



# VOX OCEANA

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

SEPTEMBER 2011

## RI CHAPTER OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS 2011-2012

Dean, Kevin DiLorenzo  
524-4484  
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Secretary, David Cranmer  
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Membership, Doris Alberg  
365-7273

Auditor, Joe Gama  
942-6144

Auditor, Jean Richard DuPont  
434-8476

Education, Brink Bush  
245-4065

Historian, Peter N. LaMoria  
723-6974; 726-2600

Placement, Brian Larkin  
272-8318; [brianlarkin1@cox.net](mailto:brianlarkin1@cox.net)

Newsletter, Althea Allard  
728-4431; [aallard@ccri.edu](mailto:aallard@ccri.edu)

Website, Doris Alberg  
[dalberg1@cox.net](mailto:dalberg1@cox.net)

Chaplain, Fr. Doug Spina  
434-4060; 434-7030

Regional Councillor,  
Cheryl Duerr  
[clduerr@gmail.com](mailto:clduerr@gmail.com)

## MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

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

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

2014  
Margaret Clark: 726-4128  
Leilani Nixon: 860-774-1333

[www.riago.org](http://www.riago.org)

[www.agonewengland.blogspot.com](http://www.agonewengland.blogspot.com)

## FROM THE DEAN

*"The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty."*  
-Winston Churchill

The Program and Planning committee would appreciate your ideas for events that you will attend. The Guild's abundant resources are being tailored just for you. We encourage using this organization either by participating in recitals, attending workshops or lending a helping hand at chapter events. The Executive Board meetings are open to all members and your input would be well received. We will become a visible and thriving organization if you attend our functions. Please allow the Guild the opportunity to fulfill your needs, provide valuable training thus enhancing your enjoyment and appreciation of the organ. Take that risk and join us at our first event. Our Kick-off Fiesta is at Spain Restaurant on September 26, 6:30 pm. We will enjoy our own private function room complete with full service, appetizers, your choice of entrée, and cash bar. Please make this opportunity successful and join us. Bring family and friends as it is your Guild too! Find the reservation form on page 4.

-Kevin

## FROM THE REGIONAL COUNCILLOR

I am deeply honored to have been appointed by the National Council to serve the remainder of Lary Grossman's term as Councillor for Region I. In May, Lary's wife Moira Brady was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer which has metastasized. This devastating illness has made it impossible for him to continue in his role as Councillor. Lary and Moira have a 13 year-old daughter. Please keep them in your prayers.

I was lucky to have worked with Lary in Regional leadership. It was a very fertile time collaborating, brainstorming and implementing ideas. The opportunity to create with so many talented and committed people has truly been a gift. Since 2007, Lary has earned the respect of our colleagues across the six New England states. He oversaw the Rhode Island and Boston Regionals, directed the Springfield POE in 2007 held at Smith College, and hosted the entire state of Maine at a first ever All-Maine mini-convention this spring.

Lary has been a strong voice on National Council, ever advocating for needs at the local and regional levels. He has worked tirelessly for Progress over Process and was a strong voice for change. His insights, keen observations and deep commitment to the Guild will be missed. I hope that at some point we'll see him back in Guild leadership. You may contact Lary at: [elg@bradygrossman.com](mailto:elg@bradygrossman.com) 24 King St. Hatfield, MA 01038 413-247-9426 (h)

-Cheryl Duerr

## EVENTS

**Sunday, August 28, 7:00 pm:** *Zefiro* will offer works of Gesualdo, Paert and others at Taylor House Bed & Breakfast in Jamaica Plain, MA. Visit their website at [www.taylorhouse.com](http://www.taylorhouse.com).

**Sunday, September 4, Midnight: Mark Steinbach**, Brown University Organist, Sayles Hall, Brown University. Works of Messiaen, Vierne, Bach and Liszt. 1903 Hutchings-Votey Organ. Free admission. Handicapped accessible. Alternative seating: bring pillows or blankets. 863-2344

**Saturday, September 10, 7:30 pm:** *Bicentennial Organ Concert:* **Donald Dame** will perform works by Bedard, Bolcom, Franck, Gigout, Jongen and Pachelbel. First Baptist Church, 250 High Street, Bristol. \$10 general/\$5 student. A 200 Cupcake Collation will follow. 253-9030

**Friday, September 23, 8:00 pm:** *Jehan Alain Centennial Recital*, **James Higdon**, concert organist and noted performer and recording artist of the works of Alain. Sayles Hall, Brown University, 1903 Hutchings-Votey Organ. Free admission. Handicapped accessible. 863-2344.

**Sunday, October 2, 5:00 pm:** Choirs of St. Paul's, Wickford, **Mark Steinbach**, Director, present Festival Choral Evensong to celebrate the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels at St. Paul's Church, 55 Main Street, Wickford. Reception follows. Free. Handicapped accessible. 294-4357

**Sunday, October 2, 5:30 pm:** Solemn Evensong and Benediction - Feast of St Michael and All Angels (transferred) will be celebrated at St. Stephen's Church, 114 George Street, Providence. 421-6702 – Offering works of Thomas Tomkins, Jacob Handl, and Herbert Howells sing by the Choir of Men and Boys, Parish of All Saints', Ashmont, Boston. **Andrew Sheranian**, Organist and Master of the Choristers.

**Sunday, October 23, 5:30 pm:** Memorial Organ Recital. **James Busby**, Organist and Choirmaster. *Messa delli Apostoli* - Girolamo Frescobaldi-Joseph Bonnet with The Men of the Schola Cantorum; *Chamber Sonata II* (1995) - James Woodman with **Tobias Andrews**, French Horn; *Fantasie und Fuga A/4ber den Choral "Ad nos, ad salutarum undam"* - Franz Liszt. St. Stephen's Church, 114 George Street, Providence; 421-6702. Offering.

## AROUND THE COUNTRY

For information about the Alain Festival, September 28-30, held at Wichita State University in Kansas, see [www.americanalainfestival.com](http://www.americanalainfestival.com).

## MEMBER MATTERS

Congratulations to **Robert Currier**, who was awarded the CAGO certificate this spring. Good going!

Congratulations and farewell to our former treasurer, **Al Casinelli**, who has been appointed to an organist position in Florida. Good luck, and thanks for your commitment to RIAGO.

Welcome to new member **John Black**, 3 Colley Court, Barrington RI 02806, 401-245-2356; [pianoetc@verizon.net](mailto:pianoetc@verizon.net) at Barrington Presbyterian, Organist/Director of Music & Choir

Dean **Kevin Di Lorenzo** has a new address: 31 Lori-ellen Drive, Smithfield, RI 02917; 401-524-4484

**Laura Jensen** has a new e-mail: [aurajens@comcast.net](mailto:aurajens@comcast.net)

Please note new address for **Bruce Stevens**: 70 Fry Brook Drive, East Greenwich, RI 02818.

# A MEMOIR OF MY MUSICAL LIFE

by BRIAN LARKIN

*The following is excerpted from Brian Larkin's response to a request from his family and friends to share some of his wide-ranging recollections as an organist. Many readers will recall with him some of the people, events, and places that figure in his evolution from student to director of St. Dunstan's Summer School for Church Musicians. We thank him for sharing and hope to publish segments periodically.*

—The Editor

## PART 3

St. Anthony's in North Providence had a Walcher tracker that was interesting, voiced on the shrill side and clumsy to play. It was fine for chamber work, period pieces but limited for liturgical playing in a Catholic church. It was finally removed and I think found its way to Rhode Island College. If it is there, it's a teaching instrument and probably excellent in that venue.

St. Peter and Andrew's Episcopal Church off Academy Avenue in Providence has a Charles Fisk tracker. It's one manual with 13 split stops, unenclosed of course. The split is fine if it's at middle C! It's a chamber instrument suitable for Handel Concertos, Mozart and lots of other things for organ and chamber instruments. Playing an Episcopal service on it is a workout. The softest stop is a chuffy flute and it has a Cromorne with the power of a Spanish Trumpet en chamade! It's still there, still in fine shape, visually attractive in a quaint Anglo setting. When I play there I always feel the need to use the nearby Steinway during communion to give the congregation some relief. I remember well this organ's introduction to the Guild. Barbara Owen was waxing eloquently about the virtues of Fisk's creation. A few pieces were played to demo the organ. I was sitting next to Roy Bailey, a revered member of the AGO. Roy mumbled "I'm dying to hear a string stop." The Fisk is what it is, but whenever I go to play there, I take a couple of Tylenol before, knowing I am going home with a headache.

In all fairness, these instruments were part of the Baroque "revival" generated in the 50s largely through the influence of by E. Power Biggs. It was the antithesis of the wooly, tubby sounds of late 19th/early 20th century sounds we were used to. I think that now the American model of voicing organs is more moderate. I studied with Biggs in workshops in Washington and loved the man. I always thought his playing was tight, on the money but often stiff and academic. I never liked

his interpretations of say, French romantics, but loved his playing of Bach on the Flentrop organ at Harvard (Bush Riesinger Museum). Biggs tried his hand at jazzy things and even gave a recital at Radio City Music Hall on the big Wurlitzer there. Apparently nobody told him about the pitfalls of second touch (added pressure on the keys would bring on other stops), and the result was a disaster. The planned LP was never released. His comeback was to come out with an album of Joplin rags on the pedal harpsichord. Biggs's big rival was, of course, Virgil Fox but that's a story for later.

Memorable organs from those days still exist: the Austin in St. Stephen's (Hollis Grant's bench for over 40 years); the Aeolian Skinner in Central Congregational (played in those days by the very talented Fred MacArthur) and the Reuter in St. Martin's. St. Martin's used to have a yearly memorial recital (Lownes Memorial I think). The choir there was led by Jimmy Hallam who also maintained a superb group of singers at Lincoln School called the Lambricans. Biggs played one year at St. Martin's and a group of us being young snots at the time, sat there like a smug musical Taliban nodding in approval at the "Baroque" sounds. Now, many, many years later, I play that organ quite often and it strikes my ear that it is more along the Romantic lines with a few mutations. It is undergoing some reworking of the specifications presently and it remains to be heard for a final analysis.

Grace Church downtown has a wonderful Casavant instrument, or really two wonderful organs. There's an interesting story about the organ in the chancel area. Next door to Grace Church used to be a wonderful old movie palace, The RKO Albee. Like so many of them, it had fallen on hard times and was scheduled for the wrecking ball. Fred Conheimer was an old pal of Hollis Grant's and one day at St. Dunstan's Conference, we were standing around talking during morning coffee. Someone came in all excited and said, "Fred! Remember how you wanted a new console and work on the organ for the chancel? ...well, you'll be getting it now." The wrecking crane had just dropped a chunk of the old RKO balcony through the roof of Grace! I never went to see the damage, but I do know the organ was refurbished, and the old RKO was flattened to a parking lot.

Well, with those rambling memories of the 60s, I will turn my attention to the founding of St. Dunstan's College Conference, Hollis Grant and me.

## SUBSTITUTE LISTINGS

Contact Brian Larkin (272-8318) with changes.

### AVAILABLE SUNDAYS

- Clarke, Margaret: 401-726-4128 (all)
- Dupont, Jean-Richard: 401-434-8476 (all, no weddings/choirs)
- Funk, Richard: 401-272-0693 (all)
- Gourd, Jacqueline: 401-828-4057 (all, no weddings)
- Kohl, Karen: 401-787-2695
- Larkin, Brian: 401-272-8318 (all, interim, consultant)
- Phelps, Howard: 508-224-8475 (no RC)
- Scheibert, Beverly Jerold: 508-339-0579 (all, weddings/funerals)
- Tagen, Julia L.: 401-885-7438 (all)
- Westhaver, Verna: 401-683-2636 (all, interim)
- Wiant, William: 401-683-3178 (all, weddings/funerals)

### NOT AVAILABLE SUNDAYS

- Allard, Jeff: 401-447-9035 (funerals)
- Bush, Brink: 401-245-4065 (weddings, funerals)
- Cienniwa, Paul: 508-676-8483 (\$150 min)
- Conboy, Lois: 401-658-3838
- Hart, Kathy: 401-837-8873 (funerals, no RC)
- 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)
- Sobaje, Martha: 401-626-0099 (weddings, funerals, no RC)
- Tagen, Julie: 401-885-7438 (weddings, funerals)
- Valentine, Br. Enoch John, BSG: 273-1731 (funerals/weddings)
- Yoreo, Dorothy: 401-246-1223 (all)

## PLACEMENT LISTING

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

First Congregational Church of Sharon, MA (UCC) 3/11  
 29 N Main St., Sharon, MA 02067  
 Martha MacMillin: 781-784-2631; 781-784-1816  
 Children's choir D/O \$300wk/10 months Roche  
 Brian Larkin has more details if interested: [brianlarkin1@cox.net](mailto:brianlarkin1@cox.net)/  
 401-272-8318

St. Anthony's RC Church 3/11  
 2836 East Main Rd, Portsmouth, RI 02871  
 Fr. Daniel Gray: 401-683-0089  
 Organist full/part time Salary Open Rodgers

Pilgrim Lutheran (Evangel. Lutheran Church of Am) 5/11  
 1817 Warwick Ave, Warwick, RI  
 Rev. Dennis Kohl: 401-739-2932; 401-821-8553  
 Minister of Music 16-20K Hutchings/Andover

### SUBMISSIONS

Deadline: 20th of each month  
 Submissions: Send Word or Text files to [aallard@ccri.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## FIESTA DE RESTAURANTE ESPANA

Monday, September 26 at 6:30 pm at Spain Restaurant, 1073 Reservoir Ave., Cranston, RI 02910

Appetizers include Clams Casino, Stuffed Mushroom Caps, Grilled Chorizo, Mussels Marinara and Coconut Shrimp.  
Entrée choices are:

1. Fillet of Salmon broiled and topped with sherry sauce and saffron sauce.
2. Chicken Limon pan seared in lemon sauce
3. Pork Tenderloin chili rubbed with Shitake mushrooms in a port wine sauce

Soft drinks and coffee included. Beverages are available at the cash bar. Full service!

\$30.00 per person **RSVP by September 16, 2011**

Please indicate your choice and send your reservation and check payable to RIAGO to:

Kevin Di Lorenzo, 31 Lori-Ellen Drive, Smithfield, RI 02917 401-524-4484

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Reservation Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number in Party \_\_\_\_\_

Entrée Selection \_\_\_\_\_