

The Trompette

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

APRIL, 2011

VOLUME 10, #8

From the Dean's Bench...

Hello Everyone,

Please vote!

Don't forget to send your ballot in indicating your choice for two directorships. Believe me, I know how difficult it is to choose from six amazing candidates!

But we need all the ballots in by April 20th. All the information plus ballot has been reprinted in this edition of *The Trompette*.

This is **Thomas Zachacz's** last *Trompette*! Tom has been our wonderful publishing editor of *The Trompette* since the summer of 2008. Together with Lois Simmonds, he has brought us colorful photos, creativity, a professional look and timely delivery. Thank you, Tom, from all of us! John Cecconi, who has been editor in the past, will carry on for the next few months. We are very interested in finding someone who has a little extra time to serve as Editor for a period of a few years. Please let us know if this is a way you would like to contribute to our wonderful Chapter.

The Japan earthquake and tsunami, terrible highway disasters, trouble in Egypt and the Middle East, our own flooded homes add to that the every-day human tragedies that are part our experience in belonging to a house of worship, and one can almost feel grateful that it's the Lenten season, and not a more festive time in the church calendar. In each of our houses of worship, whether Christian, Jewish or other, we feel more dedicated than ever to finding the right music and bringing the best from ourselves, choirs and music ensembles. In the *Trompette* issue of October, 2001 we were encouraged and supported by the Message from then AGO National Chaplain, Vicky Sirota. Here's a quote:

"You are important caretakers of the spiritual life of our religious institutions . . . we need you to put on the "armor of light" so that through you, God's holy and loving embrace may be felt in this broken world." In her Letter from the Dean's Bench, Lana Kollath shared her feelings which we must all identify with: "I have been grateful for my musical calling What we do is so important, and in the face of ugliness, we must provide some beauty." The 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks in NYC and Washington and the aborted AA flight 11 will be commemorated this fall. Who among us on that day could have imagined that we would someday be here in 2011, looking back with so much relative calm?

(Continued next page)

WESTCHESTER AGO EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Virginia Bender

(Continued from Page 1)

Creating and Maintaining Children's Choirs: our program meeting, March 20th at the Katonah Presbyterian Church. Fifteen choral music directors, including our host and coordinator, Eileen Laurence, compared their children's choir experiences, sharing their successful techniques and their struggles. We learned about different ways to improve attendance and build support in the choir and community. Practical rehearsal techniques and the importance of flexibility were discussed. Most of all, we were inspired by our colleagues' passionate commitment to educating children to sing beautiful music well, and also by the singing of the children themselves! The *Candlewood Children's Choir* from Danbury Connecticut, directed by Dan Coffman, started the program with 7 selections from their spring concert, all performed with confidence and beautiful tone. We also heard examples of choirs on video from Abi Grey and Karen Longwell. Contributing music directors were John Cecconi, Memorial Community Church of West Harrison; Dan Coffman and Maureen Kelly of Danbury; Vincent Edwards, St. Paul's Norwalk; Terry Flanagan and Abi Gray of the Mount Kisco Presbyterian Church; David Graf, Church of St. Pius X, Scarsdale; John King, Hitchcock Presbyterian, Scarsdale; Lana Kollath, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Shrub Oak; John Lettieri, Bedford Presbyterian; Karen Longwell, St. Columbanus in Cortlandt Manor; Frank Miller, First Baptist in White Plains; Joyce Ottinger, St. Luke's Somers; Janine Wallour-Thwaite from St. Peter's in Peekskill; and of course our wonderful host, Eileen Laurence to whom we all owe a great deal of thanks for her hard work to prepare such an outstanding, educational program. Our thanks also are due to Judith Abel for coordinating the delicious reception.

April is traditionally a month without a members program, due to the busy-ness of holy week and Passover. We will reunite as a Chapter on May 22rd at 3:00, not 4:00 p.m., because there is only natural light available at **The Old Dutch Church in Sleepy Hollow**. We will be privileged to hear renowned pedagogue **Gavin Black** in a lecture called "The Toccata Experience: A Workshop on Analysis and Learning." The founding Director of the Princeton Early Keyboard Center and a recording artist of 17th century keyboard music, Gavin Black is a teacher of the organ, harpsichord, clavichord and continuo-playing. Recently he recorded Bach's "Art of the Fugue" in a version for two harpsichords, with George Hazelrigg. Following the program we will hold a short **Annual Meeting** and introduce our two new Directors who will begin their terms July 1st. See you there!

Saturday, June 25, 2011 – Wanamaker Organ Day, and what a day! Actually the whole preceding week at Macy's in Philadelphia is a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Wanamaker organ. For those interested in more than our Saturday field trip, check the website, www.wanamakerorgan.com. Here is the typical schedule, provided by Kevin Walsh, WAGO Registrar:

- 10:00 Opening Concert (by a guest artist--last year it was Ken Cowan)
 - 11:30 Concert/Live Radio Broadcast
 - 2:00 Silent Movie upstairs in Greek Hall with Wurlitzer organ (\$10)
 - 5:00 Closing Concert, with Organ and Brass
- Tours of the organ chambers are generally available in the afternoon.

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(Continued from Page 2)

Transportation: We will be hiring vans as needed, depending on how many sign up for the trip. Vans have seat belts; buses do not, so we are looking forward to a safe and comfortable ride in a van holding 11 to 14 people. Cost is \$30 for WAGO members and \$60 for guests. Let us know as soon as possible if you would like a seat saved for you! Deadline to reserve a spot: April 30. Call or e-mail Alice Avouris.. *This just in* from Webmaster Virginia Bender: Check our website, www.agowestchester.org, for soon-to-be-posted information about this event.

Last month we published a few lines from our candidates for director which told a little about them. Here's a note from **Terry Kelly** which was not included last month. "I play for a small English-speaking congregation right after I play for a small Spanish-speaking congregation at Summerfield U. M. C. in Port Chester every Sunday. I'm not a full A.G.O. member because of all the little part time jobs I hold, but I still keep up with A.G.O. goings-on. Being a director would help keep me up on A.G.O. affairs while still working at other jobs." *Terry Kelly*

Don't forget **AGO Morristown 2011: Celebrate the Past—Forge the Future** is the theme of the combined Region I and II Regional Convention, hosted by the Metropolitan New Jersey Chapter. It will take place Sunday, July 3, 2011 through Wednesday, July 6, and registration is available now. Go to the website: www.AGO2011NJ.COM or look in the latest TAO magazine for complete information.

That's it for now. Happy spring!

Alice Avouris

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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

Our 2010 – 2011 Season

Sunday, May 22, 2011 at 3:00PM!!!

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 25, 2011

Please note: the *Wannamaker Organ Day* at *Macy's Department Store* in Philadelphia is June 25th, not June 4th. Please re-mark your calendars!

Wanamaker Organ Day, Macy's Department Store, Philadelphia

(Host: Kevin Walsh)

Comfortable vans from Westchester to Philadelphia and back

APRIL CONCERT CALENDAR

Sunday, April 10, 3:00 PM

A Ten Year Anniversary Concert the Opus 13 Martin Pasi Organ -- Music for Organ and String Orchestra. Works by Handel, Albinoni and Poulenc, featuring John Lettieri, Organist and Conductor. Bedford Presbyterian Church, Village Green junction Rt. 22 & Rt. 172, Bedford NY. Free admission, donations gladly accepted. Information: 914/234.3672 or www.bedfordpreschurch.org

Sunday, May 1, 4:00PM

Three Organists Spectacular -- Kathryn Jones, Joseph Nigro, and Thomas Zachacz offer selections by Bach, Franck, Duruflé, Reger, Murrill, Dubois, Fedak and others. Huguenot Memorial Church, 901 Pelhamdale Avenue, Pelham Manor, NY. Suggested offering \$10. Information: 914/738.3488.

READS & MIXTURES

From the Registrar

On March 16, AGO Headquarters notified us that “The original timetable for a transition to national collection of dues has changed. Our system does not yet meet our functional and quality requirements.” That’s not the news I wanted to hear right before St. Patrick’s Day. The good news is that, unlike some large companies I could name, Headquarters recognized the system wasn’t ready and decided not to roll it out until it was ready. That’s infinitely better than fouling up all our renewals with a system that’s not what it needs to be. So, for one more year, I’ll be mailing out renewal forms in May. We look forward to the new system next year.

John Cecconi has kindly consented to act as interim co-editor of *The Trompette!*

Please send all of your materials to him directly by the monthly deadline of the 20th! Thank you, John, for always being ready and willing in our Chapter’s times of need!

James Feddeck – You are a Rock Star!!!

Our very-own James Feddeck is quickly gaining recognition as one of the most prominent rising talents of his generation. Recently appointed Assistant Conductor of *The Cleveland Orchestra* and Music Director of the *Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra*, he previously served as Assistant Conductor of the *Memphis Symphony*.

Nunc dimittis

Former member Frederick H. Williams passed away on February 28, 2011, at age ninety-one. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Organ from Julliard and a Master’s degree from Teachers college, Columbia University. He served as Organist & Choir Director for forty-six years at the United Methodist Church in Ossining, NY. Funeral services were held on Saturday, March 5th. Memorial contributions may be made to the Chatterton Hill Church, 9 Whitney Street, White Plains, NY 10606.

More Revisions to the Substitute List:

In an effort to keep the Substitute List current, please add the following individuals:

Debra Norberto

Owen Borda

2011 Ballot
**“AGO Westchester Chapter for the Election to the
Directorship that Ends in 2014”**

Directions:

Vote for two by placing an X in two boxes

Do not sign the ballot

Place the ballot (unsigned) into an envelope.

Mail the ballot to: Virginia Bender

Return address should include your name and - “ Ballot for Westchester AGO Election”

Sign your name across the envelope seal.

Be sure to mail it in time to reach Virginia Bender (the secretary) by **April 30, 2011.**

Timothy Keenan-Devlin

Terence Kelly

Doug Kostner

Eileen Laurence

Frank Miller

Susan Sayre

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): John Ceconi (Compose in MS Word, if possible)

Postal Mail: J. Ceconi, *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 & John Ceconi

Editors,

The Trompette

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

Inside:

**The Official Election Ballot; Concert Calendar; News about
Upcoming Events!**

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

Westchester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

The Trompette

Lois Simmonds &

John Cecconi, Editors