



The Trompette



The Newsletter of the Westchester Chapter - American Guild of Organists

MARCH 2012

VOLUME 11, #7

Greetings from the Dean...

Thank you to all who participated in our spectacular *Hymn Fest* on February 19th! I especially want to thank Rye Presbyterian's Director of Music **Kevin Walters** for his warm hospitality. Many of us enjoyed playing our morning hymns on the beautiful, 4-manual Cassavant organ prior to the program. About 20 Chapter members and guests then sat in the very comfortable choir chairs while a variety of ethnic hymns were shared: Jewish, Moravian, Spanish, African-American, – all for the purpose of enriching our knowledge of these worship traditions, in order to further enrich congregational music at our own houses of worship. **Dr. Robert Chase** opened the program with several of his favorite African and Spanish hymns which have been successful at Church of the Highlands. Terence Kelly, who plays for both an English-speaking and Spanish congregation at Summerfield Methodist Church in Port Chester, came with the Reverend Carmen Ortiz and their drum player. Rev. Ortiz sang and translated some beautiful Latin American hymns, and shared her philosophy of the importance of music in worship. **Jayson Rodovsky-Engquist** broadened our experience of ethnic and ecumenical music by sharing hymns set to melodies from Christian, Hebrew and Arab traditions. **Timothy Keenan-Devlin** played two beautiful Moravian hymns selected by **Lois Simmonds** who was unable to attend. I enjoyed sharing hymns suitable for anthems, introits, responses, as well as congregation singing, from the African American Heritage Hymnal. A delicious reception followed, during which **Noriko Yamada** shared information on the diversity of religion in Japan and Buddhist chant. Thanks to all who contributed!

Speaking of hymn-singing, the new pastor at my own church has been making some gentle but constructive changes in our worship service that should help with our congregation's participation. I have been choosing hymns for a very long time, with the pastor's approval, but certainly have often erred on the side of variety, rather than familiarity. Pastor Nyland admitted to not feeling confident as a singer herself, and identifies with people who feel uncomfortable when they are asked to sing something unfamiliar. As a result, because the only regular service music we use is the Doxology, we are introducing a 'seasonal' hymn which is sung for a month or longer. Also, I used to avoid scheduling hymns more than once a year – now we'll sing them more often. And I'm making a stronger effort to use good contemporary hymns. We're working together to make the congregation feel comfortable about singing, and it feels good!

For the first time in a long time we'll be meeting in upper Westchester, for *Member's Compositions* at St. Columbanus, Cortlandt Manor. **Karen Longwell**, our host, says more presenters are needed, so please call or e-mail her, at 739-0928; dinaidan@97cs.com. Plan to bring sacred music for organ, voice, or any combination or instrumentation, - from 'little ditties' you may have written the night before to published compositions. Don't be shy! Share with your colleagues your solutions for requests from your pastor, Sunday School teacher or favorite soloist. I suspect we have several biblical cantatas or nativity plays among our Chapter member compositions. Bring whatever you have created and let's share.

The *Choral Reading Session* on April 22nd, hosted at the Larchmont Temple by **Jayson Rodovsky-Engquist**, will give us another excellent opportunity to expand our knowledge of music for all occasions, especially mixed congregations and choral festivals. Last month I wrote erroneously that our next opportunity for an ecumenical service would not take place till September 11, 2012. Jayson alerted me to Yom HaShoah (Day of the Shoah, the commemoration of the Holocaust.) And, we also have *The World Day of Prayer* on March 2nd, – which however comes with its own ready-designed music outline.

The second installment of last month's *Nosey Dean* question includes very thoughtful letters from four of your colleagues. I think these ideas for promoting the health of our worship communities are inspiring. I hope you feel like sharing them with your pastor and fellow parishioners. Maybe even stick some of these ideas on your refrigerators!

In this issue we introduce candidates for re-elected officers, new officers and new directorships. Some are very familiar, long-time members and others more recent, but we asked each of them to write a few words about themselves. In this busy world called Westchester, we are so fortunate to have such enthusiastic organists who are eager to help AGO Westchester running smoothly! Thank you to all the nominees.

WESTCHESTER AGO EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Westchester AGO

2011-2012 Program Schedule

March 11, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

“Members’ Compositions”

Saint Columbanus Church, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567

(See directions below)*

Host: **Karen Longwell**

April 22, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

Choral Reading

The Larchmont Temple

Host/Presenter: **Jayson Rodovsky-Engquist**

May 20, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

Member Recital: "Members Choice"

The Mount Kisco Presbyterian Church

Host: **Terence J. Flanagan**

Coordinator: **Judith Abel**

June 2012 – Date and venue to be determined

Theatre Organ Excursion or Organ Crawl

**Directions to St. Columbanus, 122 Oregon Rd. Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567*

From Route 9A and Route 9

*Take Route 9A north. At Croton-on-Hudson, Rt. 9A becomes Route 9.
Continue to the junction (at traffic light) with Bear Mountain Parkway just past Peekskill.
Go straight through the light onto the Bear Mt. State Parkway.
Continue one mile to the Division St. exit. Turn left at the end of the ramp.
In one mile, Division St. becomes Oregon Rd.
Go another ½ mile on Oregon Rd. St. Columbanus is on the left.
There is a long driveway to the church. It has ample parking.*

From the Taconic Parkway

*Take the Taconic Parkway north to the Route 202, Yorktown exit.
Turn left (west) at the end of the ramp onto Rt. 202.
Continue 4 miles to the Bear Mountain State Parkway. Turn right.
Continue on the Bear Mt. Parkway 3 miles to the Division St. exit.
Turn left at the end of the ramp onto North Division St.
In less than a mile, N. Division St. becomes Oregon Rd.
Continue an additional ½ mile to the church on the left.*

Concert Calendar

The Osborn Chapel

101 Theall Road, Rye, NY 10580

"2ND SUNDAYS at THE OSBORN"

30-minute Organ Recitals at The Osborn Chapel at 2 PM

Mar. 11, 2012 at 2 PM: Lyudmila German
Admission is FREE -- All are welcome
For Information call: (914) 777-1660

The Zoeller Center of Saint Augustine Church

140 Maple Avenue, New City, NY 10956

I Squared

Sunday, March 11 at 7:00PM

Tenors Jim Russell and Matthew Surapine will perform a program of Irish and Italian classical and folk music. This will be a café-style performance, featuring appetizers, hot and cold beverages and delicious baked goods while you enjoy the show.

Suggested offering \$10. For more information, contact the Music Office at 914-318-3268

Or email us at treasurehousemus@aol.com.

Saint Augustine Church

140 Maple Avenue, New City, NY 10956

A Lenten Evening of Prayer and Sacred Music

Thursday, March 22 at 7:00PM

Join us this evening for a beautiful service of sacred music, prayer and reflection for the Lenten season. Including the prayerful music of the *Taizé* community from the French countryside, we will celebrate the evening prayer of the Church with psalms, readings and hymnody.

Program accompanied by guest soloists, instrumentalists, and our Peragallo pipe organ.

Suggested offering \$10. For more information call 914-318-3268.

The Presbyterian Church of Mt. Kisco

605 Millwood Road

Mt. Kisco, NY

Organ Recital

Saturday, March 24, 2012 at 7:30 PM

Works by Bach, Mendelssohn and Widor.

www.pcmk.org 914-666-7001

Free-will offering. The Sanctuary is handicapped accessible.

Hitchcock Presbyterian Church

6 Greenacres Avenue
Scarsdale, NY

Lenten Organ Recital Series

Thursdays at 12 Noon

With lunch following at 12:30

Dr. John T. King, Minister of Music

Come and enjoy a free 30 minute organ recital on the "The King of Instruments" on Thursdays at noon during Lent. The performances will take place in the Sanctuary on The J. W. Walker from 12-12:30, followed by a light lunch in the Hancock Room. Take an hour out of your hectic lives to enjoy some wonderful music, good food, and relaxing fellowship.

(These recitals are free and open to the public, so pass the word and bring friends. Reservations are NOT necessary, you can just show up. However, in order to help with lunch planning, you can call the church office to let us know you will be staying for lunch.)

March 1st - Gregory C. Zelek, Hitchcock Music Intern, Student, The Juilliard School.

Program:

Mendelssohn: Organ Sonata No. 1 in F minor

Debussy: Clair de Lune (trans. by Greg Zelek)

Bach: Prelude and Fugue in D major, BWV 532

March 8th - Raymond Nagem, Doctoral Student, The Juilliard School. **Program:**

J. S. Bach - Toccata in D minor, BWV 538

Max Reger - from Six Trios, Op. 47

1. Canon in E major

5. Siciliano in E minor

William H. Harris - Fantasia on "Babylon's Streams"

William Byrd - The Carman's Whistle

Maurice Duruflé - Fugue sur le thème des heures du carillon de la cathédrale de Soissons

March 15th - David Crean, Doctoral Student, The Juilliard School. **Program:**

Prelude and Fugue in G Major, BWV 550 J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Three Chorale Preludes from Op. 12 Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Herzliebster Jesu

Herzlich tut mich verlangen

O Welt, ich muss dich lassen

Ronde Francaise, Op. 37 Leon Boëllmann (1862-1897)

"Final" from Symphony No. 2 in D Major, Op. 13/2

Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

March 22nd - Colin MacKnight, Student, The Juilliard School. **Program:**

Prelude and Fugue in C Minor, BWV 546 - Johann Sebastian Bach

Sonata No. 6 in D Minor, Op. 65 - Felix Mendelssohn

Fuga "alla Handel" - Alexandre Guilmant

March 29th - Vaughn Mauren, Organ Scholar, Christ Church, Bronxville. **Program:**

TBA

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

In accordance with our By-Laws, we are announcing the Nominating Committee's slate of candidates for Dean, Sub-Dean, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar and Directors (two, whose 3-year term will run from July, 2012 through June, 2015.) Additional nominations may be made by petitions signed by at least five voting members in good standing. Such petitions must be received by the Secretary (Virginia Bender) prior to April 1, 2012. Ballots will be printed in the April issue of *The Trompette*.

Nominees for the 2012 Westchester AGO Election

DEAN	Kevin Walsh
SUB-DEAN	Eileen Laurence
SECRETARY	Karen Longwell
TREASURER	Kathryn Jones
REGISTRAR	Douglas Kostner
DIRECTORS (vote for three)	Lana Kollath Laura Ravotti Susan Sayre Edwin Wallace

Respectfully submitted,
Judith B. Abel
Chairman, Nominating Committee

Reads & Mixtures

The Nosey Dean asked (last month): “Although some denominations and individual houses of worship show strength in their numbers, many congregations have shrunk, even to closing. What are some ways that we as professional musicians and ministers of music, who love our work, can help to reverse this trend?”

Here are more of your wonderful, thought-provoking answers. Again, we will need to wait till the next issue to finish this article!

Michael Shapiro: Dear Friends,

There is no doubt that our congregations are shrinking, whether because of aging, the general secularization of our society, the ever-increasing demands of sports activities on the lives of young families (is soccer the tool of the Antichrist?) or just plain lack of interest. Music is a big part of worship and an exciting music program can do a lot to get people motivated to come to church, not only on Sunday morning, but for fellowship activities of other kinds as well. We at Palisades Presbyterian Church have had great success, particularly with younger members and friends of our congregation, by introducing jazz worship (we have built a service around Duke Ellington's "Sacred Service," for example) or, as recently as this past Christmas Eve, showcased the talents of one of our members who is a gifted saxophone player, improvising with me playing organ around familiar carols as the prelude to our service of lessons and carols.

While our all-volunteer choir has shrunk considerably over the past several years, owing to serious debilitating illness in the case of two members as well as several deaths, those who remain are hard-working and dedicated people who make a real contribution to our worship every Sunday. I have learned to have them perform music which challenges them but is not so difficult as to make for a poor performance that might be a distraction to worship. I also make considerable use of improvisation on the organ for such elements as preludes, offertories and postludes. This gives me flexibility of time so that the service can move along more smoothly. I also bring in instrumental and vocal soloists from time to time.

At the moment, we are in the process of organizing a chamber music concert, to be presented in the spring, not just as a benefit for the church, but to try and bring more people from the community into our space so that we can perhaps get to know them better and hopefully, get them to come and try worshipping with us.

Our pastor, The Rev. Angela Maddalone, and I will be presenting a six week study of Handel's Messiah during Lent this year. We hope to attract a number of people to these weekly sessions which will feature analysis of both the text and music as well as discussion of the historical context of this monumental work.

Above all, every week I pray that I may make music to the Glory of God, and that we in our church may always work in the service of Christ Our Lord.

With best wishes,
Michael Joseph Shapiro, Music Director
Palisades Presbyterian Church, Palisades, NY

Debbie Moran: As someone who has gone through the painful process of watching a beloved church of many years close down, I have a lot to say about this. I offered to run fund raising events...all a drop in the bucket. I think change has to come from within the leadership. We are musicians but still under the jurisdiction of the pastors. The church should have a beautiful website. It should be on Facebook and Twitter. We as musicians can start groups...praise bands, string ensembles, orchestra etc. Especially get the kids involved. There needs to be a variety of music - gospel, classical, jazz, rock - not just one type. Different styles of music will appeal to different people. Even so, the pastor needs to lead the effort, not just the musician. The pastor picks the hymns. There are many different hymnals to sing from. We have no control over that. Perhaps the musician needs to be given more authority. AMEN!

Doris Dubac: Looking at church-going trends both in the US and in Europe, it seems maybe we should consider organ playing / listening outside of religious gatherings. But where, how, when, what? And we already have (most of) the large organs - expensive and non-portable - rather bound together with their musically essential acoustical surround - the churches, the cathedrals. In some ways, is the situation with pipe organs somewhat comparable to the situation with symphony orchestras?

Matthew Phelps: Dear Alice,

My initial reaction when reading your question was of a very defeatist mentality. There is really very little we can do to reverse a national trend, and especially in the New York area, where there seems to be a great premium on what I would call spirituality of the self (yoga, meditation, and personal enrichment whether it's physical or mental.) But after thinking about it more, I think there are some things that we have to start doing, mainly because we should have been doing them all along.

I feel the need to put a personal disclaimer on my thoughts. I'm sure it's no secret that my department is very large, that my job is full time, and my church is one of the healthier ones in the area, so it's very easy for me to sit here and type these things when my colleagues are sometimes working another job while being a church musician. However I honestly believe if I was a part time church musician with another job I would still do these things because I consider them so important to what I do.

1. Get out from behind the organ bench and know your congregation. Volunteer at other events of the church. Have meals with people in your congregation often. Talk to them not just about music, but also what's important to them. The goodwill that you build will spread, and then reflect well on your entire program. Evangelism is easier for a congregation when they feel good about their church and who works for it.

2. Encourage your pastor to treat worship as the most important thing that happens at the church. I imagine in a lot of the congregations that are struggling, worship is very hard to get excited about. When people show up to church they are constantly reminded of all the people that aren't there anymore. Usually the pastor bears the brunt of this displeasure, and if the

pastor is already overworked because of being the only person running the whole church, then worship soon becomes a burden as opposed to a gift. Cut your pastor some slack, be collegial, work with him so that there is a vision, and that it is realized. Help the pastor realize he's not in it alone, and if you take a more active role in upping the ante of your worship then maybe you will feel more ownership of it also.

3. Hold yourself to ridiculously high standards as an organist. I force myself to learn 10 minutes of prelude music every week. I never wimp out on the postlude. There is never a hymn without some type of alternate harmonization. Study the hymn texts you are playing for that weekend. Write notes about them to the congregation and share your thoughts on their theology. (Congregations LOVE this by the way. If you don't currently do it, I promise you that once you start you will receive more positive feedback than you ever have had.) Use strong hymn registrations and energetic tempos. If you haven't taken an organ lesson in over 5 years then get back to a teacher and do some studying. The higher your professional standard is, the better the worship is. The better the worship is, the more opportunity there is for the congregation to evangelize.

4. Don't sacrifice your ideals, but be flexible. Music can be an easy target in struggling churches, even so far as to be blamed for the entire diminishing congregation. Be open to adjustments without losing sight of your identity as music ministry. At the Reformed Church of Bronxville we would never have a rock band in our 10:30 service because it doesn't fit who we are, no matter how many people may want it. However, we can find spirituals, American Choral music, and new hymns that can bring a freshness to worship without sacrificing our identity. However, and more importantly, help people realize that a change in music is nowhere near enough to turn around a struggling congregation. Music solely is not enough to transform a church, and to think that changing the worship style (which is a code for just changing the music) is going to transform the church is actually refusing to look at all the other problems that probably chased the congregation away in the first place.

5. Finally, pray more. We put way too much emphasis on what WE can do to grow our church, and we forget that God should have a hand in it more. One of the things I love about the Unbinding the Heart books on evangelism is their emphasis on prayer and giving God back some of the control in regards to our church growth efforts. People tend to get in God's way, when we need to just let God work through us.

My warmest regards,
Matthew Phelps, Minister of Music
The Reformed Church of Bronxville

Empty Benches

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

(Mar. 2012)

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
669 Albany Post Road (Rt.9)
Scarborough, N.Y.

St. Mary's is looking for a part-time Director of Music (Organist-Choir Director). The position requires 10 hours per week. For a detailed posting or to express interest, e-mail the music committee: revsandra@stmarysscarborough.com
Church contact info: phone - 914-941-3030 www.stmarysscarborough.com

MUSICIAN

(Mar. 2012)

Christ Episcopal Church
5170 Madison Ave.
Trumbull, CT

We are seeking a musician who can accompany hymns and play service music for our 10:00 am Sunday Eucharist, beginning in April 2012. Our organ is a Simmons and McIntyre, built in 1849 and renovated in 1970. It has one manual and no pedals.

If you are interested please contact Louise Kalemkerian, Interim Rector

TEL: [203/268-5566](tel:2032685566)

E-MAIL: interimrector@christchurchtashua.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

(Feb. 2012)

Trinity Lutheran Church
25 Crane Road
Scarsdale, N.Y.

Trinity Lutheran is advertising for a part-time Director of Music (Organist-Choir Director).

Westchester AGO member Arthur Mader retired from this position in August, 2011.

The position requires 7-10 hours per week.

E-mail a resume to the Rev. Merlin Rehm at MerlinandLois@verizon.net.

Church contact info: phone - 914-723-2144 Fax - 914-722-1624 www.tlscarsdale.org

ORGANIST

(Dec. 2011)

St. Aedan's Roman Catholic Church *Pearl River, N.Y.*

Three masses per Sunday, Wednesday night choir rehearsal. Extra masses for holidays

Pay per mass conforms to Archdiocese of New York guidelines

Allen three-manual electric organ, a recent model with digital alternatives

Easy access to building for personal practice times

Convenient Rockland County location, close to Palisades Parkway exit

Contact Scott Walters, elliescottsydney@yahoo.com, 845-558-1225

ALTO/COUNTERTENOR STAFF SINGER

(Dec. 2011)

Christ's Church (Episcopal) *Rye, NY*

Join the choir of this traditional Episcopal music program. The parish choir (staff singers, adults, teenagers and choristers) sing at weekly services of either Holy Communion or Morning

Prayer and rehearse weekly on Thursday evenings. There are also regular extra-liturgical events, including services of Choral Evensong, Solemn Requiem for All Souls, the usual Holy

Week liturgies, and events around Christmas. The ideal candidate will be an excellent sight-reader, with a straight-toned, blending voice capable of performing in a wide range of musical styles in the Anglican tradition.

For further information, or to have an informal discussion about the position, please contact Ruaraidh Sutherland, the Organist & Director of Music, on [914\) 967-1749 ext. 229](tel:9149671749) or at music@ccrye.org

Note: In addition to the local listings above, Members should check the National AGO website / TAO and the ChoralNet website for jobs within the Region

From Your Newsletter Editors...

The Dean and the Executive Committee encourage you to send informative articles and any other items of interest for publication in the Newsletter.

The Trompette is sent out by email and by regular mail to those members without an email address. The electronic versions are sent out immediately after finalization, but processing the printed copies can take a week or more, plus the delivery of the regular postal mail can additionally take a week or more. If you have an email address, but are presently receiving your copy by postal mail, consider receiving it electronically instead, saving the Chapter postage expense. Send your email address to: Lois Simmonds.

Please send us your material by the **20th of each month** to ensure that we will be able to deliver the Newsletter to the membership on or about the 1st of each month. If still relevant, late submissions will be published in the subsequent issue.

Do not send in items more than once. For the Concert Calendar, include event, date, time, location, cost (if any) and an information phone number. (Incomplete or unclear submissions will not be included.) Due to space constraints, articles and notices are frequently edited.

If you have provided a notice for the “Empty Benches” section, please be advised that postings will be carried for 3 calendar months unless we are advised that the position has either been filled or is still active. Newest listings appear first. Listings carried more than one month will be arranged alphabetically by organization and will indicate the month they were first run. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping *The Trompette* accurate and up-to-date.

Send your concert notices, articles, and other materials to:

[John Cecconi](#) (MS Word is preferred)

Be sure to visit the Chapter Website: www.agowestchester.org.

Thank you!

John Cecconi
Lois Simmonds
The Trompette Editors

*Here is the LATEST issue of the
Westchester Chapter AGO Newsletter.....*

Inside:

**Alice's musings; Job postings, The Nosey
Dean; Nominating Committee Report...and
much more!**

*Mark your calendar now and you won't miss an
important date!*

Westchester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
The Trompette
John Cecconi &
Lois Simmonds, Editors