



VOX OCEANA

DEC. 2015

NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS | VOLUME XLVIII, NO. 10

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2017
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2018
Alan Cotnoir
Cody Mead

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FROM THE DEAN

Dear Colleagues,

Peter Berton's lecture-recital on November 8th, on the important legacy of improvisation which Gerre Hancock has left to us, was a fascinating glimpse (aural and visual, since Peter came armed with handouts) into the musical spirit of one of our profession's great artists. There were about thirty in attendance, which is a record for recent programs in this chapter I think, and I am personally very grateful to Peter for his superb musicianship and witty, engaging presentation, and to the Rector of S. Stephen's, Fr. John Alexander and Organist/Choirmaster, Dr. James Busby. A fascinating, important topic, genial presenter and host, an engaged "audience" with time for questions and answers after the presentation, all made for a most enjoyable and educational afternoon. We will be having more programs like this one, to be sure! Elsewhere in this issue you will find David Cranmer's review of the program.

We will not be having a program in December, for obvious reasons! After the Christmas season is behind us and we will have our annual Twelfth Night Dinner on Friday January 8th, 2016! A catered dinner and informal, light-hearted musical entertainment await you and your guests at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 118 Division St., in East Greenwich. Our thanks to Brad Logan, Director of Music, and Philip Martorella, Organist, for helping me arrange this fun event! Do mark your calendars now, and return the registration form in this newsletter with a check for \$30 (made out to RIAGO), to Doris Alberg, by Monday January 4th, so we know how many people the caterers need to plan for! We all need a little convivial "down time" after the holidays, to re-group over a good meal and renew friendships and share stories; and \$30 is a very good deal for a delicious dinner (starter, main course, salad, dessert and coffee/tea, with a vegetarian option available) with all the seasonal trimmings! And there will be a Three Kings Cake (I hope!) and door prizes! Our Regional Councilor Cheryl Duerr will be with us to offer a few words of wisdom as well. Do come!

In the meantime, I send my best wishes for a joyful Advent and Christmas season, and may you have "sweet singing" in your choirs!

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"...leading to... "Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!"

John Brooks, Dean

See page 2 to reserve for the January 8 dinner mentioned in the Dean's message

REVIEW - BERTON LECTURE

On Sunday, November 8, at St. Stephen's Church, Providence, RIAGO members were treated to a performance-lecture by Peter Stolfus Berton, playing and speaking about several Gere Hancock improvisations that, with two exceptions, were recorded at St. Thomas Church by church member Dr. Alan van Poznak. Peter provided us with transcriptions to follow as we listened to these improvisations. Some were transcribed by Peter himself.

The program opened with a recording from Christ the King Sunday, 1994, of the interlude and harmonization of the tune *St. Helen* featuring the magnificent organ and choir of St. Thomas Church. The second piece on the program, a musical improvisation of *Daily, Daily*, also included words especially written to honor Gere Hancock, recorded at St. Thomas Church in 1992.

The other improvisations recorded by Dr. Poznak on the program were: *Interlude and harmonization: King's Weston*, and *Postlude: Kingsfold. Prelude: Valet will ich dir geben, Modulation and harmonization: Finnian*, and *Harmonization: Ora Labora* were played by Peter.

Peter closed the program with two commercially released recordings of improvisations at St. Thomas Church: *Improvisation*, from the CD *Evensong at St. Thomas* – "Ubi Caritas"; and *Improvisation on St. Clement* from the CD *Fanfare* (played by Peter). These transcriptions are not yet publically available because of some copyright issues.

Since there were just about 30 of us, we were able to sit in the choir stalls, making for a more intimate setting. Peter is not only a fine performer, but also a great lecturer. Although I will never rise to the improvisation level of Gere Hancock, I am now more energized to begin work on the TAO series on learning to improvise in 15 minutes a day. It was a well-spent afternoon.

Dav Cranmer

SCOTT METCALFE *Music Director*

BLUE HERON

"The singing is both precise and fluid, immaculate and alive."
Alex Ross, THE NEW YORKER



CHRISTMAS IN MEDIEVAL ENGLAND
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 @ 4:00 PM
S. Stephen's Church, 114 George Street, Providence

Blue Heron brings its most popular program to Providence for the first time. Motets by Leonel Power and John Dunstaple, English carols, and Sarum plainchant.

Contact us for more information and advance tickets: 

617.960.7956 www.blueheronchoir.org

Clip and mail

Reservation for Twelfth Night Dinner Friday, January 8, 2016

Member name _____

Number of persons attending _____

Total enclosed @ \$30 each _____

Make checks payable to RIAGO and mail to

Doris Alberg, Treasurer

18 Highland Avenue

Lincoln, RI 02865

by January 4

Please choose for each attendee:

Chicken _____ Vegetarian _____

PLACEMENT LISTINGS

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

Church of the Epiphany 8/15
1336 Pawtucket Avenue
East Providence, RI
Episcopal
Jennifer Zogg, Rector
401-434-5012; 401-680-0155, evenings
Org/ChM Moller 2M 16/19K

MEMBER MATTERS

David Cranmer has a new e-mail address: dcranmer45@cox.net. Dav is retiring from New England Tech, where he has taught English for many years. We congratulate him and wish him many happy hours at the organ, now that time allows!

Long-time member, **Helen Rathbun**, writes that at 101, she still attends Norwood Baptist Church where she served as organist for over 50 years. Whenever there is a flyer in the newsletter, she makes sure it gets posted on the church bulletin board. Thanks for your ongoing support, Helen!

Condolences to **Betty Nickerson**, on the recent death of her husband. Betty has been subscribing from Washington since she moved there several years ago.

EVENTS

Sunday, December 20 at 4:00pm: St. Stephen's Church, Providence, hosts **Blue Heron** in a Medieval Christmas presentation. *See ad on page 2 for details.*

Friday, January 8 at 6:00pm: **RIAGO Twelfth Night Celebration** featuring a catered dinner and musical entertainment. Members and guests welcome. First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 118 Division Street, East Greenwich.

See reservation form on page 2.

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)
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, \$150 min)
Phelps, Howard: 508-224-8475 (please inquire)
Scheibert, Beverly Jerold: 508-339-0579 (all, weddings/funerals)
Schmidt, Dennis 401-284-3958
Tagen, Julia L.: 401-885-7438 (all, weddings/funerals/interim)
Taylor, Terry: 401-253-9030 (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.)
Conboy, Lois: 401-658-3838 (please inquire)
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)
Wiant, William: 401-683-3178 (weddings/memorials & funerals)

*May you and your choirs
be blessed with the joys
of music-making
during this holy season!*

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 you provide (for RIAGO members): \$10. Make checks out to RIAGO and mail to Althea Allard by the 20th.