



VOX OCEANA

JANUARY 2012

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

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FROM THE DEAN

FROM THE DEAN AND THE ENTIRE RIAGO STAFF: We wish you a Happy New Year and hope the Christmas season was a merry one. This time of the year can be a very stressful for organists and musicians preparing for a season filled with great music and spirit. We hope that as the holidays approached you did not lose sight of the blessings of being with family and friends because of work commitments. It is humbling to realize that someone in your congregation or audience may have been relying on your music and talents to make their Christmas brighter.

We have planned educational and entertaining programs for the upcoming New Year but they will be cancelled if we do not receive member support. All we ask is for your attendance to show appreciation for the time and effort that a musician prepared for your educational benefit and entertainment. Every musician has the opportunity to learn no matter what your skill level is. To say you have learned all there is would be fooling yourself. I suggest as your New Year's resolution that you make it to these programs which will boost our morale and grow our Guild as a whole.

—Kevin

A MEMOIR OF MY MUSICAL LIFE

by BRIAN LARKIN

PART 6

The huge success of the first Conference in 1968 was proof to the trustees that they had a winner, and plans for the following year were almost immediate. Hollis's music business contacts and his own professional friendships in the music world helped to assemble another faculty. People who dismissed Hollis's genius as an impresario and as a musician totally missed the point. In fact, he was the fourth to receive an honorary doctorate from Nashota House Theological Seminary in Wisconsin, then and now, a respected college focused on the Anglo-Catholic tradition. The doctorates that preceded Hollis's were Leo Sowerby, Everett Titcomb (his mentor) and Canon Winfred Douglas. He knew all three men well in addition to concert managers like Roberta Bailey, Lillian Murtaugh, and publishers like Bill Gray (of H.W. Gray fame).

In 1969 Marilyn Mason, consummate teacher and recitalist, returned. Alexander Peloquin led the choral workshops. Music director at the Cathedral of SS Peter and Paul in Providence, Alex was fresh from rave reviews of his network telecast of his *Four Freedom Songs* with text by Thomas Merton. Louise Curtis ran the junior choir workshops. From the Boston area, she was something of a world class authority on guitars and autoharps. Alexander Russell, a recitalist, was organist of St. John's Church across from the White House in Washington and taught at the College of Church Musicians in DC at the National Cathedral. He was a legend then, having done some definitive recordings for the Aeolian Skinner *King of Instruments* series. Malama Providakes did a voice clinic. She was a student of Sarah Caldwell and had performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Detroit Symphony and the Boston Symphony at Tanglewood. Fred MacArthur made an appearance at the organ in Central Congregational Church this year. The year before, he was scheduled to perform but broke his ankle on vacation, so his recital slot was filled by Albert Russell. Back in those early days, the local American Guild of Organists chapter hosted the receptions at these concerts and recitals. One of the Guild members and a big fan of the Conference was Bob Whitaker, an organist who also happened to be the religion editor of the *Providence Journal/Evening Bulletin*. The coverage of the Conference events was phenomenal!

(continued on page 2)

EVENTS

Sunday, January 8, 7:00 pm: Choral Evensong Celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany presented by the Choir of St. Paul's, Wickford; The Rev. W. David Dobbins, Interim Rector; **Laura Brion**, Guest Organist and Choirmaster. Works of Morley and Rheinberger at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 55 Main Street, Wickford. Reception follows. Free and handicapped accessible.



Saturday, January 21, 3:00 pm: Harpsichordist **Paul Cienniwa** in recital performing works of French baroque masters at St. Columba's Church, 55 Vacluse Ave., Middletown, RI. Handicapped accessible. \$20 suggested donation (at door only). 617-466-9042
www.paulcienniwa.com

NEWS FROM NATIONAL

2nd ANNUAL JANUARY JUBILEE

A day-long conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on January 28 is designed to support and inspire and improve the skills of organists working in part-time church positions. The nondenominational musicians' conference will be a festival of workshops that will focus on organ and choral repertoire, transitioning piano to organ, service planning and playing, the digital organ, and public and pastoral relations. Generous support for the conference provided by Rodgers Instruments Corporation.

The cost to attend is \$15, including a box lunch. All working in part-time positions are encouraged to attend: students, new organists, members of the AGO or denominational music organizations. Membership in the AGO is not required. A complimentary six-month membership in the Guild will be offered to non-members as an added benefit for participating. Complete information and registration are available online. The registration deadline is January 24, 2012.

Workshop presenters will include Edmund Connolly, Carol Snell-Cyr, Frederick Frahm, Sheila Hess, Paul Hesselink, David Solem, Maxine Thévenot, John Walker, Arlene Ward, and James Yeager. The Keynote Address will be given by the Very Rev. Mark Goodman, Dean, St. John's Cathedral, Albuquerque. Contact host James Yeager at 505-764-2914.

LARKIN *continued*

1969 marked the first time George Kent appeared at the Conference. He was to conduct Westerly Chorus joined with the Trinity Church Choir supplied by trustee, George Faxon with Alex Russell at the organ. It was a magic night at St. Stephen's on George Street. Included in the program was Durufle's *Requiem* as a memorial tribute to the late and much beloved Everett Titcomb, mentor to both Hollis and George Faxon.

This season ended with another blockbuster concert conducted by Alex Peloquin at St. Stephen's. It was a group effort with Alex conducting and doubling on the piano. Malama sang mezzo, David Laurent, bass. George Kent played trumpet, Faxon, organ and a host of other musicians who were either "up and coming" or legendary then: John Pellagrino, trumpet; George Goneconto, tympani; Peter Picerno, recorder, and others. Alex had added a harp at the last minute, and Hollis flipped out over the budget. After that, we knew that while Peloquin was a talented big draw, he had to be monitored in terms of "sub contacting" or he'd break the bank. Knowing now what money was in the budget back then, it's a miracle any of this happened.

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

PLACEMENT LISTING

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

First Baptist Church (American Baptist) 10/11
62 Glenwood Dr, Swansea, MA
Helen Petty: 774-526-1741
O/D 5K range Allen @ 1980s 2 man.

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 **Sub List** can be found at www.riago.org.

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.