

The Trompette

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

MARCH, 2011

VOLUME 10, #7

From the Dean's Bench...

Hello Everyone,

Now that it finally has stopped snowing, our long ordeal this winter (the weather!) is becoming just a memory. We're not out of the woods yet, but it's easier to believe in the concept of spring at least!

Congratulations to organizer Judith Abel and everyone who participated in the Members Recital: *Music for Special Occasions, for Organ and Other Instruments*. Despite the fact that we were competing with the 'Super Bowl,' the turn-out was excellent. Check out our website, agowestchester.org, for a complete program plus lots of pictures of the performance and the reception (thank you, Webmaster Virginia Bender.) Keith Robellard, host and Virginia Bender were indefatigable in the weeks preceding the concert, arranging for practice times and opening the church for musicians. The programs which Keith published were beautiful. Virginia assisted in recording part of the program for me. Karen Longwell assisted with the reception, averting several catastrophies involving coffee and punch! Most of all, Judith Abel deserves our heartiest congratulations for organizing this successful program of a variety of music and musicians, all of whom had a great time performing for a very appreciative audience.

Many of our Chapter members are working on Lenten music, and at the Members Recital we heard some beautiful examples of less common Lenten music played by Judith Abel, Robert Chase, Jeffrey Hoffman and Meredith Storer. During the reception we were able to peruse catalogs from Jayson Rodovsky-Engquist of organ solo repertoire (www.transcontinentalmusic.com) and Non-Jewish/Interfaith Choral music (www.urjbooksandmusic.com). We also had the opportunity to buy at a 20% discount music from Bramson's Music, represented by Robert Geisman. Many thanks to Joyce Gardner for bringing music to share with us.

(Continued next page)

WESTCHESTER AGO EXECUTIVE BOARD

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(Continued from Page 1)

Guest artists at the recital included renowned soprano Anneliese von Goerken singing Jeffrey Hoffman's "The Naked Seed," beautifully set to a poem by C.S. Lewis. The magical performance by violinist Nicholas Szucs and Keith Robellard of "The Lark Ascending" demonstrated that nothing is 'lost in transcription,' when played with great artistry! Other musical guests were members of *Northern Westchester Flutes* and composer Pamela Sklar, performing her "Spell 166." Music written for organ plus other musicians was chosen in recognition of the AGO "Year of Collaboration." For more ideas, visit 'Organ Plus' on the AGO website.

Organists who performed alternative choices for celebrations such as weddings were: Tim Keenan-Devlin, Meredith Storer, Frederick Tripodi, Edwin Wallace and Noriko Yamada.

Did I say spring was coming? Here's another milestone so far unannounced: we are currently celebrating our 60th year! Founded in 1951, the Westchester Chapter of the AGO is going strong. We have 6 nominees for the position of director, and included in this issue is the ballot and instructions for voting prepared by Chapter Secretary Virginia Bender, which everyone should read carefully. Our candidates are: Tim Keenan-Devlin (for a 2nd term), Terence Kelly, Douglas Kostner, Eileen Laurence, Frank Miller and Susan Sayre.

AGO Morristown 2011: Celebrate the Past—Forge the Future is the theme of the combined Region I and II Regional Convention, hosted by the Metropolitan New Jersey Chapter. It will take place Sunday, July 3, 2011 through Wednesday, July 6, and registration is available now (and you save \$50 by registering by Feb. 28th.) Go to the website: www.ZBO2011NJ.COM for complete information. Morristown, N.J. is a relatively easy drive, allowing many of us to commute daily and save hotel fees, so take advantage!

March 20th meeting: *Creating and Maintaining Children's Choirs*, coordinated and hosted by Eileen Laurence, The Presbyterian Church of Katonah.

We hope to see many of our Chapter members and non-member guests at this important program! Whether you currently direct a children's choir or would like to start one someday, this program will provide a forum for experienced directors to share their knowledge with us. Practical techniques, 'how-to's' of starting a choir program, music resources and a live demonstration from guest choristers will be included. Invite your musician friends to attend. Parking will be on the street in front and beside this beautiful church in Katonah.

Growing the Guild: Did you know - all individuals interested in the organ are invited to join the AGO! Membership is open to everyone, regardless of religious affiliation or musical ability. Our Westchester AGO motto is: “uniting organ music and collegiality.” In my family, it was the support of my Dad, a non-musician, which promoted organ music to the extent that early in the 1950’s he bought my mother a beautiful Allen organ. This took up a lot of room in our small house in New Jersey. I don’t know why, but our pet hamsters were always squeezing themselves under the pedals. Anyway, you don’t have to own a pair of organ shoes to be an enthusiastic and contributing member of the Westchester AGO! Invite your friends to our meetings, and give us the opportunity to make them our friends as well.

Please note: the *Wannamaker Organ Day* at Macy’s Department Store in Philadelphia is June 25th, not June 4th. Please re-mark your calendars!

Alice Avouris

EMPTY BENCH



Organist/Choir Director – (Only Announcement) Experienced part-time Organist and Choir Director sought for 120-member non-denominational Protestant church. The Union Church of Pocantico Hills is home to world-famous stained glass by Henri Matisse and Marc Chagall, and is situated on the Rockefeller Estate near Tarrytown, NY. There are two Sunday services, one adult choir and the three-manual organ was built by Glück Orgelbau in 2005. Send resumé and cover letter to Kathleen Murray, Search Committee Chairperson, at kamaem2@yahoo.com by March 14, 2011.

The Westchester Chapter of the
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

presents

***Creating and Maintaining Children's
Choirs***

March 20, 2011
4:00 PM

First Presbyterian Church
31 Bedford Road
Katonah, NY 10504
914-232-4568

Eileen Laurence, Host

A roundtable discussion about children's vocal choirs in our area; how they were begun, their present status, how they are sustained and what the future looks like.

Directors of choirs from Westchester, Putnam and Connecticut will come to describe their experiences, perhaps bringing some of their singers.

Come, Listen, Share, and Learn

Our 2010 – 2011 Season

Sunday, March 20, 2011, 4:00 p.m.

Creating and Maintaining a Successful Children's Choir

(Presenter: Eileen Laurence)

Katonah Presbyterian Church (Host: Eileen Laurence)

Sunday, May 22, 2011

*The **Toccata** Experience: A Workshop on Analysis and Learning*

Presented by Gavin Black

of the *Princeton Early Keyboard Center*

The Old Dutch Church, Sleepy Hollow (Hosts: Mi-Won and Jeremy Goldsmith)

Saturday, June 25, 2011

Please note: the *Wannamaker Organ Day* at Macy's Department Store in Philadelphia is June 25th, not June 4th. Please re-mark your calendars!

Wanamaker Organ Day, Macy's Department Store, Philadelphia

(Host: Kevin Walsh)

Bus from Westchester to Philadelphia and back

To view the schedule of music events at Grace Church, White Plains: www.dtmusic.org/

To view the schedule of musical events at Hitchcock Presbyterian Church, Scarsdale:
www.hitchcockpresby.org/secondary/4_0.html

READS & MIXTURES

Wanted: Used copies of *Sixteen Hymns of Today for Use As Simple Anthems*, edited by John Wilson, published by RSCM, (bright red). I will pay up to \$5 per copy. *Alice Avouris*,

Check out the lovely picture of Joyce Gardner, Joe Nigro and a young student at the organ, taken at our November *Pedals Pipes and Pizza*, in the February issue of *The American Organist*.

When **AGO membership goes digital** (mostly) we'll have lots of back-up support from computer-savvy Chapter members Virginia Bender, John Cecconi and of course our Registrar Kevin Walsh . If you have trouble renewing by computer, give one of them a call!

More help: Do you miss the Service Playing articles in the older TAO's that featured recommended liturgical music for specific Sundays for organ and choir, and also recommended hymns?

"Suggestions from Sheila, Practical Organ Music for Worship" replaces the older column. Not specifically listed in the Contents, you can still find it if you check the page for "Musicians in Part-Time Employment," which in the February TAO is on page 54. It doesn't include choral music or hymns, however.

Oh no! more favorite hymn selections from the New Honest Christian Hymnal (courtesy of Frank Miller):

"Create in Me a Clean Heart and Arteries"
"Day Is Dying and I Am Fading"
"Faith of Our Grandfathers"
"Go Tell It on the PA System"
"Hail the Day that Sees Me Rise"
"It Is Well with My Soul, But Not My Back"
"Morning and My Brain Have Broken"
"O Jesus, I Have Promised, But Don't Remember"
"Ride On, Ride On in a Lexus"
"Were You There – Was I"

MARCH CONCERT CALENDAR

Saturday, March 6, 3:00PM

You are invited to a concert by the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Choir on Sunday, March 6 at 3 PM in the church, Lana Kollath, director. The church is at 1377 East Main Street in Shrub Oak. A reception will follow. Come hear my choir sing their favorite anthems and get some new ideas for your choir. More than half of the concert will come from "The New Oxford Easy Anthem Book" which is a real gem! This concert is in memory of beloved deacon Frank Bruno, whose wife is a choir member – a free-will offering will go toward a meeting room in the deacon's memory. Come hear what a choir can do in spite of snowstorms on 3 Wednesdays in a row!

Sunday, March 13, 7:00PM

I Squared -- Two brilliant tenors Jim Russell and Matthew Surapine in vocal music of Ireland and Italy, while you relax and enjoy delicious drink and refreshments in our Zoeller center (lower church) "café" at Saint Augustine Church, 140 Maple Avenue, New City. Suggested offering is \$10.00. 845/634-3641 (parish office) or www.staugnewcity.org

Sunday, March 13, 4:00PM

The Mild Mother: Meditations on the Sorrows of Mary on Sunday, March 13, 2011 at 4:00 pm. Featuring Anneliese von Goerken, soprano and Tracy Bidleman, mezzo-soprano with artistic director Jeffrey Hoffman as keyboardist and composer, together with members of Sinfonia Celestis, this performance will include Samuel Barber's *Hermit Songs*, Giovanni Battista Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, Ned Rorem's *The Mild Mother* and world premieres of *Lament* by Charles Callahan and *The Weeper* by Jeffrey Hoffman. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$10 for students and are available in advance at Christ Church in Pelham Manor, at www.ConcertsatChristChurchPelham.org or by calling the parish music office on 914-738-5515. ext. 102

Saturday, March 26, 8:00PM

Master Singers of Westchester -- Haydn's *Great Organ Mass in E flat*, Mozart's *Missa solemnis in C*, Josquin Desprez's *Ave Maria*, and Mozarts' *Regina coeli* with four soloists and orchestra. The Bedford Presbyterian Church. the cost is \$25, \$20 for seniors and students.

Sunday, March 27, 4:00PM

Master Singers of Westchester -- Haydn's *Great Organ Mass in E flat*, Mozart's *Missa solemnis in C*, Josquin Desprez's *Ave Maria*, and Mozarts' *Regina coeli* with four soloists and orchestra. The Bedford Presbyterian Church. the cost is \$25, \$20 for seniors and students.

Dear Members,

We are very fortunate this year to have six members running for the Director position that is currently held by Timothy Keenan-Devlin and Joe Nigro. Their term expires on June 30, 2011. The Director position that we will be voting on will replace them and will expire on June 30, 2014. Following my “letter” are “bios” and reasons why they would like to be a Director for each of the candidates who responded by the deadline for The Trompette.

After the “blurbs”, will be the ballot. **After printing out the ballot, please carefully follow the directions on the ballot. A voting member is any dues paying member EXCEPT chapter friends.**

What will happen to the ballot after you send it?

- The Secretary (Virginia Bender) and at least two Auditors (any Director(s) serving a current term and any Chapter member(s) in good standing who is not currently serving on the Executive Committee) shall open all of the envelopes which were received on or prior to the pre-determined deadline for returning the ballots.
- Late ballots will not be opened or counted.
- To preserve the anonymity of the voter, the ballots will be placed in a separate pile from the envelopes prior to tallying.
- Upon receipt, the names of the voters will be checked off the voter roster (prepared by the Registrar – Kevin Walsh).
- Envelopes bearing duplicate names (or no names) will not be opened or counted.
- The Secretary and Auditors will tally the ballots, document and sign a summary of the election results. The Secretary will then notify the Executive Committee and Dean of the election results.

Happy Voting!

Virginia Bender

Below are the “bios” of the Candidates:

Timothy Keenan-Devlin:

I am the organist and Music Director at the Methodist Church in Pleasantville NY. I have been there over four years now. I have played at the Memorial Community Baptist Church in Harrison and other Catholic Churches in the area. I have my Service Playing Certificate through the American Guild of Organists and have passed the first part of the Colleague Exam. I am working on passing the second part hopefully in the fall. I have played for a number of Organ Recitals for the Westchester Chapter and one at the Osborn Chapel in Rye, NY, and as far as the Air Force Academy Chapel in Colorado Springs. I am giving another one there April 10th of this year and another one at St. John and St. Mary's in Chappaqua, NY in May. I have studied organ and Adaptive Piano at the Conservatory of Music in White Plains, NY and privately with Dr. Jan - Piet Knijff and now with Ken Corneille. I have always loved music and the organ. Church Music is my first love.

I am interested in being on the board because it has given me the opportunity to learn and to help my chapter out in many ways that I can.

Frank Miller:

Frank Miller received his B.S. Mus. Ed. Degree from Concordia College, Bronxville, and M.A. and M.M. degrees from Ithaca College. Fred Swann was one of his organ teachers. He has performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Radio City Music Hall and Madison Square Garden. He has accompanied Judy Collins and Luciano Pavarotti and played for two U.S. Presidents.

Frank has been the Minister of Music at the First Baptist Church, White Plains since 1986. He retired from Public School teaching in 2006 having taught all thirty-two years as a choral and general music teacher. He has been used as a consultant for several organs, including the stalactite organ in Luray Caverns, Virginia and continues to compose and arrange music for choral and instrumental ensembles.

It is an honor to be nominated for this position in our chapter. Whether elected or not, I will continue to assist our membership and uphold our standards and commitments to the best of my ability. I believe my wide experiences would benefit our members.

Susan Sayre:

Susan Sayre has been an organist since she was 13 years old. She studied piano with her mother and grandmother and also with Charles Hurter, formerly of the Berlin Conservatory. She had a Flute Major and a Piano Minor when she studied at the Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio. She received her Bachelor's degree from San Diego State in Elementary Education and received an MEd in English as a Second Language from Temple University in Tokyo. She is a certified for life teacher in New York. Since 1972, she has been the Minister of Music at Asbury Methodist in Croton-on-Hudson. She would be glad to do this as she feels it is very important because it keeps pay standards up so churches do not take advantage of organists. She would be happy to do whatever she can for the chapter. She loves TAO!

Terence Kelly: Biography not received by Press Time.

Doug Kostner: Biography not received by Press Time.

Eileen Laurence:

Eileen Laurence received her Bachelor and Master of Science degrees from the Juilliard School of Music with a major in voice and a minor in organ. Upon graduation from Juilliard, Eileen was a busy free-lance singer in New York City for 20 years, working as a soloist with such renowned conductors as Leonard Bernstein and Pierre Boulez. She recorded the role of Filia in Carissimi's *Jephte* with

Johannes Somary and the Amor Artis Chorale on Decca and the soprano solo in Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* on Columbia. With the Riverside Chamber singers she recorded 2 albums of vocal chamber music.

Turning her attention to sacred music, she is presently the Director of Music at the First Presbyterian Church in Katonah where there is a graded handbell program. Eileen is the organist, and directs the Adult Choir, a children's choir, and instrumental ensembles. Her handbell experience spans 35 years and at the Katonah church she is responsible for four handbell choirs. With the Katonah Celebration Ringers she has concertized internationally in the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, China and Japan. The choir was featured on the CBS Charles Kuralt Show and the ringers have been guest artists with the Canadian Brass and the Paramount Brass. The Katonah Celebration Ringers have released two CDs, *Around the World with KCR* and *Christmas in Katonah*.

Ms. Laurence is a published composer and frequently serves as a handbell conductor and clinician at area national and international festivals. She has conducted handbell festivals in New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, Kansas, Washington and Pennsylvania. Her *Contrasts* was the winner of the composition contest sponsored by Handbell Ringers of Japan at the 8th International Symposium in Makuhari, Japan, where she conducted 900 ringers in the premiere performance in 1998. Her *A Night at the Opera* was selected for the final concert this past summer in Osaka, Japan at the 14th International Handbell Symposium.

Eileen has been married to Peter for 50 years and together they have parented two daughters and play with two grand daughters.

Why I would like this position: The Westchester Chapter of the AGO has served me for many years and I think it is time to reciprocate for the many benefits shown me during these past 35 years.

2011 Ballot
**“AGO Westchester Chapter for the Election to the
Directorship that Ends in 2014”**

Directions:

Vote for two by placing an X in two boxes

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 (the secretary) by **April 30, 2011.**

Timothy Keenan-Devlin

Terence Kelly

Doug Kostner

Eileen Laurence

Frank Miller

Susan Sayre

FROM YOUR NEWSPAPER EDITORS...

Thank you all for your cooperation in getting your material TO US by the 20th of each preceding month. We want to be able to deliver the Newsletter to you on or about the 1st of each month, and it takes a week or more to finalize the copy and layout, get it to and from the printer, and address, stamp and mail all of the copies.

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](#).

Kindly 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 cannot be printed.) Due to space constraints, articles and notices are edited.

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

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

E-mail: (preferable): Thomas Zachacz (Compose in MS Word, if possible)

Postal Mail: T. Zachacz, *The Trompette*,

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

Thank you!

Lois Simmonds & Thomas Zachacz

Editors,

The Trompette

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

Inside:

Message regarding our next program, “*Creating and Maintaining a Successful Children’s Choir*”, and a flyer you can post to propagandize this event; The Official Election Ballot; Concert Calendar; an *Empty Bench*.

*Please mark your calendar now so you
won’t miss an important **date**.*

Westchester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
The Trompette
Lois Simmonds &
Thomas Zachacz, Editors