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Vermont AGO Website: http://vtago.org National Website: http://www.agohq.org

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COMING EVENTS

First Baptist Church, at 81 St. Paul Street in Burlington, Vermont, will present a series of informal noon-time concerts, at 12:15 p.m. on Thursdays:

December 5: Reed, Rosin and Pedal (violin, clarinet, and piano)

December 12: Arthur Zorn, organ

December 19: Annalise Shelmandine, soprano

The concerts are free and open to the public. Bring your lunch; coffee and tea are provided. There is two hours free parking underneath the Church Street Mall. For more information, call (802) 864-6515.

The North Country Chorus will perform its 66th annual holiday program in three December concerts. Director Alan Rowe of Saint Johnsbury has chosen a program of familiar carols and contemporary masterworks. The singers will be accompanied by Jean Anderson on organ and an ensemble of brass and percussion, including North Country favorites David Heintz, John Mead, Bill Keck, and Andrew Mallon.

Performances will take place on Friday, December 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, Littleton, N.H.; on Saturday, December 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the Wells River (VT) Congregational Church; and on Sunday, December 8 at 3 p.m. at the Peacham (VT) Congregational Church.

Admission at the door is \$10 (\$5 for students). Tickets may be purchased in advance though Catamount Arts, catamountarts.org (service charge applies for online and phone orders).

Tickets are now on sale through Catamount Arts for the 33rd annual Madrigal Dinner, The Queen's Play, to be held in Monroe, N.H. on January 17, 18, and 19. See details at the NCC website: www.northcountrychorus.org.

More information about the December concerts is included in this newsletter.

Freelance Family Singers, Woodstock's community chorus, will present a Holiday Concert on Saturday, December 7 at 7 p.m., and Sunday, December 8, 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. The chorus is in its 36th year and is directed by **Ellen Satterthwaite.** The concerts are free with donations of nonperishable items for the Community Food Shelf suggested.

A Community Christmas Sing-Along will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, December 18 at the Stowe Community Church. Songsheets are provided, and everyone is welcome to come, select favorite Christmas carols and songs, and enjoy singing the music of the season.

The Northeast Kingdom Chorus joins forces with the Cabot Community Chorus to present a Holiday Concert on Friday, December 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the United Church of Cabot, and on Sunday, December 22 at 4 p.m. at the Greensboro United Church of Christ. The program will include classical works, madrigals and motets, folk songs, secular Christmas works, and pieces by small groups.

The Annual Messiah Sing-Along will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, December 23 at the Stowe Community Church. You can bring your own score or use one provided at the church. All are welcome.

NATIONAL AGO CONVENTION FOR 2014 WILL BE HELD IN BOSTON

It is not too early to be thinking about next summer's American Guild of Organists' biennial national convention in Boston, June 23-27, 2014. If you have not yet registered, please visit agoboston2014.org, explore the myriad offerings the Boston Steering Committee has curated for your enjoyment and professional enrichment, and register soon. The fifty concerts, eight worship services, ninety workshops and masterclasses, fifty-two scholarly papers, and fourteen commissioned works are just the tip of the proverbial iceberg.

The Boston convention is breaking new ground by also investing in extensive community outreach: a free Family Organ Encounter Day in Copley Square venues, designed to engage children, families, and community members of all ages; Youth Organ Initiative Day for high school students, in which they will workshop and premiere a commissioned work; and Meet the King of Instruments, a multi-faceted educational station offering hands-on engagement with a working pipe organ in the Copley Place mall atrium, reaching tens of thousands of people throughout the week.

NNCHORUS BRINGS OUT THE BRASS FOR CHRISTMAS

The North Country Chorus concerts of December 6, 7, and 8 feature director Alan Rowe, accompanist Jean Anderson, and an ensemble of brass and percussion. The program includes the "Gloria" of John Rutter featuring soprano Julie Drown, Daniel Pinkham's "Christmas Cantata," Morten Lauridsen's "O Magnum Mysterium," and several short works: "In Dulci Jubilo" arranged by R. L. Pearsall, "The Blessed Son of God: by Ralph Vaughn Williams, and "Unto Us is Born a Son" set by Sir David Willcocks. The concerts will conclude with a carol sing.

Rutter's "Gloria" had its premier in the American heartland in 1974. The popular British choral composer was commissioned by the Voices of Mel Olson of Omaha, where the piece received its premier under the composer's baton. The choral symphony in three movements makes a joyful noise in the first and third movements, which surround a middle movement of calm introspection - in Rutter's own words, "exalted, devotional, and jubilant by turns."

New England composer Daniel Pinkham, born in Massachusetts, taught at both the Boston and New England Conservatories. He was organist and composer at Boston's renowned King's Chapel and promoted its Sunday evening concert series. NCChorus last performed his Cantata in 2002.

The chorus has performed several works of American composer Morten Lauridsen, including "O Magnum Mysterium" in 1999, when Alan Rowe assumed conducting duties from his mother Mary, former Vermont-AGO member and the 50-year director of the group.

ORGANIST NEEDED

St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Northfield, a small but loving congregation, needs an organist to play their 1830 two manual E. & G.G. Hook organ recently heard by the 58th Annual Organ Historical Society Convention. No choir duties. During the winter the congregation worships in the adjacent parish hall from the Sunday after Epiphany to Palm Sunday. Salary to be determined. Contact Brett Murphy, (802) 223-2486, brettwmurphy@hotmail.com

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the next issue of **Pipe Notes** will be January 20 for the February issue. There will not be a January issue. A blessed holiday season to you all.

