



VOX OCEANA

MAY 2021

NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS | VOLUME LIV NO. 3

RI CHAPTER OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS 2020-2021

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2022
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Gina Vecchio 401-354-2366

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FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Today I saw a hyacinth trying to pop up in my yard - just the little green leaves barely peeking out! It is indeed the season of hope, and we have much to be thankful for. I bring you Spring greetings from all of us here at RIAGO as we make our way into the season of hope which so far has brought us mass vaccinations, more openings of churches, restaurants and other businesses, and hopefully soon, live performances both instrumental and choral. We have set our first (hopefully in-person) meeting for September 12th. As a matter of course, you may all mark your calendars for the first Sunday after Labor Day from now on as our Season Opener! But we aren't quite finished with this year's season. We are hoping to have a Closing Event the first Sunday in June, June 5th. This is our annual meeting and closing of the season event. We are waiting to see what might be possible, but do keep that in mind.

We are grateful to Brian Mattias from Potter Rathbun for giving us a personal update on the exciting new organ which was on the cover of the TAO in August. Althea Allard our editor gives us a report on the mini convention last February sponsored by the Merrimack Valley Chapter.

Please see and share the documents attached about the RIAGO Annual Awards and Lois Conboy Young Artist Competition. Get the word out to worthy students and young talented players. The deadline for submission on May 1st.

Lastly, I was contacted by Brother Roger Chingas at Blessed Sacrament. He writes: "*A Blanche Davis was very involved with RIAGO back in her day...she was preparing to write a book on the historical organs of Rhode Island, and after her passing, her sister, Mrs. William Chambers of Edgewood, gave the notes for this book to our chapter.*" As Dean, I would love to hear from any of you who may know where these notes might be found. Our chapter membership looks quite different today than it did, and we are hoping to find more information about previous members, their research and contributions. I am hoping that while we move forward, we can also learn more about our past and our members that have contributed so much to the foundation of who and where we are today.

Lastly, if you are looking for some good local organ concerts with local and guest artists, check out the Thursdays at Noon at Grace Church in Providence which is live streaming and on YouTube. The schedule may be found here: <https://www.gracechurchprovidence.org/music-at-grace/thursdays-at-noon/> And also check out www.BrocktonUCC.org for their pipe organ series or look them up on YouTube for past events. Here is a link to our own Peter Krasinski last November: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Js2fYR0CDI>

As always, I wish you all the best and wish you a Happy Spring.

Gigi

Gigi Mitchell-Velasco, MMus, CAGO

Dean

CATCHING UP WITH...

Editor's Note: In an effort to connect our members through the newsletter during these days of limited in-person gatherings, we are inviting you to share a brief item about your work, on-the-side or primary; a special interest or accomplishment; a tip you have discovered in your work with colleagues or students. Please send me an email for inclusion in this column, and perhaps recommend another member I might invite to participate in this exchange. Then, when we are able to meet in person, we will not be strangers, but friends in the making.

Thanks,

Althea (altheaallard@gmail.com)

A PLEA

In this day of rolling AGO registration, when membership renewal is due in the anniversary month of your last dues payment, rather than universally in July, our Membership master, Chris Souza, is having a difficult task in assembling a Directory. To include all members in the Directory anticipated for Fall, 2021, please note your renewal date and send dues to National several weeks in advance of expiration. Dues can be renewed online (perhaps the most efficient, since office staff are working from home). If you need to renew via US mail for reimbursement by your employer or for other reasons, it is especially important to initiate the process in advance to allow for the delay at headquarters. Your Chapter appreciates your support in this effort.

***Up for dues renewal? Do it today--please.
Your membership matters!***

ZOOMED OUT?

So many opportunities to Zoom or stream--meetings, classes, family reunions in a time of pandemic, church services--maybe we've had enough (though such meetings certainly save commuting time and gasoline). Perhaps it's time to seek out other sources of information and inspiration we need, and get back to good old-fashioned e-mail!

I receive a free weekly newsletter from Noa Kageyama at bulletproofmusician.com/subscribe. A Juilliard-trained violinist, he is now a performance psychologist who shares suggestions for enhancing practice time success and other music-related issues. He amuses while he educates; it makes for a good read. Occasionally he shares an interview--the latest, with a family of musicians--the parents are music professionals, who share their reactions to their son's decision to pursue a career in music.

Check it out; it might be the breath of fresh air you need!

PLACEMENT LISTINGS

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

Emanuel Lutheran Church 10/10/20
9 New London Ave, West Warwick, RI 02893
Pastor Todd Stange 401-450-2836
Ahlborn-Galanti \$13-18,000 Minister of Music

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR COVID SETBACKS

RIAGO has set up an Emergency Relief Fund in response to the current and ongoing crisis and its economic impact on our members. The relief will be a \$100 gift card to a supermarket where the recipient buys groceries. To be eligible, applicants must be current members of our chapter and have lost income from their church postings as a result of being laid off due to the Covid lockdown any time after 15 March 2020. This gift card may be issued only once in a 12-month period. Individuals with liability and/or insurance claims pending are not eligible. To apply, send a statement with your name, home address, telephone, email, a brief paragraph detailing the circumstances of your dismissal, the date of dismissal, (date of reinstatement if applicable) and the name of the institution from which you were dismissed. Please send this material to Steve Martorella at steve.fbc@verizon.net

The matter will be subject to review by the committee for the ERF (Lawrence Wilson and Stephen Martorella) and subject to final approval by the Dean (Gigi Mitchell-Velasco).

AGO National offers a link to various articles indicating helpful sources of information for musicians, religious institutions, students regarding many of the Covid-related challenges facing members. <https://www.agohq.org/responding-to-Covid-19/>

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
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)
Westhaver, Verna: 401-683-2636

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.