



# VOX OCEANA

NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS | VOLUME XLIV, NO. 7

AUGUST 2011

## RI CHAPTER OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS 2011-2012

Dean, Kevin DiLorenzo  
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[kdilorenzo@RIAGO.org](mailto:kdilorenzo@RIAGO.org)

Sub-Dean, Joe Gama  
942-6144  
[jgama@RIAGO.org](mailto:jgama@RIAGO.org)

Secretary, David Cranmer  
781-3359

Treasurer, David Cranmer  
781-3359

Membership, Doris Alberg  
365-7273

Auditor, Joe Gama  
942-6144

Auditor, Jean Richard DuPont  
434-8476

Education, Brink Bush  
245-4065

Historian, Peter N. LaMoria  
723-6974; 726-2600

Placement, Brian Larkin  
272-8318; [brianlarkin1@cox.net](mailto:brianlarkin1@cox.net)

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728-4431; [aallard@ccri.edu](mailto:aallard@ccri.edu)

Website, Doris Alberg  
[dalberg1@cox.net](mailto:dalberg1@cox.net)

Chaplain, Fr. Doug Spina  
434-4060; 434-7030

Regional Councillor,  
Lary Grossman  
[elg@bradygrossman.com](mailto:elg@bradygrossman.com)

## MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

2012  
Kathy Hart: 837-8873  
Philip Martorella: 885-3431

2013  
Joe Gama: 942-6144  
Jean-Richard DuPont: 434-8476

2014  
Margaret Clark: 726-4128  
Leilani Nixon: 860-774-1333

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

[www.agonewengland.blogspot.com](http://www.agonewengland.blogspot.com)

## FROM THE DEAN

*"When you learn, teach. When you get, give."*—Dr. Maya Angelou.

I would like to thank all members for appointing me Dean of our wonderful organization.

This year's goal is to bring together a sense of community among our members and colleagues. Education is a broad term that covers our platform and principles. Educating oneself goes far beyond reading a book or receiving a diploma. We need to educate ourselves to understand our own prejudice and ignorance. The art of playing and appreciating the organ has stood the test of time. It has developed and evolved. The instrument of the organ, like humanity, consists of many shapes, sizes and personalities. We cannot ignore a person's talent or time because of one's instrument. Some organists may have the luxury of playing on a mighty and majestic 5 manual pipe or digital organ. Others may find themselves on a spinet or basic tubular organ. Those who often get overlooked are the theater organists. These are all acceptable organs and organists. The barrier that has been tarnishing our organization must be addressed to educate ourselves to form a sense of community. The organist defines the organ; the organ does not define the organist.

The American Guild of Organists needs you. You are wanted. You as a member can help out in so many ways such as inviting a guest regardless of the person's taste in organ music or position in the profession or hobby. You can volunteer, thus becoming a team member for an event. Your presence in any capacity at our workshops, recitals, and meetings is very important. We have many members but only a handful utilize the Guild's many resources. You can voice your thoughts. I will listen. We all share the appreciation of the organ. Take with you the quote above from Dr. Angelou and apply it every day for the rest of your life.

—Kevin

## PROFESSIONAL NEWS

As many will have heard by now, **Doug Marshall** and **David Ogletree** have announced their retirement as of September 30, 2011, from their association with Rogers organs to concentrate on marketing their own digital organ developed several years ago, the Marshall & Ogletree organ, which has received considerable acclaim. The new organ has attracted such customers as Trinity Church, Wall Street, NYC and Ave Maria University in Florida. We wish them well on their new project and look forward to further news.

## EVENTS

**Sunday, August 28, 7:00 pm:** *Zefiro* will offer works of Gesualdo, Paert and others at Taylor House Bed & Breakfast in Jamaica Plain, MA. Visit their website at [www.taylorhouse.com](http://www.taylorhouse.com).

**Sunday, September 4, Midnight: Mark Steinbach**, Brown University Organist, Sayles Hall, Brown University. Works of Messiaen, Vierne, Bach and Liszt. 1903 Hutchings-Votey Organ. Free admission. Handicapped accessible. Alternative seating: bring pillows or blankets. 863-2344

**Saturday, September 10, 7:30 pm:** *Bicentennial Organ Concert: Donald Dame* will perform works by Bedard, Bolcom, Franck, Gigout, Jongen and Pachelbel. First Baptist Church, 250 High Street, Bristol. \$10 general/\$5 student. A 200 Cupcake Collation will follow. 253-9030

**Friday, September 23, 8:00 pm:** *Jehan Alain Centennial Recital, James Higdon*, concert organist and noted performer and recording artist of the works of Alain. Sayles Hall, Brown University, 1903 Hutchings-Votey Organ. Free admission. Handicapped accessible. 863-2344.

**Sunday, October 2, 5:30 pm:** Solemn Evensong and Benediction - Feast of St Michael and All Angels (transferred) will be celebrated at St. Stephen's Church, 114 George Street, Providence. 421-6702 – Offering works of Thomas Tomkins, Jacob Handl, and Herbert Howells sing by the Choir of Men and Boys, Parish of All Saints', Ashmont, Boston. **Andrew Sheranian**, Organist and Master of the Choristers.

**Sunday, October 23, 5:30 pm:** Memorial Organ Recital. **James Busby**, Organist and Choirmaster. *Messa delli Apostoli* - Girolamo Frescobaldi-Joseph Bonnet with The Men of the Schola Cantorum; *Chamber Sonata II* (1995) - James Woodman with **Tobias Andrews**, French Horn; *Fantasie und Fuga Über den Choral "Ad nos, ad salutarum undam"* - Franz Liszt. St. Stephen's Church, 114 George Street, Providence; 421-6702. Offering.

## FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

I am pleased to report that many of you have responded to my request for quick renewals. Now I need the rest of you to jump on the calliope wagon as well. (Wouldn't it be fun if we actually had one?)

Our mission statement says our Guild exists, in part, to provide a forum for mutual support, inspiration, and education. We want to be there for you when you are in need of this support and we need your help in supporting others as well. Please do your part as a professional and renew your membership today. Only then can we be a strong, supportive organization for each other and for the organ itself as its role in worship continues to evolve. Please continue to be a part of shaping this future.

—Doris Alberg

Election results. Dean: Kevin DiLorenzo; Sub-Dean: Joe Gama. In the absence of nominees for Member-at-large, Stephen Martorella asked for volunteers to “run.” Margaret Clark and Leilani Nixon agreed to serve and were also elected.

## MEMBER MATTERS

Welcome to new members:

**Kay Pease**, assistant organist at Attleboro Covenant, 175 Chestnut Street, North Attleboro MA 02760; 774-254-3179; [k.r.wing@gmail.com](mailto:k.r.wing@gmail.com)

**Cheryl Duerr**, director of music ministries at Attleboro Covenant and the head of The Concord Coaching Co. has joined RIAGO as a dual member. 267 Concord Ave., Lexington, MA 02421; 617-852-3533, cell 781-860-8893, work 508-226-6221; [clduerr@gmail.com](mailto:clduerr@gmail.com)

**Dennis Schmidt, D.M.A.**, 7 Leatherleaf Road, Narragansett RI 02882; 284-3958; [dschmidtofbach@yahoo.com](mailto:dschmidtofbach@yahoo.com)

**Betty Nickerson** continues to enjoy Washington state, her daughters, sons-in-law and twin grandsons! She misses the easy access to organ recitals out there. She must travel to Tacoma and Seattle to attend events. She sends greetings to all and would love to hear from 'the old-timers' who remember her. (See Betty's reminiscence on page 3.)

# A MEMOIR OF MY MUSICAL LIFE

by BRIAN LARKIN

*The following is excerpted from Brian Larkin's response to a request from his family and friends to share some of his wide-ranging recollections as an organist. Many readers will recall with him some of the people, events, and places that figure in his evolution from student to director of St. Dunstan's Summer School for Church Musicians. We thank him for sharing and hope to publish segments periodically.*

—The Editor

I filled in playing organ for various people from time to time around Providence, almost always in an RC church. Hollis kept at me to use my skills elsewhere since the RC church was beginning to swing toward a liturgy that didn't appreciate a classical training. It was the early years after Vatican II when all kinds of music found its way into church. I had worked in Washington with Christina Brusselmans translating the Lucien Deiss Psalms into English and doing some transpositions to lower keys for the American audience. I had considerable time invested in the changing RC liturgical music scene so I resisted moving to the Protestant camp at first. Thinking about that Deiss project, all done in one summer – I can lay claim to at least two of the psalm settings that became somewhat popular: *Keep in Mind* and *Priestly People*.

I finally landed a job at St. Augustine's RC Church in Providence. It was a huge airplane hangar space with a lousy Baldwin electronic installed in the balcony. The thing hummed and popped but got the job done. I soon had a choir up and running with an experience level from none to some to expert. I can remember one rehearsal when we were working on Gounod's St. Cecilia Mass Sanctus. One particular sweet lady was having a tough time with an entry cue. I told her, "No, no—at this point you have a rest, THEN you come in. Let's try it again." So off we went and when the offending measure approached, the woman *sat down*. I stopped again and asked why she sat down. I didn't see it coming. She explained that I told her to "take a rest." So she sat!

Organs at in the late 1960s/ early 70s that I remember locally—the "Baldwiner" in St. Augustine's—'nuf said. I played there for a few years when Hollis Grant urged me to jump the fence and play for other denominations. I finally did after a particularly nasty confrontation with an out of control clergyman who would shout orders from the altar. I put up with it for a very short period and after speaking with the pastor a few times, departed the loft

during a service. I think it was during Holy Week. Some wag told me I'd never get another job after storming out during a service. It was the best move I ever made because the best and most creatively rewarding jobs were to come.

## RECOLLECTIONS

by BETTY NICKERSON, RIAGO DEAN 1978-1980

Upon request for her recollections, Betty writes:

I certainly have many GREAT memories of the RIAGO and my activities and the chapter members and the very special events enjoyed and worked on by all of us. I was Dean from 1978-80. State Chair: for 2 years at least at some point. Sometime, early '70s, Anna Fiore (at that time) reintroduced the AGO exams for our Chapter, the first time in 30 some years that exams had been held. I was one of the small group that took the Service Playing and passed. From there, the exams became a regular part of our chapter. It was hard work and a thrill to pass the CHM Exam. I traveled for each of the exam prep weekly classes from Narragansett to Barrington, about 45 miles one way. Barrington Congregational Church was the location of both Service Playing and Choir Master exams.

The 50th anniversary of the Chapter was another great event, celebrated in Grace Church. Ruth Laurent composed an anthem for the occasion. Combined choirs from members' churches performed. I was co-chair with Jim Trainor (or Trabbert?) of Newport.

Then of course in '85 was the huge Region I Convention with Rhode Island as host. How hard all of us worked to make that event a very memorable one. I co-chaired with Ron Turnquist.

How fortunate our chapter was and is to be located near historical, university, and seaside venues that have so many fine organs. It was one of the highest points of my life even though I believe I dropped five pounds during the week from just being on the go and trying to keep ahead of each event to be sure it would be taking place on time.

How easy it was to just sit here and get started. I could easily highlight a few memorable occasions but maybe that's for another time. I like to think of those years as a very special time - a small chapter with great dedicated people. I thank you for asking me.

—Betty

# NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ORGAN PEDAGOGY

The American Guild of Organists (AGO) and the Eastman School of Music are partnering to produce the 16th biennial AGO National Conference on Organ Pedagogy, November 10-13, 2011, in Rochester, N.Y. The conference will present the topic of organ improvisation through a variety of compositional techniques and styles. Complete information, including online registration, is available online. Early registration discounts are available through August 15.

David Heller, director of the AGO Committee on Continuing Professional Education says, "The City of Rochester and the Eastman School of Music, with its multiplicity of instruments and performing venues, will provide a superb setting in which to address the topic of improvisation from many different angles, providing information and resources that will be useful to all instructors of the organ at all levels of instruction."

The four-day conference will present master classes featuring students at a variety of levels, panel discussions addressing the teaching of improvisation, and sessions that will provide attendees with resource material in the pedagogy of improvisation. The keynote address, *Why Is Improvisation So Difficult?* will be given by Eastman faculty member William Porter.

Many internationally renowned organists and teachers working in the discipline of organ improvisation will be offering presentations, workshops and concerts. For further information, please visit <http://www.esm.rochester.edu/eroi/festival-2011.php> to register or contact EROI Festival Coordinator Annie Laver at 585-274-1564 or e-mail [anne.laver@rochester.edu](mailto:anne.laver@rochester.edu).

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## SUBSTITUTE LISTINGS

Contact Brian Larkin (272-8318) with changes.

### AVAILABLE SUNDAYS

Clarke, Margaret: 401-726-4128 (all)  
Dupont, Jean-Richard: 401-434-8476 (all, no weddings/choirs)  
Funk, Richard: 401-272-0693 (all)  
Gourd, Jacqueline: 401-828-4057 (all, no weddings)  
Kohl, Karen: 401-787-2695  
Larkin, Brian: 401-272-8318 (all, interim, consultant)  
Phelps, Howard: 508-224-8475 (no RC)  
Scheibert, Beverly Jerold: 508-339-0579 (all, weddings/funerals)  
Tagen, Julia L.: 401-885-7438 (all)  
Westhaver, Verna: 401-683-2636 (all, interim)  
Wiant, William: 401-683-3178 (all, weddings/funerals)

### NOT AVAILABLE SUNDAYS

Allard, Jeff: 401-447-9035 (funerals)  
Bush, Brink: 401-245-4065 (weddings, funerals)  
Cienniwa, Paul: 508-676-8483 (\$150 min)  
Conboy, Lois: 401-658-3838  
Hart, Kathy: 401-837-8873 (funerals, no RC)  
Markham, Susan: 401-821-6786 (weddings, funerals)  
Martorella, Philip: 401-885-3431 (weddings, funerals)  
Nicholson, Nancy: 401-521-9097 (no Sunday AM)  
Nolan, Robert: 401-884-7172 (weddings, funerals, non-Sun. services)  
Sobaje, Martha: 401-626-0099 (weddings, funerals, no RC)  
Tagen, Julie: 401-885-7438 (weddings, funerals)  
Valentine, Br. Enoch John, BSG: 273-1731 (funerals/weddings)  
Yoreo, Dorothy: 401-246-1223 (all)

## PLACEMENT LISTING

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

First Congregational Church of Sharon, MA (UCC) 3/11  
29 N Main St., Sharon, MA 02067  
Martha MacMillin: 781-784-2631; 781-784-1816  
Children's choir D/O \$300wk/10 months Roche  
Brian Larkin has more details if interested: [brianlarkin1@cox.net](mailto:brianlarkin1@cox.net)/  
401-272-8318

St. Anthony's RC Church 3/11  
2836 East Main Rd, Portsmouth, RI 02871  
Fr. Daniel Gray: 401-683-0089  
Organist full/part time Salary Open Rodgers

Pilgrim Lutheran (Evangel. Lutheran Church of Am) 5/11  
1817 Warwick Ave, Warwick, RI  
Rev. Dennis Kohl: 401-739-2932; 401-821-8553  
Minister of Music 16-20K Hutchings/Andover

## SUBMISSIONS

Deadline: 20th of each month  
Submissions: Send Word or Text files to [aallard@ccri.edu](mailto:aallard@ccri.edu) or to  
Althea Allard, 166 Suffolk Ave., Pawtucket, RI 02861.  
Advertising: Word doc, PDF (print ready), JPG (high resolution),  
TIFF, or EPS. All files should be grayscale at 300 dpi resolution.  
Email to [camacphee@gmail.com](mailto:camacphee@gmail.com).

## ADVERTISING RATES

1/4-page ad (3.5"W x 5"H): \$18  
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.