



VOX OCEANA

NOVEMBER 2009

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

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Kathy Hart: 837-8873
Philip Martorella: 885-3431

www.riago.org

www.agonewengland.blogspot.com

FROM THE DEAN

CHOOSE TO SCHMOOZE

I know organists who dash out the door as soon as services are over, while others stay up in their loft and start practicing for next week. Here is a golden opportunity missed. Most pastors go to the exit point of their sanctuary at the close of service, so they can, in the words of my Pastor Dan, “shake ‘em out the door.” This provides the pastor an opportunity to connect personally and individually with each member of his or her flock, “calling them by name” to invoke a scriptural image. She/he can also gauge the effectiveness of the sermon, which is their “anthem” for the week.

For the rest of us, we can choose to ignore our congregation, or we can “choose to schmooze,” a term borrowed from our Jewish friends. Most churches have a collation or coffee hour after service, and this is a prime time to walk around and greet your wider congregation. Like your pastor, you can build relationships that will provide focus and feedback for your ministry, and provide real-time practical support for the future.

You will likely receive many compliments, get some favorite hymn requests and, yes, there will probably be a few complaints. “Why did you do this?” or, “Why didn’t you do that?” Personally, I’d rather hear that sort of thing head on face-to-face, than going on behind my back, until it has finally brewed hot enough to be “presented” at a committee meeting. Now, it has become an “issue,” and you are on the defensive. In an informal setting, such as a coffee hour, you can address those concerns and both explain your position and consider an opposing posture in a more relaxed, less threatening environment. Further, it shows that you care about people’s feelings by listening to them, and that helps one to make friends.

Here is a true story. On a recent budget vote, a woman I have known for many years, whose husband had passed on a while ago, said to me “You know, if my husband was alive, he never would have voted for all of this.” Now the woman’s husband had been one who believed that churches should just not spend any money on things like “music” and other frills; nothing personal, just a passionately held belief. I remarked in reply, “I know, but I love you anyway.” We both laughed and embraced. Time well spent. —*Steve*

SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Young musicians interested in exploring the organ can now audition for six free lessons through the RIAGO Young Organist Scholarship Program. Now that we’ve moved away from a competition to an audition process, the program has stirred up more interest. In addition, all the students who passed their audition went on to complete the six organ lessons. This didn’t always happen in the past when sometimes a student who won the competition didn’t follow through. *(continued on page 4)*

IN MEMORIAM

RUTH CAREW LAURENT 1927-2009

It is with deep sadness that we bid farewell to our sister organist Ruth Laurent, who served faithfully as organist and choir director for forty years at Community Church of Providence,



formerly Central Baptist Church before retiring in 2003, and also taught music at Wheeler School. She graduated from Brown University in 1948 and was Dean of this chapter in the early 1980's. Ruth received the Anna Fiore-Smith Award for "her excellence in leadership, dedication and vision" in 2004 and received a commission for a choral composition to celebrate our 50th year celebration which was performed by massed choirs at Grace Church in Providence. Ruth passed away at home on October 12 of this year. Her memorial service held at Community Church on October 20 expressed the joyful and uplifting celebration that was her life, and was filled with music.

Memorial Gifts may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital at <http://www.stjude.org> and follow links to "Donate in Memory or Honor".

MUSIC OF RHODE ISLAND

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

MEMBERSHIP

All Membership booklets and cards have gone into the mail. If you have not received yours, please let me know and I'll mail it right out. Thanks to everyone for their continued membership and thanks especially to Brian and Heather Mattias at Potter Rathbun who again supported the printing of the booklet. Your contribution, Brian & Heather, is greatly appreciated.

—Doris

EVENTS

Saturday, November 7:

Newport Baroque presents **Audrey Cienniwa** playing the complete Bach Cello Suites at 3:30PM: Suites I, IV, V and at 7:30PM: Suites II, III, VI in the Hawes Room at Trinity Church, One Queen Anne Square, Newport. Each concert: \$25 General Admission (\$22.50 online); \$22.50 Students/Seniors/Military; \$10 Ages 6-18. Both concerts: \$30 General Admission (\$25 online).

Saturday, November 7, 4:00 pm:

Organ Recital in honor of organist **Priscilla Rigg** (pictured) at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Peirce St., East Greenwich. **Jason Roberts** will perform on the Karl Wilhelm Organ as part of the 175th anniversary of the church. The tracker organ was installed in 1989 by Mr. Wilhelm, who will be present at this concert.

Jason Roberts is Organist and Choirmaster at St. James's Episcopal Church in West Hartford, Connecticut. A graduate of Rice University and the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, he studied with Clyde Holloway and Martin Jean. Mr. Roberts is currently a Doctoral candidate at the Manhattan School of Music,



where he studies with McNeil Robinson. He has given recitals at the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City, Trinity College in Hartford, and Mercer University in Mercer Georgia. He is winner of the 2005 Albert Schweitzer Organ Competition USA. Free. Reception follows. Handicap accessible. Ample parking.

CORRECTION AND ADDITIONS

Make these changes to your Membership Booklet:

Justin Kisch is now at 3395 Pawtucket Ave. Apt.2, Riverside, RI 02915

ADD: **Barbara Pavao**, 283 Seaview Avenue, Swansea, MA 02777; 508-672-3904

Christopher Souza, 41 Truman Ave., Johnston, RI 02919; 231-5374

Amy Zimmermann, Brown University Box 5479, Providence, RI 02912; 301-529-0136

2009 - 2010 New Organists Scholarship Application

Six free introductory organ lessons

Open to piano students up through high school who are new to the organ

Offered by the American Guild of Organists, Rhode Island Chapter

How to Apply for your Audition

- 1) Write a short statement on why you want to learn to play the organ.
- 2) Ask your piano teacher to write a recommendation.
- 3) Fill out the application form below (make a copy to keep for yourself).
- 4) Send your statement, your teacher's recommendation, and your application, along with a \$5 application fee to: Nancy Nicholson, 90 12th St., Providence, RI 02906 (phone: 401 521-9097). Make your check payable to RIAGO. We will call you to schedule an audition. It will be informal, with your teacher attending, and will last about 45 minutes.

Note: If accepted into the New Organists Program, you must begin your organ lessons within 30 days of receiving the scholarship and complete them within 6 months. RIAGO will help students find an organ for their practice.

What to prepare for your Audition

- 1) Two short piano solos in contrasting styles (memorization optional). We recommend one of the pieces be in Baroque style, preferably by J.S. Bach.
- 2) A technique sequence, for example, major scales, harmonic minor scales (at least two octaves, ascending and descending), various arpeggios, an etude.
- 3) A hymn or similar piece in hymn style (four-part writing).
- 4) Be ready to sight read a short piece.

Applicant's Name: _____

Address: _____

Parent's name: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

School and school year: _____

Number of years of piano study: _____

Teacher's name and address: _____

Teacher's phone number: _____ E-mail: _____

Piano Solo #1

Title: _____

Composer: _____

Piano Solo #2

Title: _____

Composer: _____

SCHOLARSHIP *(continued from front page)*

I urge every RIAGO member to contact any piano teachers you know to let them know about the Young Organist Scholarship Program. The more that organists and piano teachers talk to one another, the more piano students will be encouraged by their teachers to study the organ. This is a win-win situation for everyone—organists, piano teachers and young people.

During the first year of the new audition-based scholarship program, four piano students received scholarships of six organ sessions.

A 10-year-old from Middletown, Gennifer Norman, studied with Julie Tagen. Gennifer was organ assistant to Ann Dolbashian at the Congregational Church in Middletown and had the opportunity to play organ during church services as part of her studies.

High school sophomore Sarah Lizotte, from Cranston, studied with Nancy Nicholson and used the organ at Church of the Ascension in Cranston to practice. She capped off her six organ lessons by assisting Nicholson during a church service at Ascension in late August. Sarah played the prelude, led the congregation in a hymn, and played a postlude by composer Martha Sobaje titled *Trumpet Tune*.

Seventh grader Will Atkinson, from Riverside, studied with David Morse. Coordinating with Geoffrey Greene made it possible for Will to practice in his own neighborhood on the organ at Newman Congregational Church. Will also enjoyed playing the huge Allen instrument at Mathewson Street United Methodist Church.

John Black, a 13-year-old from Barrington, studied with David Morse and practiced at Greenwood Community Church.

David Morse reports about his experience with John and Will. “Both these young people brought significant musical and keyboard skills to the organ. I have taught other students in our scholarship program before and noticed, once again, that people who have developed skills on the piano adapt quickly to the technique of playing an instrument that does not have a sustain pedal. Using organ and piano literature, they get pleasure from learning about the tonal possibilities of an organ when

orchestrating music with all kinds of stop combinations. Even though these students had a limited number of hours practicing on an organ, the span of weeks for completing the six sessions provided opportunity to understand how organists become adept at using hands and feet at the same time.

David continues, “These two young students reminded me of when I was just starting out playing the organ at age 12. I had put aside enough money to pay for five organ lessons and then I was on my own for several years before I had any more formal training. By listening to and watching others play the organ I learned a lot on my own, but it was those initial five lessons that got me started in the right direction. I hope our chapter will continue to offer these scholarships and that every member who can make an organ available for practice will consider becoming involved on that level.”

For more information on the Young Organist Scholarship Program, contact me. Make copies of the application elsewhere in this newsletter as often as you need to. Let’s keep this successful program going and growing!

—*Nancy Nicholson, Coordinator of the Young Organist Scholarship Program*

PLACEMENT LISTING

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

There are currently no placement listings.

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.

*Please note corrected times from earlier announcements.

RHODE ISLAND ORGAN FESTIVAL NOVEMBER 1ST-7TH



SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1, 6:00* PM

A Festival of Choirs

St. Paul Church , Warwick Avenue, Cranston

MONDAY NOVEMBER 2, 7:30 PM

Lecture-Recital: Musical Treasures from the Synagogue

The First Baptist Church in America, North Main Street, Providence

Cantor **Frederic Scheff**, Temple Shalom, Middletown

Stephen Martorella, Minister of Music, The First Baptist Church in America

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3 – 7:00* PM

Organ Recital

Beneficent Congregational Church, Weybossett Street, Providence

Brink Bush, Organist and Director of Music, Cathedral of St John, Providence

Susan Carroll, Minister of Music, Beneficent Congregational Church

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 7:30 PM

Organ Recital

Holy Ghost Church, Atwells Avenue, Providence

Kevin DiLorenzo, Organist and Choir Director, St. Mary's Church, Newport

Nancy Nicholson, Music Director, Church of the Ascension, Cranston

Henri St. Louis, Organist and Music Director, Holy Apostles Church, Cranston

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 7:30 PM

Organ Recital: The Music of Johann Sebastian Bach

Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Warwick Avenue, Warwick

Kajsa Teitelbaum, Minister of Music and **Karin Kohl**, Pilgrim Lutheran Church

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 7:30 PM

Organ Recital

Cathedral of Ss. Peter and Paul, Cathedral Square, Providence

Joseph Gamma, Music Director, Holy Ghost Church

Jeffrey Allard, Minister of Music, Peacedale Congregational Church, UCC

David Clyle Morse, Minister of Music, Mathewson Street United Methodist Church, Providence

Philip Faraone, Organist, Cathedral of Ss. Peter and Paul

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 7:30 PM

Organ Recital

First Unitarian Church, Benefit Street, Providence

Stephen Martorella, Minister of Music, The First Baptist Church in America, Prov.

Frederick Jodry, Music Director, First Unitarian Church of Providence

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