

PIPE NOTES

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

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APRIL VERMONT AGO EVENT: A TOUR OF STEPHEN RUSSELL'S ORGAN WORKSHOP

You are all cordially invited to visit the organ workshop of Steven Russell located in Cambridgeport, Vermont on Sunday, April 8 from 3:30 p.m. to about 5:00 p.m. Steven has generously opened his work place to us on this occasion to provide us with a golden opportunity to see the makings of an organ. Please consider attending, car-pooling with other members, and inviting other organists to join you.

Directions to Russell & Co. if not using GPS

60 Atcherson Hollow Road

Chester, VT (Actually Cambridgeport which is part of Rockingham)

From the West: Get to Chester on Route 11 or 103, then turn right onto Route 35 on the east side of Chester towards Grafton. In Grafton continue on 35 which joins 121. Several miles out of town, turn left to continue on 121 into Cambridgeport. Turn left immediately after the stone ruin on the far side of Cambridgeport hamlet. Road will fork, take the right fork onto Atcherson Hollow Road (dirt road). We are the first place on the left. Shop is a grey barn.

From North or South: Go to Bellows Falls using I-91 (exit 6 from the north or 5 from the south). Take Route 121 west out of Bellows Falls to Saxtons River. Continue 3 miles on 121, down a slight hill. The stone ruin is on the right. Turn right immediately before the ruin, right fork onto Atcherson Hollow. We are the first place on the left.

Note: There is no cell service in that valley.

Russell and Company, Organ Builders, located in Cambridgeport, Vermont was founded in 1976 to serve tuning and maintenance needs, but then expanded its facilities in 1978 to include the building of new pipe organs. In 1980, they moved to larger facilities, and by 1987, the company had outgrown its space requiring the construction of a new 5,600-square-foot facility which includes an assembly room with a 35-foot ceiling.

In addition to the production of fine pipe organs, Russell and Company also manufactures organ pipes, consoles, and windchests which it supplies to the trade. Their customers include many of the finest companies, and Russell pipework is included in such notable instruments as the Crystal Cathedral; Second Baptist Church, Houston; the University of Alaska, Fairbanks; and the Cathedral of Funchal, Madeira, Portugal.

The company's founder and director, Stephen J. Russell received his education at RPI and Westminster Choir College. After graduation, he apprenticed under Timen Koelewijn, noted Dutch-American pipe maker and organ builder. In 1980, Koelewijn retired, later selling his business to Russell. This brought the move to Vermont and a greater emphasis on new organ construction.

Since 1980, the company has enjoyed controlled but constant growth due to the consistently high quality of the workmanship and Mr. Russell's painstaking attention to the fine points of tonal design and finishing.

COMING EVENTS

A tour of the **Steven Russell organ workshop** will be held on **Sunday, April 8** from **3:30 p.m.** to around **5:00 p.m.** Please see the article at the beginning of this newsletter for more details.

North Country Chorus, in collaboration with St. Johnsbury Academy's Hilltones, will perform W. A. Mozart's Requiem in two venues:

Saturday, May 5 at 7:30 p.m. at Bradford Congregational Church, Bradford, VT.

Sunday, May 6 at 3:00 p.m. at South Church, St. Johnsbury, VT.

Choruses, soloists and orchestra will be under the direction of Alan Rowe.

The Hilltones will perform several pieces on their own. In their debut public appearance, the recently formed NCC Children's Chorus, led by Kaitlyn Bryant, will also offer a few selections.

Details and ticket information are available at northcountrychorus.org.

Freelance Family Singers, Woodstock's community chorus, will present their **Spring concerts** on **Saturday, May 5 at 7:00 p.m.** and **Sunday, May 6 at 3:00 p.m.** in the **First Congregational Church of Woodstock** on Elm Street. The chorus is directed by **Ellen Satterthwaite**. This concert will mark the 40th year for the group. The program will include sacred and secular pieces for the full chorus, small vocal ensembles and solos and instrumental music. The concerts are free with donations for the Community Food Shelf suggested. Refreshments will be served.

An **Artist-of the Year** recital by **Jennifer Bower** will be presented on **Sunday, May 6 at 3:00 p.m.** followed by the Chapter's **Annual Meeting**. The event is at the **Mead Chapel** on the **Middlebury College Campus**, Middlebury, Vermont.

A prelude to this recital will be offered by carillonneur **George Matthew** on the Mead Chapel carillon before the 3:00 p.m. recital.

Directions to Mead Chapel: On Route 7 heading north in Middlebury, turn left onto Route 125, follow it through downtown Middlebury and up the hill. Just past the large stone Church of the Assumption, turn left onto Hepburn Road and park in back of the chapel.

From Route 7 heading south turn right onto Route 125 and follow the directions above.

CHAPTER NOTES

The Vermont AGO Chapter's 2018 ballot is included in this newsletter. This is a great opportunity for all of our members to participate. It matters not your location, schedules, or mobility. Everyone can simply fill out the form and mail it back by April 15 so we have time to tabulate results before our annual meeting in May. It takes just a bit of your time and helps your AGO chapter immensely to work together to support a strong slate of officers for our chapter. If you receive the newsletter by email, just copy off the ballot, fill it out, and mail it to the newsletter editor. If you receive the newsletter by U.S. mail, just fill out the bright orange ballot and mail it to the newsletter editor. The address is:

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Thank you, all, for your help with this! I look forward to receiving your ballots.

Two corrections need to be noted in regards to the March newsletter information about the organ at the First Baptist Church in Burlington, Vermont. First, the organ is a E. & G.G. Hook, not a Hook and Hastings, and the work of adding the 16-foot pipe rank in the pedal has not been completed yet. It has been approved by the church and David Moore will be fitting it into his spring schedule. They are excited, but still in anticipatory mode. Thank you to Sarah Dopp for righting these errors for us.

Congratulations to Lynnette Combs for organizing the fourth annual Bach Marathon at Christ Episcopal Church in Montpelier, Vermont on Sunday, March 25. A very successful event, it attracted a steady audience of about 60 people all afternoon as folks came and went, enjoying light refreshments and splendid organ music by J.S. Bach. The program included several chorale preludes, selections from the "Goldberg Variations", Fantasy and Fugue in a minor, Prelude and Fugue in e minor, Toccata in d minor (Dorian), Toccata and Fugue in F, Prelude and Fugue in a minor, and the Trio Sonata No. 3 in d minor. The pleasingly varied program delighted the audience and inspired organists and aspiring organists. Thank you to all the performers who gave of their time and talents, and traveled distances to insure the success of this endeavor: David Neiweem, Adam Schneider, Lubbert Gnodde, and Jennifer Bower. Thank you also to Lynnette who not only performed, but also scheduled rehearsal time, arranged for refreshments, and organized and printed the program. Well done one and all.

A REMEMBRANCE OF A SPECIAL ORGAN LADY by Kevin Bishop

I would like to write a word about the passing of a family friend in Manchester, Vermont. Veda (Rumney) Stone passed away February 27. She was 100 years old, born September 17, 1917.

Current AGO folks will not remember Veda as she was active in the organ world decades ago. Veda was the organist at the Congregational Church in Manchester for nearly 30 years and was instrumental in the installation of the 1959 three-manual Moeller. She was proud of that organ and was quick to point out her insistence that a Great to Swell 8' coupler be installed. She would let you know that there wasn't another Great to Swell in the area. (I have played the organ many times and never

found a use for that coupler-although I would never tell Veda!) Veda would reminisce about the Estey company letting the local organists know of a special organ they were setting up in the erecting room and inviting them down to give it a whirl-which she did, and, not being shy, she let them know that Estey's diapasons were "tubby". And don't get her started on unit organs: "I wouldn't give 'em sitting room in hell," she used to say.

Veda was piano teacher to me, my wife Linda, and to most of our children. She could be tough.

Anytime there was an organ event, she would call and see if we could check it out. She was keen to see the installation of the Frobenius organ in the UM church in Saratoga Springs. We hopped in the car and checked it out. She also accompanied us on the Stringfield chapter's organ crawl to Newport RI. She was hard to keep up with.

God Speed, Veda, and I hope there's an organ or two in heaven for you.

OGONTZ CHORAL WORKSHOP: A SUMMER VOCAL OPPORTUNITY

The Ogontz Choral Workshop, July 22-28, 2018, is an extraordinary opportunity for singers and choral directors. The musical experience is unique and inspiring. The food is exceptional, and the setting, Ogontz Camp in Lyman, NH, is beautiful.

This year's featured masterwork, Benjamin Britten's War Requiem, was commissioned for the 1962 dedication of the new Cathedral of St. Michael in Coventry, England, which replaced the original Gothic structure destroyed by German bombs in World War II.

Participants will also celebrate the 100th anniversary of Leonard Bernstein's birth with his Chichester Psalms, and honor the 100th anniversary of C. Hubert H. Parry's death with "My soul, there is a country" from Songs of Farewell.

David Hill, current director of London's Bach Choir and Yale University's Schola Cantorum, will lead singers through the repertoire. He is respected as one of Europe's leading directors. On March 10, 2018 the Royal College of Organists conferred on David its highest honor, the RCO Medal, "in recognition of distinguished achievement in choral conducting and organ playing."

Paula Rockwell, mezzo-soprano vocal coach, receives rave reviews every year for her exceptional teaching skill and sparkling recital performance.

Visit <http://ogontzarts.com> for complete details and a link to the registration form. On the Ogontz Arts Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/ogontzarts/>, you'll find photo albums of past workshops.

Please share Ogontz info with your choirs and singer-friends. Questions? Contact Claire Mead at claire@ogontzarts.com or by phone: (215) 962-2998.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the May issue of **Pipe Notes** will be April 20. Be sure to send in your summer events for all members to enjoy.