



VOX OCEANA

NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
VOLUME XL, No. 4

APRIL 2007



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MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

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2008
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Kevin DiLorenzo: 385-9943

www.riago.org
no password needed

FROM THE DEAN

I would like to introduce E. Lary Grossman as the new Councillor for Region 1. National Council appointed Lary to complete the vacancy created by the resignation of James Barry. Lary has been active in the Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter for over ten years, serving on the executive board, as Sub Dean, Editor, and currently in his second and final year as Dean. He also chairs their Investment Advisory Committee, and the Pipe Organ Encounter they are hosting this July at Smith College. As you can see, Lary brings a wealth of experience to his new position as Regional Councillor, and we are fortunate to have him step into this role. I know we are all eager to meet him, and if you don't get the opportunity before then, certainly you will have the chance to meet Lary at the convention.

Martha

REMINDER:

Morning Munch at the Cinnamon Café, Warwick, on Monday, April 2nd, at 8:00 am.

2007 CONVENTION

PIANO STUDENTS EXPLORE THE KING OF INSTRUMENTS

"When I go back to the piano to play this song, it sounds a little boring," (a 9-year-old piano student's comment after playing the organ). As a pianist who also plays the organ, I discovered that organ field trips greatly enhance my piano students' musical experience. With David Clyde Morse as their guide, about 20 of my students, ages 7 to 16, elementary to advanced, have explored the organ at Mathewson Street United Methodist Church. The organ there is a huge Allen Renaissance digital organ—a formidable-looking instrument, but you wouldn't know it watching these young people. They are fearless! The one-hour sessions were small—4 to 6 students. That way students could enjoy hearing others play and still have time to explore the instrument themselves. After David briefly demonstrated some of the possibilities for sound expression on the organ, each student tried out one or two pieces each had prepared. Their enthusiasm shone even a week later as they returned to piano lessons. From a 5th-grade student: "I was amazed at all the different buttons. I loved it when I played the last bass note on the pedal and it vibrated the whole room! I remember the different sounds: in 'The Gondola,' I used harp in the left hand and French horn in the right. I think this piece sounds better on the organ than on the piano." A 4th grader said, "I liked using the pedals, especially the crescendo pedal in 'Goldfish.' In 'The Clock,' [David] changed the buttons at the end of each phrase. We zoomed from *mp* to *fff* and back!"

Part of the success of such a venture is careful selection of music for students to take to the organ. For one elementary student, it was a piece with a two-note ostinato which she managed to play entirely on the pedals while her right hand played the melody. An intermediate-level student played "The Great Wall of China" and was delighted with David's selection of chimes

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ANNUAL DINNER

The final event before the convention will be a catered dinner at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, East Greenwich on Monday, May 14. Appetizers will begin at 6:00 pm with dinner at 6:30. The annual meeting with election and installation of officers will be held after dinner, followed by a musical presentation by The Brown Madrigal Singers.

Please mail the coupon with your choice of dinner by May 1. The cost of the dinner is \$22 per person. The dinner menu includes: appetizers, green salad, a choice of chicken, baked stuffed sole, or vegetarian lasagna, as well as dessert and beverages.

DIRECTIONS to First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 118 Division St., East Greenwich:

From Providence: Take I-95 south to Rte. 4 (left hand exit). Take Exit 8 (the first exit off Rte. 4) and bear right onto Division St. at the light. The church is on the right about 1.5 miles from the highway. Please be aware that Division St. turns left about a mile from the highway.

From points South: Take Rte. 4 North to Exit 8. Bear right onto Division St. and travel 1.5 miles to the church.

EVENTS

Sunday, April 22, 3:00 pm:

Bach Mass in B Minor: Tufts Chamber Singers, **Andrew Clark**, director; Newport Baroque Orchestra, Director **Paul Cienniwa**. Tufts University, Medford, MA. info@newportbaroque.org or 855-0687.

Sunday, April 29, 3:00 pm:

Spring Choral Concert with Newman Congregational Church Choir, **Geoffrey Greene**, Director. Featuring Bach Cantata 147 *Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben* and works by Randall Thompson and Paul Nelson. 10 piece professional orchestra with **Alisa Cassola**, soprano, **Barbara Youmans**, alto, **Neil Letendre**, tenor, **Paul Nelson**, bass. \$10 suggested donation to benefit the music program. Delectable dessert reception following the concert. Newman Congregational Church, 100 Newman Avenue, Rumford, RI. 401-434-4742 or newmanchurch@juno.com. *See flyer.*

Sunday, April 29, 4:00 pm:

Children's and Youth Choir Evensong including choirs and musicians from St. Paul's, Pawtucket, St. Luke's, East Greenwich, St. Martin's, Providence and St. Michael and Grace Church, Rumford honors the 300th anniversary of St. Paul's, Wickford. Tour the Old Narragansett Church (1707) immediately following service. Reception follows. Free; handicapped accessible. St. Paul's, 55 Main Street, Wickford. 294-4357.

CATERED DINNER FORM

Name: _____ no. attending: _____

_____ chicken _____ baked stuffed sole _____ vegetarian lasagna

The cost of the dinner is \$22 per person. Make checks payable to *RIAGO*.

Please mail form and payment by May 1st to:

Julie Tagen, 30 Huguenot Drive, East Greenwich, RI 02818

STUDENTS *continued*

(using MIDI) that made the piece sound like Chinese gongs. A high school student was astounded at the power and raw energy David's registrations gave her performance of Bartok's "Free Variations" from Mikrokosmos, volume VI. "I'm continually amazed at how easily young pianists adapt to the organ," says David. "With a little assistance with registration, they seem to just dive into their music without even missing the damper pedal! I think our age of the computer combined with parents who are encouraging their children to try new experiences makes the transition from piano to organ an easy one. And pedals? These young people are doing in minutes what it took me weeks to dare to do in front of another human being. I think they would all agree that organs are cool, but people who play organs are very cool!"

To learn how to lure young people to the organ bench, I invite you to attend the *Bringing Children to the Organ* workshop at the AGO Region I Convention, Monday, June 25 at 2:00 pm at Mathewson St. Church where I will join Wayne Leupold, David Morse, and Martha Sobaje for a lively and practical discussion.

Nancy Nicholson

NOTE: Our Convention website is up and running—thanks, Jeff Tagen!

PLACEMENT LISTING

All job seekers are encouraged to speak with the previous organist prior to accepting a long-term engagement.

- Phenix Baptist Church 3/06
2 Fairview Avenue, West Warwick, RI 02893
Linda S. Martin (401) 294-6318 X103; (401) 397-7154
O/D \$120/week (4 hrs) Adams 2 Mn Tracker 15 stops
- People's Baptist Church (American Baptist) 8/06
1275 Elmwood Avenue, Cranston, RI 02907
Dr. King Odell (401) 941-5472
O/D \$7000 3 hrs/week Moller 3 man. 25 Rank Pipe Organ
- Calvin Presbyterian Church 8/06
126 Angell Road, Cumberland, RI 02864
Pam Marcil (401) 333-0355
O/D \$8000-\$10000 Moller 2 Manual Pipe
- St. Peter's & St. Andrew's (Episcopal) 12/06
25 Pomona Avenue, Providence, RI 02908
Rev. Joyce Penfield (401) 272-9649; (401) 350-0021
O/D \$125/service C.B. Fiske 13 Rank Tracker
- St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA Lutheran) 1/07
389 Greenwich Avenue, Warwick, RI 02886
Rev. Dana K. Reardon (401) 737-6758; (401) 378-3512
O/D \$15,000 (16 hrs) Schantz Pipe 2 Man 11+ Ranks
- Pilgrim Lutheran Church (Lutheran E.L.C.A.) 2/07
1817 Warwick Avenue, Warwick, RI 02889
Rev. Dennis Kohl (401) 739-2937 D (401) 821-8553 E
OD \$18000-\$20000 Hutching-Andover 2 Man

UPDATED DIRECTORY

ADDITION: **Ronald Brown**, 317 E, Washington 1-b North Attleboro, MA 02760 508-643-9062; First Baptist Church, Attleboro

CHANGE: Welcome back to the area to **H. Edward Seaholm**, 200 Grand Street, 1st fl, Woonsocket, RI 02895; (401) 229-2267

FROM THE EDITOR

Submissions for the May newsletter are due by April 20, by e-mail or snail mail, with e-mail preferred: aallard@ccri.edu or 166 Suffolk Avenue, Pawtucket, RI 02861-2143.

Althea Allard

