

The Trompette

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

DECEMBER, 2011

VOLUME 10, #4

From the Dean's Bench

Greetings from the Dean

Season's Greetings! Leaves are mostly down, the holidays are just beginning, and I wish you all the happiness that this season can bring. Some of us may be preparing special Thanksgiving music, Inter-Faith services and of course Christmas services. For me, it's a time for even more cultural variety, in my nursery school music program and in worship services. For those of us lucky enough to be working for a faith community, our music is part of that community's message. By choosing music from different cultures we remind our congregation that the spirit of good will, which belongs to all faiths, is for all people. *Shalom! Feliz navidad!*

Board member Karen Longwell and I are co-directors for the Peekskill Area Pastor's Association Inter-Faith service, and if this is year anything like past years, we will be in for a treat. Besides Hebrew and Celtic anthems, we may hear a Moslem chant from a member of the Islamic Center in Cortlandt, an Ecuadorian brass band and an excellent local gospel choir. It will be a wonderfully diverse Inter-faith Choir!

A packed crowd at The Union Church of Pocantico Hills was enraptured by delightful music and commentary Sunday afternoon, November 14th from **Three Organists Spectacular!** Joe Nigro, Kathy Jones and Tom Zachacz displayed their eclectic tastes and formidable technique in a program of music by Couperin, J.S. Bach, Cesar Franck, Guilmant, C. H. Parry, Alexis Chauvet, Francois Benoist, and Ronald Arnatt. We can always count on this group to inspire, and the L.S. Rockefeller Memorial Pipe Organ (by Gluck Pipe Organs) impresses!

Our November Meeting: Pedals, Pipes and Pizza

Thanks to the team of Joyce Gardner, Frank Miller and Joe Nigro, I am proud to say that our Chapter gave a great introduction to the organ to six eager guests at the Valhalla Methodist Church, Saturday, November 6th. Frank gave a terrific lecture complete with pipes which we all had a chance to blow into. We saw an AGO video edited by Frank's son, giving us a brief history of the organ, and showing how organ pipes are manufactured today almost exactly as they were in the Middle Ages. Joe Nigro and Joyce made sure that each guest had ample time to experiment with stops and play their piano pieces on the pipe organ. A tour of the pipes and blower, followed by pizza and juice, rounded out the program. Check out the wonderful pictures (thank you, Virginia Bender) on our very own website, agowestchester.org. Grateful thanks are due to Joyce, Joe and Frank for all their work to prepare and present this wonderful program!

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On this Thanksgiving, I am thankful for:

Our beautiful new **Directory** – thank you, Kevin Walsh!

Alice Avouris

The Nosey Dean asks: *Are you planning any new anthems this holiday season?*

Alice Avouris: On Christmas Eve we're singing two new anthems picked up from a Hinshaw and GIA choral reading workshops at last summer's national convention. "Sing Noel" by Alfred E. Sturgis for SATB Chorus, a cappella, Hinshaw music, has got great rhythm, but I have to simplify it, because the soprano and bass both split into two parts. "Now the Heavens Start to Whisper" arr. by Nicholas Palmer for SATB and Organ with optional violin or string quartet, is a Welsh hymn set to beautiful words by Mary Louise Bringle, published by GIA.

Jeffrey Hoffman: We will be doing Eric Whitacre's *Lux Arumque* which is, of course SSAATTBB with a soprano solo. It is published by Walton Music, Inc. Not really new to us – we started it last Christmas, but we never performed it. Long story short, the choir wasn't quite ready for Christmas Eve last year. Another new piece for us will be Benjamin Britten's *St. Nicolas* and Ralph Vaughan Williams's *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* which we will be performing with my orchestra Sinfonia Celestis on December 12 at 4 pm. I hope to see some of my AGO colleagues at that concert! Tickets are only \$30 and will be available on our concerts web-site. We're in the middle of switching that to a new site, so I'll send a separate notice of it, soon, but for now the link (which sometimes doesn't work) will be www.christchurchpelham.org/Concerts.html

Joyce Gardner: At the late candlelight Xmas Eve service my choir processes while singing the Latin chant "Hodie Christus natus est" from Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* accompanied by random ringing of handbells as accompaniment. Sometimes we repeat it at the end of the service and process out and down the rear stairwell to the basement which creates a magical effect as the chant fades away.

Tim Keenan-Devlin: I am using a new anthem this year if it comes in! It's called "Christmas Hymn" - also known as "All This Night My Heart Rejoices," by Flor Peeters, published by Peters, for SATB and organ. I sang it with Jan-Piet Knijff's choir. Another anthem I'm using with my Youth Choir is "Night of Silence" by Daniel Kantor, unison, and able to be sung along with "Silent Night." They are both great pieces for Christmas.

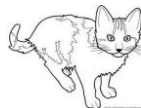
Please come to the Westchester AGO

12th Night Party



*Sunday, January 9, 2011 at 4:00 p.m.
at the home of*

Phaedon and Alice Avouris



Alice's cat Dinah says: *Don't forget to rsvp! If we get a lot, we'll move to a bigger house. Also, I want to know what you're going to bring to eat!*



and here's another . . .

Interview with a Board Member:

Janine Wallour-Thwaite received her Bachelors in Music from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Texas. She is organist/choir master for St. Peter's Episcopal, Peekskill, New York; a wonderful, active church with many outreach programs and lots of musical traditions in the community. A teacher of piano, guitar and voice, she also enjoys directing the Tri-County Opera.

Alice Avouris: Janine, thanks for taking the time to do this interview. I think we all have a natural curiosity about other organists' musical backgrounds. Can you tell us about yours?

Janine Wallour-Thwaite: Roman Catholic elementary schools get a bad rap these days, but I attended a very good one, "St. Charles Borromeo" in Rochester, New York, with wonderful music teachers. Sister Mary Linus first noticed my singing voice and even talked me into leading the first class in song. Piano followed soon after.

Alice: I love that it so often starts with singing; our most portable instrument! Besides your teacher in elementary school, what other mentors did you have?

Janine: Because of my love for Bach, and the Mass, I developed a strong interest in becoming a "Lutheran organist". Dr. Richard Heschke (Concordia) was very helpful in my transition from being a choir director to playing the organ, also. He is a very patient man. My voice teacher at the University of Colorado, Jan Sullivan (she was a student of Berton Coffin) taught me technique that I still use today.

Alice: It sounds as though you were very lucky in having good teachers. As a teacher yourself, what do you think would be the most important advice you could give to an organist just starting out on their first job?

Janine: I think that a lot of people come to the organ as adults, and are very self-critical. You have to be willing to make mistakes -- perhaps even in public -- as you are learning.

Alice: Janine, you are a mother and a grandmother, and sometimes take care of your grandchildren during the day. It's a full life, and a challenge to always be professionally prepared.

Janine: By this time in human history, you would think that husbands and children would understand that if you are a musician, you have to practice. Parents have to develop a skill for planning their time that includes their own needs.

Alice: Organists and church musicians frequently use their other musical talents. Do you also find this rewarding?

Janine: It has been very rewarding to me to work on transposition - since I work with a lot of singers, and also arranging music. It is enjoyable to take a theme written for another instrument and arrange it for the organ. I still sing as much as I can. I play the guitar and often use it for children's choirs.

Alice: As organist for St. Peter's Episcopal, you play a traditional service with a certain amount of ceremony compared to other, newer traditions. There is also the challenge of a great variety of

possibilities in music. I also used to play for an Episcopal church, and it took me a while to get into the swing of things. Even so, last minute changes do occur, the bane of the organist!

Janine: I have had a variety of pastors who forget to tell you something important - especially when you're new at a position (like he completely changes the order of the service). I have gotten pretty good at mind reading. It helps to know the liturgy pieces very, very well. Sometimes in sung liturgies, the priest will enter on the wrong note - you have a choice as whether to follow him or her, or play it in the right key!

Alice: Thank you again, Janine, for sharing your story with us!

The 2010 – 2011 Season

Sunday, January 9, 2010 (snow date: Jan. 16) 4:00 p.m.
Twelfth Night Party at the home of Phaedon and Alice Avouris,
Please RSVP.

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
*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 4, 2011 (date tentative)
Wanamaker Organ Day, Macy's Department Store, Philadelphia (Host: Kevin Walsh)
Bus from Westchester to Philadelphia and back

Reads & Mixtures

Notice Informing Membership of Case Closed

The employer and the employee at All Saints Episcopal in Harrison, NY have resolved their differences and the case has been closed. Guild Members may now accept employment at this institution.

GRAND PIANO -- C. Bechstein model 'M' 6' grand piano, polish ebony, built in 1981. Light and very responsive Renner action, ivory keys, never used for teaching, pristine condition. Bought new in 1982. Price \$29,000. Please call Rick Tripodi 203/629.1799 or e-mail: rickmatt@optonline.net for further information.

ALERT! ALERT! MEMBERS RECITAL PIECES NEEDED!

Judy hasn't received any responses to the notice in the last Trompette. Please get your thinking caps on before you get swamped by Christmas deadlines and let Judy know what you plan to play for the Members' Recital coming up in February. The Theme is *SPECIAL OCCASION MUSIC*. Indicate what the music is appropriate for: wedding, funeral, Easter, baptism, or whatever. Remember collaboration would be wonderful, so do not hesitate to plan ensemble pieces. There is a grand piano available for use. Please send your information to Judy, in the body of your e-mail. Please don't send attachments.

Thank you ever so much.

Judy Abel, Sub-Dean

Many thanks to Alice Avouris, Ginny Bender, John Cecconi, and Frank Miller for helping set up, clean up, and orchestrate the Organ Intro meeting. Seven aspiring organists and five interested adults enjoyed playing the organ, learning about the pipes, seeing the organ chamber and blower room, and watching the video "Pulling Out All the Stops".

After delicious pizza, everyone went home with enthusiasm for pipe organs and organ music. Several plan to take organ lessons in the future.

A big thank you to all who helped make the meeting a success.

Joyce Gardner and Joe Nigro

Concert Calendar

Friday, December 3rd at 8:00pm

Handel's *Messiah--Part I* and Vaughan Williams's *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* presented by The New Choral Society Chorus and Orchestra, with all Met soloists Monica Yunus, soprano, Eve Gigliotti, alto, Matthew Plenk, tenor and Michael Todd Simpson, baritone. John T. King, conductor. Hitchcock Presbyterian Church, 6 Greenacres Avenue, Scarsdale. For tickets call 914/725.1678 or order online at www.newchoralsociety.org

Saturday, December 4th at 7:30pm

Twenty-First Annual Advent--Christmas Concert -- presented by the TreasureHouse Chorale and Chamber Orchestra. The program will feature Gounod's *Messe Solennelle*, and works by Handel, Mozart and John Rutter. St. Mary's Church, 11 Clinton Street, Wappingers Falls, NY. For tickets/information for all concerts please call 914/318-3268. All tickets available at the doors at the time of the concert.

Sunday, December 5 at 3:00 PM

Handel's *Messiah--Part I* and Vaughan Williams's *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* presented by The New Choral Society Chorus and Orchestra, with all Met soloists Monica Yunus, soprano, Eve Gigliotti, alto, Matthew Plenk, tenor and Michael Todd Simpson, baritone. John T. King, conductor. Hitchcock Presbyterian Church, 6 Greenacres Avenue, Scarsdale For tickets call 914/725.1678 or order online at www.newchoralsociety.org

Sunday, December 5th at 7:30pm

Twenty-First Annual Advent--Christmas Concert -- presented by the TreasureHouse Chorale and Chamber Orchestra. The program will feature Gounod's *Messe Solennelle*, and works by Handel, Mozart and John Rutter. Church of the Annunciation, 470 Westchester Avenue, Crestwood, NY. For tickets/information for all concerts, please call 914/318-3268. All tickets available at the doors at the time of the concert.

Sunday, December 12th at 4:00

"An English Christmas": The Story of St. Nicholas and English Carols – featuring Vaughan Williams's *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*. Presented by the combined choirs of Christ Church with Sinfonia Celestis under the direction of Jeffrey Hoffman. The Church of Christ the Redeemer, 1415 Pelhamdale Avenue, Pelham Manor. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$10 for students of any age, and are available by calling the church music office at 914/738.5515, x102 or online at www.concertsatchristchurch.org

Sunday, December 12th at 3:00pm

Twenty-First Annual Advent--Christmas Concert – presented by the TreasureHouse Chorale and Chamber Orchestra. The program will feature Gounod's *Messe Solennelle*, and works by Handel, Mozart and John Rutter. St. Denis Church, Beekman Road, Hopewell Junction, NY. For tickets/information for all concerts, please call 914/318-3268. All tickets available at the doors at the time of the concert.

Sunday, December 12th at 4:00pm

Fourth Annual Community Carol Sing – John T. King, organist. Holiday food and drink provided by the Deacons followed by the lighting of the outdoor tree. There may even be a surprise guest in RED. This event is free and all are welcome. Hitchcock Presbyterian Church, 6 Greenacres Avenue, Scarsdale, NY

Sunday, December 12th at 7:30pm

Twenty-First Annual Advent--Christmas Concert – presented by the TreasureHouse Chorale and Chamber Orchestra. The program will feature Gounod's *Messe Solennelle*, and works by Handel, Mozart and John Rutter. St. James Church, 16 Gleneida Avenue (Route 52), Carmel, NY. For tickets/information for all concerts, please call 914/318-3268. All tickets available at the doors at the time of the concert.

Sunday, December 19th at 3:00pm

Annual Carol Sing – Thomas Zachacz, organist. The Union Church of Pocantico Hills, 555 Bedford Road, Sleepy Hollow, NY. Free admission.

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

To offer a free organ recital at The Osborn, Rye: orgjre@verizon.net or 914/777.1660

Please note: For the internet version, phone numbers, addresses, and e-mail addresses are removed for members. Please see your directory for them. (These items are left in for Reeds and Mixtures and for the Concert Calendar.

SUBSTITUTE LIST AS OF June 2010
WESTCHESTER CHAPTER AGO

Judith Abel (weekday and Sunday weddings, funerals)
Dorothy Beach
Carolyn Karlsrud (winter months only)
Virginia Bender
Michael Goodman (Christian and Jewish)
Owen Borda
Edna Schloton
Marilyn Ballantine
Eileen Laurence (Saturday services, Christian and Jewish)
Richard Piluso (Catholic services)
Margaret Kim
Deborah Jones-Norberto
Nancy Hastings (Saturdays, Protestant or Catholic)
Timothy Keenan-Devlin (Catholic weddings, funerals, and Saturday night masses)
John Dominick

Note: If you want your name added or subtracted from this list, please contact Judy Abel.

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): 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; Substitute List; No Empty Benches;
Interview with a Boardmember; Extensive Concert Calendar***

Westchester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

The Trompette

Lois Simmonds &

Thomas Zachacz, Editors