



VOX OCEANA

NOV 2018

NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS | VOLUME LI, NO. 9

RI CHAPTER OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS 2018-2019

Dean, Stephen P. Kirby
401-246-0039
loftynotes@aol.com

Sub Dean, Gigi Mitchell-Velasco

Secretary, David Cranmer
401-447-9848
dcranmer45@cox.net

Treasurer, Doris Alberg
401-365-7273
dalberg1@cox.net

Publicity, Stephen T. Martorella
401-885-0623
steve.fbc@verizon.net

Newsletter, Althea Allard
401-728-4431
altheaallard@gmail.com

Historian, N. Peter LaMoria
401-723-6974
npeterlam@aol.com

Placement: Julie Tagen 401-885-7438

Membership: Christopher Souza
401-368-2758

Auditors:
Denise Petrucci, Jackie Gourd

Reg. Councillor: Leslie Smith
northeastago@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2019
Gina Vecchio 401-354-2366
Lawrence E. Wilson 860-857-5493
lewilson3rd@gmail.com

2020
Jonathan Babbit

2021
Fred Jodry
Philip Martorella

www.riago.org

FROM THE DEAN

Dear Fellow Guild Members,

Our October event on Diversity featured a wonderful presentation by **Stephen Martorella** and his Minister, **Rev. Jamie Washam** from the First Baptist Church in America. Gigi did a wonderful job in organizing the event. And if you didn't attend, not only did you miss a wonderful presentation, but the carrot cake was outstanding! (Our Chapter does provide wonderful food!)

Our next event is scheduled for Saturday, November 17 in Taunton to learn about the Huaptwerk Meta Organ and participate in a mini-convention. A worthwhile way to spend a Saturday, indeed. See Gigi's message elsewhere in this newsletter for all the details. We are combining with another Chapter, so I would like to see a strong attendance of RI AGO members.

We have received notifications of updated memberships and we welcome several new members to our organization. Membership Chair **Chris Souza** is working hard at creating our new Directory for 2018-2019. To all of our members, thanks for being a member. I look forward to seeing you at our next event.

On another matter, I would like to announce **Gigi Mitchell-Velasco's** appointment by the board to fill out **Nick Voermans'** term as Sub Dean. Nick has taken a job out of New England, and we certainly wish him the best as he develops his career. Meanwhile, we are indebted to Gigi for accepting this position.

Stephen Kirby, Dean
loftynotes@aol.com

Southeastern Massachusetts and RI Chapters sponsor a mini convention on **Saturday, November 17 from 9am-3pm** at St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, 19 Kilmer Avenue, Taunton. We will experience the Huaptwerk Meta Organ developed by local organist, **Dan Lemieux** and sing through a packet of music (yours to keep, kindness of **James Jordan**, clinician). Lunch can be arranged, or you may bring your own. (See flyer for all the details.)

If you are interested in carpooling, contact Gigi at pipeorganlady22@gmail.com

PLACEMENT LISTINGS

Contact Julie Tagen (401-225-9594) to list

St. Mark's Episcopal Church 3/18
111 East Shore Rd., Warwick, RI 02889
The Rev. Susan Wrathall day 401-737-3127 eve 401-617-0380
Steere & Turner \$16,000 O/D

St. Mary's Episcopal Church 3/18
3055 Main S., PO Box 395, Barnstable, MA 02630
Rev. Dr. Libby Gibson 508-362-3977
rector@stmarys-church.org
Wilhelm \$35-40,000 Minister of Music

The First Universalist Church of Providence 4/18
250 Washington St., Providence, RI 02903
The Rev. W. Scott Axford 401-751-0821 401-454-1636
\$150/service pipe organ Organist/Director

First Baptist Church of Bristol 10/18
250 High St., Bristol, RI 02809
Rev. Jake McGuire pastorjakemcguire@gmail.com
Patsy Sanford patstuff@fullchannel.net
\$11,000 Brennan & Gleason Minister of Music

RIAGO EVENTS 2018-2019

Mark your calendar and look for finalized details as the events approach. (Or see September *Vox Oceana* online for details)

Saturday, November 17, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – A TRIP TO EUROPE AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

(See p. 1 and flyer)

Saturday, February 2, 2019 [time TBD] – DISCOVERING OUR ANCIENT ROOTS AND TRADITIONS

Friday, March 22, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. – KATELYN EMERSON SOLO RECITAL

June 2019, second week [date and time TBD] - WOMEN IN MUSIC RECITAL

SUBSTITUTE LISTINGS

Contact Julie Tagen (401-225-9594) with changes.

AVAILABLE SUNDAYS & WEEKDAYS

Babbitt, Jonathan 401-864-9009
Casteel, Eden: 401-932-5589
Castellani, Roger: 917-621-6530 Available after Sept., 2016
Clarke, Margaret: 401-726-4128 (all)
Higgins, Stephen: 401-441-2270 (comfortable with any keyboard situation)
Jones, William: 401-848-4327 (all)
Karen Kohl: 401-787-2695 Please Inquire
MacCubbin, Jay: 401-521-0698
Nicholson, Nancy: 401-521-9097 (all)
Norton-Jackson, Diana: 401-714-2700 (no weddings)
Tagen, Julia L.: 401-225-9594 (all, weddings/funerals/interim)
Taylor, Terry: 401-253-9030 (tutti@fullchannel.net)
Vecchio, Gina: 401-954-2163
Vinson, Duncan: 781-888-3848
Westhaver, Verna: 401-683-2636 (substitute/interim)
Wilson, Lawrence: 860-857-5493 Organ; Sacred Jazz Composer/Arranger

AVAILABLE WEEKDAYS ONLY

Allard, Althea: 401-728-4431
Black, John: 401-737-1230 (all, available Saturdays & weekdays)
Cranmer, David: 401-447-9848
Martorella, Philip: 401-615-0769 (no Sun. a.m.)
Sobaje, Martha: 401-626-0099 (weddings, funerals)

MEMBER MATTERS

Please take a few moments to look at the accompanying flyer detailing our mini convention on November 17. Surely it will be a highlight of our program year! Don't miss it! Details include making arrangements for a lunch if you prefer not to bring your own.

Also, see the message from our new Sub Dean, **Gigi Mitchell-Velasco**, who is going full speed ahead to flesh out our plans for programming. Gigi also shares some of the inspiration gleaned from our October Diversity event.

To get you all warmed up for our next event featuring the Meta Organworks instrument we offer you this fun website where all the sound files were recorded using the Hauptwerk virtual organ software. There are literally hundreds there! <http://organstops.org/> And check out Radio Garden! – <http://radio.garden/>

SUBMISSIONS

DEADLINE: 20th of each month. SUBMISSIONS: Send Word or Text files to altheaallard@gmail.com or to Althea Allard, 166 Suffolk Ave., Pawtucket, RI 02861. ADVERTISING: Word doc, PDF (print ready), JPG (high resolution), or TIFF. All files should be grayscale at 300 dpi resolution. Email to altheaallard@gmail.com

ADVERTISING RATES

1/4-page ad (3.5"W x 5"H): \$18 -or- 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.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR NEW SUB-DEAN

*Sing a **new song** to the Lord, sing praises all of you who live in the earth's remotest corners. Sing, oh sea sing all you who live in distant lands beyond the sea. Join the chorus you desert cities and dwellers of the mountaintops. – Isaiah 42:10*

Hello and Happy Fall!

First of all, let me say that I am very honored to be elected as your Sub-Dean. Rest assured that I will work hard to make sure that YOU are represented in our programming this season and the next! Please don't hesitate to send me an email to let me know how you are receiving the programming. Also tell me if you would like us to consider including something else next year. We want this to be about you, and we need you to fully participate.

Fall is a time to change gears and prepare for the next big season on our agenda as musicians, which is of course Advent and Christmas. But there are many lovely festivals in between. We have wonderful celebrations like All Saints and Christ the King. It is, in short, time to get organized and begin work in earnest with our choirs, cantors, pastors and priests. We all, being from different denominations, have different needs for our programs and our music, but one thing that is universal is that we need to be able to reach those we are serving with our playing and singing.

We had a small but mighty crowd at our Diversity Event at the First Baptist Church in America, and I'm so sorry for those who missed it. Those in attendance were treated to a wonderful evening of inspiration, poetry, and discussion of what it means to widen your circle of inclusion, from listening to music around the world to get your mind thinking in new directions, to exploring new material for your church. Our newly appointed Chaplain, Rev. Jamie Washam, gave a beautiful talk on her experience with diversity and inclusion in her own life, and what music can do for all of us. We were urged to think of not changing what we do but expanding it! Minister of Music Stephen Martorella gave a PowerPoint full of wonderful resources and new hymns, as well as some beautiful quotes and poetry. Just shoot him an email and he will be happy to send you the PDF of it! It was a beautiful and inspirational evening, and we all came away feeling a sense of peace and feeling refreshed. With all that's going on in the world today, we as musicians have the responsibility and the power to see everything in a more positive light and to support the healing the world needs now more than ever. Finally, we concluded with pasties and cakes from Pastiche picked up for us by Doris Alberg and Jan Aubin. Thank you Doris and Jan!! It was an incredible spread!!

I will leave you with two beautiful poems below. The first is from Pastor Jamie's portion of the talk and the last from Stephen's.

Enjoy! And please put the other dates in your calendar! See our information on the November 17 Mini-Convention in Taunton MA! Dennis Ferguson, Sub-Dean of the Southeastern Massachusetts chapter of the AGO, was with us in the Diversity season opener, urging us to attend this wonderful event. By the way, I will be playing a recital-demonstration of the newly installed Metaworks Organ at the venue.

Gigi Mitchell-Velasco
Sub-Dean and Program Chair

Whereas painters work with space – the croquet players on the lawn, behind them the dark foliage of the hedge, above them the sky – musicians work with time as one note follows another note the way tock follows tick.

Music both asks us and also enables us to listen to certain qualities of time- to the grandeur of time, says Bach, to the poignance of time, says Mozart, to the swing and shimmer of time, says Debussy, or however else you choose to put into words the richness and complexity of what each of them is wordlessly “saying.”

We learn from music how to listen to the music of our own time- one moment of our lives following another moment the way the violin passage follows the flute, the way the sound of foot-steps on the gravel follows the rustle of leaves in the wind, which follows the barking of a dog almost too far away to hear.

Music helps us to “keep time” in the sense of keeping us in touch with time, not just time as an ever-flowing stream that bears all of us away at last, but time also as a stream that every once in a while slows down and becomes transparent enough for us to see down the streambed the way, at a wedding, say, or within the sun rise past present and future are so caught up in a single moment that we catch a glimpse of the mystery that, at its deepest place, time is timeless.

– originally published in *Wishful Thinking* by theologian Frederick Buechner

Our circle is just right.

The city has an ordered mix.

The school, the proper chemistry. The church, politeness re-defined. The club, propriety itself.

It's good the way it is.

The borders should be closed.

The rules should be maintained. The limits should be clear.

The sanctions should be plain.

Our circle is just right . . .

But God, who cares about such things, and grieves when we usurp God's place has picked some crayons from a box, and with a child-like sense of right is drawing something new.

The Holy Artist laughs and sings, then calls to us, “Come look at this!” This circle brings folks in; a carousel of love and light

a place where dancing folks drop hands, and take one joyful, giant step, invite the stragglers in, rejoin their hands,

and dance the night away.

- John Thornburg, FHS

AND – check out Radio Garden! – <http://radio.garden/> ☺

Southeast Massachusetts & Rhode Island American Guild of Organists Mini-Convention



9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 17, 2018

St. Andrew the Apostle Parish
19 Kilmer Ave. Taunton, MA



Okay, well – maybe just a trip to Taunton, Massachusetts! The Southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island AGO chapters will collaborate to host an event using the new Meta Organ by organ builder, Dan Lemieux. The organ contains virtual (digital) replicas of seven famous organs from around the world, all in one console. The morning features a workshop on choral and organ music by James Jordan where we will study and sing works for the upcoming season which offer musical beauty and integrity for choirs and organs of any size. The lunch hour will feature a lecture-demonstration on Thai music by **Gerald Dyck, Director Emeritus of the Greater New Bedford Choral Society**. Join us after lunch for a demonstration of the Meta Organ by Gigi Mitchell-Velasco, with a performance that showcases the organ's sample sets including the Father Willis organ from Hereford Cathedral, the Rosales at Trinity Cathedral (Portland, OR) and a Cavallé-Coll (St. Etienne, Caen). Following the demonstration, the console is open for a chance to try it for yourself. **We will end with a postlude by Nathaniel De Castro, organist of St. Andrews**. Please join us as we touch music from around the globe and build practical skills!

The event is free and open to the public. If you would like a box lunch (which includes a wrap, salad, dessert, and bottled water), please send a \$15 check (payable to SE MA - AGO) with your choice (tuna or chicken) to Thomas Sargent 186 Metcalf St. New Bedford, MA 02745-2553 by November 13th. Or feel free to bring your own lunch. If you would like to pre-register for open console time or have additional questions, please email Thom Sargent at tsargentsr@aol.com



Gigi Mitchell-Velasco has a Master of Music in Organ Performance from Boston University studying with Peter Sykes. Recent performances include organ recitals at Trinity Church at Copley Square, Boston's Old West Church, and Newport RI's St. Mary's Church. A Bachelor of Music graduate in Flute from Curtis Institute of Music, she was Principal Flute of the Opera Company of Boston for eight seasons. Later a protégée of Christa Ludwig, she enjoyed a 20-year award-winning international singing career. Her love for conducting brought her for the past four summers to participate in the Conducting Institutes of Westminster Choir College and UMASS-Amherst, Chorus America's Conducting Academy and most recently as a Fellow in orchestral conducting at the Conductors' Institute of South Carolina. She is currently Music Director at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Barnstable, MA. A Colleague of the American Guild of Organists, Ms. Mitchell-Velasco is Sub-Dean of the Rhode Island Chapter of the AGO.

James Jordan has performed as an organist throughout the United States and Europe. Cited as performing both "authoritatively and sensitively" by the Boston Globe, and as a "superb performer" by American Record Guide. Dr. Jordan earned his Bachelor of Music Degree from SMU in Dallas, Texas, studying with Robert Anderson. As a student of David Craighead, he received his Master's, Doctorate, and Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. He has published in the American Choral Review and was a contributing author to American Sacred Choral Music—An Overview and Handbook.

Dr. Jordan has done extensive work in Gregorian Chant as a member of the Gloriæ Dei Cantores Schola. He is music director/organist of Church of the Transfiguration, Orleans, MA.

