



# VOX OCEANA

NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS | VOLUME XLV, NO. 7

JUL/AUG 2012

## RI CHAPTER OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS **2011-2012**

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401-447-9848  
dcranmer@neit.edu

Financial Officer, Lawrence Wilson

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401-885-0623  
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401-272-8318  
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Christopher A. Sousa  
401-368-2758  
csorganist@aol.com

Reg. Councillor, Cheryl Duerr  
clduerr@gmail.com

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2013  
Jean-Richard DuPont:  
401-434-8476  
Joseph Gama: 401-499-5846

2014  
John C. Black: 401-245-2356  
Leilani Nixon : 860-774-1333  
Lois Conboy

2015  
Elaine Alexander  
Christopher Souza

[www.riago.org](http://www.riago.org)

## FROM THE SUB-DEAN

Dear fellow RIAGO members,

With this newsletter comes the outline of our events for the upcoming season. Great effort has been made to schedule events and programs that the general membership will find interesting and valuable in their work as organists and choir directors. Of special note is a series of three lectures/demonstrations given by prominent members in the medical community who can help RIAGO members reduce stress on their minds and bodies. I hope that every guild member will try to attend each of these three presentations as they are all connected but not duplicated. And another highlight of the year is the recital at the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul by Sergio Militelli, Music Director and Organist of the Duomo in Florence, Italy.

Remember that monthly meetings are open to all RIAGO members and your attendance is greatly appreciated by presenters. The annual kick-off dinner will be held at Villa Roma and the Annual Meeting in June will be held at Costantino's Ristorante, both located on Atwells Avenue. I look forward to seeing many members at these two wonderful restaurants and hope that all members of RIAGO will find several events in the schedule that they plan to attend. In order to be sure that each event is successful, please call in advance so we can be assured of a good turnout for presenters. You can call me, our Dean, or any other board member. If you have questions about any event, please contact me via email or phone.

Remember, too, that scholarships are still available for interested students. Encourage your students to take advantage of these scholarships.

Hoping to see all of you at the kick-off dinner at Villa Roma on September 10th.

*—Philip Faraone*

## A MEMOIR OF MY MUSICAL LIFE

by BRIAN LARKIN

PART 12

Gerre Hancock's schedule in New York as choirmaster/organist at St. Thomas's was hectic, so he appreciated the down time with us. Judy, his wife, had confided that he'd recently had open heart surgery for blocked arteries. He was young for that kind of thing and the surgery was new then. Judy had noticed his color blanching and his energies fading so got him to a doctor in New York. It was almost emergency surgery. The procedure gave him his life back, and what a life it was. He went on to become the legend for which we now remember him.

Still, there was a very human side to Gerre Hancock that the public did not often see. Gerre, auditioning one of my boys for St. Thomas's choir in New York, took young Brian up to Hollis's study at St. Stephen's and gave him a tryout. We sat outside and quietly marveled at the sounds Gerre coaxed out of the kid. When it was over he came out and said that if Brian wanted to come

*(continued on page 2)*

## RIAGO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2012- JUNE 2013

- Sept 10: Kick-off Dinner, Villa Roma Ristorante, Providence, cocktails at 6:30 pm, dinner at 7:00 pm
- Sept 17: Monthly Meeting, Faraone residence, 7:00 pm
- Oct 21: Recital by Chris Gage, First Baptist Church in America, 4:00 pm
- Oct 23: Monthly Meeting, Faraone residence, 7:00 pm
- Oct 28: Joyce Jones in concert (time, place TBA)
- Nov 13: Lecture by Dr. Lori Haber-DiBonni, Chiropractor (combined with monthly meeting) 7:00 pm (location TBA)
- Dec 3: Lecture by Dr. Norma Faraone-Ledgard, PhD, DCH (combined with monthly meeting) 7:00 pm (location TBA)
- Jan 26: Workshop (Techniques of Improvisation by Steve Martorella and Philip Faraone) 1:00 pm at the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul in conjunction with monthly meeting
- Feb 4: Lecture by Ms. Susan Soscia, PT, 7:00 pm (location TBA)
- Feb 19: Monthly Meeting, Faraone residence 7:00 pm
- Feb 27: Recital by Sergio Militella, Organist Duomo, Firenze, Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul, 7:00 pm
- Mar 19: Monthly Meeting, Faraone residence
- Apr 23: Workshop (anthem and composition sharing) at the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul in conjunction with monthly meeting, 7:00 pm
- May 20: Members Recital, Holy Apostles Parish, Pippin Orchard Rd, Cranston 7:00 pm
- May 21: Monthly Meeting, Faraone residence
- June 3 or 4: Annual Meeting and Dinner, Costantino Ristorante, Providence, 6:30 pm

*Watch Vox Oceana for details of these events.*

## DUES DUE

Have you remembered to send your dues in for another year of enrichment opportunities and camaraderie? Do so soon to be assured that your contact information will be included in the next directory. Please send all renewals to Kevin Dilorenzo, 31 Lori-Ellen Drive, Smithfield, RI 02917-2313.

## NEW ADDITION TO THE WEBSITE

RIAGO has a new Facebook page accessible at [riago.org](http://riago.org), or "friend" me on Facebook and I will "invite" you to be a friend of that page. This page will be used to promote chapter sponsored events and news of interest to Guild members.

—Stephen T. Martorella

## LARKIN continued

to St. Thomas's, he'd see to it that he had a spot the next season. Since my entire family lived in New York, it seemed like a viable plan—send our boy to St. Thomas's and have the back up of family nearby. We took a trip to the city to tour the school and facilities at the church, and Gerre suggested I go into the church and give the organ a whirl, which I did to a room full of tourists! Even then, the organ had a lot of dings and kinks, but was still an exciting instrument to play. Afterwards I could say that "I played the organ on 5th Avenue to a crowded church?" In the end, we decided against sending our son away. He was barely in the fifth grade and we were unwilling to leave him behind. It might have been my own experience of leaving home at 13 to go to boarding school that convinced me that it was more important to nurture our child at home rather than trust that duty to strangers, good as they might be. When young Brian's voice cracked, it went from the angelic purity that Gerre Hancock found to a demonic guttural croak worthy of . To this day we all laugh at his lost "career" at St. Thomas's.

Gerre rarely had anything negative to say about folks, but he did have some opinions about the tinkering that went on with the organ at St. Thomas's. His predecessors had added, subtracted, changed pressures, scaling and all manner of stuff so that the original, legendary legacy of G. Donald Harrison's work was lost forever. The organ that Hancock played was not the organ that even Marcel Dupre played on, and it certainly was not the same one T. Tertius Noble played back in the 1930s. I understand that a plan is afoot now to replace the entire instrument. Time will tell.

Mentioning Noble reminds me that Gerre and Judy lived in the "pre-war" apartment the church had provided for T. Tertius Noble on Fifth Ave. It was uptown, a good twenty minute walk which they always did to and from church on Sundays. New to New York, they marveled at stopping in for brunch at a place on Fifth and running into Woody Allen. Their neighbor in their building was Barbara Eden of *I Dream of Jeannie* fame. Celebrities themselves, they were always full of wonder. After a thirty year career at St. Thomas's, Gerre and Judy retired to Texas where Gerre was born. Judy told us that Gerre, while a consummate improviser, recitalist and composer, often said that he'd like to be remembered as a teacher, like his father before him! And that he will be.

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*Excerpted from Brian Larkin's wide-ranging recollections as an organist. We thank him for sharing. —The Editor*

## PLACEMENT LISTING

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

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	
St Thomas Church (Episcopal)	4/12
Junction of Rt 44 and 116, Greenville, RI	
Brian Larkin: 401-272-8318	
O/ChM Allen/older model 2 man. AGO	
Holy Trinity (Episcopal)	5/12
1956 Main Rd, Tiverton, RI 02878	
Rev John Higginbotham, rector: 401-624-4759; 401-699-1655	
O/ChM 17.5 - 20 K Hook & Hastings c 1900	
St Paul's Episcopal	6/12
50 Park St, Pawtucket, RI 02860	
Fr. William Locke: 401-728-4300	
O/Minister of Music 26-36K Austin op2700 3 man 35 rks	

## RECITAL/ANNUAL MEETING

A big thank you to **Martha Sobaje** for hosting the Members' Recital at Philips Memorial Baptist Church in June. Performers **John Black, Nancy Nicholson, Paul Cienniwa** and **Donald Dame** took us from serious to fun, from Bach and Lemmens through a Charbrier transcription all the way to a yet unpublished work by Carson Cooman:

John Black - *Fugue in G Minor*, J. S. Bach; *Fanfare*, J.N. Lemmens  
Donald Dame - *Quatre Psaumes*, Denis Bedard

Nancy Nicholson - *Ballabile*, Emmanuel Chabrier; *Villageoises*, Francis Poulenc

Paul Cienniwa - *Planctus II*, Op. 951 Carson P. Cooman;  
Selections from *Jazz Book Moondog*; Selections  
from *Magnificat en A: Mi La #3* Michel Corrette

Dinner followed at Spain restaurant with fabulous appetizers, delicious entrees, and a beautiful—and tasty—cake celebrating another year of RIAGO. Thanks to Joe Gama for the restaurant arrangements.

## SUBSTITUTE LISTINGS

Contact Brian Larkin (272-8318) with changes.

### AVAILABLE SUNDAYS & WEEKDAYS

Brown, Ronald: 508-222-0824 (please inquire)
Clarke, Margaret: 401-726-4128 (all)
Dupont, Jean-Richard: 401-434-8476 (all, no weddings/choirs)
Funk, Richard: 401-272-0693 (all)
Gourd, Jacqueline: 401-828-4057 (all, no weddings)
Johnson, Winfred: 401-847-8548 (interim)
Kohl, Karen: 401-787-2695 (please inquire)
Larkin, Brian: 401-272-8318 (all, interim, consultant)
Madubata, Chiduzie (301) 919-9632 Please Inquire
Norton-Jackson, Diana: 401-783-0402 (no weddings, \$150 min)
Phelps, Howard: 508-224-8475 (please inquire)
Scheibert, Beverly Jerold: 508-339-0579 (all, weddings/funerals)
Tagen, Julia L.: 401-885-7438 (all, weddings/funerals/interim)
Taylor, Terry: 401-253-9030 (please inquire, pipe organ only)
Vecchio, Gina: 401-954-2163
Wiant, William: 401-683-3178 (all, weddings/funerals)
Wilson, Lawrence 860-857-5493 (please inquire)

### AVAILABLE WEEKDAYS ONLY

Cienniwa, Paul: 617-466-9042 (\$150 min, no Sun. a.m.)
Conboy, Lois: 401-658-3838 (please inquire)
Hart, Kathy: 401-837-8873 (funerals)
Markham, Susan: 401-821-6786 (no Sun. a.m.)
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)
Sobaje, Martha: 401-626-0099 (weddings, funerals)
Westhaver, Verna: 401-683-2636 (please inquire)

## SUBMISSIONS

Deadline: 20th of each month

Submissions: Send Word or Text files to [aallard@ccri.edu](mailto:aallard@ccri.edu) or to Althea Allard, 166 Sufffolk 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](mailto: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

Fliers you provide (for RIAGO members): \$10

Make checks out to RIAGO and mail to Althea Allard by the 20th.



From L to R: Nancy, Paul, John, Donald