



VOX OCEANA

SEPTEMBER 2010

NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS | VOLUME XLIII, NO. 8

RI CHAPTER OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS 2010-2011

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942-6144

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434-8476

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245-4065

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272-8318; brianlarkin1@cox.net

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Regional Councillor,
Lary Grossman
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MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

2011
Jeff Allard: 447-9035
Laura Jensen: 787-3032

2012
Kathy Hart: 837-8873
Philip Martorella: 885-3431

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

www.riago.org

www.agonewengland.blogspot.com

FROM THE DEAN

DANCING A JIG IN CHURCH

As I write this, the great festival in Edinburgh is underway with its grand and solemn bagpipe processions and ceremonial bands, while in the streets and pubs there will be dancing to jigs and reels a' plenty. It should be noted that while Benjamin Franklin was perfectly content to sit through an oratorio of Handel, he much preferred the Scotch-Irish airs, as he called them. Bach, too, loved a good rollicking jig – which he referred to as “the English jig”. (I guess we can forgive him for that!)

Related to “the English jig” was the French gigue in 6/8 with two groups of three, each group consisting of a dotted eighth, sixteenth, eighth. While it sounds lively, the 2-pulse is really more moderate. There was an Italian version, too. Called the jiga, it was slightly less fast but still sounded lively, and had even eighth notes, three plus three.

Bach used both types, plus a 9/8 time consisting of three groups of three eighths. Still, his preference was for the English type, which had several different time signatures, but essentially was in four consisting of four groups of three either as triplets in a fast bar of two or four or more commonly as a bar of 12/16. The English or Irish jig was quite a bit faster than its French and Italian counterparts, and was essentially the same jig you'll hear by any good Irish band today.

This form was in fact one of Bach's most favored, for its enthusiasm signified Resurrection for him. References for this abound in many Bach works, including the final third of St. Anne's Fugue, and the opening chorus of the St. Matthew Passion. This latter is of particular interest, as it is seen as a musical depiction of the march to Calvary, which it well is, but Bach is marching to four groups of three eighths each, which as noted above is our English jig. In so doing, he is proclaiming Christ's resurrection, even as he is carrying the cross to his death.

As a postscript, one of my favorite Bach jigs is the final movement of the Fifth Brandenburg, which I was privileged to perform many times both here in the United States and in Europe. At the correct speed, it is fiendishly difficult to get all the notes out especially on a finicky harpsichord, but once past that hurdle, it is just plain fun to play. I did get to play it in a church service, and in my commentary before, I explained that in Bachian theology, God was present at all times in our lives, in times of sadness, but also and most presciently in our daily feasts and celebrations of joy.

May your service playing be filled with joyful moments, and on occasion – even some dancing in the aisles!

–Steve

RENEWAL DEADLINE IS HERE

Thanks for prompt renewals. Membership cards will be placed in membership booklets. For those who have yet to renew, please prod your church treasurer and send your renewals to me this week. Thanks so much for your cooperation.

–Doris of Membership

UPCOMING EVENTS PREVIEW

Monday September 20, 6:00 pm: Kickoff Dinner, Cathedral of St. John Episcopal

Sunday October 17, 7:00 pm: See, hear, and play the Fox touring organ and learn of the legacy of Virgil Fox at the home of Kevin DiLorenzo. Directions will appear in the October issue.

We are also working on a hymn festival for November. See details in the next issue of Vox Oceana.

FROM OUR MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Sunday, September 19, 4:00 pm: The First Baptist Church in America's Music at the Meetinghouse Series, 75 North Main Street, Providence is proud to present **Suzanna Perez**, prize winner of six international competitions, in recital featuring works of Bach, Haydn, Ives, Chopin, Liszt, and Schumann's Op. 9 Carnival. Free. Donations accepted.

Sunday, September 26, 2:00 pm: Come and contribute to the Chopin Club scholarship fund at The Music Mansion, Providence, where renowned artist **Barbara Speer**, piano, will offer a concert celebrating Chopin's Bicentennial, featuring all four of the Ballades and a selection of shorter masterpieces. Ms. Speer's bio may be found on the Club website at <http://www.chopinclub.org/eventscalendar.html>

October 5-8: *A Hook Holiday: St. John's, Bangor, celebrates Organ Sesquicentennial.* This year marks the 150th anniversary of Maine's largest 19th-Century tracker-action pipe organ, E. and G. G. Hook's magnificent Opus 288 at St. John's Roman Catholic Church in Bangor. To celebrate this historic instrument and five others in Midcoast Maine, the St. John's Organ Society, in cooperation with the Organ Historical Society and the Bangor Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, is sponsoring a festival tour with panels and recitals of organs built between 1847 and 1909 by E. and G. G. Hook, Hook and Hastings, and George Stevens. The registration fee of \$150 must be submitted by September 5. For more information and a complete list of events, visit www.HookOpus288.org or phone Kevin Birch at 207-942-6941.

AGO APPEAL

If you've missed the year-end appeal to contribute to the American Guild of Organists, won't you consider making a contribution to start our new year? Contributions to

- Annual Fund support national Guild operations and educational programs.
- Endowment Fund are held in perpetuity; annual earnings support operations and educational programs.
- New Organist Fund support Pipe Organ Encounters and scholarship programs for POE students.
- Nita Akin Fund support operations of the National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance.
- S. Lewis Elmer Fund support prize awards for the most successful candidates in our professional certification program.

Gifts in all amounts are needed and welcomed; no gift is too small! All contributions to the AGO are 100% tax deductible to the fullest extent provided by law.

RIAGO FALL KICKOFF DINNER

Monday, September 20 at 6:00 pm; dinner served at 6:30 pm. Cathedral of St John Episcopal, 271 N Main St. Providence. Catered by Amos House More Than a Meal

As always, all proceeds go directly to benefit the culinary arts training program helping those in need to obtain meaningful work. You will have an opportunity to hear about our exciting upcoming programs for the 2010-2011 season, enjoy a delicious meal, and hear Brink Bush talk about the interpersonal relationships and genesis for his very exciting Variations on a Theme of Paganini, after which we will get an up front tour of the Cathedral organ and hear some of this magnificent new organ composition.

FALL KICKOFF DINNER RESERVATION FORM

Cost: \$25.00

Choice of: _____ Chicken Marsala
 _____ Stuffed Sole w/ Newburg

Served with pasta, salad, and fresh fruit

Reservations must be received by Wednesday September 15. Don't delay! Send it off today!

Mail dinner selection and check made out to RIAGO to:
Dr. Kevin DiLorenzo, PO box 547, Newport, RI 02840.

CONVENTION NOTES

FROM WASHINGTON D.C., JULY 2010

So much to hear and only two ears to do it with! Eighteen concerts in four days: my personal best.

Regardless of the heat outside, it was cool in the Cathedral (National) on Monday. The convention began with four commissioned works. In fact there were commissioned works in almost every event I attended. The Cathedral now has monitors placed on the side pillars so everyone can see as well as hear what is going on both in the chancel and at the organ.

Then it was onward to more events after shoehorning over 2,000 of us into thirty-five coaches. That evening it was back to the National Cathedral for opening concert with Scott Dettra again on the bench, this time playing Barber's Toccata Festiva. After the interval came the 1931 Mass for the 500th Anniversary of the Death of Joan of Arc by Paul Paray. The convention was filled with examples of such less frequently heard programming, even a transcription of the Overture to Die Fledermaus.

Tuesday brought heat and an equally 'hot' performance at National City Christian Church by the Virginia Bronze Handbell Ensemble, an auditioned handbell choir. They used the bells, handchimes, wind chimes, gong, metalophone, and probably more I missed. The organ there has a handbell stop controlling 61 bronze Whitechapel bells, one of only two such stops in existence. And that was only the prelude. Bruce Neswick and the Cantate Chamber Singers and the National Brass Quintet led a hymn festival to die for with everyone in the audience singing parts if requested, in tune and in rhythm.

That afternoon Mark Steinbach's student, Annie Laver, won the 2nd prize in the NYACOP. Congratulations!

That evening we were whisked off to Annapolis to hear David Higgs marvelously master the monster organ at the US Naval Academy Chapel. With renovations to the organ completed only a week before the event, and some 522 drawknobs to chose from and Find!, this seemed an incredible accomplishment. David was the only performer to play an encore. He played In a Persian Market to show off the theater organ side of the instrument that included stops like chrysoglott,

xylophone, snare drum, brush cymbal choke cymbal and many more.

Wednesday morning I attended worship at both the Sixth and I Historic Synagogue and Shiloh Baptist Church. Musically very far apart, of course, but yet both spoke of presenting music from oppressed peoples. At the Synagogue we were told that the gorgeous settings by Salamone Rossi of traditional Jewish texts had not been appreciated by his fellow ghetto residents. That was in the 1600s. Nothing much changes regarding new music, does it.

The closing concert on Thursday was in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, another incredibly beautiful and overwhelming space. 'Our own' Julian Wachner directed the Washington National Chorus. They sang Three Psalms, a commissioned work by David Hurd. Renee Anne Louprette played an astounding piece by Olivier Latry Salve Regina which you felt as well as heard with (probably) the 64' Gravissima, one or several of the four 32's and possibly a smattering of the nineteen 16 footers shaking the place. There was a gallery and a chancel organ both controlled by one console. The last performer was David Briggs who improvised a symphony. The themes were "America," "Wade in the Water," "Simple Gifts" and Lasst uns erfreuen.

One amazing convention, very well executed.

—Doris Alberg

NOTICE OF CASE IN PROGRESS

On July 16, 2010 an AGO Member filed a formal complaint against St. Brendan Church, East Providence, for wrongful termination of employment. The Guild is investigating the matter according to the AGO's Procedures for Dealing with Complaints about Termination. No determination has been made at this time.

Although Guild Members may provide substitute or interim services, no Member may seek or accept regular or permanent employment with St. Brendan Church while these Procedures are pending. See the AGO's website for the current status of this case.

GROW YOUR MUSIC LIBRARY

Craig Cramer, University of Notre Dame, has quite a list of used music and books for sale at very accommodating prices, including some seminal out-of-print volumes. If you are looking to increase your library contact Steve to forward the list to you upon request, or you can contact Craig directly at ccramer@nd.edu. Packing/handling: \$2.00 per package, plus postage.

FAREWELL NEWPORT BAROQUE

We congratulate **Paul Cienniwa** on a successful run of eight seasons with Newport Baroque. His programs have been elegant and varied, a wonderful addition to the RI musical scene. Thanks, Paul, for your contributions to the arts in our area. We wish you the best as you focus on your solo career, and look forward to hearing more from you. (Follow Paul on his website www.paulcienniwa.com).

MEMBER MATTERS

Additions to the directory: **Karin Kohl**, 283 Lippitt Avenue, Cranston, RI 02921; 401-821-8553; kkohl@hsp.edu; **Richard Funk**, 162 Broad Street, Apt. 611, Providence RI 02903; 401-231-4196; **Eric Mazonson**, 35 Myrtle Street, Pawtucket, RI, 02860; 401-725-3591; emazonson@verizon.net; **Beverly Jerold Scheibert**, 26 Webb Place, Unit 3B, Mansfield, MA 02048; **John Cook**, 87 Varnum Avenue, Pawtucket, 02860; 401-475-8917; johncook1213@cox.net.

Our graphic designer Celeste is otherwise occupied...



PLACEMENT LISTING

Contact *Brian Larkin (272-8318)* for more information.

Mathewson Street United Methodist Church 5/10
134 Mathewson Street, Providence, RI 02903
Theil Ramsbey: 401-231-4196
O/D \$275/week Allen Renaissance, 4 man, 138 stops

SUBSTITUTE LISTINGS

Contact *Brian Larkin (272-8318)* with changes.

AVAILABLE SUNDAYS

Clarke, Margaret: 401-726-4128 (all)
Funk, Richard: 401-521-7299 x611 (all)
Gage, Christopher: 401-632-1863 (all)
Larkin, Brian: 401-272-8318 (all)
Lide, Mary Jane: 401-714-0011 (all)
Norton-Jackson, Diana: 401-783-0402 (no RC/weddings, \$150 min.)
Phelps, Howard: 508-224-8475 (no RC)
Scheibert, Beverly Jerold: 508-399-0579
Tagen, Julia L.: 401-885-7438 (all)
Westhaver, Verna: 401-683-2636 (all, interim)
Wiant, William: 401-683-3178 (all, weddings/funerals)
Zimmermann, Amy: 301-529-0136 (all)

NOT AVAILABLE SUNDAYS

Allard, Jeff: 401-447-9035 (funerals)
Boucher, Paul: 401-837-4802 (weddings, funerals, including RC)
Bush, Brink: 401-245-4065 (weddings, funerals)
Cienniwa, Paul: 508-676-8483 (\$150 min)
Conboy, Lois: 401-658-3838
Hart, Kathy: 401-837-8873 (weddings, funerals, accompanist)
Markham, Susan: 401-821-6786 (weddings, funerals)
Martorella, Philip: 401-885-3431 (weddings, funerals)
Nicholson, Nancy: 401-521-9097 (no Sunday AM)
Nolan, Robert: 401-884-7172 (weddings, funerals, non-Sun. services)
Rankin, Jane B.: 401-884-0669 (funerals)
Sobaje, Martha: 401-626-0099 (weddings, funerals, no RC)
Tagen, Julie: 401-885-7438 (weddings, funerals)
Teitelbaum, Kajsja: 401-965-3304 (Org./Soloist-weddings, funerals)
Yoreo, Dorothy: 401-246-1223 (all)

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.