



VOX OCEANA

NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS | VOLUME XLVI, NO. 9

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www.riago.org

FROM THE DEAN

Dear fellow RIAGO members,

Here we go! The Holy Seasons of Advent and Christmas are upon us! We are certainly all very busy this time of year preparing, conducting, and playing. It goes on and on. But, we wouldn't want to be doing anything else. This is one of the times of the liturgical calendar when we use our talents to help others celebrate these mysteries in a fitting manner.

Five years ago, I became ill at this time of the year and spent the Christmas week in RI Hospital. I received so many calls and visits from dear friends and family members trying to help me keep my spirits up. I was grateful for them all, but my only wish was to be back on the bench where I belong. Of course, not being able to play at the Cathedral for Midnight Mass and all the other Masses on that day was worse than the sickness. But, as St. Theresa said, "All is grace." Perhaps I learned a great lesson that year! It made me realize how very much playing the organ truly means to me as it must for all of you. So, when there is one more rehearsal or one more request or one more orchestral part to write out, be glad that you are able to do it and be grateful that you are in the position to do it!

We use our talents in the service of the Lord. We are truly blessed by the Lord. For our congregations, we help to make Christmas sacred and memorable. We help our choirs and congregations pray. This is an honor; therefore we must always do our very best. Having been in Rome during the Thanksgiving season, I have remembered all of your intentions in prayer in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of Saint Peter's Basilica. For those of you who have been fortunate enough to be in that sacred space, you will remember its magnificent and prayerful atmosphere. Before that tabernacle, made by Michelangelo, I humbly asked the Lord to help all of you and your loved ones now and in the New Year.

On another topic, thanks to all who prepared and attended the two November workshops. The topics were varied and informative. Our chapter is alive and well, thanks to all of you! Please remember to send me an email or phone message so that we will have an idea of how many will be attending the Christmas Party at our home on Sunday December 29th at 5pm (51 Summit Drive Cranston). We look forward to hosting this event for all of you! Have a Blessed Christmas and May the Infant Jesus, The Word Made Flesh, dwell in your heart and home always. Merry Christmas!

Philip

RIAGO SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, December 7 at 7pm at Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Providence, **Paul Cienniwa** plays Messiah with the Providence Singers and the Rhode Island Philharmonic under Maestro Francisco Noya.

Tuesday, December 10 at 7pm: **Paul Cienniwa** leads the Framingham State University Chorus in Vivaldi's Gloria and some seasonal classics.

Sunday December 15 at 4:00pm: The Choirs of St. Paul's Church, Wickford, with guest instrumentalists present works of Alain, Muhly, Perkins, Rheinberger, and Palestrina under the direction of **Mark Steinbach**, DMA, Director of Music, Organist and Choirmaster. Reception follows in Parish Hall at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 55 Main Street, Wickford, RI. Information 294-4357; www.stpaulswickford.org. Free and handicapped accessible.

PLACEMENT LISTINGS

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

First Congregational Church of Sharon (UCC) 2/13
N. Main St, Sharon, MA 02067
Martha MacMillin: 781-784-2631; 781-784-1816
O/Minister of Music 18-22K Roche 21 rks/ 3 man

Congregational Church of Mansfield (UCC) 10/13
17 West Street, Mansfield, MA 02048
Carol Sosman Ham: 508-339-4793
O/ChM Austin 2manual 16K

SUBSTITUTE LIST

See website for listings this month
Contact *Brian Larkin* (272-8318) with changes.

REMINDER

If you have not changed the e-mail address for newsletter submissions, please note: **altheaallard@gmail.com**.

Also, email to receive the letter electronically to save the world a tree and RIAGO a stamp (\$0.49 as of January)!

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

HYMN PLAYING COMPETITION

To promote the value of excellence in hymn playing, the 2014 Schoenstein Competition in Hymn Playing has just been announced to coincide with the release by MorningStar Music Publishers of the book *Hymn Playing: A Modern Colloquium* by Stuart Forster. Organists born on or after March 20, 1981, are invited to apply. The application should include live recordings of the applicant playing hymns with a congregation singing, and must be received by March 20, 2014. The final round will be held at Christ Church, Cambridge, Massachusetts, at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 22, 2014, the day before the National Convention begins in Boston for the American Guild of Organists. The public is invited to sing in the congregation during the final round. Finalists will play the 2006 III/43 Schoenstein organ at Christ Church, Cambridge. First prize will be \$3000 and second prize will be \$1000. Rules and Application Forms are available at www.hymnplayingcompetition.org or from the organizer, Dr. Stuart Forster, at stuartforster@aya.yale.edu.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

From Ray Cornils, Convention Coordinator:

Please join us June 23-27 for the 2014 National Convention in Boston. Centered in Boston's Back Bay, an easy walk to many great churches, this 4 ½ day convention will inspire and thrill with a diversity of instruments – from Meantone to Wurlitzer – played by an outstanding international roster of organists playing recently installed instruments as well as landmark organs.

Besides great organs, we feature outstanding choral concerts, commissioned works, diverse worship opportunities, and stimulating workshops.

Register before January 31 to take advantage of discounted rates. Register online now at regonline.com/agoboston2014 to ensure your choices. Or register using the form in the October issue of *The American Organist*. The Marriott Copley place is our convention headquarters hotel. For reservations: <https://aws.passkey.com/reg/326GFM29-G682>, or call the hotel at 800.228.9290. Ask for the AGO 2014 Convention rate of \$195/night. For questions, contact us at info@agoboston2014.org. We will respond quickly to your inquiries.

New England beckons you to join us for an inspirational week.

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.