

PIPE NOTES

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

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ANNUAL MEETING FOR THE VERMONT AGO CHAPTER IS JUNE 29

This year's annual meeting will be held at the Federated Church in North Thetford, Vermont on Sunday, June 29, 2014 preceded by a recital at 3:00 p.m. on the 1874 Geo. Jardine & Son organ by Permelia and David Sears of Dunstable, Mass. A music and CD exchange is also beginning planned to allow members to bring music and CDs that they no longer use to share with members and to pick up some different music and CDs for themselves. The annual meeting follows. The plan for the afternoon is:

3:00 p.m.	Organ recital by Permelia and David Sears
4:00 p.m.	Break; organ music and CD exchange
4:15 - 5:00 p.m.	Annual Meeting

One of the issues for discussion at the annual meeting is a proposal by Regional Councillor Cheryl Duerr that the Vermont Chapter could possibly co-host a regional convention with RCCO and CIOC in Montreal in 2017 as no other Region I chapter has stepped up to host such an event for that year. This was orally presented to some members at a gathering after Mark Howe's recital in Burlington on March 30. The Vermont Chapter has made no commitment one way or another on this. Information is just being gathered and considered. The Executive Board needs to meet before the annual meeting to garner as much information as possible to present to members at the annual meeting. Cheryl's proposal is included in this newsletter. This is just information to ponder the next two months before annual meeting. Please feel free to discuss this with other members and chapter officers and board members.

The white frame Federated Church is located on U.S. Route 5 between Interstate 91 exits 14 and 15.

CHAPTER NOTES

Marilyn Polson has a new e-mail address: mjpolson@myfairpoint.net

The National AGO Convention will be held this June in Boston, Mass. and Vermont AGO member William Tortolano will be giving a "scholarly" talk at the convention on Thursday, June 26 from 10:15 to 10:40 in Regis, 3rd fl/70. The presentation is entitled Gregorian Chant Roots in the Music of J.S. Bach.

COMING EVENTS

The **North Country Chorus** under the direction of Alan Rowe will present its spring program at three venues in early May: **South Congregational Church, St. Johnsbury** at 7:30 p.m. on **Friday, May 2**; **Wells River Congregational Church** at 7:30 p.m. on **Saturday, May 3**; and **Peacham Congregational Church** at 3 p.m. on **Sunday, May 4**. More information about this concert is included in this newsletter.

On **May 3, 2014** from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon there will be a **strategic planning session** for **Mary Keane Chapel** at **Enfield Shaker Museum, Enfield, N. H.** Many of you know that Mary Keane Chapel houses a vintage 1930 Casavant 3-manual organ. If it is of interest to you to be part of the discussion about the future of this beautiful chapel and how it might, once again, be an active venue for organ music and other performances, please consider attending or write ideas to Dolores Struckhoff, Executive Director, Enfield Shaker Museum, 447 NH Route 4A, Enfield, N.H. 03748. All input is welcome. For questions, contact George and Donna at (603) 632-1130 or gandd77@comcast.net.

John Weaver will present an organ recital at the **Barton United Church** on **Sunday, May 4** at 4 p.m. as the church celebrates the completion of renovations to its 1910 Steere organ by organ builder **Peter D. Walker**.

Saturday, May 17 the **Estey Pipe Organ Tour** will be held in **Brattleboro, Vermont** from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. starting at the **First United Methodist Church** and ending at the **Estey Organ Museum**. More information about this event is included in this newsletter.

On **Wednesday, May 21** at the **Stowe Community Church** **John Weaver** will present a **noon-time organ recital** as part of the **Stowe Performing Arts Wednesdays** in May program. The event is free to the public and everyone is welcome.

First Baptist Church of Burlington, Vermont is celebrating the sesquicentennial of its pipe organ, built by E. & G.G. Hook of Boston in 1864 and installed, as opus 342, in the church in October of that year.

Three recitals will mark this milestone for the organ:

June 1 at 4 p.m.	Lynnette Combs
September 7	George Matthew, Jr.
November 2	Susan Summerfield

More information about this series of events is included in this newsletter.

The **Essex Community Concerts**, in announcing their 2014 season, has included three organ events in their programming. All concerts are at the **Essex (NY) Community Church**. For more information visit their website: www.essexcommunityconcerts.org

July 4 (Fri)	7:30 p.m.	Carol Williams, organist
August 12 (Tues)	7:30 p.m.	Ray Cornils, organist
August 14 (Thur)	11:30 a.m.	Vaughn Watson, organist

NORTH COUNTRY CHORUS AND ST. JOHNSBURY ACADEMY STUDENTS PRESENT MOZART AND MORE

The North Country Chorus under the direction of Alan Rowe will present its spring program at three venues in early May. The concert will be a collaborative one as Alan's Hilltones, a select group of Saint Johnsbury Academy students, will be an integral part of the mix. The groups will combine to sing Mozart's "Regina Coeli" with string accompaniment. After intermission the Hilltones will do an eclectic set of pieces of their own prior to joining North Country Chorus for several final short works.

In the first half of the program NCC also will perform Mozart's "Vesperae Solennes de Confessore" K 339. The Vespers, composed in 1780, is a joyous collection of six movements, including five Psalms and a setting of the Magnificat. It will have orchestra accompaniment and a quartet of solo voices from the region. Soprano Julie Drown and baritone Bob Mead are longtime members of the chorus. Alto Susanne Norwood of East Burke and tenor Andrew Lidestri of Lyman will round out the quartet.

Performances will take place at South Congregational Church, St. Johnsbury, at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 2; Wells River Congregational Church at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 3; and Peacham Congregational Church at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 4.

Tickets are available in advance from Catamount Arts or at the door. For more information and ticket details visit northcountrychorus.org.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN BURLINGTON CELEBRATES ITS HOOK ORGAN'S SESQUICENTENNIAL

First Baptist Church of Burlington, Vermont is celebrating the sesquicentennial of its pipe organ, built by E. & G.G. Hook of Boston in 1864 and installed, as opus 342, in the church in October of that year. This instrument is the only unchanged nineteenth-century organ in Burlington.

There will be three recitals in 2014, on the first Sundays of June, September, and November. Admission is by donation. For more information contact the church office at (802) 864-6515 or visit the First Baptist Church website.

On June 1, at 4 p.m., Lynnette Combs, present organist, will give a program inspired by the programs of Alexandre Guilmant, the French superstar, who played 40 consecutive recitals, by memory, without repeating a piece, at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904.

On September 7, George Matthew, Jr., former organist at First Baptist Church, will play; on November 2, Susan Summerfield, professor at St. Michael's College in Colchester and also a former organist at First Baptist, will perform.

E. & G.G. Hook was the most important nineteenth-century organbuilding firm in New England. It was a business from 1829-1936. The instrument at First Baptist is one of the most important historical organs in the state. Although moved within the building, it remains tonally unaltered. According to the Free Press article that reported on the inaugural concert, "The universal verdict was that the organ is a superior one, of unusual power for its size."

ESTEY ORGAN MUSEUM PRESENTS AN ESTEY ORGAN TOUR

The Estey Organ Museum will host a Tour of Estey Organs in Brattleboro, Vermont on Saturday, May 17, beginning at 1:00 p.m. The tour will begin at the First United Methodist Church (home of Estey Opus 1 from 1901) on Putney Road and conclude at the Museum, 108 Birge Street. Eight pipe organs will be visited, most of which are in playing condition. The event will include brief demonstration

programs on most of the organs. Participants will receive handout sheets describing each instrument and its history. Refreshments will be served at the Museum, and visitors will see and hear the Estey "walk-through" pipe organ as well as other reed organs on display. For further information and directions, phone (802) 246-8366.

- 1:00 First United Methodist Church, Putney Road
- 1:30 St. Michael's Catholic Church, 47 Walnut Street
- 2:15 B.P.O.E. Lodge, No. 1499, formerly home of Julius Harry Estey, 75 Putney Road
- 2:30 First Church of Christ, Scientist, 57 Putney Road
- 3:15 The Stone Church, formerly All Souls Unitarian-Universalist Church, 210 Main Street
- 3:30 Brattleboro Masonic Center, 196 Main Street
- 4:00 First Baptist Church, 190 Main Street
- 4:45 Estey Organ Museum, 108 Birge Street; Refreshments & Museum Tour

STOWE COMMUNITY CHURCH CELEBRATES ITS W.B.D. SIMMONS ORGAN'S 150 YEARS OF SERVICE

On Sunday, March 16 the Stowe Community Church choir hosted a special coffee hour with a cake sporting a picture of the historic organ on top. This was the date 150 years ago when the organ was dedicated in recital.

John Weaver will present an organ recital on the organ on May 21 at noon as part of the Stowe Performing Arts Wednesdays at noon in May. A special organ brochure is being prepared for this and other organ events this year.

Another concert featuring the organ is in the planning for the fall.

SUMMER ORGAN STUDY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ORGAN STUDENTS

The American Guild of Organists announces 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(Technical) for ages 16-23

June 8-13	Stowe, Pa.
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POE+ for adults

June 8-13	Rockford, Ill.
July 13-17	Seattle, Wash.

POE (Advanced) for ages 13-18

June 29-July 4	Ann Arbor, Mich.
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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the June issue of **Pipe Notes** will be May 20.

Combined Regional Convention with RCCO, CIOC, and the new Northeast Region of the AGO, Montreal July 9-14, 2017 or alternate June dates

WHY MONTREAL?

Montreal is a vibrant cultural and musical and religious center with a long, rich history of the organ and sacred music in particular. In 2009, Montreal was named North America's number one host city for international association events, according to the 2009 preliminary rankings of the International Congress and Convention Organization. Montreal was referred to as "Canada's Cultural Capital" by Monocle magazine.

Nicknamed la ville aux cent clochers (the city of a hundred steeples), Montreal is renowned for its churches. Indeed, as Mark Twain once noted, "This is the first time I was ever in a city where you couldn't throw a brick without breaking a church window." The Oratory is the largest church in Canada, with the second largest copper dome in the world after that of Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome.

A combined Regional convention with RCCO (Royal Canadian College of Organists) and CIOC (Canadian International Organ Competition) would be a repeat of a very successful combined event - The International Congress of the Organ which took place in July 1993. The Convention would take place entirely in and around Montreal.

Significant venues include:

Notre-Dame Basilica - Casavant Freres
 La Maison Symphonique - new Casavant Op. 3900 in new hall in Civic Art Center
 St. John the Evangelist - Wolff Op. 27
 Eglise de Gesu - Casavant Op. 2232
 St. James United - Letourneau
 Oratoire Saint-Joseph - Grand Beckerath, Casavant
 Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul - Casavant Freres

RCCO and CIOC plan a convention in Montreal with or without the AGO, though they would very much like to have us because it will multiply the possibilities and offerings. 2017 will be the 350th Jubilee of Montreal, the 150th Anniversary of Canada, and there is also a big Jazz Festival that year. To this date no chapter in the Northeast Region has been willing to apply to host a convention for 2017.

Tom Leslie, CIOC Exec Director and Region 2 Coordinator would be the Canadian Convention Chair. Tom has proven his capabilities by building CIOC up from scratch as it's Executive Director in a very short time (6 years). Our Regional Councillor, Cheryl Duerr has approached the Vermont chapter as the AGO co-host of this event. (Please feel free to contact her with any questions or if you would like to help work on this convention - at clduerr@gmail.com or (617) 852-3533.

The primary responsibilities of the Vermont host would be 1) to run our Quimby Competition, 2) register the AGO members for the convention, 3) manage the AGO portion of the hotel contract, 4) collaborate on programming, 5) be responsible for an appropriate amount of Gifts and Grants. All of the logistical work will be done by RCCO in Montreal. Conference Direct has already done a report on potential hotels and will help with negotiations. The Montreal department of tourism would host 2 people on a site visit if the convention is approved by an AGO host.

This is a wonderful opportunity to build bridges between Vermont and Canada, especially Montreal. Distance does not have to be an issue in the planning. These days, many members of Convention Committees take part via WebEx or Free Conference Call. Please help us build a wonderful convention opportunity for our colleagues and say YES to Montreal 2017.