



VOX OCEANA

NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
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MARCH 2008



RI CHAPTER OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS 2007-2008

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Treasurer, David Clyle Morse
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434-4060; 434-7030

Regional Councillor,
Lary Grossman
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MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

2008
Alexander Bauhart: 253-0738
Yelena Kishkovich: 651-5175
John Totter: 941-8258

2009
Brink Bush: 245-4065
Lois Conboy: 658-3838
Kevin DiLorenzo: 385-9943

2010
Jan Aubin: 568-6571
Jackie Gourd: 828-4057

www.riago.org

www.agonewengland.blogspot.com

FROM THE EDITOR

Saturday, February 9 saw more than a dozen organists, including students of Mark Steinbach, listening intently to the instruction and inspiration offered by James David Christie during a masterclass that ended the week begun by his concert at Sayles Hall the previous Sunday.

Christie had advice about adapting touch between instruments, warning organists to avoid on other organs the clipped sound appropriate to mechanical action instruments. He emphasized thinking how the music would be “bowed or blown” by string or wind players, and noted that “Organists are the only musicians who don’t think they have to listen.” He commented that weight lifting is the worst exercise for an organist because it ruins the hands and forearms for playing. He could not stress enough the importance of fingering. He circulated a photocopy of Jehan Alain’s original manuscript for the *Litanies* and told a fascinating story about its evolution: It is based on the rhythm of the train which took him home from the Paris Conservatory each day. He wanted to write clusters, but it was not done in the 1930s. In fact, it is “better to botch the chords than to compromise the rhythm.” Christie had another remarkable story of Nicholas Bruhns, who was a violinist rather than an organist, and would sit at the organ bench and play the melody on the violin, accompanying himself on the pedals. Christie also advised organists in approaching a work to shape the melody by playing it with one hand, rather than sharing it between hands and splitting it into two “voices.” Attendees were entertained and given much food for thought—and practice.

Brown students who performed in the masterclass were Amy Zimmerman playing the a minor Prelude and Fugue from the 8 *Little Preludes and Fugues*, formerly attributed to J.S. Bach; Aaron Zick playing the little Prelude in C, attributed to Bach, and the *Prière* of Jean Langlais; Noble MacFarlane performing Jean Alain *Litanies* and *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland* of Dietrich Buxtehude. Trevor Pollack played the “great” e minor *Praeludium* of Nicolas Bruhns.

Althea

FROM THE DEAN

On April 6 at 3:00 pm, Boston organist Peter Sykes will play a recital at Phillips Memorial Baptist Church. Peter has appeared in recital throughout the United States at conventions of the American Guild of Organists, the Organ Historical Society, American Institute of Organbuilders, International Society of Organbuilders and the Boston Early Music Festival, Aston Magna Festival, New England Bach Festival, Portland Chamber Music Festival, New Hampshire Music Festival, and with Ensemble Project Ars Nova, The King’s Noyse, Musica Antiqua Köln. He is Associate Professor of Music and Chair of the Historical Performance Department at Boston University, Director of Music at First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, and a member of the faculties of the Longy School of Music and the New England Conservatory. His recital will include works of Bach and Franck. There will be a reception following the recital.

A masterclass will be held at Phillips Memorial Baptist Church at 10:00 am on Saturday,
(continued on next page)

(DEAN continued)

April 5. Please consider playing for the masterclass. Peter Sykes is a wonderful teacher and will make your effort enjoyable as well as a great learning experience. Anyone interested in playing should contact Julie Tagen at (401) 885-7438 or julieltagen@yahoo.com by March 15.

Julie

EVENTS

Monday, March 3, 8:00 am:

Morning Munch will be held at the Cinnamon Café in Warwick.

Saturday, April 5, 10:00 am:

Masterclass with Peter Sykes at Phillips Memorial Baptist Church, 565 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston. (*See article and enclosed flyer*).

Sunday, April 6, 3:00 pm:

Boston organist Peter Sykes will play a recital at Phillips Memorial Baptist Church, 565 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston. (*See enclosed flyer*).

MEMBER MATTERS

Congratulations to **Dr. Joseph J. Amante**, Assistant Professor of Music at Community College of RI, who is the new music director at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in North Kingstown, and to **Stan Hansen**, recently appointed organist/director at St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Marlborough, MA.

REGIONAL BLOG LAUNCHED

Regional Councilor E Lary Grossman has created a blog to bring New England chapters news of each other. He urges us to check out the blog and send our calendar items to him at: www.agonewengland.blogspot.com

PLACEMENT LISTING

All job seekers are encouraged to speak with the previous organist prior to accepting a long-term engagement.

St. Augustine's Church (Episcopal) 2/08

35 Lower College Road, Kingston, RI 02881

Rev Dr Jennifer Phillips (401) 874-2739; (401) 782-0587

O/D \$10000 Potter Rathbun 2 mn 13 stops

Contact Howard Phelps (821-8475) for more information than appears here.

SUBSTITUTE LISTINGS

Report any changes to Howard Phelps.

Jeff Allard: 447-9035 (funerals)

Laura Brion: 578-4491 (all)

Brink Bush: 245-4065 (weddings, funerals)

Paul Cienniwa: (508) 676-8483 (\$150 min, No Sundays)

Margaret Clark: 726-4128 (all)

Lois Conboy: 658-3838 (weddings, funerals)

Joan Daly: 943-5191 (weddings, funerals)

Christopher Gage: 632-1863 (all)

Kathy Hart: 837-8873 (weddings, funerals, accompanist)

Mark D. Johnson: 996-9796 (no Sun., no weddings, \$150 funerals)

Brian Larkin: 272-8318 (all)

Mary Jane Lide: 245-8331 (all)

Philip Martorella: 885-3431 (weddings, funerals)

Elsie McNeill: (508) 673-2583 (all)

David Clyde Morse: 486-0244 (all, no Sun. AM)

Nancy Nicholson: 521-9097 (all)

Howard Phelps: 821-8475 (no RC)

Jane B. Rankin: 884-0669 (funerals - weekdays only)

Martha Sobaje: 823-8024 (weddings, funerals, no RC)

Julie Tagen: 885-7438 (weddings, funerals)

Terry Taylor: 253-9030 (no RC; pipe organs only)

Br. E. J. Kevin Valentine: 273-1731 (weddings, funerals; all denom)

Verna Westhaver: 682-2636 (sub/interim)

Waylon Whitley: 369-7858 (weddings, funerals, etc.; no Sun. AM)

Dorothy Yoreo: 246-1223 (all)

MUSIC OF RHODE ISLAND

The *Rhode Island Pipes* CD features Rhode Island organists playing noteworthy Rhode Island instruments for only \$18.50! See performer and venue details online at www.riago.org. Contact Julie Tagen to order.

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 celalla@cox.net.

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

Flyer (for RIAGO members): \$10

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