



PIPE NOTES

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

Dean: David Neiweem, 423 Oak Circle, Colchester, VT 05446

email: david.neiweem@uvm.edu

Newsletter Ed.: Karen R. Miller, 57 Hutchins Farm Rd., E. Hardwick, Vt. 05836-9729

Vermont AGO Website: <http://vtago.org>

National Website: <http://www.agohq.org>

No. 233

December 2014

SPRING EVENTS PLANNED FOR THE VERMONT AGO CHAPTER

The Program Committee met in November to plan events for next spring. April, May, and June activities are as follows:

April

Workshops on Saturday, April 11 at Bethany Church in Randolph. 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, how to approach introducing them to the 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.

A music exchange will also be set up for members to share sheet music, CDs, and records that they no longer use and others might like to acquire.

Brown bag lunch.

May

On Sunday, May 17, 2015 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

June

Artist-of-the-Year organ recital featuring Jim Cassarino and Annual Meeting of the Vermont Chapter AGO.

COMING EVENTS

Freelance Family Singers, Woodstock's community chorus, will present its **Holiday Concert** on **Saturday, December 6** at 7 p.m. and on **Sunday, December 7** at 3 p.m. in the **First Congregational Church of Woodstock** on Elm Street. Music will include seasonal sacred and secular pieces for full chorus, small vocal ensembles and solos, and instrumental music. **Ellen Satterthwaite** is the director and Carol Rousseau is the accompanist. The concerts are free with donations of items for the Community Food Shelf suggested. Refreshments will be served.

The **North Country Chorus** will present Handel's **Messiah** on **Friday, December 5** at 7:30 p.m. at the **First Congregational Church, Littleton NH**; on **Saturday, December 6** at 7:30 p.m. at the **Wells River (VT) Congregational Church**; and on **Sunday, December 7** at 2:30 p.m. at the **North Congregational Church in St. Johnsbury, VT**. More information is included in this newsletter.

The combined **Northeast Kingdom Chorus** and **Cabot Community Chorus** will offer a **holiday concert** on **Friday, December 12** at 7:30 p.m. at the **United Church of Cabot** and on **Sunday, December 14** at 4 p.m. at the **Greensboro United Church of Christ**. Seasonal favorites will be heard performed by the whole chorus and by small groups. Lynn McKinney is the director, and Karen Miller is the accompanist.

Hello, Columbus! North Country Chorus's **34th annual Madrigal Dinner**, will be held in **Monroe, NH**, on **January 23, 24, and 25**. Christopher Columbus returns to the Spanish court of Isabella and Ferdinand to report on his discoveries and display the "riches" he brought back -- or not. The Inquisitor Torquemada ensures that all activities are ecclesiastically aligned -- or not. A flashback to happenings on the Santa Maria reveals a carping crew, curious water sprites, and, when they make landfall, some partying natives. Enjoy an evening of music, mirth, magic, dance, and a sumptuous feast! Tickets are available by advance sale only for \$27 per person from Catamount Arts. For more details northcountrychorus.org.

CHAPTER NOTES

The Chapter has received word that Catherine Orr is undergoing chemotherapy for bladder cancer.

Also, Doris Hughes has a brain tumor and is no longer playing the organ at the Congregational Church in St. Albans.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to both of these dear people who have been long-time faithful members of our chapter.

NORTH COUNTRY CHORUS PRESENTS **MESSIAH** IN CONCERT

For many music lovers the Christmas season is not complete without attending a performance of George Frideric Handel's **Messiah**. Upper Valley audiences will have three opportunities to hear this beloved oratorio performed by the North Country Chorus in early December. The group's 67th Annual Christmas Concert will feature prominent vocal and instrumental soloists from the region. This will be NCC's first **Messiah** performance since 2010. Alan Rowe, director of the Chorus since 1999, will lead the 80 choristers, soloists and instrumentalists.

Performances will take place on **Friday, December 5**, at 7:30 p.m. at **First Congregational Church, Littleton, NH**; on **Saturday, December 6**, at 7:30 p.m. at **Wells River (VT) Congregational Church**; and **Sunday afternoon, December 7**, at 2:30 p.m. at **North Congregational Church, St. Johnsbury, VT**.

The quartet of vocal soloists will consist of North Country favorites: soprano Julie Drown, alto Maria Weber Lamson, Tenor Phil Brown, and bass Gary Moreau.

Accompanying the group will be a corps of string performers led by Larry Blaine. Blaine, a professor of mathematics at Plymouth State University and freelance violinist, studied with Mischa Mischakoff and Romeo Tata and has performed in many concerts with the Chorus, including three seasons of **Messiah**. Other string players include Jan Sparks, Chris Nourse, Doug Kendall, and Nick Johnson. Additional accompaniment will be provided by Bruce Stevens on harpsichord, David H Heintz and Martin Gilmartin on trumpet, and Matt Nolan on timpani.

Concert goers may purchase tickets in advance at the Catamount Arts box office in St. Johnsbury or online at catamountarts.org for \$10 (\$5 for students). Admission at the door will be \$12 (\$5 for students).

For more information visit northcountrychorus.org.

FROM HEADQUARTERS

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS AWARDS SIX SCHOLARSHIPS TOTALING \$60,000 FOR COLLEGIATE ORGAN STUDY

This is the largest bequest in the history of the AGO and funds six Pogorzelski and Yankee organ Scholarships in 2014.

The American Guild of Organists (AGO) has awarded four scholarships for undergraduate organ study and two scholarships for graduate organ study to six college organ students enrolled in the 2014-2015 academic year. The six scholars were selected from an application pool of more than 50 students and received the awards based upon their demonstrated ability in organ playing and financial need.

Funded through a generous bequest from the estate of Ronald G. Pogorzelski and Lester D. Yankee, each undergraduate scholarship carries a cash award of \$7,500 and is renewable for up to four years of collegiate study. Each graduate scholarship carries a cash award of \$15,000 and is renewable for a total of two years of study. The 2014-2015 Scholarship Award recipients are:

Graduate Students
Chelsea Barton, McGill University
Jacob Taylor, Indiana University

Undergraduate Students
Clara Gerdes, Curtis Institute of Music
Garrett Law, Cleveland Institute of Music
Prince Nyatanga, Eastman School of Music
Mary Pan, University of Hartford

Speaking on behalf of Messrs. Pogorzelski and Yankee, 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. Their 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 the American Guild of Organists offered the best opportunity for that possibility.

Two new Ronald G. Pogorzelski and Lester D. Yankee Memorial Scholarships will be awarded for the 2015-2016 academic year--one for an incoming freshman (\$7,500), the other for a first-year graduate organ student (\$15,000). Eligibility requirements and application details are available online at Agohq.org/education. The online application period will run from January 1 through February 15, 2015.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

There will not be a January issue of **Pipe Notes**. The deadline for the February issue will be January 20.