

# The Trompette



*The Newsletter of the Westchester Chapter - American Guild of Organists*

DECEMBER 2013

VOLUME 12, #4

*Greetings from the Dean* ..... Dear Colleagues,

As I write this, I'm still on a high from the Paul Jacobs recital we cosponsored with Hitchcock Church. Wow! I heard many good things from our members, and from other attendees. This was a recital that delighted the non-organists in the room (and I think any organ recital ought to do that), and delighted us as well, but there were also a few lessons for the organists. One is that you don't need a large instrument to play a wide variety of music; the organ at Hitchcock is two manuals and pedal, and it played this diverse program beautifully. Another is that you can play real music, beautiful music, that doesn't use the pedals (John Stanley's Voluntary in D Minor). And then there's the comment that someone made at the reception, "Makes me want to go practice." Can't argue with that! We may not all reach Paul's level of virtuosity, but we can strive to be a little bit better than we were last week, and a bit better still the following week. And even the non-organists in our group can take to heart Paul's message to encourage others to attend recitals, to share our enthusiasm for this music.

Most of you will read this before Thanksgiving, and I think it's fitting to take a moment to give thanks to all the members who support our chapter. If you enjoyed the Paul Jacobs recital, and the Christopher Houlihan recital in April, remember that your dues made those events possible. We simply couldn't pull events like these off with just a handful of members, so thank you one and all. And thanks to all those who host chapter meetings, or play for us or do a presentation, or serve on the Board. You, too, are appreciated. But let us take a moment to thank those who built the instruments we play, and paid for their installation and upkeep, and those who sing with us or listen to us or pray with us each week or some weeks or on just the big feasts. We wouldn't have the great privilege of making music without them.

As our calendar turns to December, most of us get very busy with Advent and Christmas concerts and special services, so we don't schedule a chapter meeting—finding a day and time that works for a decent number of members is impossible. But please try to find some time to celebrate the holidays in a way that's not work for you. (You'll find me at the Cherish the Ladies Christmas Concert at the Tarrytown Music Hall on December 8. The bar is open at intermission.) And if Christmas is not your holiday, enjoy December in your own way, and be true to your traditions, whatever they are.

And I hope you all remember our traditional Twelfth Night Party. Helen Darling is hosting us this year on January 5, and it will be a memorable event! God bless her, and God bless us all, each and every one!

*Kevin Walsh*

## WESTCHESTER AGO EXECUTIVE BOARD

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# Westchester AGO 2013-2014 Program Schedule

**December:** No meeting – Advent/Christmas

**Sunday, January 5, 2014, at 4:00 p.m.**

***Twelfth Night Party at the Home of Helen Darling,***

Main dish will be provided. Please bring an appetizer, salad or dessert. There won't be oven room, so please bring food ready to serve and eat!

Please RSVP to Joyce Gardner if you plan to attend.

**Sunday, February 9, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.**

**“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”** at Reformed Church of Cortlandtown.

*Bring your favorite spirituals (organ or choir).*

Contact Alice Avouris

**Sunday, March 30 at 4:30 p.m.**

***Sight singing workshop with Liz Fleischer***

at Reformed Church of the Tarrytowns

**April:** No meeting. Easter is April 20.

**May tbd.** Organ crawl in Pelham/New Rochelle.

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## Concert Calendar

***Second Sundays at the Osborn***

101 Theall Rd. Rye, N.Y. 10580

(800) 252-4793; [www.theosborn.org](http://www.theosborn.org)

***Frank Miller***

December 8, 2:00 p.m.

***Kathryn Jones***

January 12, 2:00 p.m.

***Kyoko Tagami Meredith***

February 9, 2014, 2:00 p.m.

*Patricia Murphy*  
*Virginia McGrane*  
Soprano Duet  
March 9th 2014, 2:00 p.m.

*Noriko Yamada* coordinates the organists at the Osborn Retirement Home for their monthly organ recital series. Please contact.

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**The TreasureHouse Chorale**  
**and Chamber Orchestra and Soloists**

will perform their twenty- fourth annual Advent-Christmas Concert

***“Gloria!”***

featuring the magnificent Gloria in D Major by **Antonio Vivaldi**, and also works by Mendelssohn, Palestrina, Rutter and others. Program concludes with a

***Festival of Carols.***

The Chorale and chamber orchestra have been performing concerts of sacred music since 1990, and will present three magnificent concerts, in three beautiful churches, from Lower Westchester to Putnam County.

**PERFORMANCES:** **Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013,** 3:00 pm,  
Church of the Annunciation, 470 Westchester Avenue, Crestwood, NY 10707

**Sunday, December, 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013,** 7:30 pm  
Saint James Church, 14 Gleneida Avenue (Route 52), Carmel, NY 10512

**Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>,** 2:00 pm,  
Church of Saint John and Saint Mary, 30 Poillon Road, Chappaqua, New York 10514. Tickets /Information for all concerts please call 914-318-3268.

All tickets available at the doors at the time of the concert.

For directions or more information, visit our web site at

<[www.treasurehousemusic.org](http://www.treasurehousemusic.org)>.

## **Reads & Mixtures**

### **For Sale: Practice/Chapel organ**

Rodgers Model 205, ideal for small chapel or practice organ. Oak case, 2 ranks of pipework (Gedackt and Principal, TC, 49 notes each), measures 108” wide x 91 ½” high x 53” deep with pedalboard, fits under an 8’ ceiling. Totally self- contained, additional speakers and amplification may be added. Wooden reverse color keyboards granadilla naturals and rosewood sharps, some customization. Basic Baroque specification with additional electronic stops including 2 celestes. Original owner. Excellent condition, able to be seen and playing in owner’s residence in Patchogue, LI. Asking price: \$14,000.  
Contact Rick Tripodi 203-629-1601.

## Last Call for Renewals

Reminder notices have been either e-mailed or snail mailed to all members who have not renewed. If you have not yet renewed, please do so today—otherwise, this will be your last issue of *The Trompette*. We will be also updating the sub list to remove any members who have not renewed, in fairness to those who have paid their dues. Please remember that only Dual members whose primary chapter is NOT Fairfield West send their dues to us; everyone else should be sending them to National Headquarters.

If there are any special circumstances (whether you think your renewal may have gotten lost in the mail, or your church lost the invoice, or you're having a tough time financially, or whatever), please contact Kevin Walsh. We can find a solution to almost any problem, if you just tell us what the problem is.

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## BLOWER ROOM ALERT

*If you're a member of the Organ Historical Society, you probably saw the following letter to the editor in the Fall 2013 issue of the Tracker. It concerns an instrument we were privileged to hear during last year's Bronxville Organ Crawl. If you play a pipe organ, you may want to share this with your church staff—\$100,000 is a lot of money, even if you get some of it back from an insurance company.*

Cleanliness next to Godliness?

I thought readers of THE TRACKER might find this account interesting.

In early May, I was invited to play the 25th anniversary recital on an organ for which I served as consultant in 1987 (Moller IV/58) at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Bronxville, New York. A week or so before the recital, when the parish's director of music, John Peter Strybos, went to the organ loft to practice and turned the organ on, he heard a horrific noise emanating from the blower room (which is adjacent to the choir loft). On further investigation, it seems the parish sexton unwittingly stored some loose black plastic bags on the floor of the blower room near the blower intake. When it started up, it drew the bags in, shredded them and blew scraps and plastic dust throughout the instrument, rendering the organ unplayable. What didn't get shredded melted inside the blower. Early estimates predict that perhaps \$5 of plastic bags may have caused up to \$100,000 in damage. I was heartened that Mr. Strybos seemed quite zen about this disaster and, surprisingly, the sexton still has his job. The anniversary recital has been rescheduled for November.

Over the years, I've seen countless blower rooms used as storage places for all manner of non-organ-related paraphernalia, especially when their location is convenient. I would urge readers of THE TRACKBR to have a look and ensure that their blower rooms are clean and purpose-specific to avoid a similar calamity.

Thomas Brown  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

*The following article appeared in the parish's September 8 bulletin:*

**OUR PIPE ORGAN:** In April, our beautiful pipe organ suffered major damage when a plastic bag was sucked into the blower, shredded, then distributed throughout the various windchests of the instrument. A favorable settlement has been reached with the insurance company, and a contract for the costly restoration has been awarded to the Peragallo Pipe

Organ Company in Patterson, NJ, with work scheduled to begin in January of 2014. Until the organ is repaired, Mr. Strybos will be playing the electronic organ that has been moved from the Parish Center, and all choirs will be singing from the south transept. Information about the financials, time line, and possible preventive future maintenance will be published in the bulletin as plans evolve. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak with John Strybos after any Mass.

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## SECTION LEADER REMUNERATION SURVEY

Recently a chapter member wrote: *What could be the reasonable fee for the college students or for the professional singers as section leaders/soloists? This is the regular annual position from September to the middle of June. I need this information to submit the budget to the church. I would appreciate if you could give me some ideas.*

We'd like your feedback. If you pay soloists/section leaders, please let us know what their level of training is (college student, professional, etc.) and what your house of worship is paying them per service or yearly salary. We'll publish your responses in the January *Trompette*. Here are some ideas Kevin Walsh researched so far:

*Kenneth Potter reported in April that his church paid \$75 (rehearsal before the service). A church in Greenwich is paying 150 per week (rehearsal is on a week night). A church in the Bronx was paying \$100 (Palm Sunday and Easter). Tuxedo Park is paying \$95 per service.*

Alice Avouris, Editor

## Empty Benches

**If you know of an open bench in your area**, please have the institution's official representative (congregation's president, rabbi, cantor, priest, minister, etc.) be in touch with our acting placement director. We'd like to share news of open positions with our chapter members. Please let us know if you hear of an available position. E-MAIL ADDRESS: [Placement@agowestchester.org](mailto:Placement@agowestchester.org) Kevin Walsh, Dean and Acting Placement Director.

### **Assistant Organist, St. Peter's Episcopal, Morristown, NJ (December, 2013)**

Job ID: 15484245; Entry Level: No; Job Type: Part-time; Job Duration: Indefinite  
Min Education: BA/BS/Undergraduate; Min Experience: 1-2 Years  
Location(s): Morristown, New Jersey, 07960; Posted: November 4, 2013  
Required Travel: 0-10%; Salary: \$15,000.00 - \$17,000.00 (Yearly Salary)  
Salary Negotiable: No; Number of Weekly Services: 2; Number of Weekly Rehearsals: 2  
Ensembles: Adult Choir, Choir of Boys, Choir of Girls; Hours per Week: 8 - 15  
Organ Description: 1930 IV/ 64 E.M. Skinner; Benefits: Vacation

### **APPLY FOR THIS JOB**

Contact Person: Joshua Stafford Email Address: [jstafford@stpetersmorristown.org](mailto:jstafford@stpetersmorristown.org) Evening  
Phone: 716-485-6585 Web Site: [www.stpetersmorristown.org](http://www.stpetersmorristown.org)  
Street Address: 70 Maple Ave Daytime Phone: 973-538-0555 Ext. 18 Fax: 973-538-7790  
Congregation Size: 400 - 500

## **Job Description**

St. Peter's Church, located a short train ride from New York City in Morristown, NJ, is actively seeking a part-time organist to assist with the music department. The church boasts a long tradition of musical excellence, including a boys' choir which has been in existence for 125 years. The present make up of choirs includes a semi-professional adult choir which sings at the 11:15 service (Eucharist or Morning Prayer) as well as boys' and girls' choirs which generally sing at the 9am Eucharist. Choral repertoire and hymnody are largely from the Anglican tradition. The church houses an historic 1930 E.M. Skinner organ (IV/64) which remains unaltered from its original state.

The Assistant Organist would primarily be responsible for accompanying the choirs at two Sunday services, as well as at Thursday rehearsals. The Assistant would also share service playing responsibilities with the Director of Music (hymns, voluntaries, etc.). Some special events during the year would include major Feasts, Evensong, and choral concerts. Some administrative work would be required.

## **Job Requirements**

The successful candidate would be skilled in the following:

- Anthem Accompaniment
- Psalm Accompaniment (Anglican Chant)
- Hymn Playing
- Sight-reading
- Transposition
- Organ Literature
- Improvisation

Please submit resumes or inquiries to Joshua Stafford, Director of Music ([jstafford@stptersmorristown.org](mailto:jstafford@stptersmorristown.org)).

Interviews will begin immediately, and the application process will remain open until a successful candidate has been hired.

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## **Organist/Director of Music, St. Peter's Episcopal, Bronx, NY (November, 2013)**

Job ID: 15320912; Entry Level: No; Job Type: Part-time; Job Duration: Indefinite

Min Education: BA/BS/Undergraduate; Min Experience: 3-5 Years

Location(s): Bronx, New York, 10461, United States

Posted: October 22, 2013

Required Travel: 0-10%; Salary: \$12,000.00 - \$15,000.00 (Yearly Salary)

Salary Negotiable: Yes; Number of Weekly Services: 1; Number of Weekly Rehearsals: 1

Ensembles: Adult Choir; Hours per Week: 8 - 15

Organ Description: 3-manual 46 rank 1947 Austin

**Job Description:** St. Peter's Episcopal Church (Westchester Square), Bronx, NY seeks a part-time Organist/Director of Music.

St. Peter's, the oldest Episcopal parish in New York, has a stunningly restored 19th c. Victorian Gothic worship space with a recently refurbished 1947 3-manual Austin organ with 46 ranks of pipes. Salary: \$12000 to \$15000 annually for 10 hours per week (more hours during Holy Week and Christmas; considerably less time during the summer). Four weeks paid vacation (dates to be agreed upon between the Organist/Director of Music and Rector). The use of the facilities is available for private teaching. Please send resume and letter of interest to [music@stpetersbronx.com](mailto:music@stpetersbronx.com). Position available immediately.

**Job Requirements:** Responsibilities include directing and developing the Adult Choir, playing the organ for all liturgical occasions (including, but not limited to Sunday morning 10 AM Mass, Christmas Eve and Holy Week services). Weddings and Funerals extra. The Organist/Director of Music will meet regularly with the Rector.

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**Music Director, United Methodist Church of Danbury** (November 2013)

Job ID: 15123741; Position Title: Music director; Job Function: Music Director; Entry Level: No; Job Type: Part-time; Job Duration: Indefinite; Min Education: BA/BS/Undergraduate; Min Experience: 3-5 Years; Posted: October 2, 2013; Salary: \$15,000.00 - \$17,500.00 (Yearly Salary); Salary Negotiable: No

Number of Weekly Services: 1; Number of Weekly Rehearsals: 1; Ensembles: Adult Choir  
Number Supervised: 5 or more; Hours per Week: 8 – 15; Benefits: Book/Music Allowance

**Contact Person:** SPR chair - Music director search Email Address: [cpierce99@comcast.net](mailto:cpierce99@comcast.net)  
Web Site: [www.danburymethodist.org](http://www.danburymethodist.org); Street Address: 5 clapboard ridge road Fax: 203 743 3461 Congregation Size: 200 - 300

**Job Description:** The Danbury (Connecticut) United Methodist church seeks 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 new 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 for this position is in the mid-teens depending on experience. Prefer a candidate who lives 25 miles or less from Danbury. In interested, please email cover letter and resume, or fax to 203-743-3461. Resumes can be mailed to: SPR Chair, Music Director Search, The United Methodist Church of Danbury, 5 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury, CT 06811. The deadline for receiving resumes is November 1. If you would like more information about our church, please visit our website at [www.danburymethodist.org](http://www.danburymethodist.org).

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**Organist/Choir Director, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Ridgefield, CT** (Oct. '13)

Entry Level: No; Job Type: Part-time; Job Duration: Indefinite

Location(s): 6 Ivy Hill Road Ridgefield, Connecticut, 06877, Posted: September 18, 2013

Salary: \$13,000.00 - \$20,000.00 (Yearly Salary); Salary Negotiable: Yes

Number of Weekly Services: 1; Number of Weekly Rehearsals: 1

Ensembles: Adult Choir ; Organ Description: new Holtkamp Pipe organ

Contact Person: Rev. Carla Meier Email Address: [pastormeier@standrewselca.com](mailto:pastormeier@standrewselca.com) Evening Phone: 203-438-0606; Daytime Phone: 203-438-0606; Congregation Size: 200 - 300

**Job Description**

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Ridgefield, CT, a congregation of over 300 members with a rich musical heritage and strong liturgical tradition is seeking an interim organist from January through July, 2014 when, upon a retirement, both the organist and adult voice choir position will be available. St. Andrew's has a new sanctuary with a newly installed Holtkamp pipe organ and a 15 person voice choir. For specifics on responsibilities for the interim organist or the organist/choir director positions, or to send a resume please email [pastormeier@standrewselca.com](mailto:pastormeier@standrewselca.com).

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**Interim Organist/Choir Dr, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Ridgefield, CT(10/13)**

Date: September 18, 2013 by Carla Meier ; Web page: <http://www.standrewselca.com>  
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Ridgefield, CT, a congregation of over 300 members with a rich musical heritage and strong liturgical tradition is seeking an interim organist from January through July, 2014 when, upon a retirement, both an organist and an adult voice choir position will be open. St. Andrew's has a new sanctuary with a newly installed Holtkamp pipe organ and a 15 person voice choir. For specifics on responsibilities for the organist or the organist/choir director positions, or to send a resume please email [pastormeier@standrewselca.com](mailto:pastormeier@standrewselca.com).

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**Assistant Music Director, Highbridge Voices, Bronx. (Oct. 2013)**

Date: September 18, 2013 by Mary Clementi  
Web page: <http://www.highbridgevoices.org>  
Highbridge Voices is an 'extended-day' music and academic program in the Highbridge section of the South Bronx. The mission of Highbridge Voices is to use the performing arts to inspire excellence in the lives of children, ages nine to seventeen, living or attending school in the Highbridge community. Each semester, 70 students in grades four through six participate in the Concert Choir program. They prepare a full-length concert in conjunction with the 60-voice Chamber Choir (made up of students in grades seven through twelve). This concert is comprised of classical, folk, Broadway, and popular choral music which is performed in a number of different languages. This is the musical focal point of the program. Weekly, students spend fifteen hours in program related activities – choral rehearsals, music theory and history classes, academic classes, homework assistance, and individual voice lessons.

The full posting is available at <http://www.choralnet.org/view/426207>.

How to apply: Please send an email expressing your interest in the position to [musicjobs@highbridgevoices.org](mailto:musicjobs@highbridgevoices.org) with both your performing and teaching résumés attached as a .pdf or MS word document. In the subject line please write:

Assistant Music Director – YOUR LAST NAME

This position will remain open until filled. All properly submitted résumés will receive an email acknowledgement within two weeks. No calls please.

For more information on our organization, please visit our website at [www.highbridgevoices.org](http://www.highbridgevoices.org).

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**Part-time Organist, St. Peter's Church, Haverstraw, NY (Oct. 2013)**

[contact@npmny.org](mailto:contact@npmny.org) [<mailto:contact@npmny.org>] Position requires knowledge of Catholic liturgy, and proficiency in organ (Jardine tracker organ).

Responsibilities: provide music for weekend (three Masses), funerals, weddings and select holy day liturgies. Salary \$20,000. Position available immediately.

Email/mail letter of interest, résumé, and letters of reference to:

Fr. Thomas Madden  
St. Peter's Church  
115 Broadway  
Haverstraw, NY 10927  
[pastor@saintpeterschurch.us](mailto:pastor@saintpeterschurch.us)

***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 **20<sup>th</sup> of each month** to ensure that we will be able to deliver the Newsletter to the membership on or about the 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.agowestchester.org).

Thank you!

Alice Avouris  
Lois Simmonds  
*The Trompette* Editors

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

*Inside:*

**Check out words of inspiration from the Dean,  
survey on section leaders, Concert Calendar, an  
organ for sale(!), and more!**

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Westchester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists  
*The Trompette*  
Alice Avouris, Editor