



VOX OCEANA

NOV 2020

NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS | VOLUME LIII NO. 7

RI CHAPTER OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS 2020-2021

Dean, Gigi Mitchell-Velasco
Pipeorganlady22@gmail.com

Sub-Dean (Acting)
Stephen T. Martorella

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
hpeterlam@aol.com

Placement, Julie Tagen
401.885.7438

Membership, Christopher Souza
401.368.2758

Auditors
Denise Petrucci, Jackie Gourd

Regional Councillor
Leslie Smith
northeastago@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2020
Adam Schneider
adamschneider39@gmail.com

2021
Frederick Jodry
Stephen P. Kirby, Outgoing Dean
Lawrence E. Wilson III
860.857.5493
ewilson3rd@gmail.com

2022
Philip Martorella
Gina Vecchio 401.354.2366

www.riago.org

FROM THE DEAN

Hello dear friends and colleagues,

I hope this finds you well and getting in the mood for some turkey or whatever your favorite feasting food may be! With Thanksgiving just around the corner, I wanted to tell you how thankful I am for YOU, dear friends! This month's Newsletter contains some goodies you won't want to miss, prepared especially for you.

This November's **Video Postcard** comes to us from Mark Steinbach. I hope you had a chance to enjoy the Halloween program he presented live last month, but this is a special encore presentation of the Annual Late Night Recital at Brown University, now in its first virtual organ recital. The Postcard begins with some background of the history of Sayles Hall and includes a tour (inside!) of the world's largest Hutchings-Votey pipe organ at Sayles. The program includes some of the gold standards of the organ repertoire, as well as new music, transcriptions and even a short personal tribute that Mark pays to the Brown students who are still at a distance. The whole program is magnificently played. I hope you are able to enjoy it over the holidays!

Don't miss our **Mentoring Minutes** - *Spice Up Your Hymnody!* hosted by Stephen Martorella, organist and music minister of The First Baptist Church in America, all done with humor and 'scholarly whimsy'!

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend **our next virtual event** on **December 11th**. *This is one you do not want to miss.* It is our big event for the year and will be a round table discussion on **The Effects of the Pandemic on Musicians - Creativity in Crisis**. We will be hosting an all-star panel of international musicians, opera singers, choral and orchestral conductors and church musicians as well as a clinical social worker. You must reserve a place since space is limited and will go quickly. See the flyer included in this email and email us today at riagoevents@gmail.com for your place in this groundbreaking discussion on the Zoom platform.

Enjoy your "Great" feast! Stay well and stay "Positiv" and I'm sure it will be "Swell"!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Gigi Mitchell-Velasco, MMus, CAGO
Dean

A Round Table Forum
on
The Effects of the Pandemic on Musicians
Friday, December 11, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. EST



The **Rhode Island Chapter of the American Guild of Organists** invites you to join us and a panel of nine international musicians, opera singers, conductors, teachers and a clinical social worker via Zoom to discuss the effects of the pandemic on artists and the creative mind. The event begins with a virtual cocktail hour at 5:00-6:00 p.m., after which the Round Table Forum begins and will last until around 8:00 p.m. We will be accepting questions by email to riagoevents@gmail.com beforehand (please put **Crisis Q&A** in your subject line) and by Zoom Chat during the Forum. An open discussion will also be available to attendees toward the end. Please reserve your spot early as there will be limited space by emailing us at riagoevents@gmail.com with **Pandemic Forum** in the subject line.

Our Panelists

Katelyn Emerson, international concert organist ❖ **Paulo Faustini**, Faustini Voice Studio and Choral Clinician; Founder, *Serenades* Choral Travel, Providence RI ❖ **Erin Hannigan**, Principal Oboist, Dallas Symphony Orchestra; adjunct Professor of Oboe, Southern Methodist University; co-Founder; Artists for Animals ❖ **David Hayes**, Music Director, New York Choral Society; Director of Orchestral and Conducting Studies, Mannes School of Music ❖ **Barbara Quintiliani**, international opera singer, soprano – Gran Teatro del Liceo Barcelona, Wexford Festival Opera, OperaBoston, etc. ❖ **Matthew Scinto**, Founder and Music Director, Cape Cod Chamber Orchestra, Cape Cod MA; Music Director, Civic Orchestra of New Haven CT ❖ **Carl Tanner**, international opera singer, tenor – Metropolitan Opera, La Scala, Covent Garden, etc. ❖ **Thomas Vozzella**, Director of Music organist & choirmaster, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Kansas City MO ❖ **Katherine Winterstein**, Concertmaster, Vermont Symphony Orchestra; violinist, Handel & Haydn Society Boston, Rhode Island Philharmonic ❖ **Katy Roth**, LICSW, licensed clinical social worker.

Moderator **Gigi Mitchell-Velasco**, Dean, RIAGO

MENTORING MINUTES

Mentoring Minutes is a new series in which organists will offer a brief lesson on some aspect of organ playing. This month, our Acting Sub-Dean, **Stephen Martorella**, presents several hymn tunes and gives interesting suggestions, all done with humor and ‘scholarly whimsy.’ This Series is instituted by your Dean to give our members ideas on techniques and tips on the various intricacies of organ playing suitable for any bench. Here is the YouTube link of this presentation - <https://youtu.be/Md2fSOjSNeQ>

WISH YOU WERE HERE...

The third of a series of *The Video Postcard Project* offered by the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Guild of Organists features Brown University Organist **Mark Steinbach** as he gives us a special treat in showing us the world's largest Hutchings-Votey pipe organ at Brown's Sayles Hall, and playing a wonderful recital opening with Jean Langlais' exciting *Hymne d'Action de Grâce 'Te Deum'* Op. 5 No. 3. Also included in the program are works by Bach, Widor, modern works, transcriptions, and even a special surprise tribute to Brown students. The recital culminates with Olivier Messian's massive *Dieu parmi nous*. Here is the YouTube link of this presentation – <https://youtu.be/t95J1KVkO34>

HOW MUSIC CAN BE OUR MEDICINE

In last month's *Vox Oceana*, we posted this article by **Alex Green**, organist at UCC Church in Walpole, MA, and music therapist for a group of adults. We hope to invite Alex this Spring for a Zoom event to talk about his work.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR COVID SETBACKS

RIAGO has set up an Emergency Relief Fund (ERF) in response to the current and ongoing crisis and its economic impact on our members. The relief will be a \$100 gift card to a supermarket where the recipient buys groceries. To be eligible, applicants must be current members of our chapter and have lost income from their church postings as a result of being laid off due to the Covid lockdown any time after 15 March 2020. This gift card may be issued only once in a 12-month period. Individuals with liability and/or insurance claims pending are not eligible. To apply, send a statement with your name, home address, telephone, email, a brief paragraph detailing the circumstances of your dismissal, the date of dismissal, date of reinstatement (if applicable), and the name of the institution from which you were dismissed. Please send this statement to Steve Martorella at steve.fbc@verizon.net.

The matter will be subject to review by the ERF Committee (Lawrence Wilson and Stephen Martorella) and subject to final approval by the Dean (Gigi Mitchell-Velasco).

AGO National offers a link to various articles indicating helpful sources of information for musicians, religious institutions and students regarding many of the COVID-related challenges facing members. www.agohq.org/responding-to-Covid-19/

WANT TO SEE YOUR ARTICLE IN PRINT?

We encourage you to submit an article to the *Vox Oceana* newsletter on an organ or music-related subject. Send submissions for consideration to our Newsletter Editor, **Althea Allard**, at altheaallard@gmail.com. All submissions will be edited and included as the space allows.

MEMBER MATTERS

Condolences to Jay MacCubbin, whose wife, Susan Rodgers, long-time voice teacher at RIC, died recently. May she rest in peace.

PLACEMENT LISTINGS

Contact Julie Tagen (401.225.9594) to list

North Kinstown United Methodist 4/16/20
35 Congdon Hill Road, Saunderstown, RI 02874
Mark Zaccaria 401.225.5051 zaccaria@att.net
Pipe organ \$6,000-8,400

Emanuel Lutheran Church 10/10/20
9 New London Ave, West Warwick, RI 02893
Pastor Todd Stange 401-450-2836
Ahlborn-Galanti \$13-18,000 Minister of Music

SUBSTITUTE LISTINGS

Contact Julie Tagen (401.225.9594) with changes.

AVAILABLE SUNDAYS & WEEKENDS

Babbit, Jonathan 401.864.9009
Casteel, Eden 401.932.5589
Clarke, Margaret 401.726.4128 (all)
Higgins, Stephen 401.441.2270
(comfortable with any keyboard situation)
Jones, William 401.848.4327 (all)
Kohl, Karen 401.787.2695 (please inquire)
MacCubbin, Jay 401.521.0698
Nicholson, Nancy 401.521.9097 (all)
Norton-Jackson, Diana 401.714.2700
interim, sub, no weddings
Tagen, Julia 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

Black, John 401.737.1230 (all)
available Saturday & weekdays
Castellani, Roger 917.621.6530
Cranmer, David 401.447.9848
Martorella, Philip 401.615.0769
no Sunday a.m.
Sobaje, Martha 401.626.0099
weddings, funerals

SUBMISSIONS ADVERTISING RATES

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

¼ page ad (3.5"W x 5"H): \$18 -or- 1/8-page ad (3.5"H x 2.5: +H: \$10
Flyers provided electronically for inclusion with Newsletter (for RIAGO members): \$10. Make checks out to RIAGO and mail to Althea Allard by the 20th. \$25 non-members.