



The Trompette



The Newsletter of the Westchester Chapter - American Guild of Organists

NOVEMBER 2011

VOLUME 11, #3

Greetings From the Dean...

Dear Colleagues,

How is your work going? Now that we are into the second month of a new season, do you feel that your life is in rhythm? Practice, service-playing, teaching or other day job, social outlet and family all have their place in our busy lives, and it takes a while to get the right balance. Or have you perhaps been unable to achieve this balance? Maybe instead your life feels like it just goes from one crisis to another.

We will have the opportunity to discuss professional challenges and crises large and small at our next meeting, Sunday, October 30th at 3:00 p.m. at Christ Church, Bronxville. Host Christopher Wells has kindly arranged for us to use the Crispell Lounge for our *Conversations*, where members are encouraged to share their concerns. Please use the guide sheet included in this issue to help formulate your thoughts. I personally can vouch for how helpful it is to share problems with someone who understands the issues. The combined life experience of our many working and retired organists is an immeasurable treasure. At 4:30 we will have the enormous pleasure of hearing Christopher Wells in a short recital featuring the music of Craig Phillips on the new 65-rank Casavant organ! This will be followed by Solemn Evensong at 5:00 p.m., with guest conductor Philip Stopford leading the Christ Church Choir in his own compositions, including The Belfast Canticles (Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis). And all of this will take place at the site of our first AGO meeting, 60 years ago!

With regret, the Board of AGO Westchester decided not to pursue hosting the 2015 Regional Convention. Although there was interest from the Chapter, it was felt that we needed substantially more support from Chapter members able to give all the time and energy that such an undertaking would require. I want to thank all of you who sent in your responses. We are still very interested in Chapter feedback on this question, and will keep the possibility 'on the back-burner.' I do feel, however, that I must apologize for getting our hopes up! I know many of you will be disappointed by this decision, and I'm truly sorry that we don't seem to have the human resources necessary at this time. At the same time, now that this big question is no longer in the fore-front of the Board's agenda, we can focus on our programming for the year. There is a lot to look forward to!

Following our first *Conversations* on October 30th, we will have a second meeting on Saturday morning, November 12th, when we will be entertained and enlightened by Chapter member Stanton Daugherty of Stanton Daugherty Pipe Organ Service, called "Understanding and Maintaining Your Pipe Organ." Stanton's talk will be enhanced by examples of working parts of pipe organs. Participants will be encouraged to ask questions about operation and simple care, and when it is time to call in a specialist. (I have a few questions: Is it okay to clean underneath the pedals? Should I keep our cleaning service personnel out of the choir loft?) Don't miss this program, which will also contain information about the importance of negotiating a yearly contract with your house of worship.

Where do you get inspiration to write a piece of music? Of course, necessity is the mother of invention; however, recently I played a sweet little piece by James Biery, based on the English tune Repton, but using for a short introduction and conclusion a simple tune based on the names of his friend's 'canine companions' - Gus and Buddy! No one of course in the congregation would have had a clue, yet I found it extremely touching to see above the notes these letters spelling out the names of beloved pets! Sacreligious? Probably! Anyway, if you would like to use this trick to start your next composition for our March, 2012 meeting: "Members' Compositions" - go right ahead! Only please let us know what name you're spelling out, and how you did it! (James Biery used 'E' for the letter 'U,' 'C' for the letter 'S' and 'A' for the letter 'Y'.)

See you at Christ Church, Bronxville on the 30th!

Alice Avouris

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2011-2012 Program Schedule

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
“Meditations on the Mystery of the Holy Trinity (1969)”
Church of the Ascension, NYC.
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

Sunday, February 19, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.
Hymn Fest of African-American, Hispanic & other non-traditional ethnic hymns
Rye Presbyterian Church
Host: **Kevin Walters**

Sunday, March 11, 2012 at 4:00
“Members’ Compositions”
Saint Columbanus Church, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567
Host: **Karen Longwell**

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: **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

Nov. 13, 2011: Judith Barber Abel

Admission is FREE -- All are welcome

There are open dates to perform at in 2012 - Please contact Jayson Rodovsky-Engquist

An honorarium is paid for each 30-minute program.

For Information call: (914) 777-1660

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

*In a world of peace and love,
Music would be the universal language.*

Reads & Mixtures

CONCERT IN MANHATTAN

We will organize car-pooling to hear organist Jon Gillock at Church of the Ascension, 12 West 11th Street, New York, NY on Tuesday, November 15th at 8:00 p.m. Kathryn Jones will take care of ordering tickets: please contact her right away at ksj9691@aol.com and ask her to order your ticket (ticket prices are listed at \$35, \$25, \$15, and \$10). You can send a check for your ticket payable to Westchester A.G.O. and Kathryn will put in one order. Or you can go on the website and order your own ticket at www.voicesofascension.org. If you choose to have the Chapter order your ticket, the deadline is Sunday, October 30th. If you are willing to drive and take some of your fellow members, please advise us.

This promises to be a wonderful concert with music of Olivier Messiaen, *Meditations on the Mystery of the Holy Trinity*. The Manton Memorial Organ, built by Pascal Quoirin of St. Didier, France, was just installed last spring and has an amazing range. As the program states, "to hear this work on this French organ with all the timbres Messiaen calls for is a unique experience."

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE MEMBERS' RECITAL

I am already getting excited about our upcoming recital, May 20, 2012, and I hope you are, too. Remember, the theme this year is TRANSCRIPTIONS. To give everyone help in locating an exciting and enjoyable piece to play, Webmaster Ginny has posted a list of transcriptions for organ by a variety of composers. The list was compiled by Bob Chase. Go to agowestchester.org, click on EVENTS, and you will find the list under the meeting planned for May, 2012. Additionally, I've noticed a goodly number of reviews and recommendations of transcriptions lately in [The American Organist](#). And, just this week, I discovered another great source for oldies but goodies, including many transcriptions: michaelsmusicervice.com. I am considering learning pieces from Grieg's [Peer Gynt Suites](#). Playing transcriptions was for many years frowned upon in our profession, but recently this once-ridiculed art form is finding new favor. Eastman professor David Higgs' performance of "In a Persian Garden" on the Annapolis Chapel organ at the National AGO Convention in Washington, D.C. is reason enough for all of us to explore the joys and delights of transcriptions. What I DO ASK OF YOU is: please, as soon as you select the transcription you are going to play for our recital, tell me what it is, so that we will avoid duplications. Thank you ever so much, and let's have a blast on May 20!

Judy Abel

INTERVIEW WITH A BOARD MEMBER: Frank Miller

Long-time Chapter member Frank Miller is a familiar face at all our AGO programs, where he is usually ‘the life of the party’! Famous for his quick wit and pun-intended repartee, Frank has turned this talent for humor to good use on the organ bench as well, paying theatre organ at professional sports events in Madison Square Garden and the like. At a concert at his church (First Baptist Church in White Plains) during the past year, Frank’s original transcriptions of classics such as “The Blue Danube” and “South Pacific” were wonderful to hear.

Alice: Frank, thanks for agreeing to tell us something about yourself. When did you first become interested in music?

Frank: Originally, when I was five years old, I wanted to learn to play the trumpet. When my parents took me to the old and huge music store in Manhattan, the salesman told them I was too young. My mother never went home empty-handed – so we went home with a piano. I eventually learned the cornet and the trumpet in the third grade and actually majored on the trumpet in college because it allowed me more time for sports. Braces on my teeth until my senior year in high school gave me the opportunity to pick up the tuba, percussion instruments and the string bass. When I heard the new organ in church, I was twelve years old and the incredible variety and power of the instrument made me a student of all things related to that instrument.

Alice: It sounds like you became an instant convert! You must have been an enthusiastic student. Who were some of your teachers?

Frank: Harry Odell introduced me to the Radio City organ when I was sixteen. I would sit at the console and he would tune and regulate the organ in the pipe chambers. It took some convincing to have my parents allow me down in the city at 4:30 a.m. to work with Harry. I was very fortunate to have Dr. John Davis (USMA at West Point) as a teacher, as well as Fred Swann, and to meet Virgil Fox. I was at the Riverside Church warming up at the organ with a hymn improvisation, when an elderly man came in and said he liked the new harmonies I used in the hymn. Then he asked me if he could show me something else in the hymn. I told him that I didn’t think that Mr. Swann would allow others to play the organ. He then proceeded to play . . . and blow my doors off! As he finished, Fred walked in and casually said, “Oh, I see you have met Mr. Fox.” I was lucky enough to have three ‘sessions’ with Virgil. Fred was always very encouraging, and when he left for the Crystal Cathedral, we all gave him a bottle of Windex at his farewell dinner.

Alice: What amazing experiences you have had! Do you have any advice for beginning organists?

Frank: Beginning organists need to learn how to accompany and rearrange some piano accompaniments for their soloists and choir. Many institutions spend too much time on literature specifically written for the organ. I learned great accompaniment skills from Fred Swann and from being in the U.S. Air Force Band where I was a keyboardist.

Alice: It can be hard to balance family life and being an active musician in a house of worship. Also, many organists hold down other, non-musical jobs. What has been your experience?

Frank: Unless you are very lucky, you will not make a lot of money in a musical career. To balance my family expenses and life I did things musically out of the church, and taught in school. When most of the club date dance band work started dying out in the eighties, I picked

up baseball umpiring. I worked my way up through high school games and eventually to the college and AAA minor league games. My family supported me in all my endeavors, and I supported them. I love to cook, my wife and son like to cook. We all like to eat, and definitely do not look malnourished.

Alice: I'm guessing you don't have any embarrassing experiences professionally at the organ, because being such a great improviser, you can 'wing' it! However, some things are beyond our control sometimes. Please share with us anything unusual that happened to you 'on the bench.'

Frank: I have been very fortunate never to have had a really embarrassing moment at the organ. But I have had several humorous experiences. One that comes to mind was a Sunday service in the Air Force Chapel in the Canal Zone. On the Saturday night before the Sunday service I played in a basketball game that broke my last pair of regular glasses. On Sunday morning I had to wear my very dark prescription flight glasses to church. We had a capable choir director and all I had to do was play the hymns and the anthem. After looking at the bulletin, I discovered that I knew all the hymns and the anthem from memory – so I never opened the hymnal or any other music sheets and finished the service. On the way out, two elderly ladies stopped me and said, "We think that it is just wonderful that you can perform like you did, despite your handicap." I had parked my car out in front of the chapel. Taking full advantage of the situation, I took out my car keys and said, "You haven't seen anything yet!" and got in my car and drove away. I later heard that one lady nearly fainted and the other ran back into the chapel.

Alice: Thank you Frank! And thanks for joining the AGO Board.

CONVERSATIONS GUIDE SHEET

For our October meeting in the Crispell Lounge, Christ Church, Bronxville: **Directions:** Please refer to their website at www.ccbny.org - you can also find a helpful map. If you are coming from Palmer Rd. you need to make a hard right turn into the R.R. station parking area, after exiting the railroad underpass. You cannot access the traffic circle to the church without doing this. Enter the church from Kensington Road (left fork). There is an elevator just inside the entrance. Take it to the 3rd floor: Crispell Lounge.

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?

Thank you! See you October 30th at 3:00 p.m!

Welcome New Members!

Jimrae K. Lenser

Director of Music/Organist, St. Mary's in Tuxedo Episcopal Church, Tuxedo Park
Organist, First Church of Christ - Scientist, Poughkeepsie
Organist, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Chelsea

Gerald Montagna

Debbie Moran
Substitute

Thomas Park
Director of Music / Organist, St. Mary's Episcopal, Scarborough

Empty Benches

ORGANIST

(Nov. 2011)

St. Charles Borromeo Church

Dover Plains, N.Y.

Services (Masses) are Saturday 5pm, Sunday 9am and 11:45am; Pipe Organ, small church.
Stipend is \$125 (subject to change)
The contact person is Fr. Anthony Guiliano at 914 963-7474

DIRECTOR of MUSIC MINISTRIES

(Nov. 2011)

Ridgewood United Methodist Church

Ridgewood, N.J.

See job posting on AGO website – www.agohq.org

ORGANIST and CHOIR DIRECTOR

(Nov. 2011)

All Saints' Episcopal Church Harrison, N.Y.

The ideal candidate brings strong training credentials and work history, along with a passion for servant ministry and the musical empowerment of the congregation. He or she brings outstanding oral, writing, motivational and interpersonal skills to the ministry of music, including the maturity and emotional intelligence that contribute to healthy parish culture.

Performs on the organ/piano and directs the parish choir(s) for Sunday, Feast Day and other public worship services;

 Selects hymns and other liturgical music in consultation with the Rector;

 Participates in staff, worship committee and other meetings as requested by the Rector;

 Recruits and prepares parishioners of all ages to sing in the parish choir(s);

Maintains the parish's music library and purchases new material within the constraints of the parish budget;

 Supervises maintenance of the organ and other parish instruments;

 Retains supplemental or substitute musicians within the constraints of the parish budget;

 Provides musical support for weddings, funerals and other special services.

The position presumes 15 hours per week. As with all Episcopal Church parish employees, the incumbent serves at the pleasure of the rector and participates in annual performance review.

The position pays a \$16,000 annual stipend plus prevailing Social Security taxes and four Sundays of paid vacation leave. No other employee benefits apply. All Saints' Church is located within easy walking distance of the Metro-North New Haven railroad.

Interested candidates should email a C.V. or resume to office@allsaintsharrison.org.

ORGANIST

(Nov. 2011)

St. Aedan's Roman Catholic Church Pearl River, N.Y.

Play 3 masses per Sunday with 1 choir rehearsal on Wednesday night, weddings and special liturgies. Knowledge of Catholic liturgy would be helpful. Position will start in October.

Contact Scott Walters Scottthetenor@yahoo.com

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 sub. 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/mo.
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

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

Miscellany

2-manual Rodgers organ for sale:

Jamestown Model

\$3500 or best offer

Great for practice, needs minor repair

Nice condition

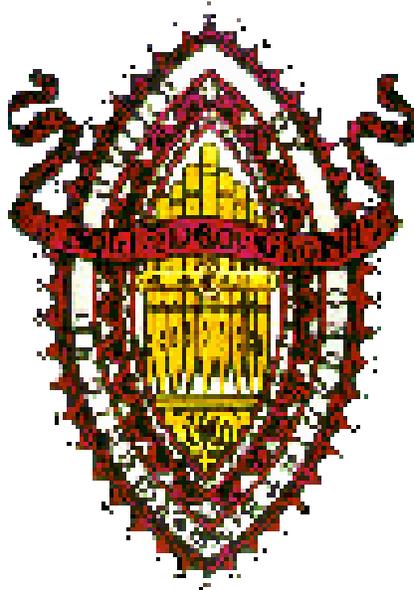
Call **Joe Nigro**

?? Westchester County Center Organ??

Mike Foley of Foley-Baker has requested info on the 59 rank Aeolian organ installed in the Westchester County Center in 1930. Perhaps one or some of you may know something about it? Mike explained that the instrument was removed and has been in storage. His company may re-install it in new location.

If you heard or played the organ, Mike Foley would appreciate any info.

Thanks, **Richard Glafke**



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 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; Updated 2011-2012
Program Schedule; Concert Schedule;
Hosting Regional Convention Update;
Member Interview; 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