



VOX OCEANA

MAY 2012

NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS | VOLUME XLV, NO. 5

RI CHAPTER OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS 2011-2012

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401 272-8318
brianlarkin1@cox.net

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401-365-7273
dalberg1@cox.net

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clduerr@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2012
Philip Martorella: 401-885-3431

2013
Jean-Richard DuPont:
401-434-8476

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

www.riago.org

renewals due

FROM THE DEAN

"The talent of success is nothing more than doing what you can do, well." – Henry W. Longfellow

Picture it, Easter Sunday. I was once again scanning the channel guide on my TV and I came across "The Hour of Power." But this time, the Hazel Wright Memorial 273 Rank Ruffatti Organ was leading the well attended congregation in song! The Crystal Cathedral Choir and congregation were singing with enthusiasm and joy. The resident orchestra was also present. You have heard the expression, "a Christmas miracle." This was an Easter miracle!

A gentleman, Ed Arnold, announced during the final minutes, "This ministry was founded on the traditions of excellent teaching and preaching and excellence in sacred music. Through your letters, emails and phone calls, we have heard your request for a return to traditional worship and are changing our programming to reflect that style."

I must reiterate, if you play the organ well and someone else is telling you to change your style to fit their needs and not the needs of the greater population, refer to the above article. Education is very important to me and to our Director for Continuing Ed, Mr. Philip Faraone. The Education Department would be more than happy to assist you in expanding your repertoire, flexibility for your service in all denominations or simply polishing up your playing. Please ask if you are in need of help. The RIAGO is here to serve you, our valued members.

Our Member's Recital, Annual Dinner and Elections are fast approaching. Show your support and take this opportunity to meet our current members. Share your talents in any capacity you believe would benefit the RIAGO.

–Kevin

FROM THE EDUCATION CHAIR

Dear fellow RIAGO members,

Many of you may know me as "The Cathedral Organist" at the Roman Catholic Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul, Providence. You may not know that I have served as an organist for different denominations since I was eleven years old. At that tender age, I would play two Masses on Saturdays and five on Sundays, one in Italian. After all those Masses, my father would drive me to Natick Baptist Church to play their service. The minister, Rev. H Michner Siner and his wonderful wife, Martha, were very good to me. They became my adopted grandparents and our family embraced them. Although they had four children of their own, all living out of state, they spent most of the holidays with us (even attending Midnight Mass with us). We remained extremely close until their deaths in 1985 only two weeks apart. (Their love story was printed on the front page of the Providence Journal.) I played both of their funerals which were held at Meshanticut Park Baptist Church where Rev. Siner had ministered until his death.

I also served as Organist and Choir Director at Temple Sinai, Cranston for thirteen years while working in a Roman Catholic parish. The reason that I am telling you all this is that through this diversity of experience, I have come to have a deep appreciation for other denominations and faiths. Just this morning, I played for a funeral in the Maronite Rite which is sung in Arabic and Lebanese.

My experiences have taught me that we should celebrate our diversity. However, for some time the Substitute list has "no RC" after several names. If one were to put the restriction of No Methodist or No Born Again, etc. I wonder what the reaction of the membership would be. During executive board meetings this year, we have discussed the issue and concluded that in order to eliminate what seems to be a bias, we will delete the notation from the substitute list. The board recently voted approval of the change.

–Philip Faraone, KHS

EVENTS

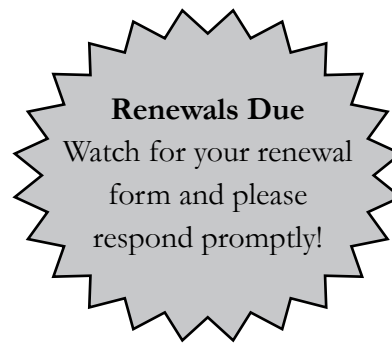
Sunday, May 6, 2:00 pm: On the heels of their sold-out performance in 2011, **The Community MusicWorks Players** return to Trinity for an afternoon of chamber music for strings and piano by Mozart, Beethoven and Stravinsky. The concert will be followed by a complimentary wine and cheese reception with the artists. Hawes Room Trinity Church; Queen Anne Square, Newport, RI. Information and tickets: www.trinitynewport.org/concerts

Thursday, May 10, 7:00-8:30 pm: *AHA! Night - New Bedford:* Mini-performances of the Monteverdi Mass of 1650 by **Sine Nomine**, a select a cappella choir, directed by **Paul Cienniwa**, joined by Roger Williams University professor **Will Ayton** on viola da gamba and Sine Nomine founder **Glenn Giuttari** on organ. New Bedford Art Museum, 608 Pleasant Street, New Bedford, MA. Free admission.

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: Members' Recital. We have a couple of vacancies available for any member wishing to perform one piece at Phillips Memorial Baptist Church, 565 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston. Contact: Philip Faraone 401-323-8600 for more information.

Monday, June 4 at 7:30 pm: Cocktails and Annual Dinner with 2012-2013 Elections at Spain Restaurant, 1073 Reservoir Ave., Cranston. \$30/person. RSVP by May 25.



ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

Doris Alberg has resigned her position as membership chair after many years of service to RIAGO. Doris has served us well in many other capacities as well: Sub-dean, Dean, and registrar for our convention. We thank her for her long devotion to RIAGO and promoting the organ in so many ways. We wish her the best as she follows other interests.

Christopher A. Sousa is assuming the role of membership chair for the interim before the elections. Reach him at 401-368-2758; 41 Truman Street, Johnston, RI 02919; csorganist@aol.com. **Sister Gail Himrod** has accepted the nomination to the position on this year's slate.

Web and publicity have been merged; **Steve Martorella** is chair.

PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2012-2013

Dean: Kevin Dilorenzo
Sub-Dean: Phil Faraone
Secretary: Dav Cranmer
Treasurer: Lawrence Wilson
Membership: Gail Himrod
Members at Large 2013: Joe Gama & Jean-Richard DuPont
Members at Large 2014: Leilani Nixon, Lois Conboy & John Black
Members at Large 2015: Elaine Alexander & Chris Souza

JUNE 4TH ANNUAL DINNER AT SPAIN RESTAURANT

Appetizers include Clams Casino, Stuffed Mushroom Caps, Grilled Chorizo, Mussels Marinara and Coconut Shrimp. Coffee included. Beverages are available at the cash bar. **\$30.00 per person RSVP by May 25, 2012**

Entrée choices are:

1. Fillet of Salmon broiled and topped with sherry sauce and saffron sauce.
2. Chicken Limon pan seared in lemon sauce
3. Pork Tenderloin chili rubbed with Shitake mushrooms in a port wine sauce

Please indicate your choice and send your reservation and check payable to RIAGO to:
Kevin Di Lorenzo, 31 Lori-Ellen Drive, Smithfield, RI 02917 401-524-4484

Reservation Name _____ Number in Party _____

Entrée selection _____

A MEMOIR OF MY MUSICAL LIFE

by BRIAN LARKIN

PART 10

1972 was the year I first heard a young organist named Douglas Marshall play a short recital at St. Stephen's. He was brilliant, and the highlight for me was Seth Bingham's *Roulade*. Doug was a student of Virgil Fox, who had won the AGO prize that year. The book, *Virgil Fox: The Dish*, offers a whole section on Fox's students and his coaching prior to some of the AGO exams. He instructed them to play for the competitions "the way the stuffed shirts want to hear it... then when you win, play the way I taught you." Doug Marshall went on to fame and fortune as both an organ designer and performer and would return to the Conference to teach some years later.

The early youth choir sessions at the Conference were run by Dorothea Waddell from Florida. She was a diva of sorts, always impeccably dressed in white; and she drove a white Cadillac convertible and had matched white luggage... a real star, modeled a bit after Lana Turner. Many years later she showed up once in Newport at St. George's in the white Cadillac, top down, sunglasses and flowing scarf. I had my youngest son with us at the time and she said to him, "Little boy, might you take my luggage up to my room and I'll give you a dollar." Danny was happy to help, but I think he told her to keep the "tip!" Hollis told me that Dorothea had married some fellow who was a multi-millionaire. One day she and her new husband were parked outside a drugstore in Palm Beach when he stepped out of the car and was instantly killed by an onrushing vehicle. Dorothea became the sole benefactor of her husband's estate and thus began, I suppose, her flamboyant period. Her annual Christmas letter was filled with stories of world travels and pictures of her in the company of everyone from Bishop Tutu to tribes in the Amazon! She was an original.

Gerre Hancock played on the Unitarian Moeller that same year and I was asked to write two themes for him to improvise on. I still have them in the scrap books, and one is clearly influenced by the aria in the Franck a minor Chorale! Ah youth! Ruth Laurent wrote a third theme and I think Gerre wove all of them into a massive symphony.

Note: During my writing of this section, the great Gerre Hancock died... a great loss to family, friends and the wider musical world. As I have time to process his passing, I will return to the Hancock years at St. Dunstan's with fond remembrance.

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

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)

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.