

PIPE NOTES

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

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May 2018

ARTIST-OF-THE-YEAR RECITAL AND ANNUAL MEETING IN MIDDLEBURY ON MAY 6

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.

Everyone is welcome. Invite and bring friends.

COMING EVENTS

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.

More details are included in this newsletter.

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. More information is included at the start of this newsletter.

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.

The **Noon Music in May** concert series of the **Stowe Performing Arts** will present **Christopher Houlihan** in recital on **Wednesday, May 16** at 12 noon at the **Stowe Community Church**. He will be playing the 1864 W.B.D. Simmons organ.

CHAPTER NOTES

The number of ballot returns for the last officer election was meager. Thank you to all who responded to make this effort happen. Officers elected were:

Dean: Vaughn Watson
 Sub-Dean: Marilyn Polson
 Secretary: Marilyn Polson
 Treasurer: Lynnette Combs
 Registrar: Esther Nui
 Executive Committee: John Atwood, Kevin Bishop, and Susan Summerfield

A very heart-felt thank you to Stephen Russell for hosting the Vermont Chapter at his workshop on April 8.

APRIL VERMONT AGO EVENT AT THE WORKSHOP OF STEVEN RUSSELL

On April 8 seven Chapter members and friends gathered at the shop of organ builder Stephen Russell in Chester where he is working on a large two-manual instrument for St. Pius X Roman Catholic Church in Scarsdale, New York. The solid mahogany console has been built and toe studs, pistons, and pedal stop knobs installed. On large casters, it rolls around quite easily. We visited different areas of the building where Stephen showed us pipes under construction, partly built wind chests and the equipment for casting metal. The hour and a half of allotted time passed quickly as he answered questions and explained his thoughts about organ building.

NORTH COUNTRY CHORUS TO PERFORM MOZART'S REQUIEM

The Hilltones, St. Johnsbury Academy's select choral group, will join North Country Chorus in performing the well-known Requiem, K. 626. Concerts will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 5 at Bradford (VT) Congregational Church, and at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 6 at South Church, St. Johnsbury.

Fans of the 1984 Oscar award-winning film *Amadeus* will find many of the Requiem's themes familiar. Count Walsegg commissioned the Requiem anonymously in mid-July 1791 after the death of his wife. He hoped to pass it off as his own work and enhance his reputation as a musician. Mozart was committed to completing and conducting two operas and a clarinet concerto until October, when he began work on the Requiem. His health had been failing since late August, and by November 20 he

was confined to bed. His work on the Requiem continued until his death from rheumatic fever on December 5 at age 35. Mozart's wife Costanze, in need of the money, oversaw the completion of the Requiem. While details remain controversial, it is generally agreed that the composition was complete by Franz Sussmayer, a pupil of Mozart.

Accompaniment for the Requiem will be provided by organist Peter Beardsley and an orchestra of strings, winds, and percussion. Soprano Julie Drown, a perennial favorite of North Country audiences, will be joined in the solo quartets by mezzo-soprano Katharine DeBoer, tenor Phil Brown, and bass Lucas Weiss. Other solos will be performed by Hilltones soprano Fiona Sweeney. The ensemble will be led by Musical Director Alan Rowe.

The Hilltones, recently back from their tour in Austria, will delight the audiences with several pieces of their own. The newly formed North Country Youth Chorus, led by Kaitlyn Bryant, will offer a few selections in their debut public appearance.

Tickets can be purchased in advance from catamountix.org for \$13. Admission at the door will be \$16. Admission for all students is \$5.

Visit northcountrychorus.org to learn more about the chorus, to subscribe to its email newsletter, and to link to its Facebook page.

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.

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR POSITION OPEN

The East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church in East Craftsbury, Vermont seeks to fill the position of organist/choir director no later than and preferably before, August 31, 2018. We are a small, 200 year-old church community with a strong tradition of congregational and choral singing and firm belief in the central importance of music to the worship experience. A well-maintained, two-manual Wicks pipe organ, a Steinway grand piano, and an historic Estey reed organ are all available to support the musical ministry of the church. Our Choir is small (9-10 people) but enthusiastic about singing and very open to the musical possibilities and growth potential that new leadership might bring.

Potential applicants with strong capabilities as organists, but not choral directing--or vice versa--are encouraged to apply, as we would consider splitting the role for the right candidates. We see music as a ministry, and the successful applicant(s) will share that understanding.

Interested musicians may forward their CVs to the Music Director Search Committee, c/o Rev. Deborah McKinley, East Craaftsbury Presbyterian Church, 1097 Ketchum Hill Road, Craftsbury, VT 05826, or by email: ecpcvt@gmail.com. Telephone inquiries are also welcome: (802) 586-7707.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the June issue of **Pipe Notes** will be May 20. Be sure to send in any summer events in your region to share with other members.

A BIT OF HUMOR

They're Back! Church Bulletins: Thank God for church ladies with typewriters. These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."

Our youth basketball team is back in action Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the recreation hall. Come out and watch us kill Christ the King.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.