



VOX OCEANA

JUN 2020

NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS | VOLUME LIII NO. 4

RI CHAPTER OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS 2020-2021

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2020

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Stephen P. Kirby

2021

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Lawrence E. Wilson 860-857-5493
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2022

Philip Martorella
Gina Vecchio 401-354-2366

www.riago.org

FROM THE DEAN

Dear AGO Members,

Yes, it has been a difficult 3 months for many of us. The reality of the future is still uncertain.

Yet the Board has met and we do have some good news for all of our members. Due to the kindness of the Conboy family, we are able to give a scholarship to a promising and upcoming new organist. As our Sub Dean Gigi has been in charge of this project, I am going to let her share the details with all of you.

At our last Board Meeting, I announced that I am stepping down from the position of Dean of our Rhode Island Chapter. I will be succeeded by Gigi Mitchell-Velasco, our Sub Dean. She is a capable leader who will serve our Chapter well. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as Dean and I will assume the position of a Board Member for the upcoming year.

As a reminder, National is concerned and has asked that all members renew their membership, as soon as possible. Any help is greatly appreciated. I will be writing for the Newsletter throughout the summer months. Gigi will assume the Dean Position on Sept. 1, 2020.

Sincerely,

Stephen P. Kirby, Dean

FROM THE SUB DEAN

Dear Friends and members of RIAGO,

As Chair of the Lois Conboy Awards Competition, it is my pleasure to introduce you to the \$1,000 prize winner of the first Annual Lois Conboy Achievement Awards, Mr. Nathan Schneider. The three adjudicators, Katelyn Emerson, concert organist; James David Christie, concert organist and well known international competition judge; and I unanimously awarded this talented young man the top prize. He wrote in his essay, "Ever since I heard the organ live at the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul, I knew that I wanted to become an organist."

He was hooked and then became a student of Philip Faraone, the Cathedral's organist and former Dean of RIAGO, taking lessons on the massive Cassavant that so inspired him! After high school, he studied in the Vatican's Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music under Theo Flury, and just last year was named Music Director and Organist at the Oratorio di San Francis Xavier de Caravita in Rome.

His final concert, June 25th at 2:00 p.m. will be live streamed from the Cathedral in Providence. Access this concert through https://www.youtube.com/user/recklesspking/videos?view_as=subscriber.

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2020 NATIONAL ORGAN FEST

The American Guild of Organists is thrilled to announce the first online OrganFest, which will take place July 20-24. Each evening's broadcast will premiere a new work which had been commissioned for the 2020 National Convention in Atlanta, accompanied by interviews with the composers.

Featured performers will be Jens Korndörfer, Amanda Mole, Alan Morrison, Thomas Ospital, and Catherine Rodland. Additional recorded performances by recent international organ competition winners will be presented, and short presentations will share exciting news and updates from the AGO.

The daily YouTube premiere (8pm Eastern) and accompanying Festival website will be available at no charge.

OrganFest 2020 promises to be an exciting way to showcase our beloved instrument and the great work of the AGO. Please share this information widely with your music-loving friends.

While we are saddened by the cancellation of many musical events this spring and summer, including our National Convention in Atlanta, we look forward to celebrating the future of organ music together online next month.

F. Anthony Thurman, DMA

Director of Development and Communications

American Guild of Organists

SUB DEAN

continued

In July, he will return to Europe to pursue his master's degree in organ performance, attending the Zürcher Hochschule der Künste in Zürich, Switzerland. He also tells us that, "As the organ has inspired me, I hope that my career will inspire others to pursue studies in organ."

Here is a link to his final exam for his degree in Rome just published June 11, 2020.

<https://youtu.be/4TA9BPYn3Co>

Congratulations Nathan!

Editor's note: Nathan was featured in The Providence Journal on June 15, 2020, with several photos and an extensive article. Get Nathan's YouTube performance direct from Journal website.

AGO NATIONAL RESPONSE TO BLACK LIVES MATTER

June 16, 2020

To All AGO Chapter Deans:

The American Guild of Organists recognizes and affirms that Black Lives Matter. We call upon every chapter and all of our members to speak out against racial bias and take action to make the world a better, safer, and more secure place for the members of the Black community.

Now is the time for us to search our souls for ways to be more caring, to be better brothers and sisters to our Black colleagues, and to demonstrate our unwavering support for their professional advancement and success.

The tragic murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25, the equally senseless killing of Rayshard Brooks in Atlanta on June 12, and the death and injury of so many others are heartbreaking and inexcusable. We extend our condolences to their families and friends, and we stand in solidarity with the countless thousands of people around the world who have marched to protest systemic racism against the African-American community.

It is our turn to step up to the challenge. We must listen to diverse voices in crafting solutions to our problems. We must reach out to find new partners to help us chart the best path forward. We must engage.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Bedford, AAGO, ChM

President

James E. Thomashower, CAE

Executive Director

PLACEMENT LISTINGS

Contact Julie Tagen (401-225-9594) to list

North Kingstown United Methodist 4/17/20
35 Congdon Hill Road, Saunderstown, RI 02874
Mark Zaccaria 401-225-5051 zaccaria@att.net
Pipe organ \$6,000-8,400 O

SUBSTITUTE LISTINGS

Contact Julie Tagen (401-225-9594) with changes.

AVAILABLE SUNDAYS & WEEKDAYS

Babbitt, Jonathan 401-864-9009
Casteel, Eden: 401-932-5589
Clarke, Margaret: 401-726-4128 (all)
Higgins, Stephen: 401-441-2270 (comfortable with any keyboard situation)
Jones, William: 401-848-4327 (all)
Kohl, Karen: 401-787-2695 Please Inquire
MacCubbin, Jay: 401-521-0698
Nicholson, Nancy: 401-521-9097 (all)
Norton-Jackson, Diana 401-714-2700 interim, sub, no weddings
Tagen, Julia L.: 401-225-9594 (all, weddings/funerals/interim)
Taylor, Terry: 401-253-9030 (tutti@fullchannel.net)
Vecchio, Gina: 401-954-2163
Vinson, Duncan: 781-888-3848
Westhaver, Verna: 401-683-2636 (substitute/interim)
Wilson, Lawrence: 860-857-5493 Organ; Sacred Jazz Composer/
Arranger

AVAILABLE WEEKDAYS ONLY

Black, John: 401-737-1230 (all, available Saturdays & weekdays)
Castellani, Roger: 917-621-6530
Cranmer, David: 401-447-9848
Martorella, Philip: 401-615-0769 (no Sun. a.m.)
Sobaje, Martha: 401-626-0099 (weddings, funerals)

SUBMISSIONS

DEADLINE: 20th of each month. SUBMISSIONS: Send Word or Text files to altheaallard@gmail.com or to Althea Allard, 166 Suffolk Ave., Pawtucket, RI 02861. ADVERTISING: Word doc, PDF (print ready), JPG (high resolution), or TIFF. All files should be grayscale at 300 dpi resolution. Email to altheaallard@gmail.com

ADVERTISING RATES

1/4-page ad (3.5"W x 5"H): \$18 -or- 1/8-page ad (3.5"W x 2.5"H): \$10
Flyers provided electronically for inclusion with newsletter (for RIAGO members): \$10. Make checks out to RIAGO and mail to Althea Allard by the 20th. \$25 non-members.