



The Trompette



The Newsletter of the Westchester Chapter - American Guild of Organists

APRIL 2012

VOLUME 11, #8

Greetings from the Dean...

Hello, all you creative people!

At the March meeting hosted by board member Karen Longwell at St. Columbanus in Cortlandt Manor we heard original members' compositions that were enjoyable for many reasons. They were sing-able, practical in the worship service or for special occasions, and showed a wide range of styles and difficulty. From Eileen Laurence we heard a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for SATB choir and bell choir, plus a setting of the Irish Blessing (see below). We enjoyed singing Judith Abel's "I Am Thankful" for two-part choir and organ, and her inspired solo, "Simple Truth." Karen Longwell sang my "Nazarene Magnificat" written for a divinity student/dancer, and I must say Karen made it sound pretty good! Frank Miller brought an SATB setting of Psalm 86, "Sing" - a rhythmically exciting and dissonant SATB choral work with organ accompaniment, and a rollicking "The Closer I Get to Heaven" in a gospel-style choral arrangement. Dr. Robert Chase presented his vocal solo "May the Words" and "Two Solemn Responses," which he invited us to freely use in our own worship services (thank you, Bob!) Kenneth Potter brought his hymn, "This is the Hour of Banquet and of Song," appropriate for communion Sundays, and Edwin Wallace closed our program with several of his organ compositions. I always say, a good song is worth a million bucks, and all these compositions were great! We hope to share much of this music at our next meeting in April. Thank you to everyone who participated! and a special thank you to Karen, who provided a very bounteous repast.

Eileen's contributions are available from her at the composer's 40% discount.

"Irish Blessing" Eileen Laurence SATB handbells or keyboard accompaniment AGC031;
 3 - 4 octave handbells score AG34020 L2; Publisher AGEHR, Distributor Lorenz Corp.
 "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute" arr. Eileen Laurence SATB with Narration and Keyboard
 accompaniment
 AGC036J; 5-6 octave handbell and 3 octave hand chime score AG56006J L4+ Publisher
 AGEHR Distributor Lorenz Corp.

In this issue is the **Ballot for new officers and directors**. Please follow the instructions carefully and mail it early. We will induct the new officers following the May 20th Members Recital at Mount Kisco Presbyterian Church, after which we will have a pot-luck supper. Please invite your spouses, special persons, etc. to share the meal with us. Save the date!

I can't wait for the **Choral Reading at the Larchmont Temple**, which Jayson Rodovsky-Engquist has dedicated a great deal of time and effort to prepare. It looks to be an extremely beneficial program for all who crave good music for choirs. See his article below for details. You won't want to miss it!

In this issue is included a few last responses to the "**Nosey Dean**," about how we as musicians can help strengthen our congregations. To them I would like to add one more: Come to the Westchester AGO Chapter meetings, talk about your work challenges, share your knowledge and experience. Thank you so much to all of you who sent in your thoughts and advice, written with such honesty and good will.

I'll be spending the last Sunday of near Tel Aviv. Wish it was Jerusalem! But I hope to hear a service in Jerusalem in the previous week, perhaps at the ancient Armenian Church. One thing for sure - it will be quite different from The Reformed Church of Cortlandtown, Montrose, NY!

Bye for now,

Alice Avouris

WESTCHESTER AGO EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Alice Avouris

SUB-DEAN

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 Jayson Rodovsky-Engquist

WEBMASTER

Virginia Bender

Westchester AGO
2011-2012 Program Schedule

April 22, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.
Choral Reading
The Larchmont Temple
Host/Presenter: **Jayson Rodovsky-Engquist**

(See more details of this event on page 3)

May 20, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.
Member Recital: "Members Choice"
The Mount Kisco Presbyterian Church
Host: **Terence J. Flanagan**
Coordinator: **Judith Abel**

The program will be followed by the induction of our new officers and directors, and a reception with pot-luck dinner. Please contact the pot-luck coordinator Alice Avouris, 962-2015 / pavouris@aol.co, to contribute to the dinner.

June 2012 – Date and venue to be determined
Theatre Organ Excursion or Organ Crawl

**NEW MUSIC FOR YOUR CONGREGATION'S CHOIRS:
AGO Choral Reading Session on Sunday, April 22, 2012 @ 4 PM (Larchmont Temple)**

You are invited to attend a choral reading session, co-sponsored by our Westchester Chapter AGO and Larchmont Temple (Hosts: Cantor Fredda Mendelson and Organist Jayson Rodovsky-Engquist) on Sunday afternoon, April 22, 2012. The program begins at 4 p.m. (and will last approximately 90 minutes). Ten publishers have agreed to supply copies of their top 3-5 new anthems for us to read through. They will include anthems for SATB, SSA and a couple for children's voice (possibly in 2 or 3 parts). Members of the Fairfield West Chapter AGO have been invited to attend and help boost our choir sections so we have enough good choral singers on each part. If you know of good sight readers in your congregational choirs, you might consider asking them to attend, also.

The sanctuary seats 300, so there should be plenty of room. The first 75 Westchester AGO members to arrive will be given a complimentary packet of music from these publishers (approximately 45-50 new anthems). This is a wonderful way to find new choral music. And, remember, you can often use an anthem, originally composed in 4-parts for your specific situation if you only have 2 parts. The accompanist is often able to "fill out" the remaining harmonies. Always think creatively when you are at a reading session. You may even discover new pieces appropriate for a community-based choral festival and invite congregations from your own village, town or city to participate. Sharing choral music is one of the best ways to get together with other musicians and create a meaningful experience together. Individually, we can only sing one part, but collectively the results can be amazing! As all of us know, studies have shown how many aspects of one's life can be increased by being a part of a choir, on a regular basis. Chorus America reports singers make better leaders, better committee and board members, they are more philanthropic and tend to be better-informed about all kinds of world news and situations. And, the positive aspects of singing include deep breathing and a good amount of oxygen entering your system during a rehearsal or performance.

We have requested Psalm-based anthems or anthems appropriate for interfaith use for this choral reading session.

LARCHMONT TEMPLE is located in the Manor Section of Larchmont Village. Designed in the 1880's by Frederick Law Olmstead (the designer of New York's Central Park), the 280-acre section of Larchmont Manor (where the temple is located) is a lovely section of Larchmont Village with Victoria-style mansions dating from this time. A 13-acre walking park is located directly on Long Island Sound, if you happen to arrive early and is open to the public and within walking distance to the temple.

DIRECTIONS/ADDRESS : Larchmont Temple is located at 75 Larchmont Avenue, south of the Boston Post Road in Larchmont's "Manor" section. From the intersection of Post Road and Larchmont Avenue, you proceed south from the traffic light (towards Long Island Sound) for several blocks to the corner of Larchmont and Willow. The building is a Georgian-style (red brick) sanctuary on the corner.

PARKING : street parking is available on all surrounding streets in the Manor. There is no parking lot. Park anywhere you can and walk to the Sanctuary. The SIDE ENTRANCE (Willow Ave) has handicapped access with a ramp. An elevator is located inside (down the long hallway from side entrance) and will take you to the Sanctuary level, should you need one.

Contact information for any questions :
Jayson Rodovsky-Engquist

Concert Calendar

Christ Church

1415 Pelhamdale Ave., Pelham Manor

“Concerts at Christ Church”

Sunday, April 1, 2012 at 4:00 PM

A community outreach of historic Christ Church in Pelham Manor, together with the Huguenot Memorial Church will present the new Pelham Community Chorus, professional soloists and Sinfonia Celestis in a concert performance of Johann Sebastian Bach's Johannes-Passion (St. John Passion), BWV 245, featuring tenor Philip Anderson as The Evangelist

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for students of any age

www.concertsatchristchurchpelham.org /or/ 914-738-5515, ext. 102



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

April 8, 2012 at 2 PM

Jonathan Hunt

Admission is FREE -- All are welcome

For Information call: (914) 777-1660



Bedford Presbyterian Church

The Village Green, Bedford, NY

Master Singers of Westchester

"Spring Concert"

Sunday, April 22, 2012 at 4 PM

A Concert dedicated to the memory of Master Singers' member Minturn V. Chace. The performance includes two works: *Vesperae de Domenica* composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Franz Joseph Haydn's *Nelson Mass*.

A reception will follow in Fellowship Hall.

Adult \$25, Senior/Student \$20

For Information call: (914) 739-3669

ELECTION INFORMATION AND BALLOT

2012 Ballot – AGO Westchester Chapter

- For Dean: Kevin Walsh
- For Sub-Dean: Eileen Laurence
- For Secretary: Karen Longwell
- For Treasurer: Kathryn Jones
- For Registrar: Douglas Kostner

For Directors: (Vote for three)
(The two highest votes will serve until 2015, the third highest will serve until 2014 - filling Eileen Laurence's vacancy.)

- Lana Kollath
- Laura Ravotti
- Susan Sayre

Directions:

- Vote for one for Dean, Sub-Dean, Secretary, Treasurer and Registrar by placing an X in the box.
- Vote for 3 Directors.
- Do not sign the ballot
- Place the ballot (unsigned) into an envelope.
- Mail the ballot to: Virginia Bender

Return address should include your name and - “ Ballot for Westchester AGO Election”

- Sign your name across the envelope seal.
- Be sure to mail it in time to reach Virginia Bender by **April 30, 2012.**

Reads & Mixtures

JOHN AND MARIANNE WEAVER TO BE HONORED WITH AGO RECITAL AND GALA BENEFIT RECEPTION IN PHILADELPHIA

AGO National will sponsor a Recital and Gala Benefit Reception honoring John and Marianne Weaver on Saturday, April 21, 2012, at 3 p.m., at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia, Pa. The recital will feature John and Marianne Weaver, joined by Diane Meredith Belcher, Chelsea Chen, Ken Cowan, and Alan Morrison. The gala benefit reception will follow. A pre-concert on-stage conversation with the performers will be moderated by Pipedreams Host Michael Barone beginning at 2:15 p.m. The gala is sponsored by the AGO National Council, Eileen Guenther, president, and the AGO Development Committee. All proceeds will benefit the AGO Endowment Fund in the Weavers' honor.

Recital and Gala Benefit Reception Tickets are \$100 (\$75 tax deductible) and may be purchased online at or by calling (212) 870-2311 ext. 4308.

THE NOSEY DEAN ASKS:

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?

Ken Potter: *Filling the Church/Filling the Choir*

When I started writing this, I found myself filling a page with all the negative things that are affecting church/choir membership in America. It became such an exercise in futility that I deleted everything I had written. After all, we all know the reasons – we've lived through the changes.

Just a few ideas:

To maintain a choir the director really does need to be the "Pied Piper." He or she needs to keep the choir a welcoming place that is truly an enjoyable experience for its members. The music chosen needs to be interesting enough that the choir will want to sing it, with enough variety to make sure there's something to appeal to everyone. The organ needs to be in good shape to provide an inspiring accompaniment, not just give everyone a headache. The director (that's me) needs to not have a superior attitude where he is the expert and the choir is basically taking up his time until he can get the cathedral job he dreams about.

Having tried to accomplish all of the above, it can still be an enormous challenge to keep choir sections filled. At Scarborough, we have terrific women's sections. I would even dare even use the term "world class." It's the men's sections that are hard to keep filled. World Class singers certainly, but just not enough of them to keep the choir balanced. If we had two more tenors and two more basses, I would think I had gone to heaven. As it is, I am often singing whichever part is missing that week, and still trying to play the organ, sometimes not to good effect! It's hard to be the only person singing your part, and very few can manage that without becoming very unhappy. There is strength (safety?) in numbers! Last week we did the

beautiful four part Nicholas White arrangement of “Steal Away.” There was not a single male singer in the loft, so I attempted to sing bass and tenor, jumping from one to the other to fill in notes needed to best complete the harmony. It reminded me of Anna Russell singing a quartet on a comedy record she made years ago. That said, I just about burst with pride over what a good group I get to direct every Sunday, and am awed by their continuing dedication to singing good music.

Scarborough currently pays one soprano and one bass, but the bass is only budgeted for 30 weeks a year, which is why January has been bass-less.

I’ve always been fascinated by the concept of endowed “chairs” in the choir given to cover the cost of hired singers. A singer at \$75 a service is \$3,000 per year based on 40 services a year. I wonder if any choirs have ever done that?

When the church membership grows significantly, chances are that either a few of those will join the choir, or their added (generous?) pledges will help cover the cost of hiring singers. John Finley Williamson, the founder of Westminster Choir College always told his students that the choir, if you are successful, will have 10% of the total number of congregants in the pews. Using this formula, I should feel very successful, considering that we always have at least 10%, and there have been a few Sundays where we neared 100%. That doesn’t help the fact that we still need men desperately. We need to grow the congregation to provide a larger field from which to snatch my 10%. Hmm? Is that a “human tithe?”

The church I grew up in had very successful “Each One Bring One” Sundays every year. It was a fun time where everyone introduced their friends and a nice luncheon followed the service. No attempt was made to pressure these guests into becoming members, but the fact was that every time we did it we’d get, on average, one or two new families, previously unchurched. That’s two families a year that wouldn’t have joined otherwise. If, at the end of 10 years, 20 families were added, it starts to look like a big success.

Finally: Singing can prevent colds! 11 years ago, the University of California at Irvine, did some research where they swabbed the mouths of singers in the Pacific Chorale who were performing the Beethoven “Missa Solemnis.” They found that after rehearsals levels of Immunoglobulin A, a protein that stimulates the immune system to fight disease, increased 150% by the end of rehearsals. It increased 240% during the performance. I’m not making this up. Google it! Then join the choir for the health benefits....

Tim Keenan-Devlin: One thing is to give an organ recital to help benefit the church in trying to get more congregants.

Alice Avouris: That is a really great idea, Tim! Thank you, Ken, for your letter – it shows you can have fun, even with challenges! Thank you to everyone else whose contributions we included in the past two *Trompettes*: Jimrae Lenser, Gerald Montagna, Rick Tripodi, Eileen Laurence, Debbie Moran, Doris Dubac and Matthew Phelps.

BECKERATH ORGAN SPECIFICATIONS

Our May meeting will be held at The Presbyterian Church of Mount Kisco.
Here are the specifications for its Beckerath Organ:

III manual and pedal, 40 stops/52 ranks

Mechanical tracker, electric stop-action

Grand Orgue C-a^{'''}	Récit expressif C-a^{'''}	Positif expressif C-a^{'''}	Pedal C-g[‘]
Montre 16’			
Montre 8’	Flûte allemande	Diapason	Bourdon
Bourdon 8’	16’ Salicional	8’ Flûte harm.	32’ Montre
Octave 4’	8’ Voix Célèste	8’ Prestant	16’ Soubasse
Flûte conique 4’	8’ Bourdon	4’ Doublette	16’ Montre
Doublette 2’	8’ Prestant	2’ Larigot	8’ Flûte
Cornett III Gr.	4’ Flûte octavite	1 1/3’ Fourniture	8’ Octave
Fourniture V 11/3’	4’ Octavin	III 1’	4’ Contra Bombarde
Basson 16’	2’ Plein jeu V	Trompet	32’ Bombarde
Trompette 8’	2’ Bombarde	8’ Cromorne	16’ Trompete
Cymbelstern Tremblant	16’ Trompette harm.	8’ Tremblant	8’ Pos./Ped.
Pos./G.O. Réc./G.O.	8’ Hautbois		G.O./Ped. Réc./Ped.
Réc./G.O.16’	8’ Clairon harm.		Pos./Ped.4’
Réc./G.O.4’	4’ Chimes Tremblant		Réc./Ped.4’

MEMBER'S RECITAL

MAY 20, 2012

PERFORMERS NEEDED

THEME: MEMBER'S CHOICE

Hear ye, hear ye, fellow organists! 'Tis time to decide what to play for our annual gathering of talents into one big program of delightful toccatas, fugues, sinfonias, chorale-preludes, whatever thy fancy doth run to. Get thee to agowestchester.org, click on Events, scroll down to Member's Recital, click on Organ's Registrations, and be inspired by the impressive stop list of the von Beckerath organ at the First Presbyterian Church of Mount Kisco, where Terry Flanagan will be our most honorable host.

I, Judith Abel, your voluntary program compiler, am in rather urgent (dare I say dire?) need of thy musical submissions. Time is escaping with alarming speed. Thus far, only three of our members have come forth to inform me of their pleasure, and that makes a program methinks too short. So, please tell me 1) the title of thy piece, 2) the composer, 3) brief biographical data of both thyself and the composer, 4) details about the piece which will help make the program interesting to read. Ye may send me all this via E-mail or via telephone. I will even accept snail mail.

That recital day will be special for other reasons as well. The installation of our new officers will take place AND we will partake of a no doubt scrumptious pot-luck supper. What more could be desired on a Sunday afternoon in the merry month of May?

A New Tune

*When my days are heavy with burdens
And my heart is shadowed and dark,
And I play only tunes melancholy
Where, once I played bright as a lark,
I ask, "Why does this happen?"
While sensing a new tune to be played,
The tune that still is within me,
Yet - somehow elusive, unmade
"So - to You, the Master Musician,
Here is my fiddle and bow,
Play the tune that is in me.
Show me - how does it go?"*

Lois Degling

REMINDER: Send all requests for substitute organists to Jayson Rodovsky-Engquist, He will then broadcast them to our sub list. Send (or call) notices of "empty benches" to Judy Abel, She will then broadcast them to the chapter membership.

Empty Benches

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

(April 2012)

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

85 East Main St.

Mt. Kisco, N.Y.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church seeks a dynamic musician to help lead parishioners of all ages toward a meaningful musical experience in our 100 – 200 member community church. Experience in choral direction for youth and adults is required and a Master's degree is preferred.

The job is part-time (20-25 hours/week), with 1 weekly service and 3 weekly rehearsals, and the salary is \$45,000-50,000/year plus health benefits.

The organ is an Aeolian-Skinner, Opus 1201, 1952.

Contact Christine Meyer at cmtroge@yahoo.com or daytime phone 914-666-8058. .

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

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

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

3-manual Allen Church Organ for sale:

Model 631 Digital / Twin Computer

\$3,750

Suitable for a church/synagogue or for practice at home.

Excellent condition. Relatively new computer board.

Divided expression & crescendo pedal. Over 50 stops + Alterable voices.

Everything works. 4 Channels. 5 speakers, including Gyro. AGO specifications.

Stop list and Dimensions available upon request.

Contact John Cecconi: (914) 941-5563 / jcecconi@optonline.net



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 chronologically by 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; Election Ballot; "A New Tune" by
member Lois Degling...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