

# The Trompette

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

FEBRUARY, 2010

VOLUME 9, #6

## *From the Dean's Bench...*

Dear Colleagues,

A New Year is upon us, and despite the colder weather I hope you will continue to enjoy the many and varied recitals and concerts available to us not only here in Westchester but throughout the Metropolitan area. I was fortunate to be able to get to a special high mass at the beautiful Church of St. Mary the Virgin in Manhattan on New Year's Day. That church, with its grand, uncased Aeolian-Skinner organ, opus 891\*, has become a favorite of mine since attending AGO's Regional Convention in July of 2007.

Many thanks to our superb hosts **Joe and Michelle Nigro** for creating a wonderful Twelfth Night experience for us at their lovely home last month. They certainly had a houseful of jolly and convivial souls, all of whom took advantage of the abundance of the food, fun and fellowship that always seems to occur when Guild members get together.

Congratulations to **Dr. John King** who celebrated his milestone 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Minister of Music at Hitchcock Presbyterian. I was privileged to represent the Chapter at the Church, which commemorated the event with a special program in his honor, attended by over 200, and followed by a spectacular reception. Well done John! We wish you many more productive years there.

Everyone should find that our February program, "Historical Organ Methods", presented by our own most notable author **Dr. Robert Chase**, will be of the utmost interest, especially to those taking and/or teaching organ studies. Additionally our General Membership Meeting will be held immediately following Bob's presentation.

Please note the information in this issue concerning **Dr. Jan-Piet (JP) Knijff's** workshop in March, and our member recital in June. Your participation is essential to their success.

As always, I look forward to seeing you at these important events.

Sincerely,

*John*

\*<http://www.stmvirgin.org/musicatsaintmarys/article151098c1744527.htm>

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# JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT PROGRAM OF THE SEASON!

February 7, 2010

## *Historical Organ Methods*



**Presenter & Host: Dr. Robert Chase  
Church of the Highlands, White Plains  
(*SNOW DATE* is 2/21/10)**

***Note: A General Membership Meeting will be held  
immediately following this program.***

### **Directions from the Cross-Westchester Expressway (287):**

**FROM EAST:** Going West on 287, take Exit 9N-S toward the Hutchinson Parkway/Merritt Parkway/Whitestone Bridge. Proceed on Westchester Avenue and take the Hutchinson Parkway Exit 9S toward the Whitestone Bridge. Then take the RT-127 N Exit, (Exit 25) toward White Plains. Turn right onto North Street. Turn left onto Bryant Avenue, and continue straight through the intersection at Mamaroneck Avenue. Continue up the hill and the Church will be on your left..

**FROM WEST:** Going East on 287, take Exit 9A toward Brewster, but bear right onto Westchester Avenue. Turn right onto Bryant Avenue. Continue through the intersection at North Street, and then straight through the intersection at Mamaroneck Avenue. Continue up the hill and the Church will be on your left.

# **WESTCHESTER AGO**

## **2010 PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

**March 6, 2010, SATURDAY, 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM**

***Preparation for AGO Certification & Advancement***

**Presenter: Dr. Jan-Piet Knijff**

**Host: Donald Butt,**

**The Church of St. Barnabas, Irvington.**

***Here is a message from the presenter of this event, Dr. Jan-Piet Knijff:***

"This will be a one-day workshop for organists who are interested in earning Professional Certification from the American Guild of Organists. Even if you don't want to take an AGO exam but are simply interested in developing keyboard skills, learning some basic music-theoretical concepts, and getting new ideas about learning a piece from the repertoire, this will hopefully be a day well spent.

"Depending on the participants interest and level of study (Service Playing Certificate, Colleague, Associate, Fellow...), we will work on such skills as

- harmonization;
- transposition;
- improvisation;
- learning a piece.

"It would be great to have a handful (or more!) active participants, who are willing to work with the instructor at the keyboard. You can bring things you've been working on on your own (or even with a teacher), but there will be plenty of material to try-out on the spot. If you like to work on a piece of literature that's required for one of the current exams, please bring a bunch of photocopies so that everybody in the workshop has access to a score as we work on it.

"Active participants please contact the instructor beforehand, preferably by email (The instructor, Dr. Jan-Piet Knijff, is a Fellow of the AGO. He has won the Associate and Fellowship prizes as well as the S. Lewis Elmer for his work at both advanced levels. In addition, Dr. Knijff holds the Artist Diploma/MM from the Conservatory of Amsterdam as well as the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the CUNY Graduate Center, where he also completed coursework for the PhD in musicology. He has taught organ and harpsichord at the undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate level, both at the Copland School of Music at Queens College/CUNY and privately. In addition, he teaches Latin, Ancient Greek, and Beginning Italian. He has previously taught workshops on Buxtehude, Mendelssohn, Messiaen, and 20th -Century Dutch composers for AGO chapters from Virginia to Dutchess County.)



**May 23, 2010, SUNDAY, 4PM: *Members' Choice Recital.***

Participants are asked to choose a favorite piece of theirs,  
and briefly explain why they feel that way.

Those planning to participate should contact Alice.

**Coordinator: Alice Avouris**

**Host: Andrew Sheranian, Christ's Church, Rye.**

*Here is a message from the coordinator of this event, Alice Avouris:*

**“Hey, everyone . . .**

**Although the Member's Choice Recital is 5 months away, we all know how time flies! If you are thinking about playing but haven't yet picked out a piece, I still would appreciate your getting in touch with me.”**

Alice Avouris

***Check out the photographs  
from our November, 2009 meetin  
on our Website!***

**<http://agowestchester.org/recentmeetings-2009-11november.htm>**

# READS & MIXTURES



**"WE ARE *STILL* LOOKING FOR WORKERS!!"**

*The Executive Committee has positions & tasks to be filled by those of you who would like to have an increased role in the work and activities of the Chapter. Do your colleagues and yourself a service by volunteering to head up one of these important activities:*

**Chapter Historian** (Keep a box filled with history in your house.)

**Hospitality Coordinator** (Organize refreshments for the year or for one event.)

**Publicity Coordinator** (Got any ideas?)

**I n t e r e s t e d   y e t ?**

*Please contact the Dean with any questions!*

***Check out the photographs from our November, 2009 meeting on our Website!***

***<http://agowestchester.org/recentmeetings-2009-11november.htm>***

# JANUARY & FEBRUARY CONCERT CALENDAR

## **Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 3:00pm**

City Called Heaven – Choral festival with gospel music, spirituals and narrative. A reception will follow the performance. The Reformed Church of Cortlandtown, 2124 Albany Post Road, Montrose, NY. Free-will offering to aid C.H.O.P.

Please call Alice Avouris, Reformed Church Music Director, at 914/737.6482 if you wish to sing in the choir.

## **Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 4:30pm**

Organ Concert in memory of Johnette Schuller. The Reformed Church of Bronxville, 198 Pondfield Road, Bronxville, NY. No other details at press time.

## **Sunday, February 21 at 4 pm**

**Go Down, Moses** -- Concert of Spirituals sung by the sixteen professional voices of the Downtown Music Chorus conducted by Timothy Lewis. Part of Downtown Music's Artists in Exile Series, a pre-concert talk begins at 3:30 p.m. A catered reception follows the concert. Tickets are \$25 each (Children under the age of 12 will be admitted free to if accompanied by a full-paying adult. Group discounts are available for groups of ten or more adults.)

## **Sunday, February 28th, 4:30pm**

Music for Mission-- Daniel Billings, baritone and Kathryn Jones, piano; works by Faure, Ravel, Schubert, Copland. Huguenot Memorial Church, 901 Pelhamdale Avenue, Pelham, NY; Reception to follow, childcare provided. Suggested donation \$10, \$20 per family, to benefit youth mission trips to Maine and Nicaragua.

## EMPTY BENCH

Empty bench: Active church with small, devoted choir needs an good organist/accompanist. Trinity Boscobel United Methodist Church, 275 Church St., Buchanan, N.Y. 10511. Responsibilities: Sundays only, 8:30 to about 12:30. (Choir rehearsal 8:30 to 10:00. church 10:30 to approximately 12:00.) Other obligations: Holy Thursday every year, Good Friday every other year, and two services Christmas Eve. Salary: \$10,675. Weddings and funerals are at the discretion of the organist. Interview and resume required. Please contact Mary-Joe Matthias: [MJMatthias@optonline.net](mailto:MJMatthias@optonline.net), 914/737.7095.



### *William Byrd's Eight Reasons for Singing (1588)*

1. It is a knowledge easely taught and quickly learned, where there is a good Master and an apt Scoller.
2. The exercise of singing is delightfull to Nature and good to preserve the health of Man.
3. It doth strengthen all parts of the brest, and doth open the pipes.
4. It is a singular good remedie for stammering in the speech.
5. It is the best meanes to procure a perfect pronounciation, and to make a good Orator.
6. It is the onely way to know where Nature hath bestowed the benefit of a good voyce; which guift is so rare as there is not one among a thousand that hath it; and in many that excellent guift is lost because they want Art to express Nature.
7. There is not any Musicke of Instruments whatsoever comparable to that which is made of the voyces of men, where the voyces are good and the same well sorted and ordered.
8. The better the voyce is, the meter it is to honour and serve God therewith; and the voyce of man is chiefly to be employed to that ende.

Since singing is so good a thing,  
I wish all men would learne to sing.

## **FROM YOUR NEWSPAPER EDITORS...**

Thank you all for your cooperation in getting your material **TO US** by the **20<sup>th</sup> of each preceding month**. We want to be able to deliver the Newsletter to you on or about the 1<sup>st</sup> 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: 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): (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:*

**Learn about Historical Organ Methods; Read about upcoming meetings for the 2009 -- 2010 Season; Sound advice from 1588; Our Concert Calendar; Some actual *Empty Benches!***

*Please mark your calendar now  
so you won't miss an important date!*

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