



VOX OCEANA

NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS | VOLUME LII NO. 2

FEB 2019

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FROM THE DEAN

Dear Fellow AGO Members,

As you may have noticed, this month's *Vox Oceana* is coming out a little bit later in the month than usual. We are using it to promote our next event which is in March. Gigi has secured for us the talents of Katelyn Emerson who will be performing in concert for the RI AGO on Friday, March 22, at 7:30pm at St. Stephen's Church, Providence. Please read the information provided by our Sub Dean. This promises to be a wonderful concert, and I look forward to seeing many of our members in attendance. Also, a gentle reminder to everyone to renew their annual dues to National, as it gives significant financial support to our local Chapter.

Stephen Kirby, *Dean*

FROM THE SUB DEAN

Hello friends and colleagues,

We have had an absolutely wonderful line-up of events so far, and we have two more that you won't want to miss before we close out this season!

The first is our special guest recitalist, Katelyn Emerson, who is setting the organ world on fire with her amazing adventures and committed performances. Here is a link to an interview that I had with her last week in anticipation of her Boston and Rhode Island recitals. <https://www.classical-scene.com/2019/02/21/katelyn-gratitude/?amp>. She will be hosted by James Busby at S. Stephen's Church on March 22nd at 7:30 pm, reception to follow.

The second and last event of the season is our annual Members' Recital and Dinner being held this year at Central Congregational Church on June 2nd at 4:00 pm. Many thanks to Patrick Aiken for hosting us. The recital focuses on the repertoire of women composers and will be given by women artists. Composers include: Price, Bitgood, Diemer, Sobaje, Demessieux, Joulain, Laurin and Decker. RI Philharmonic's own Jane Murray will be playing a piece for oboe and organ.

We also have Boston AGO's Dean, organist Louise Mundiger, who has agreed to be with us and who was instrumental in starting the WIM-fest (Women in Music) sponsored by BAGO. She will also play and at dinner, give a short talk about women in music.

I urge you to come to these events and bring a friend or two.

I wish you all a blessed season as we head into Lent. Hope to see you soon!

Gigi, *Sub Dean*

Editor: See Gigi's interview with Katelyn Emerson, next page.

AN INTERVIEW WITH KATELYN EMERSON

The following is condensed from BIIIntelligencer

Not yet 30, Katelyn Emerson already possesses an almost encyclopedic knowledge of some of the world's greatest organs, and she has played them and photographed them for her extensive website and blog. After graduating with degrees from Oberlin in organ performance and French with a minor in forte piano, she took advantage of a Fulbright to study in Toulouse for the French equivalent of an Artist's Diploma, and is now working on a Masters' degree in Stuttgart, Germany thanks to winning the German equivalent of a Fulbright. She has already studied with some of the organ world's greatest luminaries. Besides all this, she possesses appealing groundedness. When not riding in a plane, train or automobile, she's bound to be found riding horses, flying in gliders, jogging the local terrain, attending community suppers for the under-privileged or just sitting at a concert enjoying the talents of friends old and new. She is an artist with an inexhaustible energy for life and learning. I managed to catch up with her recently in Boston where she had just flown in from Germany to spend a month concertizing in the US.

In Maine, Emerson's birthplace, her parents dedicated themselves to helping her: find the best teachers and education. When I asked how she has the energy to do all she does and to document it so thoroughly on her blog, she admits it was originally for her grandmother and her family in Maine so they could keep up with her and enjoy her experiences. But because people liked it, she continued. Indeed, she cares more about experiences than about career markers and building a list of successes.

Yes, I would really like to win competitions, and I have both won and lost competitions, but I don't want to be disappointed. I would rather enjoy the experience and be shocked by winning, than expect to win and be disappointed in myself and in the whole experience and not get as much out of it as a result. There is a joke in the music world that often the second prize winner is the more interesting player because that person "stirred things up," evoked a response, while the first prize winner was deemed "just fine" by the entire jury. It's a great thing to stir things up, because what is music if not to evoke something? So if you're evoking a positive or a negative emotion, you're still evoking.

She stops short of any criticism when I mention the controversial Cameron Carpenter, who has created a sensation in the organ world, evoking strong positive and negative reactions for his exotic appearance and performances. When I asked if what he does seems to be a personal truth she fired back, "Who am I to say what someone else's personal truth is?" We agree!

Besides playing at Notre Dame Cathedral next season, she plans to add new repertoire to an already extensive list. The unstoppable Emerson currently has around 6 hours of ready-to-go music in her fingers. Normally, there isn't an overlap of more than two to three pieces among stops on her tours. Her repertoire extends from music as early as Sweelinck to the world premiere of a work by another concert organist, Fred Hohman, winner of the American Guild of Organists' Pogorzelski-Yankee Competition for composers with a 12-minute piece, *The Organ Icons*, which Emerson will offer in March at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Other concerts will include Liszt's *Fantasia and Fugue on "Ad nos, ad Salutarem undam."*

I asked her what she saw herself doing in 10 years and she laughingly said that at one time in undergraduate school she had a very specific 10-year plan, and luckily none of it came to pass! She concedes that she has "been very fortunate to walk through open doors as they opened up."

I think we will be enjoying the artistry and experiences of Katelyn Emerson for many years to come!

Gigi Mitchell-Velasco, conductor, organist and mezzo soprano, is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music and Boston University. She had an international singing career and is now conducting and playing organ in the New England area. She lives in Rhode Island with her husband, tenor **Noel Velasco**.

Katelyn Emerson

Solo Organ Recital



Friday, March 22, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

works by **Vivaldi/Bach, Sweelinck, Howells, Franck, Boëly, Parker & Seeger**
hosted by **S. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 114 George Street, Providence**
presented by the **Rhode Island Chapter of the American Guild of Organists**

Open to the Public ♦ Donations Welcome

Post-Recital Reception Follows

*...a star of the
first rank...□*



*one of the world's most
promising organists*

...thrilled

RIAGO EVENTS 2018-2019

Friday, March 22 at 7:30 p.m. – KATELYN EMERSON SOLO RECITAL at St. Stephen's Church, Providence.

Sunday, June 2, at 4:00 pm: WOMEN IN MUSIC RECITAL. Anual meeting and dinner follow. Central Congregational Church, Providence.

EVENTS

Sunday March 10 at 4:00pm: Mark Steinbach,
Brown University Organist plays “*St. Anne*” *Prelude and Fugue in E-flat major*, **J.S. Bach**; *Diptyque* and *Joi et Clarté*, **Olivier Messiaen**; *Sonata no. 2*, **Paul Hindemith** at Sayles Hall, Brown University. Free admission.

March 16 at 1:00pm: Masterclass: Arvid Gast,
Professor of Organ, Hochschule für Musik, Lübeck, Germany. Sayles Hall Brown University. Free.

Sunday March 17 at 4:00pm: Arvid Gast, concert organist, Professor of Organ Hochschule für Musik, Lübeck and Organist of Jacobikirche, Lübeck, plays at Sayles Hall, Brown University. Free.

Sunday, March 31 at 7 pm: Blessed Sacrament Church, 239 Regent Avenue, Providence, presents the 1927 Cecil B. DeMille silent film, *The King of Kings*, with improvised organ accompaniment. One of the best known and significant films of the late silent film era, it reflects on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. **James Morgan**, organist, and a 2000 semi-finalist of the AGO National Improvisation Competition, will employ his imaginative and skilled playing to bring sound to this enthralling motion picture. Parking is easily available; a free will offering will be taken. The church is not handicapped accessible. Contact: Bro. Roger Chingas, FSC, Music Director: 401.868.7959 brogerjc@aol.com

PLACEMENT LISTINGS

Contact Julie Tagen (401-225-9594) to list

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| St. Mark's Episcopal Church | 11/18 |
| 111 East Shore Rd., Warwick, RI 02889 | |
| The Rev. Susan Wrathall | day 401-737-3127 eve 401-617-0380 |
| Steere & Turner | \$16,000 O/D |
| | |
| The First Universalist Church of Providence | 4/18 |
| 250 Washington St., Providence, RI 02903 | |
| The Rev. W. Scott Axford | 401-751-0821 401-454-1636 |
| \$150/service pipe organ Organist/Director | |

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| First Baptist Church of Bristol | 10/18 |
| 250 High St., Bristol, RI 02809 | |
| Rev. Jake McGuire | pastorjakemcguire@gmail.com |
| Patsy Sanford | patstuff@fullchannel.net |
| \$11,000 | Brennan & Gleason Minister of Music |

SUBSTITUTE LISTINGS

Contact Julie Tagen (401-225-9594) with changes.

AVAILABLE SUNDAYS & WEEKDAYS

Babbitt, Jonathan 401-864-9009
Casteel, Eden: 401-932-5589
Clarke, Margaret: 401-726-4128 (all)
Higgins, Stephen: 401-441-2270 (comfortable with any keyboard situation)
Jones, William: 401-848-4327 (all)
Karen Kohl: 401-787-2695 Please Inquire
MacCubbin, Jay: 401-521-0698
Nicholson, Nancy: 401-521-9097 (all)
Tagen, Julia L.: 401-225-9594 (all, weddings/funerals/interim)
Taylor, Terry: 401-253-9030 (tutti@fullchannel.net)
Vecchio, Gina: 401-954-2163
Vinson, Duncan: 781-888-3848
Westhaver, Verna: 401-683-2636 (substitute/interim)
Wilson, Lawrence: 860-857-5493 Organ; Sacred Jazz Composer/Arranger

AVAILABLE WEEKDAYS ONLY

Black, John: 401-737-1230 (all, available Saturdays & weekdays)
Castellani, Roger: 917-621-6530
Cranmer, David: 401-447-9848
Martorella, Philip: 401-615-0769 (no Sun. a.m.)
Sobaje, Martha: 401-626-0099 (weddings, funerals)

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.

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