



# VOX OCEANA

APR. 2016

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

## RI CHAPTER OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS

### 2015-2016

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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2018  
Alan Cotnoir  
Cody Mead

[www.riago.org](http://www.riago.org)

## FROM THE DEAN

Dear Colleagues,

By the time you read this, our Easter will be a recent memory! I hope that your musical exertions during Lent and Holy Week brought inspiration and insight to your congregations and choirs, and that your Easter services were joyous and life-affirming. A blessed and happy Easter season to all! Yesterday, at the Good Friday noon service, the choir of Central Congregational Church in Providence (in the hiatus between jobs in which I find myself, I have enjoyed being a section leader in our colleague Patrick Aiken's choir) presented Leo Sowerby's rarely-performed cantata "Forsaken of Man." This unique work, written in 1939, is not heard much these days, probably because of the demanding, highly chromatic choral writing, operatic style of the solo parts, and fiendishly difficult organ part (which Patrick played superbly, I might add!). I had only heard the work once before, at the 1982 national AGO convention in Washington DC, when the Cathedral Choral Society performed it under the direction of Richard Wayne Dirksen, then Canon Precentor and Organist-Choirmaster of the cathedral and one of my mentors. Sowerby was one of the great figures of American church music in the mid-20th century, and ended a distinguished career as the first Director of the College of Church Musicians at Washington Cathedral. After its closing in 1972, its legacy was continued in part by the establishment of the Fellow in Church Music program. I had the privilege of serving as the first Fellow back in 1982-83, and fondly recall my time at the Cathedral working with Dr. Dirksen, assistant Organist Douglas Major, and the fine choir. We performed a good deal of Sowerby's music, but "Forsaken of Man" had never come across my radar until July 1982, just before I started work at the Cathedral!

A great figure in the history of organ playing and teaching in the 20th century, Anton Heiller, will be brought to life for us by Mark Steinbach, on Monday April 11th Mark will present a fascinating lecture-recital on Heiller's organ works. One of the 20th century's greatest performers and pedagogues, and a renowned interpreter of Bach's organ works, Heiller was also a composer. Unlike Sowerby, his organ compositions remain largely unknown, probably due to their difficulty and the unique sound-world they inhabit, reminiscent in some ways of the Second Viennese School of 12-tone composers and Schoenberg, and the works of his friend and colleague Paul Hindemith. Heiller was first and foremost a performer and teacher, while Sowerby was best known through his choral compositions, most of which are still in current use. Do join your colleagues at Sayles Hall on the Brown campus, on April 11th at 7:30 pm, for Mark's program, and learn about Heiller's unique organ works! Our final program for the year will be the Member's Recital, Dinner and Annual Meeting, at Central Congregational Church in Providence, on Sunday June 5th, beginning at 5:00 pm. Come support your Dean and Sub-Dean (yours truly, and Steve Kirby) who are playing, as well as our host Patrick Aiken and new chapter member and local "rising star" Michael Ryan. I promise a lively evening of music, food and fellowship, as well as a preview of exciting programs for the 2016-17 season.

All good wishes,  
*John Brooks, Dean*

## EVENTS

**Sunday, April 10 at 3:00 pm:** Newman Church Choir under the direction of **Geoffrey Greene**, presents Spring Choral Concert featuring the works of John Rutter: *Requiem* and *The Sprig of Thyme*. (See enclosed flyer.)

**Monday, April 11 at 7:30 pm: RIAGO Event:** *The Anton Heiller Legacy*, a lecture/recital by Brown University organist, **Mark Steinbach**, on the works and legacy of his distinguished teacher. Sayles Hall, Brown University. Open console time at the historic Hutchings organ following the program.

**Sunday, April 24 at 4:00 pm:** The combined choirs of All Saints' Memorial and St. Martin's Churches, **Barry Turley** and **Jay MacCubbin** conducting, will sing Evensong at All Saints', 674 Westminister Street, Providence. The Rt. Rev. W. Nicholas Knisely, guest preacher with music by JS Bach, Michael Haydn, CV Stanford, and Louis Vierne. Handicapped accessible, reception following ([www.allsaintsmemorial.org](http://www.allsaintsmemorial.org)).

**Sunday, June 5 at 5:00 pm:** Annual Members' Recital and Dinner Meeting. **Dean John Brooks, Sub-Dean Stephen Kirby, Patrick Aiken, Michael Ryan** will begin the evening with a recital. Central Congregational Church, Providence. Details in May newsletter.

**July 10-15, 2016: Pipe Orgac Encounter** at Smith College, Northampton, MA, hosted by the Springfield Chapter, AGO. See [www.springfieldago.org](http://www.springfieldago.org) for brochure.

## MEMBER MATTERS

Condolences to the family of long-time member, **Elsie McNeill**, who passed away December 19, 2015, at 93. Elsie was active as organist and substitute for many years in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

**Priscilla A. Rigg** has a new home and a new address: Ocean View, 1 Alumni Lane, Falmouth, ME 04105. 401.486.5886; 207.781.3975; [pamrigg@gmail.com](mailto:pamrigg@gmail.com). We wish her many years of enjoyment in her retirement community.

## SUBSTITUTE LISTINGS

Contact **Brian Larkin** (272-8318) with changes.

### AVAILABLE SUNDAYS & WEEKDAYS

Bramblett-Mollohan, Deborah 401-793-1723 (call for availability)  
Casteel, Eden: 401-932-5589  
Clarke, Margaret: 401-726-4128 (all)  
Conboy, Lois: 401-658-3838 (please inquire)  
Funk, Richard: 401-272-0693 (all)  
Goncharova, Natalya, 401-334-9157  
Gourd, Jacqueline: 401-828-4057 (all, no weddings)  
Higgins, Stephen: 401-441-2270 (comfortable with any keyboard situation)  
Johnson, Winfred: 401-847-8548 (interim)  
Jones, William 401-848-4327 (all)  
Kohl, Karen: 401-787-2695 (please inquire)  
Norton-Jackson, Diana: 401-714-2700 (no weddings)  
Phelps, Howard: 508-224-8475 (please inquire)  
Scheibert, Beverly Jerold: 508-339-0579 (all, weddings/funerals)  
Tagen, Julia L.: 401-885-7438 (all, weddings/funerals/interim)  
Taylor, Terry: 401-253-9030 ([tutti@fullchannel.net](mailto:tutti@fullchannel.net))  
Vecchio, Gina: 401-954-2163  
Westhaver, Verna: 401-683-2636 (substitute/interim)

### AVAILABLE WEEKDAYS ONLY

Allard, Althea: 401-728-4431  
Black, John: 401-245-2356 (all, available Saturdays & weekdays)  
Brown, Ronald: 508-222-0824 (funerals only)  
Cienniwa, Paul: 617-466-9042 (\$150 min, no Sun. a.m.)  
Cranmer, David: 401-447-9848  
Larkin, Brian: 401-272-8318 (weddings/memorials/funerals/consultant)  
Martorella, Philip: 401-885-3431 (no Sun. a.m.)  
Nicholson, Nancy: 401-521-9097 (all)  
Nolan, Robert: 401-884-7172 (available to provide all needs)  
Ogburn, William 401-294-4357  
Sobaje, Martha: 401-626-0099 (weddings, funerals)

## PLACEMENT LISTING

Contact **Brian Larkin** (272-8318) for more details or changes.

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Johannus digital/2 man 18 stps Salary 22K O/DM

The Church of the Redeemer  
655 Hope Street, Providence, RI  
Rev. Patrick Campbell: 401-331-0678  
Austin opus 993 16 stops/2 man Salary 26-30K O/DM

### SUBMISSIONS

DEADLINE: 20th of each month. SUBMISSIONS: Send Word or Text files to [altheaallard@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 you provide (for RIAGO members): \$10. Make checks out to RIAGO and mail to Althea Allard by the 20th.