



VOX OCEANA

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MEMBER MATTERS

RIAGO member **Beverly Jerold Scheibert** has published several essays in various scholarly journals: "Eighteenth-Century Stringed Keyboard Instruments from a Performance Perspective," *Ad Parnassum* 9 (April 2011): 75-100. Findings include a very stiff keyboard action for harpsichords, clavichords, and some pianos, and considerably more volume than thought today.

"The Bach/Scheibe Controversy: New Documentation," *BACH, Journal of the Riemenschneider Bach Institute* 42/1 (2011): 1-45. Corrects misconceptions about the controversy and demonstrates that the anonymous criticism in Scheibe's journal concerned not the quality of Bach's church music, but its overwhelming difficulty for singers and instrumentalists.

"The French Time Devices Revisited," *Dutch Journal of Music Theory* 15/3 (Nov. 2010): 169-189. A new source, which solves the mystery of the disparate tempo numbers derived from early time-measuring devices, indicates that tempos were much more moderate than ours.

"What Handel's Casting Reveals About Singers of the Time," *Göttinger Händel-Beiträge* 13 (2010): 141-163.

Congratulations on your ambitious achievement, Beverly!

On Sunday, November 6, 2011, RIAGO member **Michael Browner, Jr.** became the organist of the historic Congdon Street Baptist Church of Providence. Founded in 1819, Congdon Street Baptist Church is Rhode Island's oldest African-American Baptist church. Michael follows in the footsteps of former RIAGO member Mrs. Linnear Horne who served as organist of Congdon Street for an amazing 55 years (1956-2011). Michael is proud to serve at Congdon Street to continue Mrs. Horne's legacy of dedicated service. Congratulations and best wishes in your august position, Michael!

Please add **Chris Souza**, 41 Truman St Johnston, RI 02919; 368-2758 to the Directory. Chris is organist/director at Our Lady of Good Help.

H. Edward Seaholm has a new e-mail address: madorganist1@verizon.net

A MEMOIR OF MY MUSICAL LIFE

by BRIAN LARKIN

PART 7

1970 saw the appearance of Gerre Hancock for the first time. Gerre came from Christ Church Cathedral in Cincinnati and was the new face on 5th Avenue in New York at St. Thomas's Church where he was to launch a major part of his career. Originally from Texas, he studied with Jack Ossewaarde, Robert Baker, Jean Langlais, Marie Clare Alain and Nadia Boulanger. He knew Ossewaarde from earlier studies with him at St. Bartholomew's in New York and was his assistant there in the early days. (It was Jack who "introduced" a pretty girl to Gerre, who informed Jack that they'd already met. It was his future wife, Judi.) The week was rounded out with Alex Peloquin again conducting the choral workshops. Allen Lannom, well known conductor and choral director

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of The Master Singers, gave several voice classes. His engaging style and obvious knowledge of the choral arts made him a natural to do a full week of choral training in years to come. George Faxon gave a symposium on "all things church organ." His dry wit was always a treat and his comments and advice were always on the money. He told me once that you'd never become a good church organist until you got fired at least once! That day would come. Jack Noble White did the junior choir workshop. He was and is still, a world class authority on youth choirs and composes a wide variety of work for voice and organ. In those early days, the Conference was held in early September, began on Monday with registration all morning and ended with a gala reception on Friday night after the last concert. It would be a few years before the date moved to August.

By 1971 Hollis had the pattern of the Conference down to a science. Some argued it was too predictable (whatever that meant). The truth is, the model was based on an academic approach with so many hours devoted to each discipline. Faxon and Hancock, both with extensive university backgrounds, were consulted on the period grid during a given day. It was designed to give optimal coverage to the two major focuses: organ repertoire and choral arts. The youth choir insertion, usually on Thursdays, was important and also gave the organ and vocal clinicians a needed break and time to prepare recitals. Eventually some time was given over to bell ringing too.

Allen Lannom took over the choral workshops this year. Mc Neil Robinson came up from St. Mary the Virgin in New York to give an organ recital in Sayles Hall at Brown. He played two big Franck pieces and Dupre's Seven Pieces. I can still remember the Franck "Finale" and I think it's the last time I heard it. Funny how some repertoire falls in and out of favor. The week ended in another block buster concert at St. Stephen's. We had already heard the Master Singers on Tuesday but this extravaganza was over the top. Gerre had been asked to compose something and he came up with "Song to the Lamb." The performance combined the Conference student body, Trinity Choir, McNeil Robinson at the organ, Gerre conducting, and brass brought down from Boston. Some who later formed the famous Atlantic Brass made up the performance group. Nancy Faxon, a composer of no mean ability provided a clever and spine chilling descant for brass and chorus to the Easter Hymn which ended the evening. St. Dunstan's College Conference was now in the big time.

Excerpted from Brian Larkin's wide-ranging recollections as an organist. We thank him for sharing and hope to publish segments periodically.
—The Editor

OBITUARY

Robert H. Hamlin, Ed. D., long-time member of RIAGO over the years, passed away on December 17, 2011. He taught in the Providence Public School System and later became a professor in the English and Education departments at Providence College. Dr. Hamlin was a Rhode Island delegate to the annual Hampton University Minister's Conference and Organist Guild annual workshops and concerts. He served as organist of the Barrington United Methodist Church for thirteen years (1961-1974) and as organist of Ebenezer for twenty years (1974-1994), where he was named organist emeritus upon his retirement. He was an outstanding human being and a very talented musician; he will be remembered as a great friend, mentor, and educator.

PLACEMENT LISTING

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

Newport Presbyterian 11/11

Everett St., Newport

Janet Jones: 401-683-6438

Tony Ruggiero: 401-847-4223

O/ChM Negotiable 1975 3 m Casavant

First Baptist Attleboro (American Baptist) 12/11

118 South Main St, Attleboro, MA 02703

Linda Snyder, interim pastor: 203-927-5387

O/ChM Austin 1925/1975 Call Brian Larking for salary info

PLEASE NOTE: the **Substitute List** can be found on our website: www.riago.org. Convention information can be found at www.agohq.com.

SUBMISSIONS

Deadline: 20th of each month

Submissions: Send Word or Text files to 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.

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.