder A. Graham Down, who helped to fund the organ's many improvements. Composers include members of the Bach family, Milhaud, and Harrison, among others. A cake, coffee, and champagne reception follow on the deck as weather permits. Admission by donation.

Young organ virtuoso **Christopher Houlihan** performs at the **Church of Christ at Dartmouth College**, 40 College Street, **Hanover, Sunday, September 13 at 4 p.m.** The recital of music by Bach, Brahms, Vierne, and Sowerby is free and open to the public. Houlihan, still in his 20s, is one of the brightest stars in the new generation of American organists. When not on tour, he is Artist in Residence at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. There are more than 20 clips of him performing on YouTube, which will whet your appetite.

## CHAPTER NOTES

The deadline for returning your membership forms to Esther Nui is September 1. Thank you to all who have made the effort this summer to complete these forms. If you have forgotten, please send it in now.

The Vermont AGO Chapter has seen the passing of three faithful former members this year: Catherine Orr, Elizabeth Bolton, and Charles Barrows. Their obituaries are included in this newsletter. We send our deepest sympathies to each of their

respective families. Each enriched our Chapter, and they shall be greatly missed. It is regretful, sometimes, to realize that we only know the breadth and depth of members' involvement in their churches, communities, and organizations when we read their obituaries.

We welcome a new member to our Chapter, transferring from Louisville, Kentucky:

Dr. Jan-Piet Knijff, DMA, MA, FAGO  
85 North Avenue  
St. Johnsbury, Vermont 05819

Our Program Committee is working on events for the fall. In the works are an organ tour in late October in the Barre area and a workshop on Hymnody by Karl Moyer in early November. Times and locations are not definite yet. More information will be published as it becomes available.

Congratulations to Susan Summerfield who has been selected as the Vermont AGO Chapter Artist-of-the-Year for 2015-2016.

Congratulations to Lynnette Combs who becomes the new organist/music director at Christ Church, Montpelier this month.

CATHERINE ORR (1940-2015)

(an extract from the Burlington Free Press of May 7, 2015)

Catherine B. Orr died peacefully in her sleep Thursday, April 30, 2015, at the home in Montpelier, finding merciful release from excruciating pain of rapidly spreading cancer in her final weeks. Her husband, Bill Orr and family members were with her.

She was a prime mover in making Montpelier a regional center for quality music. For the last 20 years, she was music director at the Unitarian Church. During that time, she also conducted the Montpelier Chamber Orchestra and organized and conducted many special concerts, among them performances of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with 50 instruments and 60 choristers as part of a worldwide celebration of the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1998. Through two decades, Catherine became a beloved messenger of the deep spirit of music in central Vermont, on Sundays with her soul mates in the Unitarian choir.

Catherine Broucek was born in Chicago on Sept. 21, 1940. Her family moved to Torrance, California in 1958. She graduated from high school the next year and joined the Catholic Order Immaculate Heart of Mary. After novitiate training and a college education, she taught in Catholic schools in Southern California. Embracing the new order indicated by Pope John XXII, her order made changes that were revoked by the Archbishop in Los Angeles and, eventually even, by the Vatican. Catherine and several other nuns resigned from the Order.

In 1970, on her own now with a college education in general subjects and music, she went to Vienna, where she studied organ performance and immersed herself in the music-rich culture. She traveled to Italy and then to Haifa, Israel where she sought to understand the Israeli-Palestinian conflict living and working with natives and survivors there.

In 1972 she returned to Southern California where she took clerical work at Hughes Aircraft for four years. Music beckoned her again in 1976 as she attended concerts at the Hollywood Bowl, often seeking the public library to study scores of

the music she would hear. She joined a Los Angeles choir and chamber music group and sang with them, singing in 12 performances in Spain and another 12 in Germany. She then took work as a technical writer with a clothing manufacturer in Los Angeles where she was assigned to coordinate her work with Bill Orr (15 years her senior), hired as a communications consultant for the company. They embarked on a marriage in 1980 that lasted 34 years, until her death. On their honeymoon, they went to Montreal and then drove through the northern New England states. As Catherine describes it, when they came to Montpelier, she felt a tingling sensation that seemed to mean this was the place where they could spend the rest of their lives. Bill agreed it was a contender. They stayed overnight in Montpelier, imbibing the character of the place. They resolved to move...sometime. "Sometime" was December of 1983. Catherine took jobs as a technical writer while Bill was a consultant in corporate communications and a journalist. Her first year in Montpelier, Arthur Zorn introduced her to the music scene in Montpelier. She directed music for well-received performances of Mikado and other musicals. She became director of the Barre Choraleers, performing many concerts over ensuing years. The Berlin Wall fell. Leonard Bernstein conducted Beethoven's Ninth Symphony in Moscow and Catherine was inspired to do the same in Vermont. Still following the beckon of music, in 1991 she and Bill moved temporarily to Bloomington, Indiana where Catherine earned a Master's degree in music and conducting. The Orr's returned to their Waterbury Center home. In 1995, Catherine was selected by the Unitarian Church of Montpelier to serve as music director. Catherine is cherished for personal qualities: embracing all humanity with love, always ready to share joys and concerns of friends old and new, driving 60 miles to visit a friend in the hospital, and profoundly grateful for the opportunity to live a life in music.

#### ELIZABETH BOLTON (1926-2015)

Elizabeth L. (Phelps) Bolton of Greenfield, Massachusetts, died on May 28, 2015. A long-time member of the American Guild of Organists (AGO), Vermont Chapter, Betty attended AGO workshops and regional conventions, served as Dean of the Vermont Chapter for a year, and earned Service Playing and Colleague certificates. Betty attended Westminster Choir College in 1946 and earned a BA in Music from Smith College in 1973. She studied organ with Vernon Gotwals while at Smith, and studied organ with Harriette Richardson over many years. Betty served as organist or organist/choir director at Congregational, Episcopal, Baptist, Methodist, and Catholic churches in Greenfield, Northfield, and Northampton, Mass., and Brattleboro, Vt. from 1952 to 2003, including Holy Trinity Church and Second Congregational Church in Greenfield, and Centre Congregational Church and First Baptist Church in Brattleboro. She taught piano and organ lessons for many years, played for many weddings, and served as accompanist for the Hampshire Choral Society for five years, including a tour to England and Wales in 1980. She was a member of Holy Trinity Church in Greenfield.

**CHARLES PARKER BARROWS (1932-2015)**

Born in 1932, Charles Parker Barrows lived most of his life in the Barton-Glover area of the Northeast Kingdom. He graduated from Barton Academy and from the University of Vermont with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology in 1956. He married Lois Mansur in Weston, and they purchased a home in Glover where they lived out their lives until Charlie's recent admission to the Union House Nursing Home in Glover. Over the course of his life, he worked in the banking profession, as a day manager and substance abuse counselor, as a therapy group facilitator, as a child protective services caseworker, and returned to bank administration late in life.

He served on many boards and committees and did extensive volunteer work. Two of the boards he served were the Craftsbury Chamber Players and the Vermont Symphony Orchestra.

He was a lifelong member of the Barton Congregational Church and a lifelong musician of the highest order. As a child, he sang in the church choirs and became the choir director at the age of 25 when Grace Hanson was organist at the Barton United Church. Upon her retirement, he became the organist for the Barton United Church, while substituting as organist in other churches (in Glover, after the retirement of Charlotte Locke). He sang in other choral groups in Orleans County, including in Northsong, and the NEK Community Chorus. For over 25 years Charlie and John Weaver worked together each August to present a special "music Sunday" at the Barton Church which featured an expanded summer choir, several anthems, and organ solos. Charlie set up an old organ in his barn that he loved to tinker on, and he was a dedicated Vermont AGO member for a number of years, following AGO functions all over the state. He was instrumental in preserving the Steere organ at the Barton Church, patching and repairing when needed, and finally fund-raising to more recently rebuild it. Slowly progressing Parkinson's disease eventually robbed him of his ability to play the organ there. He was beloved by all who knew him and was a dedicated musician and organ enthusiast who will be fondly missed.

**ORGAN POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

The First Baptist Church (ABC-USA) in Burlington, Vt. is seeking a new organist to play the historic tracker (E. & G.G. Hook Op. 364, 1864). The position will be open in July with an anticipated starting date for the new organist in Sept. Salary is negotiable based on experience. The organist plays the Sunday service year round, special services, and accompanies the adult Chancel Choir, T. Dawn Willis director, from Labor Day through mid-June and occasionally other church ensembles as needed. 4 weeks paid vacation are provided. The church enthusiastically supports an active music program encompassing Children's Choir, Instrumental Ensemble, Handbell Ensemble, annual guest organ recital, and hosts outside musical groups. The deadline for applications is June 20, 2015. Resumes and inquiries should go to Bob Cannon, Music Committee Co-Chair at (802) 879-4515 or [rycannon@comcast.net](mailto:rycannon@comcast.net).

The Barton United Church is in need of an organist/choir director. The organ is a rebuilt 1910 Steere organ. The position starts September 1. Contact Catherine McMaster at (802) 525-7048 for more information.

## FREE CHOIR ROBES AVAILABLE

Free-15 Adult Choir Robes in various sizes. Ivory with blue trim and in good shape. Guaranteed to give the choir perfect pitch with just a couple of wearings. I would suggest you snap these babies up and quick!

Kevin Bishop, Rupert VT UMC (802) 362-4160 or [kjbish@hotmail.com](mailto:kjbish@hotmail.com)  
I will be happy to bring them to the next VT guild function.

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the October issue of **Pipe Notes** will be September 20.

## REED ORGANS FOR SALE

Evan Smith lives in the Burlington, Vt. area and is currently downsizing. He is offering two reed organs for sale for "Best Offer". If interested, please contact Evan Smith at [ejsmith@myfairpoint.net](mailto:ejsmith@myfairpoint.net) or call him at (802) 864-6119.

## Estey Parlor Reed Organ

Circa 1900

Oak

Nice beveled mirror

Fair original condition

## Estey Cottage Reed Organ

Circa 1870

Rosewood

Carved relief of Jacob Estey

Good original condition

