



VOX OCEANA

JUNE 2012

NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS | VOLUME XLV, NO. 6

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401-434-8476

2014
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Leilani Nixon : 860-774-1333

www.riago.org

FROM THE DEAN

From the Dean and the RIAGO staff: We wish for all our members a safe and enjoyable summer. Please renew your membership ASAP. We all look forward to an organized calendar consisting of workshops, concerts and other programs in the fall. Take advantage of your membership and use these activities to your benefit.

Remember the Members' Recital and Annual Dinner on Monday, June 4. Whether you are coming to the dinner or not, meet us at the recital. Hear your colleagues in a rare opportunity, and bring your ballot.

—Kevin

YOUNG PERSONS' ORGAN EVENT



On Saturday May 19 **Stephen Martorella** and **Nancy Nicholson** sponsored an Organ Event for youth at The First Baptist Church in America where 13 piano students "tried out their repertoire" on the Foley-Baker organ. Students from 3rd grade to high school were all enthusiastically involved.

A MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL BARONE OF *PIPEDREAMS*

The exalted final notes of a historic pipe organ sustain for a moment and then fall silent.

At times it feels transgressive to break into the sacred silence that follows to tell you more about the instrument or the piece just played. On *Pipedreams*, I share many of these spellbound moments with you. And with our online services, we're able to share many more. But we need your help to keep them going. As we approach the end of our budget year, I'm asking you to support the online services of *Pipedreams* and other American Public Media programs with a gift in any amount.

Why are our online services important? Second only to hearing these great instruments, I love to see the craftsmanship, artistry and precise engineering that define the best pipe organs. On our website, we're able to share with you photos of the stunning pipe organs that we feature on the show, as well as provide searchable show archives, extras from interviews and bits of interesting research on music history.

On *Pipedreams*, we're creating a history of pipe organs around the world. *Pipedreams'* online services are a living, usable repository for this history. You can help to expand and care for this history with your gift. Please act today.

EVENTS

Sunday, June 3, 3:00 pm: "An Afternoon of Mozart" featuring the Chancel Choir and soloists performing favorite works of W.A. Mozart. Barrington Presbyterian Church, 400 County Road, Barrington. A freewill offering will be collected to benefit the church's music program. www.barringtontable.wordpress.com

Sunday, June 3, 3:30 pm: *Air, Fire, Water: An Organ Concert for Pentecost.* **James E. Jordan** and **Sharon Rose Pfeiffer** offer a celebratory concert for the feast of Pentecost on the E. M. Skinner Organ at the Church of the Transfiguration, Rock Harbor, Orleans. The program explores a wide range of inspired works including *Komm Heiliger Geist* by Bach, *Dance of the Holy Spirit* by Dan Locklair and Persichetti's *Toccata "With Tongues of Fire."* Tickets \$25, \$20 Seniors, 18 & under free. 508-240-2400. www.churchofthetransfiguration.org

Monday, June 4, 6:00 pm: RIAGO members **John Black**, **Paul Ciennewa**, **Donald Dame** and **Nancy Nicholson** are featured in the annual Members' Recital at Phillips Memorial Baptist Church, 565 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston.

Monday, June 4 at 7:30 pm: Annual Meeting and Dinner with 2012-2013 Elections at Spain Restaurant, 1073 Reservoir Ave., Cranston. Reservations were required by May 25.

GET MUSIC!

Mary Jane Lide is offering her wide selection of organ music and music material free at the Annual Dinner. There will be a significant amount, set up as first come-first serve.

MEMBERS' RECITAL AND ANNUAL MEETING



JOHN BLACK
PAUL CIENNEWA
DONALD DAME
NANCY NICHOLSON

Phillips Memorial Baptist Church
Recital at 6:00 p.m. on June 4th
565 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI

Info: 401.524.4484

ANSWER CORNER

In answer to a member's question seeking inspiration for wedding music, Paul Cienniwa writes:

To answer your query, I don't have any specific wedding music suggestions, but I feel that the *Oxford Book of Wedding Music* is the prime collection on the market. Along with the traditional favorites, the collection includes many lesser-known, but appropriate, works. There are also some pieces which were newly composed for the collection itself. All of the arrangements of orchestral music are very good and, since many works aren't known as "wedding" pieces, they also suffice for preludes and postludes for regular church services. Nothing in the collection is particularly easy, and this could be why Oxford also publishes the *Oxford Book of Wedding Music for Manuals*. However, that collection does not include the exact same pieces as in the "pedals" book. (I don't own the manuals book.) Cheers, *Paul*

MORE FROM PAUL CIENNIWA

Dear Friends,

My performing season is just about over, and I'm eager to settle in for a long summer of beaches, barbecues and... practicing the harpsichord.

I was pleased and excited to see my new CD, *Harpsichord Music for a Thin Place*, praised in the *Huffington Post*. Also, last month's performance of Poulenc's *Concert champêtre* with the New Bedford Symphony received a really good review in the *Standard-Times*.

After a busy season of solo recitals and other performances, I can't wait to get started on some new repertoire. The 2011-2012 season included my return to performing full recitals from memory after an almost twenty year hiatus. This journey has led me back to many of my musical roots, including a rediscovery of Book I of Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier*.

As I map out next season, I'm planning solo recitals featuring some of the wonderful preludes and fugues from WTC I, a suite by Handel and Scarlatti sonatas. I can't wait! I'm looking forward to a recital or two in the San Francisco area next May along with programs in Boston and the South Coast.

Also next season, I'll begin work as chorus master for the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra, preparing area choirs for the annual performance of Handel's *Messiah*. If you're interested in becoming a part of that performance, contact me for the rehearsal schedule.

Watch for next year's concert schedule soon. With best wishes for a joyous summer, *Paul*

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

A MEMOIR OF MY MUSICAL LIFE

by BRIAN LARKIN

PART 11

Gerre Hancock was the consummate gentleman, always in good humor and easy to work with. He was at the time managed by Lillian Murtaugh and developed a warm relationship with Hollis and St. Dunstan's. Even back in the early 1970s, his fee was pretty high but he would call Lillian and tell her that he was going to negotiate the contract for us. The fee he accepted from us for the week, recital included, was less than his usual concert fee. He loved the relaxed atmosphere of a week of teaching, a recital, some time off to relax and then the big wrap up party at the end of the week. Oftentimes, Hollis would have him stay a few extra days at his cottage in Little Compton.

I remember him as a great cut up at a party and if there was a piano nearby he'd regale us with some ditties and routines that he could have taken on the road. One I remember he did at a faculty follies at the end of the week. He sat at the piano and began a serious lecture about the theme of "Lamb of God" as found in the work of Bach and the early composers. He gave a few musical examples and then wove a story of this thematic material as it travelled through history. Things then took a twisted turn as he began using the musical material in more and more bizarre settings. Somehow, he was convinced Beethoven, Brahms, Bizet and lord knows whoever got involved. It all ended with a prepared piano at which time he whipped out hair combs, rubber bands and clothespins to set up a John Cage take off. It all ended with an "Oh and I forgot. Gershwin did toy around with the theme once and reused it for something else." He burst into a very jazzy "It Ain't Necessarily Lamb" from Porky and Brisket. Crazy stuff!

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

SUBSTITUTE LISTINGS

Contact Brian Larkin (272-8318) with changes.

AVAILABLE SUNDAYS & WEEKDAYS

Brown, Ronald: 508-222-0824 (please inquire)
Bush, Brink: 401-573-5639
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)
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)

NEW ADDITION TO THE WEBSITE

RIAGO has a new Facebook page accessible at 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

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 camacphec@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.