

# The Trompette

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

NOVEMBER, 2011

VOLUME 10, #3

## *From the Dean's Bench*

### Greetings from the Dean

#### *A look back at our September meeting:*

Eighteen Chapter members attended our first program, "The Alexander Technique for Organists," where Karla Diamond's demonstration went beyond expectations. Just from her simple verbal direction, I could feel how the neck can balance on the top of the spine, freeing up the back and letting the chest expand and breathe. We watched while she gently influenced several members to move effortlessly into and out of the chair. From feeling the balance of our necks, to balancing in the chair, we then went to balance ourselves on the organ bench. Thank you to those who sent in their comments. They ranged from admiration of the founder, F. Matthias Alexander, who was able to correct his own physical negative habits, to appreciating the mental and physical spontaneity that was shown by Karla. Karla also emphasized the importance of taking time to breathe, to relax and enjoy our music.

#### *Four manuals, 325 ranks, 576 stops, 20,142 pipes*

A short two weeks later, and we were enjoying a beautiful afternoon at West Point. On October 10<sup>th</sup>, 18 members and friends met at the Old Cadet Chapel, situated in the cemetery of West Point Military Academy, and were given a fascinating talk about the history of the building by Mr. Craig Williams, organist, choirmaster and essentially curator of the 5 pipe organs at the WPMA. This introduction to the life of a busy head-organist at our country's most famous military school, which involves 600 performances per year (!) (and he had played 4 weddings on Saturday) made us wonder – how did he make time for us? Craig was so enthusiastic, it's clear that he enjoyed sharing with other organists all the facets of his work. After a beautiful performance by Mr. Williams of *Toccata* by Nancy Plummer Faxon on the 2-manual Wicks organ, we moved up the hill to the magnificent Cadet Chapel. Of course, 'chapel' is a little misleading; like the 'chapel' at Princeton University, this is a beautiful, Gothic-styled building with gorgeous stained glass windows and banners hanging all up and down the aisles. We heard more wonderful playing by Mr. Williams – a Bach chorale prelude, the hymn-tune *Diademata*, Marcel Dupré's *Carillon*, and to show off the organ's broad spectrum of orchestral colors – Dvorak's "Goin' Home" from the *New World Symphony*. Then it was our turn to experience playing that delightful, giant whale of an instrument! I'm proud to say that myself, Virginia Bender, John Cecconi, Bob Chase, Richard Grafke, Jeffrey Hoffman, Lowell Knauer, and Edwin Wallace all threw caution

### WESTCHESTER AGO EXECUTIVE BOARD

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to the winds and put our bottoms on the bench. I absolutely loved it. That Möller instrument feels alive in a way that the electric organ at my church simply doesn't. Along with music from our morning services we heard an original composition played by Edwin Wallace and a piece by Benjamin Britten for organ played by Jeffrey Hoffman.

As fun as that was, there were more treats in store. After a tour of the organ shop we single-filed up a winding stair to the pipe chests, where the seven or so big, 32-foot pipes lay slung, hanging against the stone wall. After squeezing by these, we wound up in a side balcony overlooking the cathedral (I mean chapel) where one could see pipes peeking out of other balconies all down the aisles. Craig had demonstrated how the sound could come from the front, the middle, the back or all three areas. There was even an overlooked harpsichord in one balcony-bay!

After stumbling over our thanks to Craig Williams, the most generous and busiest organist imaginable, we journeyed back down to Highland Falls where eight of us enjoyed Chinese food (actually ordered in Chinese, thanks to Bob Chase.) We were very hungry.

## *Alice Avouris*

### **Hey Everyone, let's get the word out!**

And the word is: *Pedals, Pipes and Pizza*, Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Valhalla United Methodist Church, 200 Columbus Ave. Valhalla, NY 10595. Remember how exciting it was the first time you sat on an organ bench? Organizers and presenters Judith Abel, Joyce Gardner and Joe Nigro need your help reaching everyone in Westchester to let them know about this wonderful introduction to the organ for young people.

*Here's what you can do:*

- 1) ***At your place of worship:*** Make an announcement every Sunday, post the flyer, invite the choir (yes: adults are warmly invited to join us) and talk it up during coffee hour.
- 2) ***9-to-5-ers:*** Brag about Westchester AGO at work, post the flyer and invite your co-workers to bring their children.
- 3) ***Make copies*** of the flyer and stuff it in your neighbors' mailboxes. Put your name and phone number on the back.
- 4) ***Schools:*** We need to communicate to music teachers at our public schools. If you know someone who teaches public school music, please call them, send a flyer, and ask them to announce it to students at school. Westchester AGO can't directly send our flyers to a school.

*We need your help!* And our musical young people deserve this opportunity.

Alice Avouris  
Dean, Westchester AGO



# American Guild of Organists

## *News for Deans*

October 19, 2010

**Following a motion approved by the AGO National Council, the AGO Committee on Professional Networking and Public Relations is pleased to forward the following letter from Pipedreams host and producer Michael Barone to all AGO members.**

To all AGO Chapter Deans and Newsletter Editors:

(Please share this information widely with your members.)

Plenty remains for us all to do to celebrate and promote awareness of the King of Instruments. Please forgive the 'mass mail' format of this communication. I would like to offer a suggestion that I encourage you to share with all of your AGO chapter members.

Though we might imagine that, after 28+ years on the air, American Public Media's PIPEDREAMS is a known quantity to everyone, in reality it's not. And even though the internet offers a convenient, time-independent access point for online PIPEDREAMS listening (18,500 discrete users monthly), the largest audience by far is reached through radio broadcast transmissions (over 220,000 weekly).

*You* can help increase awareness of the country's only nationally distributed organ music radio broadcast...and, in doing so, increase public awareness of and interest in

organ music! Simply include some basic promotional information in available cost-free outlets. Think of this action as being as important as listing the date and time of your own performance event in a PR release.

**Where/When?** In *any and every program* you print for *any* local organ recital you sponsor or perform; also in **church bulletins** or **newsletters**, particularly in a week for which you are planning some special organ music. Make this a regular ‘insertion,’ so that the message has a chance to ‘sink in.’

**What?** Consider a *brief* paragraph, something like these (below), if you live somewhere that weekly PIPEDREAMS broadcast can be heard on radio:

*Enjoy organ music in its infinite variety each week with PIPEDREAMS from American Public Media, heard [day, time, station call-letters, frequency and city]. For more information: [local station web address]. Also listen to PIPEDREAMS on the internet at any time (24/7) at [www.pipedreams.org](http://www.pipedreams.org).*

**OR:** *Enjoy organ music on your radio during weekly broadcasts of PIPEDREAMS from American Public Media, heard [day, time, station call-letters, frequency and city]. For more information: [local station web address]. Also listen to PIPEDREAMS on the internet at any time (24/7) at [www.pipedreams.org](http://www.pipedreams.org).*

**OR...if you live in an unfortunately ‘PIPEDREAMS-free’ zone:**

*Enjoy organ music in its infinite variety on PIPEDREAMS from American Public Media, available online at any time (24/7). Each week a new two-hour program appears on the website, and hundreds of past broadcasts are infinitely accessible in the PIPEDREAMS program archive at [www.pipedreams.org](http://www.pipedreams.org).*

**Why?** Take nothing for granted. People interested in the organ music you play may not know about

PIPEDREAMS. And people who listen to PIPEDREAMS may well be among the people who show up for your performances....it's a win-win situation.

**How?** Find local station information online at:  
[www.pipedreams.org/stations](http://www.pipedreams.org/stations).

Remember, too, that your local public radio station is likely to continue broadcasts of PIPEDREAMS if the station's administration knows that you really listen and provide crucial membership support. When you pledge local station support, always mention PIPEDREAMS. Lacking feedback, the station might be excused for thinking no one cares.

Thanks for your help!!

**Michael Barone**  
PIPEDREAMS host/producer  
[mbarone@mpr.org](mailto:mbarone@mpr.org)  
[www.pipedreams.org](http://www.pipedreams.org)

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# The Nosey Dean

The 'Nosey Dean' wants to know: "What are you playing on Hallowe'en?"  
Here are some answers:

Lynne Hansen: Well, I hope all Lutherans are playing Ein' Feste Burg (or something equally appropriate) in honor of Reformation Day! And Hallowe'en wasn't originally a pagan holiday, y'know - it's just our modern society has made it so.

Eugene Lavery: Nothing Halloween themed. *Placare Christe servulis* from *Le Tombeau de Titelouze, Op. 38* by Marcel Dupré.

Tim Keenan-Devlin: I'm planning to play on Halloween "A Mighty Fortress" by Johann Pachelbel, it being Reformation Day also. I'm going to play the first part of it as a Prelude and the last movement of it as a Postlude. I also plan on playing "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" by Dale Wood.

Rick Tripodi: I'm not playing anywhere on October 31<sup>st</sup>, BUT (obvious choice: *Toccat & Fugue in D minor* – Bach). Seeing that it is also (in the liturgical church) the Vigil of All Saints on November 1st: *Incantation pour un Jour Saint* (which translates into *Incantation for a Saints Day*) by Langlais.

Philip Auman Godlewski: We anticipate the Feast of All Saints on Sunday 31 October at my parish church. I am playing all three movements of Jan Bender's "Fantasie on Sine Nomine" which he wrote for and dedicated to my organ professor at the former Wittenberg School of Music, Trudy Faber.

Lowell Knauer: On Halloween Sunday, for the postlude I usually play Bach's *Toccat & Fugue in d minor*. Some members of the congregation have commented that they "like that song from *Phantom of the Opera*"!

Joyce Gardner: I ignore Hallowe'en completely and just observe Reformation Sunday with "A Mighty Fortress", etc. Then the following week we observe All Saints with music of that nature.

Thank you everyone!

*Alice Avouris*

# The 2010 – 2011 Season

**Saturday, November 6, 2010, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

*Pedals, Pipes and Pizza: a Young People's Introduction to the Organ*  
(Presenters: Joyce Gardner & Joe Nigro)  
Valhalla Methodist Church (Host: Joyce Gardner)

**Sunday, January 9, 2010 (snow date: Jan. 16) 4:00 p.m.**

*Twelfth Night Party* (at the home of Phaedon and Alice Avouris, Yorktown Heights)

**Sunday, February 6th, 2011**

*Members' Recital*

First Congregational Church, Chappaqua (Host: Keith Robellard)

**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**

*Presentation by Dr. Gavin Black*

*of the Princeton Early Keyboard Center*

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

**Saturday, June 4, 2011 (date tentative)**

*Wanamaker Organ Day, Macy's Department Store, Philadelphia* (Host: Kevin Walsh)  
Bus from Westchester to Philadelphia and back

## **Notice Informing Membership of Case in Progress**

**On July 24, 2010 an AGO Member filed a formal complaint against All Saints Church in Harrison, NY for wrongful termination of employment. The Guild is investigating the matter according to the AGO's Procedures for Dealing with Complaints about Termination. No determination has been made at this time.**

**Although Guild Members may provide substitute or interim services, no Member may seek or accept regular or permanent employment with All Saints Church while these Procedures are pending. See the AGOs Web Site for the current status of this case.**

Kevin Walsh  
Registrar, Westchester County AGO

# Westchester AGO presents:

## *Pedals, Pipes and Pizza: a Young People's Introduction to the Organ*

Saturday, November 6, 2010, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Valhalla United Methodist Church  
200 Columbus Avenue, Valhalla, NY 10595



Piano students and all interested young music students are invited to attend an AGO meeting created especially for them. Organists Joyce Gardner and Joe Nigro will briefly explain and demonstrate the pipe organ – keyboard, pedals and pipes from one foot to 16 feet, followed by a pizza lunch. Attendees can bring a prepared piano piece to play on the ‘king of instruments,’ or just try out the different sounds from keys and pedals. We’ll also take a look inside the organ chamber at all those pipes!

This is a rare opportunity for young musicians and an unforgettable educational experience for children of all ages. We hope to see you then!

*For more information please contact Alice Avouris,*



# Reads & Mixtures

If you would like to participate in the panel discussion for our program, Creating and Maintaining a Successful Children's Choir, scheduled for Sunday, March 20, 2011, please contact Alice Avouris, or host Eileen Laurence, and thank you!

## HEADS UP! MEMBER'S RECITAL IS A'COMIN' SOON!

This is to remind everyone that our annual Member's Recital is scheduled for FEBRUARY (Sunday, the 6th) this year. Start thinking now about what you're going to play. The theme is "Special Occasion Music." Pick something appropriate for a wedding, funeral, Easter, or other special occasion. The sub-theme is "Collaboration." So, your piece can be a collaboration with an instrumentalist, a singer, another organist, or even a chamber ensemble. These general guidelines should give you enough wiggle-room to be unique, creative, and give us an interesting and educational program. Organ alone is okay, too. Be aware that our venue will be First Congregational of Chappaqua. Ginny Bender is familiar with the organ there and can give you the lowdown on what it is capable of. Also, a very fine grand piano is available for use there.

Sub-Dean Judy Abel is responsible for putting together the program. As soon as you know what you're going to perform, send the pertinent information, along with the occasion your piece would be appropriate for and tidbits she could use for program notes. Please put your information in the body of the email, not as an attachment. She will be most grateful.

Dear all,

We (Westchester Reform Synagogue) no longer have storage for our sixteen-year-old organ Rodgers and will be happy to give it to a church or synagogue in the area that might be in need of one.

Please pass this on to churches in your area who might be interested. We have to find a new home for it by November 15.

Yoel Magid, Executive Director

Westchester Reform Temple

Scarsdale, NY

914/723.7727

To view the schedule of music events at Grace Church, White Plains: [www.dtmusic.org/](http://www.dtmusic.org/)

To view the schedule of musical events at Hitchcock Presbyterian Church, Scarsdale: [www.hitchcockpresby.org/secondary/4\\_0.html](http://www.hitchcockpresby.org/secondary/4_0.html)

To offer a free organ recital at The Osborn, Rye: [orgjire@verizon.net](mailto:orgjire@verizon.net) or 914/777.1660

## Empty Benches

Director of Music Ministry (Third Announcement) -- A 250-member congregation seeks a permanent part-time Director of Music Ministry (approximately twenty hours/week) with proficiency in playing pipe organ, piano, and in choral conducting. Wide knowledge of sacred music including classical, Christian contemporary, gospel, and blended styles is required. There is one Sunday service and special services, plus one weekly evening rehearsal. Proficiency in recruiting, training and directing choirs of all ages is important. Also required is the ability to interact with the pastor, church staff and commissions in planning and presenting music for worship, as well as other congregational needs. Salary & vacation negotiated by Personnel Commission; additional income from weddings, funerals, etc. White Plains Presbyterian Church, White Plains, NY 10601. Phone: 914/761.8585. Send cover letter, resume, and three references to: [wppcmdsearch@googlegroups.com](mailto:wppcmdsearch@googlegroups.com)

Music Director/Organist (Third Announcement) – Music Director is sought to lead a volunteer choir in a variety of music styles (gospel, contemporary Christian, hymns, etc). The successful candidate will be a skilled teacher who can introduce the choir and congregation to new and unfamiliar music. The Music Director/Organist will rehearse with the choir at least twice a month; offer the prelude, offertory, postlude and musical interludes during worship service; be able to accompany the congregation and pastor during the worship service. The Music Director/Organist will also have the responsibility for coordinating guest vocalists and musicians. Send resume and salary requirements to: Music Search Committee; Trinity UMC 130 S. Lexington Avenue, White Plains, NY 10606 or via fax: 914/761.2226 or via email: [trinityumc130@verizon.net](mailto:trinityumc130@verizon.net).

## Concert Calendar

### Sunday, November 7 at 3:00 pm

Classical Portuguese/Spanish Guitar & Organ – Pedro da Silva & Lucia Carouso. The Union Church of Pocantico Hills, 555 Bedford Road, Sleepy Hollow. Tickets \$10 in advance or at the door. Contact 914/631.2069 or [www.ucph.org](http://www.ucph.org)

### Saturday, November 13 at 8:00 pm

Haydn's *Saint Cecelia Mass (1766)* ~ The Master Singers of Westchester with orchestra & soloists. Bedford Presbyterian Church. Adults \$25, students/seniors \$20. Contact 914/645.0705 or [mastersingers@optonline.net](mailto:mastersingers@optonline.net)

### Sunday, November 14 at 3:00 pm

*Three Organist Spectacular* ~ (Kathryn Jones, Joseph Nigro & Thomas Zachacz) featuring works by Guilment, Arnatt, Parry, Franck & Bach. The Union Church of Pocantico Hills, 555 Bedford Road, Sleepy Hollow. Tickets \$10 in advance or at the door. Contact 914/631.2069 or [www.ucph.org](http://www.ucph.org)

### Sunday, November 14 at 4:00 pm

Haydn's *Saint Cecelia Mass (1766)* ~ The Master Singers of Westchester with orchestra & soloists. Bedford Presbyterian Church. Adults \$25, students/seniors \$20. Contact 914/645.0705 or [mastersingers@optonline.net](mailto:mastersingers@optonline.net)

## **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: 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): T. 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:***

***The Nosey Dean; Information about “Pedals, Pipes & Pizza”;  
Empty Benches; Concert Calendar; Message from Michael  
Barone***

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

***The Trompette***

**Lois Simmonds &**

**Thomas Zachacz, Editors**