



The Trompette



The Newsletter of the Westchester Chapter - American Guild of Organists

OCTOBER 2011

VOLUME 11, #2

Greetings from the Dean...

On Sunday, September 18, about thirty members and guests met to celebrate the first meeting in our 60th anniversary season by listening to host **Dr. Robert Chase**, speaking on, appropriately, "Westchester Chapter, the First 60 Years." Anecdotes about early members and guest artist/speakers were really fascinating! Some early members included founder and recording artist Robert Owen, TAO reviewer DeWitt Wasson, who donated 20,000 music scores to Westminster Choir College, Alinda Burnham Couper, a pioneer in the art of English handbell ringing, and recitalist-to-the-wealthy (and Wanamaker's) Frank Adams. Early speakers included E. Power Biggs at the personal invitation of Robert Chase, Margaret Hillis, who founded the Chicago Symphony Chorus, Madeleine Marshall, Vernon De Tar, Alec Wyton, and Paul Henry Lang. Bob spoke about our 1971 Regional Convention, spear-headed by then-Dean Margaret Kelly, and which at \$35 for registration (which included lunches) was extremely affordable, especially by today's standards!

From a look at our illustrious past we turned our attention to the future. A regional convention in Westchester is long over-due (40 years, to be exact) and Anthony Thurman encouraged us to consider hosting such an event in the year 2015. Questionnaires designed to enable the WAGO Board to assess member support were handed out and returned. Please see in this newsletter the identical questionnaire, and if you were not able to do so before, please return your answers by e-mail or regular mail. Thank you for helping us to decide this important question!

Lois Simmonds, coordinator for the delicious potluck dinner, did a superlative job as our hospitality person for the event. Thank you, Lois!

Three delightful new members attended the meeting: **Janet Jacobson**, **David Jutt** and **Chia-Li Sung**. I also discovered that **Susan LaFever** (St. Luke's Episcopal, Eastchester) is a French horn player!

Our next gathering will be a many-faceted event at Christ Church, Bronxville on Sunday, October 30th. Held at the site of WAGO's first meeting 60 years ago, this program will include an organ recital by host **Christopher Wells** at 4:30 p.m. and a special choral solemn evensong at 5:00 p.m. At 3:00 p.m., before all this wonderful music, we will have an informal discussion on professional challenges. Please see the flyer in this newsletter, inviting you to describe an issue which you have experienced at your place of employment. In *Conversations* we hope to gain some wisdom as to what would be a constructive way to deal with problems at our houses of worship. From your experiences, help us to develop strategies for handling disagreeable situations.

Westchester AGO will provide the reception for the October 30th program. Please let me know what you would like to bring! (Finger foods only.)

May you all enjoy good music-making this month!

See you soon!

Alice Avouris

WESTCHESTER AGO EXECUTIVE BOARD

DEAN

Alice Avouris

SUB-DEAN

Judith Abel

SECRETARY

Virginia Bender

TREASURER

Kathryn Jones

REGISTRAR

Kevin Walsh

DIRECTORS

Karen Longwell, Class of '12
Laura Ravotti, Class of '12
Lowell Knauer, Class of '13
Janine Wallour-Thwaite, Cl.of '13
Eileen Laurence, Class of '14
Frank Miller, Class of '14

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION

Dr. Robert A. Chase

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

John Ceconi
Lois Simmonds

CHAPLAIN

John Ceconi

CHAPTER COORDINATORS

MEMBERSHIP

Joyce Gardner

PLACEMENT / SUBSTITUTES

Judith Abel
Jayson Rodovsky-Engquist

WEBMASTER

Virginia Bender

Westchester AGO

2011-2012 Program Schedule

Sunday, October 30

Organ recital & Solemn Evensong, Christ Church, Bronxville Organist/Host: **Christopher Wells**

3:00 to 4:15: **“Conversations on Professional Challenges”**

4:30: organ recital (on new, 65-rank Casavant organ)

5: p.m. Solemn Evensong with guest conductor, Philip Stopford,
Reception by the WAGO

Saturday, November 12, 10:00 to Noon

“More Conversations on Professional Challenges: Contracts and Organ Maintenance”

The Presbyterian Church of Katonah. Host: **Eileen Laurence**

Tuesday, November 15 at 8:00 p.m. Jon Gillock plays Messiaen

Church of the Ascension, NYC.

“Meditations on the Mystery of the Holy Trinity (1969)”

Carpooling, tickets, etc.: **Kathy Jones**

Sunday, January 8, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. (Snow Date: January 15th)

TWELFTH NIGHT PARTY

At the home of **Dr. Robert Chase**, White Plains

February 2012– Date and venue to be determined

“Hymnfest of Members’ favorite African-American, Hispanic & Other Non-traditional, Ethnic Hymns”

March 2012 – Date and venue to be determined

Members’ Compositions program

April 22, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

Choral Reading

The Larchmont Temple

Host/Presenter: **Jayson Rodovsky-Engquist**

May 20, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

Member Recital: Transcriptions

The Mount Kisco Presbyterian Church

Host: **Terrence Flanagan**

Coordinator: Sub-Dean **Judith Abel**

June 2012 – Date and venue to be determined

Theatre Organ Excursion or Organ Crawl

Concert Calendar

The Osborn Chapel

*101 Theall Road
Rye, NY 10580*

"2ND SUNDAYS at THE OSBORN"

30-minute Organ Recitals at The Osborn Chapel at 2 PM

Oct. 9, 2011: Susan Paisley & Paul Jordan
Admission is FREE -- All are welcome:
For Information call: (914) 777-1660

First Presbyterian Church

*31 Bedford Road
Katonah, NY*

CONCERT

Cornerstone Chorale & Brass
Friday, October 14, 2011 at 7:30 PM

No admission, but a free will offering will be given to the musicians.
For information, call: (914) 232-4568

Church of the Transfiguration

'The Little Church around the Corner'

*1 East 29th Street
NY, NY*

"IS IT BACH OR B-A-C-H?"

October 18, 2011 at 12:30 PM

Rick Tripodi will perform. Program includes Fantasia on B-A-C-H, Sweelinck; Kyrie, Christe, Kyrie, Bach; Fugue #1 on B-A-C-H, Schumann
Arnold Schwartz Memorial Organ, built by C.B. Fisk in 1988, 3/49. Mechanical action.
Freewill offering

The Church of St. Barnabas

*15 North Broadway
Irvington, New York 10533*

ORGAN RECITAL

Sunday, October 23, 2011 at 5:00 PM

by Christopher Houlihan

Suggested donation of \$15
More information: Church phone - 914-591-8194

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

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

The New Haven AGO Chapter now has a website dedicated to promoting organ, sacred vocal and choral music events in Greater New Haven: www.sacredmusicCT.org

CONVENTION QUESTIONNAIRE

These first three questions describe what it would take from each of us, minimum, to have a successful Regional Convention.

- 1) Would you be willing to invest time and energy over a two-year period, to enable our Chapter to host a Regional Convention? YES___ NO___
- 2) Would you be willing to pay the registration fee and attend the Convention? YES___ NO___
- 3) Would you be willing to make a financial gift to the Convention? YES___ NO___

*If you were to serve on a committee, which ones would you choose?
Please circle all areas of interest to you.*

Program Committee

Hospitality

Transportation/Logistics

Publicity

Registration

Gifts and Grants

Regional Competition for young organists

Finance/Treasurer

Hotel Coordinator

Convention Secretary

Website

Convention booklet

Exhibits

4) Have you ever attended a National or Regional Convention? YES___ NO___

Name (optional):

Thank you! Please e-mail this or snail mail it to:

Alice Avouris, Dean
The Westchester Chapter of the AGO

Reads & Mixtures

CONVERSATIONS: HERE ARE SOME TOPICS WHICH WE CAN DISCUSS

- What does being a music director or organist mean in a Roman Catholic Church?
- How is this different from being an organist in a Jewish Temple?
- How is this different from being an organist in a Protestant Church?

Have you had a professional challenge at your house of worship which you would like to share? For purposes of discussion, please briefly organize this experience. For example:

- 1) How did this problem come to your attention?
- 2) What steps did you take to solve the problem?
- 3) Who helped you with this problem?
- 4) What was the final outcome?

FREE TO A GOOD HOME...

19 Royal Blue Children's Choir Robes - American made – ER Moore, 100% Polyester
3 medium (5'5"-5'6")
4 small (5'2"-5'4")
6 xsmall (4'1"-5'1")
6 xxsmall (to 4'10")
8 white stoles

Contact:

Terence J. Flanagan, Music Director
The Presbyterian Church of Mount Kisco
605 Millwood Road, Mount Kisco, NY 10549 (914) 666-7001

DORIS DUBAC RESPONDS TO THE NOSEY DEAN

If you were getting married now, and had complete control over it, what you would want played and/or sung at your own wedding?

My general objective would be to have a mood of the richness of life, including exuberance, depth, and a feeling of the earth -- the brooks, the lakes, the woods, the mountains.

* Prelude: Before the ceremony, while guests are coming in and being seated, playing on the organ (and maybe also with a flute): maybe, maybe, (I haven't tested it on an organ yet) -- *Lullabies and Night Songs* music (arranged) by Alec Wilder -- just go through the book playing the pieces one after another, improvising on them, connecting them, maybe doing things like sometime making heavy use of 16 or 32 foot stops, maybe playing a piece with just the pedals, maybe playing just the melody line of one piece, without chords, just with a single finger, and at another time maybe playing a "simple piece" in a very complicated way, maybe another piece in Harlem Gospel Choir style, etc. for a relaxed yet alive, pleasant, mood. At the

end of the prelude, it may be a good idea to play (several "verses" of) The Telephone Book Lullaby, as a quiet, soft, prelude to the heralding processional music. (A fine vintage copy of the Wilder / Sendak book might make a nice thank you gift to a member of the wedding party who has an appropriate interest in such a book. A double autographed copy of the book would make a very nice wedding gift to the bride from someone with deep pockets.)

If the Lullabies and Night Songs doesn't work out, then --

* *Alternate Prelude: Vivaldi's Four Seasons. (I like the John Hong transcriptions.)*

* As a processional: *Agincourt Hymn* -- the organist may have to repeat one or more sections before the ending to allow enough time for the bridal party to reach the altar. (I love the snarly horn sounds and the medieval harmony.)

* Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* played richly on the organ. If any willing-to-play friends / relatives play any instrument, from a guitar to a tuba to a trumpet to an accordion to spoons, incorporate them, probably best not all at once, into the playing of this. (Again, I might like a John Hong transcription.)

* Somewhere in the event: *America the Beautiful*, on the bagpipes (? maybe the NYFD bagpipers?) or on the organ with many improvisations -- Hello -- America may have many faults, but it's my wedding, and I like America the Beautiful! And I like bagpipes. Care must be taken to not play it in a hum-drum way.

* As a recessional, Handel's *Water Music Alla Hornpipe* for the wedding party going down the aisle, then

*While the guests are leaving and going through the receiving line: Buxtehude's *Prelude in C Major*, BuxWV137, then Buxtehude's *Tocatta in F Major* BuxWV157, and then Buxtehude's *Prelude in D Major* BuxWV139, all played with gusto but not too fast, and playing each manual and pedal note clearly. (I realize that especially with the Buxtehude pieces, to get great clarity and richness of sound, I need an appropriate organ and great acoustics, and an organist who can make these Buxtehude pieces sing. We both savor the sound of Bine Bryndorf on the St. Mary's organ in Helsingor (Elsinore), Denmark.)

And for the CD player in the black Rolls Royce to and from the wedding ceremony -- a CD of Andean music, perhaps *Soul of the Andes* by Inkhay. (Donald spent part of his teen years up at a mining camp village in the Peruvian Andes.)

Doris Sieck Dubac

P.S. Donald and I married in 1969 -- it's been forty-two good years. But the music and singing then was not like this. And we didn't have a black Rolls Royce.

Empty Benches

MINISTER OF MUSIC / MUSIC DIRECTOR

(Oct. 2011)

Greenville Community Church

*270 Ardsley Road
Scarsdale, NY, 10583*

Job Responsibilities and Duties:

- Play the organ or piano for Sunday 9:00 a.m. choir rehearsal and 10:00 a.m. worship services, Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Maundy Thursday services.
- Play also for weddings, funerals and other special services as mutually agreed.
- Accompany the children's choir for occasional Sunday rehearsals and performances. Select music in advance of services in cooperation with the minister.
- Arrange for substitute organist/pianists when needed in cooperation with the minister.

Job Skills and Requirements

- Love for music and appreciation of multiple musical styles including classical, traditional hymnology, and gospel.
- Formal education in music performance.
- Experience as a pianist and organist in public performance.
- Ability to work well in a church setting with a diversity of people.

We have great Steinway Concert D and a small, but sweet pipe organ in need of a rebuild. We have a choir master who is also our baritone, so the person would not be working alone.

Contact Dorothy Lee: Dorothy.K.Lee@morganstanley.com // or
Edward Schreur, pastor 914-723-1266

ORGANIST

(Sept. 2011)

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Somers, N.Y.

One service Sunday mornings at 9:30, and two Thursday evening rehearsals /month

Short choir rehearsal Sundays at 8:45

Extra services during Holy Week and Christmas

Contact: Joyce Ottinger, Director of Music at

joyce_ottinger@yahoo.com

MUSIC DIRECTOR

(August 2011)

Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers

55 Ryder Road

Ossining, N.Y.

Job involves being on call for funerals, special masses, and any other organ/piano/choir duties the Maryknoll organization desires. Information on rate of pay was not given.

Contact:

Fr. Michael Duggan, M.M.

914-941-7636, x 2546 or 2211

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

Poet's Corner

(Kevin, I hope you appreciate this.)

With insincere apologies to Edward Lear

Though as a Guild we are pretty 'organic,'

Late renewals make registrars panic.

Our directory due,

Your name we may eschew!

This catastrophe would be titanic.

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 cannot be printed.) 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 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:

John Cecconi (MS Word is preferred)

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

Thank you!

John Cecconi
Lois Simmonds
The Trompette Editors

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

Inside:

**Alice's musings; Convention Questionnaire;
The Nosey Dean; New Job postings ...and
much more!**

*Mark your calendar now and you won't miss an
important date!*

Westchester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

The Trompette

John Cecconi &

Lois Simmonds, Editors