



VOX OCEANA

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NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS | VOLUME XLIII, NO. 10

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Laura Jensen: 787-3032

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2013
Joe Gama: 942-6144
Jean-Richard DuPont: 434-8476

www.riago.org

www.agonewengland.blogspot.com

FROM THE DEAN

BEYOND THE NOTES

My class was recently analyzing Beethoven's mighty ninth symphony, and we were surprised to learn that such a massive and powerful work was based on a very small amount of material, all surrounding the central idea of a single interval: a Perfect fourth. We were further surprised to learn that the entire symphony was framed on each end by the inversion of that interval: the fifth. As it turns out, the famous "Ode to Joy" theme we all know and love is not the heart of the work, but merely the hymn that leads to the central idea of the piece, which is based on that fourth. It first appears as a bass line in the first movement, but later blossoms in the finale to be the theme of the embrace of humanity ("Embrace ye millions"). Schiller's famous ode leads to the canopy of stars above being likened by the Creator to all of humanity below, and Beethoven through Schiller's poetry is expressing the principal tenet of his Masonic faith through this theme, first sung as a single line by the basses of the chorus without any harmony surrounding it.

While Beethoven's Catholic faith was sporadic, his devotion to this Masonic principle was clear. He wrote about it in his last will and testament, the Heiligenstadt document, and he expressed it in a great many other works as well. Beethoven's letters and other documents, along with his music, taken together show his idealism which is at the heart of what we call the Romantic era of music history. Not surprisingly, Beethoven is often thought of as the transitional figure to that era. This may also explain another great Beethoven mystery, that of the Immortal Beloved, about which the 1994 film renewed a great deal of speculation on who that person might be.

As it turns out, there a number of scholars who believe that the Immortal Beloved is in fact not a real person at all, but rather one of Beethoven's own creation. She is, at least according to this theory, the Leonora of Beethoven's own opera *Leonora*, which after three unsuccessful attempts at production, was changed to *Fidelio*, the version we now know. This was the piece that was dearest to Beethoven's heart, and its poor reception coupled with his hearing loss does much to explain his famously foul temperament. Edgar Allan Poe understood this in his famous poem *Lenore*, enthroned in highest heaven as a queen, though not appreciated on earth.

Now we come to Beethoven's third great musical testament to love. It is the very simple song *Ich liebe dich* (*Zärtliche Liebe*—"I love you"), whose melody is an exact mirror of the melody Mozart uses in *The Marriage of Figaro* in the finale where the count on bended knee asks for the forgiveness that heretofore he was unable to grant himself. Is not forgiveness at the heart of love? Beethoven knew this, and with great admiration for Mozart's work drew it unto his own.

(continued on last page)

EVENTS

Saturday, November 6, 5:00 pm: The American Guild of Organists Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter presents an organ introduction event for children "Pedals, Pipes and Pizza." Students will be shown how an organ works and will be able to try some of their pieces. The event, held on the fine Flentrop organ from 5-6:00 pm will be followed by a pizza supper and concluded with an organ concert, open to the public, at 7:00 pm by organist **Steven Young**. First Unitarian Church, 71 Eighth Street in New Bedford. For further information, or to be a participant contact Philip Jones at 508-427-0081 or pjones345@comcast.net.

Saturday, November 6, 8:00 pm: Brown University Chorus, **Fred Jodry**, conductor, will perform Rachmaninov Vespers. Cathedral of Saints Peter & Paul, 30 Fenner Street, Providence. \$10 General Admission, free for Brown students with ID. Program will also be performed on **Sunday, November 7 at 4:00 pm** at St. George's School Chapel in Middletown, RI. Ticket prices for Sunday TBD.

Sunday, November 7, 3:00 pm & Sunday, November 14, 3:00 pm: Thanks Be to God - A Concert Presented by the choirs of Newman and Beneficent Congregational Churches in Thanksgiving for the 200th anniversaries of both Historic Meeting Houses. Featuring works by Pachelbel, Bach, Handel, Copland, Barber, Thompson and American hymn and spiritual arrangements celebrating our past, present and future. \$10 suggested donation. \$5 for seniors and children. Beneficent Congregational Church, U.C.C. **Susan Carroll**, Music Director, 300 Weybosset St., Providence: www.beneficentchurch.org; Newman Congregational Church, U.C.C., **Geoffrey Greene**, Music Director, 100 Newman Ave., Rumford: www.newmanucc.org

Sunday, November 14, 2:30 pm: Donald Dame will be giving a classical concert (J. S. Bach, J. Pachelbel, M. Greene, J. Brahms, J. Jongen, and others) on the 108-year-old Lane tracker pipe organ at the 1821 Chepachet Meeting House, home to the Chepachet Free Will Baptist Church. The organ was fully restored a few years ago for its centennial by Andover. The meeting house is located at 1213 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, RI, on Route 44, just west of the village and just west of the town's only spotlight. This is part of the church's *Music at the Meeting House* series. The event is open to the public without charge, but there will be a free will offering taken at intermission toward the series. Refreshments. Clifford

Brown: 518-388-6070; E-mail: brownc@union.edu.

Saturday, November 20, 7:00 pm: Sine Nomine presents Choral Masterworks of the Renaissance at Grace Episcopal Church, 133 School St, New Bedford, and **Sunday, November 21, 3:00 pm** at Narrows Center for the Arts, 16 Anawan Street, Fall River. This venue is handicapped accessible.

Sunday November 21, 4:00 pm: RIAGO presents "Singing God's Praises - a Hymn Festival" with **Peter Krasinski** and friends at The First Baptist Church in America. Free to the public. Sign up your choir to participate (individual singers also welcome) by contacting Stephen Martorella at 401.454.3418 or steve.fbc@verizon.net for particulars.

FROM SISTER ORGANIZATION, SINE NOMINE

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND'S EARLY MUSIC CHORAL ENSEMBLE

As Sine Nomine's newly elected President, I am pleased to welcome you to our 17th season. We are a community-based chorus of 24 avid singers, and our commitment to presenting unique choral masterworks to audiences throughout southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island is stronger than ever. A loyal following and generous sponsors allow us to continue our dedication to excellence in choral chamber music.

This season, we are indulging our audience (and ourselves!) with the lush polyphony of the Renaissance as we perform in some wonderful and historic venues. We begin in November with a concert entitled "Rebirth: Choral Masterworks of the Renaissance" which will feature Allegri's long-treasured *Miserere Mei, Deus* as a centerpiece for a program featuring many small ensemble arrangements. In the spring, we will pair the works of two of the great Renaissance composers: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina and Josquin des Prez, allowing us to savor this important era in music's history.

We look forward to seeing you in the audience and thank you for your continued interest in our choir! Please visit our website regularly for updates and additional information: www.sinenominechoir.org.

—Jennifer Charleson, President

MEMBER FEATURE

JOHN "JACK" COOK

We are always delighted to get reacquainted with all of our members both new and old. If you care to send us some information about yourself, it is a wonderful way for old and new members alike to get to know one another, or to rekindle old friendships. This month we were delighted to hear from our friend Jack Cook, who sent me some interesting material about himself. Jack has been a member of the Guild since 1946, and was raised in Western Pennsylvania, beginning organ lessons at 13, and after high school apprenticing with Tellers Pipe Organ Co. of Erie, PA and later with Möller in Ohio. He attended the Firestone Conservatory in Akron and Western Reserve-Cleveland Institute of Music where he studied organ with Edwin Arthur Kraft, and later in Pittsburgh with John R. Lively. Jack lived and worked in Washington, DC for 29 years, where he was a "protege" of Paul Callaway at Washington National Cathedral. Moving to Rhode Island from Ocean City Maryland in 2004, Jack began restoring the Stadium Theatre's "unplayable" Wurlitzer. The theatre reopened in September 2001, "and I performed on the organ - first time in 30 years for it to be heard publicly. It's still a hobby for me and quite enjoyable." Finally, Jack has been organist/director for St. John's Episcopal Church, Ashton/Cumberland for 6 years. It has a small 7 rank Austin (1919 vintage). Unfortunately, the church will close December 31 due to financial constraints, so if you hear of another opening...

—Steve

ORGAN MUSIC OFFERED

Having collected music and books for 60 years (and have been a member of the AGO for 58 years!), being in fourth retirement, and living in a smaller house, I have decided that it is time to reduce my huge library by a large percentage. Please contact Steve Martorella at steve.fbc@verizon.net to receive a Word file with complete details of everything available. Everyone is welcome to contact me via email or phone - that is all outlined in the document. And I would welcome anyone to look at my website to see more - www.organtours.com. Thank you very much, Leslie P. Peart, 937 Salem Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas 78412, 217-546-2562.

GET THE WORD OUT

The AGO Committee on Professional Networking and Public Relations is pleased to forward the following letter from Pipedreams host and producer Michael Barone (mbarone@mpr.org) to all AGO members.

Though we might imagine that, after 28+ years on the air, American Public Media's PIPEDREAMS is a known quantity to everyone, in reality it's not. And even though the internet offers a convenient, time-independent access point for online listening (18,500 discrete users monthly), the largest audience by far is reached through radio broadcast transmissions (over 220,000 weekly).

You can help increase awareness of the country's only nationally distributed organ music radio broadcast and, in doing so, increase public awareness of and interest in organ music! Include basic promotional information in available cost-free outlets. Think of this action as being as important as listing the date and time of your own performance event in a PR release.

Where/When? In programs you print for any local organ recital you sponsor or perform; also in church bulletins or newsletters, particularly in a week for which you are planning some special organ music. Make this a regular 'insertion,' so that the message has a chance to 'sink in.'

What? If you live somewhere that weekly PIPEDREAMS broadcast can be heard on radio, consider a brief paragraph like this:

Enjoy organ music in its infinite variety each week with PIPEDREAMS from American Public Media, heard [day, time, station call-letters, frequency and city]. For more information: [local station web address]. Also listen to PIPEDREAMS on the internet at any time (24/7) at www.pipedreams.org.

Why? People interested in the organ music you play may not know about PIPEDREAMS. And people who listen to PIPEDREAMS may well be among the people who show up for your performances... it's a win-win situation.

How? Find local station information online at: www.pipedreams.org/stations.

Remember, too, that your local public radio station is likely to continue broadcasts of PIPEDREAMS if the station's administration knows that you listen and provide crucial membership support. When you pledge support, always mention PIPEDREAMS. Lacking feedback, the station might be excused for thinking no one cares. Thanks for your help!

PLACEMENT LISTING

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

St. Mark's Episcopal 9/10

111 West Shore Rd, Warwick, RI

Mother Susan Wrathall: 401-737-3127

O/D 10-12K Sterns/Turner/Roche

Evangelical Covenant Church 9/10

841 N Main St, Attleboro, MA 02703

Susan Manlove

O/D 35-40K Kinzey-Angerstein

Mathewson St Methodist Church 10/10

Providence, RI

Contact Brian Larkin for details

Theil Ramsbey: t.ramsbey@cox.net

Organist/ ChM \$250 wkly Allen 4 man

Dunn's Corners Community Church 10/10

Westerly, RI

Contact Brian Larkin for details

Tanya Smith: 401-377-4234

Organist/ PT \$9000 Allen

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Elsie McNeil's zip code: 02777-4118

Howard Phelps' e-mail: howard703@verizon.net

New dual member: **James C. Busby**, 68 Baldwin St. Apt. 43, Charlestown, MA 02129; 401-421-6702; jbuzzbos@gmail.com. St. Stephen's Church, Providence: Organist and Choirmaster

Add **Br. Enoch John Valentine, BSG**, 66 Moore Street, Providence, RI 02907; home 273-1731/cell 440-4784; brenochjohn@gmail.com. St. Matthew's RC Church, Cranston RI: Organist & Choirmaster.

Add **Linnear Horne**, 195 Howell Street, Providence, RI 02906-1616. Congdon Street Baptist: Organist-Director.

NOTE

This month, find the Substitute List online at www.riago.org.

DEAN *(continued from front page)*

If there is a point to this article, beyond deepening our understanding of one of the great musical lights of history, it is that we should study not only our notes, but meanings lying within them. The songs of church musicians are often in praise of God and in service to humanity. I would encourage all of us to look up and read about the composers of our hymn tunes, and the authors of our hymn texts. There are myriad treasure chests in the stories behind the great hymns of the church, and those who created them. Indeed, it is often the story of the church itself on its faith journey. That can be an inspiration to us in our work, and to those whom we serve who take from what we offer. It is my fervent hope that as we approach an always bustling Christmas season that we take the time to be inspired by the music which we are so privileged to present.

—Stephen

MEMBER MATTERS

May Grant writes: "My shoes have fallen apart and I feel this is a good indication for retirement." Best Wishes for a fulfilling retirement, May.

Julie Tagen is no longer serving as interim organist at Mathewson St. Methodist.

A note from **Paul Cienniwa**: On Monday, November 1, extraordinary violinist Rachel Barton Pine and I will be performing Bach's complete *Sonatas for Violin and Harpsichord* on WFMT (98.7FM) and streaming worldwide. The performance is at 8:00 pm Chicago time and will run till 10pm. I hope you can listen on the radio or online.

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.