



VOX OCEANA

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NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS | VOLUME XLIV, NO. 1

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Laura Jensen: 787-3032

2012
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Philip Martorella: 885-3431

2013
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Jean-Richard DuPont: 434-8476

www.riago.org

www.agonewengland.blogspot.com

FROM THE DEAN

THE BACH CHORALES: WHAT TO PLAY AND WHEN TO PLAY IT?

One of the questions I am most frequently asked is “When do I play this or that chorale prelude?” Since most of us do not read German, many are at a loss to know the answer, but for those of us that do read German, we come to realize that we still might not know all of the answers. Some chorale melodies had several different texts and were known by different titles, just like some of the hymns in modern day hymnals.

The place to start is with the Church Year, and the good news is that all denominations pretty much agree on the basics. Advent and Lent are the periods of waiting, four weeks before Christmas and forty days before Easter, respectively. The 2nd day of Christmas is St. Stephen’s Day, which I remember only because it is my namesake. Christmas is followed by the celebration of the New Year and Epiphany. As Lent marks forty days before Easter, so Ascension is marked forty days after, and is immediately followed by Whitsunday (Pentecost), the giving of the Holy Spirit. The following Sunday is Trinity and thereafter Sundays are simply called by number in Ordinary time, or by number as the first, second, third, etc. Sunday after Trinity. Many Sundays in the church year have Latin names, and of course, Bach’s Lutheran church named them all in German.

So, now that we have the church year figured out, just how do we connect with all those chorales? Some, of course, are obvious, at least if you read German, or have an English translation, which might be more likely. For those that do not, a little homework is now in order. Most of the chorales are associated with cantatas, and most cantatas were written for specific days of the Church Year as Bach knew it. Aryeh Oron’s excellent site BCW (Bach Cantatas Website) <http://www.bach-cantatas.com/index.htm> gives all the information you need plus a week by week listing for each of the Cantatas on one page <http://www.bach-cantatas.com/LCY/Table.htm>

This table is interactive. Just clicking on the day in either the German or the English gives you the lectionary readings, and clicking on any of the Cantata numbers opens a full description of the cantata, its texts and their authors, its usage, historical data, sources, scoring, commentary and musical examples in both German and English. All that is left to do is match cantata texts to chorale preludes, and there you have it. Tailor this information to suit your own needs, and bear in mind that not all cantata texts found their way into chorale preludes. That information, too, can be gleaned from this website.

For a more general perspective in terms of placing the Cantatas within Bach’s major postings, along with a fine set of recordings of all things Bach, see the site of the Baroque Music Club <http://www.baroquemusic.org/cantatas.html>

(continued on page 2)

EVENT

Sunday, January 9, 7:00 pm:

Music at St. Paul's presents Choirs of St. Paul's, Wickford, offering Choral Evensong celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany with works of Howells, Morley, Titcomb. **Mark Steinbach, DMA**, Director. Old Narragansett Church, Church Lane, Wickford. Dress warmly; bring a flashlight and a friend. Reception follows. 401-474-6644 or 401-294-4357 x 106.

YOUR INPUT WANTED!

Please join members of the Boston Chapter as we begin planning the 2014 National Convention at a Convention Design Charette on **Saturday, January 22** (Snow date Jan. 29) at All Saint's Church, Ashmont (209 Ashmont St., Dorchester Ctr, MA 02124-3898.) All Saint's has a good parking lot, and is next to the Ashmont T stop. Time: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

We are seeking the following information from all members and friends of the Chapter:

- De-briefing the 2009 Regional
- Your convention experiences – what works, what doesn't?
- What makes Boston UNIQUE in the organ/choral world?
- How would you like to be involved?

For planning, headcount (and snow postponement contact info if necessary) please RSVP to Convention Coordinator Mark Dirksen at mdirksen.ago@gmail.com.

MEMBER UPDATES

William Cooper, formerly organist at the now closed St. Lawrence Church, has been appointed organist at St. Sebastian's Church, Cole Avenue, Providence. Congratulations in your new position!

DEAN *(continued from front page)*

Finally, the excellent writings of Charles Sanford Terry on the Bach Chorals are available online as free, legal, and licensed (for educational use only) PDF files, parts I, II, and III at a website devoted to the Bach chorales <http://www.jsbchorales.net/index.shtml> At this site also is a list of the chorales sorted according to the liturgical year, for those who do not wish to search through cantatas for chorale texts (hint: hover your mouse over "Lists" and a dropdown will appear which will include the aforementioned list).

Now for the final exam, I am told these days that multiple choice is all the rage, so here it is: Silvester is:
a) a cat b) December 31st

–Steve

WORKSHOPS

To date, with one exception, there has not been enough response to organize any of the workshops, however if more persons respond by **January 15**, we can still schedule some of them. Explore the Organ, a workshop for piano students hosted by Nancy Nicholson and Stephen Martorella, will take place at The First Baptist Church in America, 75 North Main Street, Providence on **Saturday February 5, 2011** beginning at 1:00 pm. Anyone who wishes to observe may come and see some of the creative educational techniques that will encourage young persons to enter the world of the "King of Instruments" (or "Queen", all things being equal). If you have a student who would like to participate contact Nancy Nicholson at 401.521.9097 or nlnpianist@cox.net. There will be a small fee charged for participants.

MINI-CONVENTION XIII

Saturday, February 26, 2011

Sponsored by
THE MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAPTER, A.G.O.

Mini-Convention No. 13 is coming soon, and this will be lucky 13th! We look forward to seeing a lot of familiar faces and some new ones too, so invite a friend, student, or the new organist in town. We have another interesting and varied lineup for you again this year, based on suggestions by former attendees and our chapter members. Spectrum Music will be back with a large selection of organ and choral scores. Attendees are welcome to also bring “pre-owned” music, books and CDs for our Scholarship Fund flea market table. The Party Connection of Methuen will be providing a delicious catered lunch, and there will be time for socializing and browsing. Here’s the schedule (bring it with you!):

- 8:30 – 9:00** Coffee and Registration
- 9:00 – 9:45** Anthem Reading led by MVAGO members.
- 10:00 – 10:45** Lee Leach: “Carillons: A Carillonneur’s Perspective on Playing Church Bells”
- 11:00 – 11:45** Andrew Shenton: “The Organ Music of Liszt, Large and Small”
- 12:00 Noon** Lunch, Conversation and Browsing
- 1:30 – 2:15** David Carrier: “Spicing up Your Choral Rehearsals”
- 2:30 – 3:15** Nelson and Beverly Pease: “An Introduction to Reed Organs”

The 2011 Mini-Convention will again be held at First Calvary Baptist Church, at the intersection of Route 125 and Massachusetts Ave. in North Andover (same location as last year). From I-495 take Exit 43 (Massachusetts Ave. – North Andover); follow Mass. Ave. south about two miles, past one traffic light, until you see another traffic light ahead (Rte. 125). The church is a modern building on the left, just before the intersection, and entrance to the large parking lot is just before you get to the church.

Mindful of the present recession and its possible effects on many of you, we are still keeping the cost the same as in the past few years. Full day is still \$48.00, and either a morning or afternoon half-day session is \$32.00. Lunch is included in all registrations, whether full-day or half-day. Students with appropriate i.d. may take \$10.00 off the cost. PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. To register, cut and complete the form below, enclose a check or money order payable to MVAGO Mini-Convention and mail to Ruth Bowers, Registrar, 25 Pine Road, Beverly, MA 01915-3729, by February 21, 2011.

Membership in the American Guild of Organists is not required for attendance at this Mini-Convention. Please photocopy and pass this flyer around to your colleagues, friends, and especially students. If you have any questions, please call or e-mail Barbara Owen (978-465-2068; owenbar@juno.com) or Ruth Bowers (978-922-8137; Ruth.Bowers@comcast.net).

MINI-CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____ E-Mail _____

All Day _____ Morning only _____ Afternoon only _____ Amount enclosed _____

Detach and mail this form with your registration fee to Ruth H. Bowers, 25 Pine Road, Beverly, MA 01915-3729 before February 21, 2011.

PLACEMENT LISTING

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

Evangelical Covenant Church 9/10

841 N Main St, Attleboro, MA 02703

Susan Manlove

O/D 35-40K Kinzey-Angerstein

Dunn's Corners Community Church 10/10

Westerly, RI

Contact Brian Larkin for details

Tanya Smith: 401-377-4234

Organist/ PT \$9000 Allen

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: 401-521-7299 x611 (all)

Gourd, Jacqueline: 401-828-4057 (all, no weddings)

Larkin, Brian: 401-272-8318 (all)

Norton-Jackson, Diana: 401-783-0402 (no RC/weddings, \$150 min.)

Phelps, Howard: 508-224-8475 (no RC)

Scheibert, Beverly Jerold: 508-339-0579 (all, weddings/funerals)

Tagen, Julia L.: 401-885-7438 (all)

Valentine, Br. Enoch John, BSG: 273-1731 (funerals/weddings)

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 (weddings, funerals, accompanist)

Markham, Susan: 401-821-6786 (weddings, funerals)

Martorella, Philip: 401-885-3431 (weddings, funerals)

Nicholson, Nancy: 401-521-9097 (no Sunday AM)

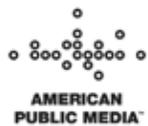
Nolan, Robert: 401-884-7172 (weddings, funerals, non-Sun. services)

Sobaje, Martha: 401-626-0099 (weddings, funerals, no RC)

Tagen, Julie: 401-885-7438 (weddings, funerals)

Teitelbaum, Kajsa: 401-965-3304 (Org./Soloist-weddings, funerals)

Yoreo, Dorothy: 401-246-1223 (all)



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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.