

The Trompette



The Newsletter of the Westchester Chapter - American Guild of Organists

SEPTEMBER 2012

VOLUME 12, #1

Greetings from the Dean...

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy . . . if that's not exactly how the old line went, it's close enough. We all need some time to recharge our batteries, and for many of us, that comes during the summer vacation season.

But most of us don't take the entire summer as a real vacation. Maybe we're not running our weekly choir rehearsals, but we're spending the same amount of time learning new music, so that we'll be ready for those first fall rehearsals. And we spend a lot of time planning what we are going to do during the year with our choirs and our congregations.

If that's not enough . . . our colleagues who serve on the executive board are busy putting together the year's programs for our chapter. The next board meeting is scheduled for August 22, but I'm supposed to get this column to Alice by August 20 (and I'll almost make that deadline!). I know we'll have at least some details elsewhere in this issue of *The Trompette*, even if everything isn't quite final yet. And if this issue is a couple of days late, it's so we could include that information.

But enough about work . . . back to vacation time. I was flying back from Milwaukee's Irish Fest (are you surprised?) the other day, and at the end of the conveyor belt where you put your belt and shoes back on after going through airport security, I looked up and saw a sign that said, "Recombobulation Area." I never saw that one before, but I like it!

It's "recombobulation" time for us as we get back to our weekly routines. For some of us, that means weekly rehearsals, for some it means back to the classroom. For those of us who play in temples, the High Holy Days are fast approaching, as Rosh Hashanah starts at sundown on Sunday, September 16. But as we get back to our normal routine, can we each resolve to be at least a little better at something than we were this time last year? Maybe that means a shade more practice, or maybe it means a little more advance planning. Maybe it means being a little more organized at rehearsal, or maybe it means being a little more patient with the singer who has the hardest time learning the music. Pick something, and stick to it. At the end of the year, you will be a more effective musician - and ready to pick something else to work on.

As we leave the summer vacations behind us, I hope we can all take advantage of at least some of the programs our chapter has to offer in the coming year. And when you come, feel free to invite a colleague who does not belong to the AGO.

To our Jewish colleagues, best wishes for a Happy New Year. To all of you, best wishes for a season filled with beautiful music!

Kevin Walsh

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Westchester AGO 2012-2013 **(Tentative) Program Schedule**

Note: *We're still working on some of the details for the coming year's programs – confirming venues, and some presenter availabilities – but here are the expected dates so you can mark your calendars. We think it will be an exciting year! and we look forward to publishing the final schedule in our next issue.*

Sunday, September 30 at 4:00 p.m.

Pot luck dinner and entertainment with Li Lin
(Acrobatics and Sichuan Changing Faces)
Church in the Highlands, 35 Bryant Avenue White Plains, NY 10605.
Host: **Robert Chase, ChM, AAGO, EdD,**
Pot-Luck Coordinator: Alice Avouris,

Sunday, October 21

Gospel Workshop
Antioch Baptist Church, Bedford Hills

Monday, November 12, 7:30 p.m.
TBA

No meeting in December

Sunday, January 6, 2013 at 4:00 p.m.
TWELFTH NIGHT PARTY

February 24, 2013

No meeting in March

April 21, 2013 at 4:00 p.m.

May 19, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. *Members Recital!*

Concert Calendar

We haven't received anything for September. If you have an upcoming event, please send us the details [event, date, time, location, cost (if any) and an information phone number] so we can share it with all our members.

Reads & Mixtures

A farewell note from former Dean and Trompette Editor, John Cecconi . . .

Dear Friends,

The time has come to re-invent myself and seek a more moderate climate. After having discovered, Connestee Falls, a very attractive gated residential community tucked away in the North Carolina mountains, I have decided to move to my smaller home there on a more or less permanent basis.

For those of you in the immediate NY area I will surely miss the good times we have enjoyed together over the nearly 40 years that I have lived in Westchester, and hope we can keep in touch by phone, email, letter, Skype and the like.

For those of you now residing in more distant locales, I trust that we can continue our correspondence as usual.

You will find my contact information below, to be effective on or about August 29th. I hope to hear from you in the near future, and I will do my best to keep in touch.

With warmest regards,
John

John gave his talents generously for Westchester AGO. With his experienced professional background the Chapter By-Laws were overhauled and expanded to create our WAGO Operational Procedures, making each officer's responsibilities clear and concise. His great good advice and direction were indispensable to me as Sub-Dean and as Dean. John, we'll miss your positive energy, good-heartedness to all and your wisdom! Good luck to you and may you enjoy your new home and new friends. Alice Avouris

I join in Alice's thanks to John, and I wish him all the best in this new stage of his life. I wouldn't have survived as Registrar for so many years (never mind being elected Dean) without his support and encouragement. Much of the work the officers do is behind the scenes (and some of our e-mails get sent at very odd hours), but I could always count on an encouraging word from John just when I needed it.

One of the great strengths of our chapter is that so many of our former leaders have continued to take an active role in the chapter. New Deans can count on the support of several Past Deans, who can share their experiences, give you a word (or words) of encouragement when you need them, and roll up their sleeves to do whatever work is necessary. John has been a great example of that, but he's not the only one. Perhaps John's relocation is a reminder that we should all be grateful for the many members (and I certainly don't want to limit this to Past Deans!) who have given so much, and continue to give so much to the chapter. Thank you, one and all!

Another review of the National Convention, submitted by Chapter Member Ann Patton

I was in Nashville during the AGO Convention and found I could easily register for a day at the convention as an AGO member. I attended the beautiful Eucharist at Christ Church Cathedral on Wednesday, July 4th, sponsored by Lois and Peter Fyfe (Peter is organist emeritus at Christ Church). The splendid Choir of Trinity College, Cambridge, directed by Stephen Layton, sang the service music including a choral introit by Arvo Pärt, a stirring Gloria by David Briggs, a Sanctus by Ola Gjeilo, and an Agnus Dei from Messe by Frank Martin. Anthems by Stanford and Byrd completed the wide ranging musical periods woven beautifully into the mass setting. The homily by the Rev. Christopher Stoltz, chaplain at Trinity College, Cambridge and himself an organist, was inspiring. In a nod to the AGO members attending, he shared a clergy friend's description of the ongoing clergy/musician relationship as knowing the difference between an organist and a terrorist... "you can negotiate with the terrorist"... and got an immediate response from all the organists there!

I also attended the post-convention recital by the extraordinary Parker Ramsay, an Organ Scholar at King's College, Cambridge. The Casavant organ installed in 1987 at St. George's Episcopal Church proved a perfect instrument for the Franck, Alain and Duruflé selections as well as the opening Bach Prelude and Fugue in D. A highlight of the program was a world premiere performance of Phos (Light), a work for organ, percussion and cello commissioned by the Nashville AGO chapter for the 2012 convention. British composer, Diane Burrell, was in attendance and taking bows for a wonderfully inventive piece utilizing solo cello, organ, hand bells, cow bells and organ pedals; colorful, idiomatic and compelling.

A footnote: Back in New York I received an e-mail thanking me for attending and inviting me to join the Nashville Chapter of the AGO with a registration form and details of the Nashville chapter activities included to download. No wonder they have a strong, vibrant chapter!!

Ann Patton

Can you use some new music?

1. Times & Seasons by Douglas Wagner for organ and handbells, arrangements of familiar hymns for various seasons of the year.
2. "Veni Creator Spiritus" for the Fisk Organ at Old West Church, by Hina Sakamoto, commissioned for the 2009 Regional Convention at Boston.
3. "Swing a New Song to the Lord": Resources for Jazz Worship, a collection of hymns, some old, some new. Compiled by the Jazz in Worship Task Force.

Call Judy Abel

Empty Benches

ORGANIST NEEDED: Holy Name Roman Catholic Church

(September, 2012)

(Masses in Polish), Stamford, CT

Time of Event(s)/Service(s): SATURDAYS @ 5 PM, SUNDAYS @ 10 AM (and possibly additional masses at 8:30 AM and 11:30 AM)

CONTACT PERSON(S): Fr. Paul Hrebenko

ADDRESS OF SERVICE(S): 4 Pulaski St. Stamford, CT [NO ZIP GIVEN]

TEL: 203-323-4967; FAX: 203-327-2229; E-MAIL: FRHREBENKO@GMAIL.COM

Parish Organist Opening in Ridgefield, CT (August, 2012)

Location: Ridgefield, [Connecticut](#), USA

Web page: <http://www.ststephens-ridgefield.org>

St Stephen's Episcopal Church in Ridgefield CT seeks a Parish Organist for the Fall of 2012. St Stephen's Church has a long and rich tradition of musical excellence and is a thriving parish located in the center of Ridgefield. The Moller organ was rebuilt and expanded at the supervision of former Minister of Music, Alec Wyton.

The Parish Organist will work under the direction of the Rector and Minister of Music, and will have the following duties:

- Play the organ for the weekly 8 and 10 o'clock Sunday services.
- Accompany weekly rehearsals for the Adult and Children's choirs.
- select, in coordination with the Minister of Music, preludes and postludes.
- Play all special services (Holy Week, Christmas, etc.),concerts, and Evensongs.
- Oversee maintenance of the church organ and pianos.
- Play for the monthly Senior Lunch if no volunteer is available.

In addition, the the Parish Organist will have "right of first refusal" for all weddings and funerals held at St Stephen's.

The ideal candidate will be a highly skilled organist, proficient in the leading of congregational singing, skilled at improvisation, and able to accompany the choirs at the highest level. We seek a person of faith, who is a team player, is available and consistent, and who possesses a spirit of collaboration.

Compensation is based on education and experience. This is a 1/4-time (10 hr./week), salaried position.

Please send Resume, any available media, and list of three professional references via mail to St Stephen's Church, Attn: Minister of Music, 351 Main Street, Ridgefield CT 06877.

Applications may be submitted electronically to the Minister of Music, Scott Toperzer at scott.toperzer@me.com

Music Director for The United Methodist Church of Danbury (August, 2012)

Location: Danbury, [Connecticut](#), USA

Web page: <http://www.danburymethodist.org/>

The Danbury (Connecticut) United Methodist Church seeks an energetic and creative Music Director. Responsibilities include working with the pastor to plan and lead the music for Sunday worship, and selecting and providing music for Sundays and special services throughout the year. We are open to all ideas! Currently there is one service each week. Candidate will direct a choir that provides diverse styles of music, including traditional, contemporary and gospel. The choir rehearses once a week from September to early June. We offer a 1986 Rogers Oxford 925, 3-manual electronic organ and a Samik grand piano. Time commitment is approximately 8-10 hours per week. Salary is in the mid-teens, depending on experience. If interested, please fax cover letter and resume to 203-743-3461, or e-mail to russockc@snet.net. Resumes can also be mailed to C. Russock at the United Methodist Church, 5 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury, CT 06811. The deadline for receiving resumes is Aug.1. If you would like more information about our church, please visit our web site at www.danburymethodist.org or call (203) 952-4314.

Church Organist/Choir Director (P/T) (August, 2012)

St. Michael's Lutheran Church is seeking a person with enthusiasm to lead the worship music of our congregation. Liturgical experience, administrative skills, and team player abilities necessary. People skills important. Classical music is core to our worship, but the congregation and choirs appreciate a variety of musical styles and traditions.

Organ: 2 manual, 24 rank, electric/mechanical pipe 1989 Russell & Co. 3 octaves Suzuki hand chimes; Baldwin upright piano.

Groups: senior choir(10-12); adult chime choir (6); one rehearsal each week. Also recruit and rehearse volunteer instrumentalists for special services, and direct or coordinate volunteer leaders of the Junior choir (6-8) .

Services 10:00 weekly (9:00 summer). Seasonal responsibilities: Christmas (3), Wednesday Evening Lenten (6), Holy Week (3). Ascension, alternating Thanksgiving Eve, special commemorations.

Other responsibilities include shared service planning with pastor and attending worship committee meetings. Weddings and Funerals with FRR. Teaching privileges.

SALARY: Negotiable commensurate with education and experience; benefits include social security & medicare; 4 weeks paid vacation.

CONTACT: Resumes accepted by email only. Please send to Sara Pflueger, Search Committee Chairman, at musicsearch@stmichaelslutheran.org. Resume deadline: July 20, 2012. If you have already applied for this position, please do not re-apply.

Director of Music Ministry, part-time (July, 2012)

Christ Episcopal Church, 45 Broadway
Tarrytown, NY 10591

Required background: 1-2 years of experience

Duties include: 1 service/week, 1 rehearsal/week, directing Intergenerational Choir

Instrument: Schlicker 2-manual pipe organ

Salary: \$14,000 - \$20,000/yr. plus miscellaneous benefits

Contact: Susan Copley, Rector@Christchurchtny.com,

Daytime phone: 914-631-2074, Evening phone: 914-909-2984

Christ Episcopal is seeking a director who is open to exploring a broad range of musical styles (incl. traditional, Gospel, contemporary, Taize, jazz, and other), who will encourage the musical talents of parishioners, and who will nurture the gifts of the youth and children.

Director of Music & Organist (July, 2012)

Immediate opening at United Presbyterian Church, 109 Seaside Ave, Milford, CT 06460

As the primary organist and choir director, the Director of Music serves as a resource to support, foster, and coordinate the worship and spiritual life of the congregation through congregational, choral and instrumental music. As a member of the professional staff, the Director of Music works with the clergy, staff and volunteers to plan and coordinate worship services and related activities.

We seek an individual who will nurture and support the diverse musical talents and interests of our congregation. The position will have direct responsibility for our Adult choir. The church also has potential for a chime choir (have chimes but not used for 10+ years) as well as a group of “guitarists” (they currently lead worship twice a year). This position requires basic skills in playing hymns and congregational service music, experience with varied repertoire of traditional and contemporary music as well as choral directing and training of singers.

Duties to include (but not limited to) the following:

Schedule of choir rehearsals to be submitted at least monthly to the church office in order to be posted on the Master calendar (currently, choir rehearsals are Sundays following worship & social hour; about 45 minutes usually 11:15-Noon);

Recruitment & basic training of choir members;

Preserve & organize music inventory (there is an office for the music director);

Meet with Pastor once a month to plan worship services as well as attend Worship & Music committee meetings once a month; quarterly plans are to be submitted & reviewed at these meetings as well as assistance with yearly budget plans;

Responsible for two cantatas – one during each of the Advent-Christmas & Lent-Easter seasons (currently, a Sunday during Advent & on Palm Sunday) as well as special services (e.g. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Seaside Easter service 7:30am, etc.);

Oversee maintenance of musical instruments (scheduling piano tuning, repairs, etc);

Right of first refusal for weddings & funerals at the church with payment from the families based on fee schedule set by the church;

Secure a substitute organist when not available for any service at the church (Sundays away, funerals, weddings, etc);

Interested? Please contact our Pastor, Rev. Anne Marie Meyerhoffer, RevAMM@yahoo.com, or call the church office 203-874-7088. To learn more, please view our website: www.PCUSAmilford.org for a description of our congregation.

The Fairfield West (CT) and Westchester (NY) chapters of the American Guild of Organists provide a service to its members in good standing, by sharing information about job opportunities that include both permanent "open benches" and one-time substitute dates. Please keep in mind the guild does not endorse or recommend anyone for jobs or dates. The FWCAGO accepts any member who pays dues regardless of education, experience, ability and/or skills. The FWCAGO Placement Director(s) pass(es) along information (which includes offered salary and specifics about jobs/dates) as we receive them from an institution (synagogue, church, school, etc.) or a colleague needing coverage while the member is on vacation or study leave. Members are all encouraged to negotiate salaries and explore options with each offered position. The websites of several AGO chapters (i.e., New York City, Westchester County (NY), Fairfield West (CT) and the national AGO office site (www.agohq.org) list salary guidelines and suggested rates for services and other events (weddings, funerals, etc.).

***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.*

For our information – the following listings concern vocal vacancies.

SECTION LEADER/SOLOIST POSITION

Christ & Holy Trinity Church, 55 Myrtle Avenue,
Westport, CT 06880 (203) 227-0827

Christ & Holy Trinity Church, a lively parish of 750 members, seeks Mezzo-Soprano Section Leader (S2/A1) for 30-voice Parish Choir (5 pros). Excellent quality music in the Anglican tradition. Sunday service, 9:30 a.m.; Thursday rehearsal, 7:45-9:45 p.m. Additional responsibilities: Choral Evensong, Lessons & Carols, Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil.

SALARY: \$145/week with additional pay for holidays, Evensongs, and concerts

CONTACT: Michael Burnette at mburnette@chtwestport.org or (203) 227-0827 x107

Position available: September 6, 2012

Michael Burnette
Organist-Choirmaster, Christ & Holy Trinity
55 Myrtle Avenue, Westport, CT 06880
(203) 227-0827 x107
www.chtwestport.org

Tenor Section Leader/Soloist

Notification Date: August 22, 2012

Location: New Canaan, [Connecticut](#), USA

First Presbyterian Church has an immediate opening for a paid tenor section leader and soloist. Thursday night rehearsal and one Sunday service. \$75 per rehearsal or service. Strong 35-voice classical/traditional chorus. You'll love our friendly singers and great acoustics! Masters degree preferred. Send resume and audition request to Dr. Sean McCarthy, Minister of Music: sean@fpcnc.org

Alto or Countertenor Section Leader needed in NYC (September, 2012) Church of the Epiphany - Episcopal

Location: New York City (Manhattan), [New York](#), USA

Web page: <http://www.epiphanynyc.org>

Seeking first and foremost a sensitive choral singer with the ability to blend well and sing in a style appropriate to the selected music, with the ability to sing straight tone. The Epiphany Choir sings multiple varieties of chant, and anything from Renaissance to Bach to 21st century music, Gospel, and music from around world, in a variety of languages. Requires ability to lead and help volunteers with care, and strong sight-reading skills. Some solo possibilities. Normal compensation is \$125 per week (average \$35 per hour), with some services at a higher pay level. Christmas Eve and Holy Week services mandatory.

Highlights of this fall's season include Bach's Cantata 137 "Lobe den Herren" and the Duruflé "Requiem", both with orchestra.

A service music listing for 2011-2012 is available for viewing at the parish website. Click on "Music at Epiphany" under the Ministry tab to find the link.

The parish is located on the upper east side of Manhattan at the corner of East 74th Street and York Avenue.

Send resume to: long@epiphanynyc.org and I will be in touch about scheduling an audition.

Singers wanted - for the most exciting mass – African Sanctus by David Fanshawe

Notification Date: August 11, 2012

Location: Tuxedo, [New York](#), USA

Experienced, adult singers - all voice parts - who want to have an extraordinary experience and become part of the premiere performance of David Fanshawe's African Sanctus in Orange County, NY on November 10, possibly 11, 2012. Rehearsals start late August - early September, once a week, in the Harriman-Monroe-Chester area.

Strong intonation, sense of rhythm, good sight reading skills a major plus. You can learn about this remarkable work by going to: www.africansanctus.com - and get a taste of the music and tape in the middle of the page click on the 'video promo' link.

The New Chorale will be joined by the prestigious Newark Boys Chorus of New Jersey and by Kofi and Sankofa African Drum and Dance Ensemble. We'll have over 100 performers on stage and it will surely be a memorable experience.

Please join us for this unique presentation.

Contact: The New Chorale

Liviu Blumenthal, Music Director

Auditions for Angelica, Women's Chamber Choir

Notification Date: August 9, 2012

Location: Hastings-on-Hudson, [New York](#), USA

Web page: <http://www.angelicavoices.org>

Angelica, a women's chamber choir, is seeking two new members, a first soprano and a second soprano, for the fall. Auditions will take place at your convenience during the end of August and beginning of September. We seek singers who have choral experience; are good sight-readers; can sing with clear, straight tones; are able to hold a part; and are able to blend. If interested, please contact Marie Caruso at: angelicavoices@angelicavoices.org.

Angelica rehearses in Hastings-on-Hudson, NY, and performs in both New York City and Westchester. You can learn more about our choir on our website: www.angelicavoices.org

Interesting "job" opportunity for our AGO members with a children's chorus

Children's Chorus needed

Location: Newtown, [Connecticut](#), USA

Web page: <http://www.cmchorale.org>

The Connecticut Master Chorale and Orchestra is seeking a children's chorus for a March 2013 performance of a new work by Karl Jenkins entitled "The Peacemakers."

The performance date is Sunday March 3 at 3:00 at St. Rose of Lima Church in Newtown.

There will be one dress rehearsal on Thursday, February 28, and possibly a second one on Tuesday, February 26.

We are looking for 20-25 experienced singers between the ages of 10-14.

Audio clips of the work can be found on http://www.amazon.com/Peacemakers-Deluxe-Karl-Jenkins/dp/B0069R2308/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1339687612&sr=8-1&keywords=peacemakers+jenkins

More information about the Chorale can be found on www.cmchorale.org

Interested choirs can contact director Tina Johns Heidrich at info@cmhorale.org

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:

Alice Avouris (MS Word is preferred)

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

Thank you!

Alice Avouris
Lois Simmonds
The Trompette Editors

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

Inside:

**Inspiring words from the Dean, a first look
at our AGO Calendar, more about the
National Convention, and Job postings!**

Westchester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

The Trompette

Alice Avouris &

Lois Simmonds, Editors