

The Trompette



The Newsletter of the Westchester Chapter - American Guild of Organists

SUMMER 2014

VOLUME 12, #11

Greetings from the DeanDear Colleagues,

I am thrilled to be serving as your new Dean of the Westchester AGO. I would like to begin my first Trompette article by thanking all of the board members who are returning to serve or have just been elected to office—Lana Kollath, Kevin Walsh, Karen Longwell, Edwin Wallace, Mi-Won Kim, Terence Flanagan, Margaret Kim, and Frank Miller, and to the appointed members—Robert Chase, Alice Avouris, Joyce Gardner and Virginia Bender. I am looking forward to working with all of them. I would also like to thank the board members who are leaving office after several years of dedicated commitment and leadership—Eileen Laurence, Kathryn Jones, Doug Kostner and Laura Ravotti. I hope they will continue to share their time and talents with the chapter.

The new board met in early July and is energized and excited about the future of our chapter. We are working on some exciting programming for the coming year, which will include important social time, educational workshops that should appeal to our entire membership, and exciting performances by today's major artists. We are planning meetings in various locations throughout the county in order to showcase some of the many splendid instruments. I hope you will join me this year at all of these events and take the time to catch up with a colleague you haven't seen in a while, welcome a new organist in our midst, learn something new or share something with other members and take the opportunity to hear great music played on an instrument you may have never heard before. I know it will be a great year, so stay tuned for a program update later in the summer when we announce the entire year's programming: it promises to be fun and exciting, with a surprise or two!

SAVE THE DATE of Sunday, September 14th for our first meeting.

As you enjoy some well-deserved vacation time this summer, the board will continue to work on planning an exciting 2014-15 calendar of events. I encourage you to reach out to any one of the board members with programming ideas, suggestions of venues and anything else that you think will enliven our chapter and help meet the needs of our membership. Again, I look forward to seeing you in September, and I leave you with these thoughts from Kevin Walsh, past Dean, who sums it up perfectly when he says “we have a bright future ahead us, but it's up to ALL of us to make the most of it.”

Happy summer,

JTK

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WESTCHESTER AGO EXECUTIVE BOARD

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John King

SUB-DEAN

Lana Kollath

SECRETARY

Karen Longwell

REGISTRAR/TREASURER

Kevin Walsh

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Edwin Wallace, Class of '15
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Kevin Walsh

WEBMASTER

Virginia Bender

A Final Message from outgoing Dean, Kevin Walsh

" Most of us work, or did work, in churches. We try to give our congregations the best music, and we try to play it as well as we can. We try to bring out the best in our choir singers, for we are as dependent on their gifts as on our own. And no matter how well this Easter goes, we're always thinking of something we'd like to do next year, or maybe the year after. We'll never attain perfection, but we always want to improve.

That's a lot like being Dean. You work with the board to come up with interesting programs. Members offer suggestions, and you jump on them (and they make you look better than you are). Members host meetings, provide refreshments (and even dinners) Sometimes a member calls for advice, or for a friendly ear; you provide that, and know you've made a difference for that person. You boldly try a few new things (we were lucky enough to present or co-present two superb recitals, and we were a pilot chapter for the AGO's ONCARD program for national collection of dues), but you know there's something for the next Dean to build on.

It's nice to look back on what we (and I do mean *we*...not *I*) accomplished, but it's nicer to look to the future. I hope we will support John King as he becomes Dean. We have a bright future ahead of us, but it's up to all of us to make the most of it." -- *Kevin Walsh*

LET THE FUN AND EXCITEMENT BEGIN!

SAVE THE DATE

Our kick-off meeting--Sunday, September 14

Concert Calendar

Second Sundays at the Osborn

101 Theall Rd. Rye, N.Y. 10580
(800) 252-4793; www.theosborn.org

Noriko Yamada coordinates the organists at the Osborn Retirement Home for their monthly organ recital series. Please contact her at NYamada4@Gmail.com or 914-921-1648.

Reads & Mixtures

Renewals: Renewal notices were sent to all members on June 13. If headquarters has your e-mail address on file, you should have received a message with the subject "It's Time to Renew Your AGO Membership" from renewals@agohq.org; if not, you should have received a notice by US Mail a few days later. If you have any questions or problems, you may contact Leah Semiken at renewals@agohq.org, or our treasurer/registrar, Kevin Walsh. Many of you renewed online last year, since we were one of the pilot chapters, but most dual members could not. Now that ONCARD has been rolled out to the entire gild, all our members can renew online; we encourage you to take advantage of this. Even if you will be mailing a check, you can still update your personal information online. Please note that when the 2014-2015 yearbook is put together, the information in the national database will be the source for all entries.

Yearbooks: The 2013-2014 yearbook/directory was mailed to all our members on June 12. If you did not receive your copy, or if it was mangled in the mail, please contact Kevin Walsh and he'll get another one out to you. *Kevin Walsh*

Eileen Laurence Retires after 38 years at the First Presbyterian Church of Katonah

Eileen and her husband, Peter, will be moving to Willow Valley Retirement Community near Lancaster PA in October of this year. Having been a free lance soprano in NYC for about 20 years after her graduation from the Juilliard School of Music, Eileen has served as Director of Music at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in White Plains; Organist at the Community Synagogue in Rye, NY; Music teacher at the Convent of the Sacred Heart School in Greenwich, CT. and Director of Music at the First Presbyterian Church in Katonah, NY. Although retiring from her daily music activities at the church, Eileen will be available to guest conduct handbell choirs in festivals around the country. She also will be available to substitute at churches in the area in September before moving to PA in October.

Eileen has been grateful to the members of WAGO for their professional and personal support. She wishes everyone well and welcomes visitors in PA.

Note from the Editor: Eileen will be sorely missed!!! To see her at work conducting, speaking at an AGO workshop or just in conversation at an AGO meeting has been an inspiration. Sadly, I missed her retirement reception, but I'd like to add my voice to all her friends and colleagues in wishing her and Peter a wonderful new, exciting and adventurous beginning. *Alice Avouris*

TEACHERS : A PERSONAL MEMOIR. Bob Chase

As I grew older, I began to realize the impact of my teachers upon my professional life and my outlook on music in general. I'm sure that many of my colleagues have experienced these same feelings. I feel very lucky to have had some of the teachers with whom I have studied.

My very first teacher was the charismatic T. Charles Lee, a protege of Clarence Dickenson. He charged \$5.00 per hour (a fantastic sum in the 1950s). My prior weekly practice time of five minutes (usually just before lesson time) changed to a willing two hours per day...every day. Lee conducted the Worcester Festival Chorus which sang much great repertory...including the TE DEUM of Berlioz. The opening combat between the organ and the Philadelphia Orchestra provided the momentum to me for the enterprise of learning the organ. I maintained a lifelong friendship with Charles Lee. Incidentally, he gave me additional lessons on the piano...gratis! I consider him to be the most significant of my teachers.

The most influential teachers, in terms of repertory and technique, were Max Miller (Boston U.) and Robert Baker and Claire Coci (Union Seminary). They were wonderful, insightful teachers. I got to know Max Miller as an adult and worked with him to prepare his book on the Bach organ chorales. Sadly, he entered into eternity last year. Copies of Vermont Life continue to arrive at home...courtesy of Max and Betty...a reminder of our friendship.

Other important teachers include John Jacobs (High School algebra and geometry). He taught me what constituted being a good teacher. He also ended my nightmare relationship with math. I met him many years later. I sent a letter to thank him. It was followed by a response. Since we attended the same church, he got to hear his former pupil conduct the 40 voice choir and play the organ.

Another spectacular teacher was Hugo Norden. I had taken his counterpoint class at Boston University. He was the most brilliant teacher I ever worked with. 30 years later, I found his book, the Technique of Canon in the White Plains Library. I immersed myself in double counterpoint and every kind of canon available. It was very useful for me as I used it in my counterpoint classes at Westchester Conservatory. Before I took up teaching, I telephoned Dr. Norden to reintroduce his long-time ago student. He invited me to Boston. I went. He was in his mid-eighties...he proceeded to give a three-hour lesson. He loved teaching and was unhappily retired. This marked the beginning of many trips to Boston. He never would take a penny for the instruction.

He could compose a fugue exposition as easily as one can eat a ham sandwich. I still have a large collection of correspondence and original music from him. I do miss him and remain exceedingly grateful for his friendship.

After high school, I briefly attended the Univ. of Utah as an archaeology major. During that time, I took a music history class with Robert Cundick...a man who went on to become the organist for the Mormon Tabernacle Choir (27 years). At present, he is 87 years, but his mind is very clear. His class was very important to me as he introduced the world of symphonic and chamber music. Last summer I was thinking about him while at a organ recital given by head Tabernacle organist, Richard Elliott at St. Barnabas in Irvington in early autumn. I asked him about Bob Cundick and afterwards, I decided to send Bob a letter to express my thanks and appreciation for his revelatory class. I had often thought about writing, but had procrastinated. I thought he would never remember this student who had taken his class in 1956. He responded to the letter, writing that he wished we might meet in the "great hereafter" whilst I felt that the "great right now" was more certainso I arranged to travel to Salt Lake City. These days in last October can best be described as a "week in organist heaven"though it is not that for the five organists of the Tabernacle. On the 1st day we went to Brigham Young University where we saw the new carillon and the eight practice organs. Got to lunch with Don Cook, head of the organ dept. and attend a rehearsal of the concert choir of BYU (50 singers). They were rehearsing an *a capella* setting of "O Sacrum Convivium" by Steven Stucky (b. 1949). The intonation was flawless ... balance, etc. was remarkable. On the return to SLC, we stopped at the Bigelow Organ Company, where we met David Chamberlain, tonal director and saw several instruments being prepared. On other days, we visited and played the organ at the Cathedral of the Madeline (R.C.) in SLC. The cathedral has fabulous acoustics and has a four-manual tracker organ by Kenneth Jones of Ireland (1992). Also played the three-manual instrument (2000) by Lively-Fulcher located at the Univ. of Utah. Also great acoustics in the concert hall. Heard two recitals on the Tabernacle organ: one by the Tabernacle organist, Andrew Unsworth, and an all French recital by Jeremy Filsell. Recital included the three preludes/fugues of Dupre.

On the next to last day, I visited the many organs in Temple Square and had an hour's playing time on the Tabernacle organ...known affectionately as the "beast." On Thursday evening I was invited to sing baritone in the Tabernacle choir (400 voices) which was preparing the music for Sunday. Accompanying the choir was a fifty-piece orchestra and organ.

All in all, it was an unbelievable experience...kindly provided by a teacher...not seen for 56 years!

Dr. Robert Chase

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 Kevin Walsh, Dean and Acting Placement Director.

Music Director - All Souls Unitarian Church, NY, NY (7/14)

Web page: <http://www.allsoulsnyc.org>. All Souls Unitarian Church in New York City seeks a gifted and visionary musician to serve as full-time Music Director, leading its vigorous music program into a bright and meaningful future. The position offers a tremendous opportunity for artistic expression and growth.

The Music Director provides leadership of the music ministry and is responsible for the coordination of all music in the Church. First among her/his responsibilities is to work in close collaboration with the ministerial staff to ensure that the music contributes to and enhances the depth and meaning of the spiritual experience. Among the many great musical resources at All Souls is its outstanding principal choir of professionals and trained amateurs. Also of importance is the provision of organ and other instrumental music, both on its own and to accompany congregational singing. Ideally, the Music Director is an accomplished organist and is at the center of instrumental as well as vocal performance in the church. The church sanctuary features a recently rebuilt Holtkamp organ of 53 ranks, as well as a Steinway B piano. A second Steinway grand piano

in the church social hall is used especially for summer services in July and August, which the Director coordinates with a less active role.

The Music Director provides expert insight and oversight regarding musical activity generally throughout the Church. S/he administers the music budget and oversees one full-time music support staff. The position reports directly to the Senior Minister.

Qualifications: The successful candidate will be a gifted and accomplished musician and a proven leader of stature and imagination. S/he will possess exemplary artistic ideals and great integrity, with personal values resonant with the values of the church.

S/he will be a gifted choral conductor. Given that the organ and piano will continue to play important roles in worship at All Souls, it is preferred that the Music Director also be a gifted organist and pianist.

The strongest candidate will be one who combines the above qualities and qualifications with openness, curiosity, and interest with respect to the diverse ways musical expression and spirituality can intersect.

Experience: Significant experience in the role of Music Director, or Assistant Music Director, Choral Conductor and Organist of an active church. Experience in planning and executing concerts of the classical repertory combining choir and instrumentalists.

Education and Training: Classical training in conducting, organ and piano; Formal education in liturgical music. At least a Masters degree from a program of strong reputation.

The Church: Founded in 1819 and only five years away from its bicentennial, of some 1500 people. Music occupies a central position in all of its worship services as part of an exceptionally strong tradition.

All Souls is a Unitarian Universalist church.

Music is deeply integrated into the worship services at All Souls, and the Church has traditionally enjoyed a high standard of music. Historically, much of the musical programming has come from the Western Canon. At the same time, the expansive spirit of Unitarian Universalism is reflected in a broad range of musical interests and tastes. The Church has three choirs — the All Souls Choir which sings at two Sunday morning services from September to mid-June, as well as the Community Choir and a Children's Choir For thirty-seven years, All Souls has also been home to the Musica Viva concert series (described below).

The All Souls Choir currently comprises approximately thirty singers (with two to three paid professional soloists in each section). The All Souls Community Choir is open to all regardless of musical training or ability. In addition to the Sunday morning services the All Souls Choir sings at special worship services on Christmas Eve with orchestra, and at Easter with accompanying instrumentalists.

The choir loft, with the adjacent office, houses a three-manual tracker-action organ built by the Holtkamp Organ Company in 1989, and rebuilt by Holtkamp technicians in 2013. The organ is used in leading congregational hymns, for service preludes and postludes, and as accompaniment for the All Souls Choir. Other instruments include a modern Steinway B grand piano in the sanctuary, an electronic organ in the chapel, and another Steinway grand piano in Fellowship Hall.

Salary is commensurate with experience. All Souls offers a generous benefits package. All Souls values diversity and does not discriminate against any employee or job applicant because of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, age, or veteran status.

Musica Viva: A separately incorporated 501 (C) (3) organization established in 1977 to represent the concert identity of the All Souls Choir. Its founding Artistic Director is Walter Klauss, the outgoing Minister of Music at All Souls. The presence of Musica Viva represents a special opportunity for the Music Director of All Souls. Over the years its performances have developed a loyal audience and have been greatly valued by choir members as an opportunity to work on expansive repertoire and hone their skills as an ensemble. It is the strong hope of the Musica Viva Board and the Church that the successful candidate will be interested in continuing the collaboration between the two organizations.

The Musica Viva website may be seen at www.musicaviva.org. To apply, send a concise cover letter and resume to asmdapplications@gmail.com. Please see our website for further information.

P/T Organist/Pianist Bronx, New York (7/8/14)

Job ID: 18942421 ; Position Title: Organist; Riverdale Presbyterian Church
Entry Level: No; Job Type: Part-Time; Job Duration: Indefinite; Min Education: BA/BS/Undergraduate; Min Experience: 2-3 Years; Location(s): Bronx, New York, 10471, United States; Posted: July 2, 2014
Required Travel: 0-10%; Salary: \$15,000.00 - \$20,000.00 (Yearly Salary)
Salary Negotiable: Yes; Number of Weekly Services: 1; Number of Weekly Rehearsals: 1
Ensembles: Chancel Choir; Hours per Week: 8 – 15; Organ Description: Moller/Austin III/30;
Benefits: Book/Music Allowance, Sick Leave, Unemployment, Vacation

Contact Person: DiAnn Pierce Email Address: rpcorganistsearch@gmail.com Evening Phone: 917-359-4750 Web Site: <http://www.riverdalepc.org/> Congregation Size: 200 - 300

Street Address: 4765 Henry Hudson Pkwy Daytime Phone: 917-359-4750 Fax: 718-796-3681
Riverdale Presbyterian Church of Bronx, New York seeks a part-time organist/pianist to accompany Sunday service, occasional weddings, funerals and special worship services. Responsibilities include accompanying Chancel Choir for Sunday morning rehearsals, preparing prelude/postlude and several hymns for 10:30 worship service; attending worship planning meetings and working closely with pastor and choir director to plan music for worship services. Church owns a Moller/Austin pipe organ and a Petrof grand piano. Beginning in September 2014, position averages 8-10 hours/week; salary commensurate with AGO guidelines. Please send resume to rpcorganistsearch@gmail.com.

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR, 1st Presbyterian Church, Mahopac, NY (6/14)

First Presbyterian Church, Mahopac, NY, seeks an Organist/Choir Director.
Approximately 10 hours/week; Annual Salary \$15,500 (negotiable); 4 weeks vacation.
One service each week with music, plus Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and early Easter Day. One Adult Choir, plus possible hand bell choir.
The 1995 tracker-action organ was built by Mann and Trupiano; 17 stops/19 ranks.
For a printed full job description contact the Rev. Kenneth H. Mast
845-628-2365 or presby411@verizon.net

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST, Mountain Lakes, New Jersey (6/14)

The Community Church of Mountain Lakes (United Church of Christ) is looking for a motivated individual to serve as Director of Music and Organist. Responsibilities of the position include: Member of Worship Team responsible for coordinating all music to be used in worship services throughout the year; Rehearsing and directing the Chancel Choir; Organist/pianist for weekly worship services and the special services of the liturgical year; Accompanist for Cherub, Gloria, and Youth Choirs; working collaboratively with Director of Children’s Music and Handbell Choir Director in planning music schedule and rehearsals; wedding and funeral services as they arise. Chancel choir rehearsals are currently Thursday evening; Worship on Sunday morning is at 10 a.m. The church has a recently rebuilt Casavant-Freres pipe organ, digitally enhanced with Ahlborn-Galanti electronic voices, and a Steinway grand piano for use during worship.
The candidate should be proficient in both organ and piano and willing to provide instrumental, choral and congregational music in a wide variety of musical styles to ensure the worship experience is as inclusive as possible. Prior experience with handbell choirs a plus. The successful candidate will receive competitive compensation based on qualifications, time-commitment and experience. (\$20,000 - \$25,000 +)
Mountain Lakes is located in Morris County, New Jersey, located near the intersection of Routes 287 and 80. For more information, call the church office at (973) 334-6500. To apply, e-mail your resume, including references, to comchurch@optimum.net. <http://www.comchurchmtlakes.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: Alice Avouris.

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
The Trompette Editor

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

Inside:

**A word from the new Dean, John King, and message
from Kevin Walsh, farewell from Eileen Lawrence, a
memoir on Teachers by Dr. Robert Chase, Job Listings,
and more!**

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