



VOX OCEANA

SEPT 2017

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

RI CHAPTER OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS 2017-2019

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2019
Gina Vecchio 401-354-2366
Lawrence E. Wilson 860-857-5493

2020
Gigi Mitchell-Velasco,
Jonathan Babbit

www.riago.org

FROM THE DEAN

Dear Rhode Island AGO Members,

I hope that each of you has had a relaxing summer and that you are feeling recharged to start a new season in your respective churches. As the Dean of the RI Chapter, I urge all members to get involved with our activities. Our new Sub Dean, **Nicholas Voermans**, has outlined excellent programs for the upcoming year elsewhere in this newsletter.

As I noted at our Annual Meeting, I plan to keep our meetings to a minimum. The first board meeting will be held at my house in Barrington at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, September 12, 2017. Board members may contact me at Loftynotes@aol.com for directions.

As all members can see, we have had quite a change to our board membership (see the sidebar for updates). This is a great group of people who will be leading us this year. We are all hoping for your participation in as many of these wonderful programs as you can fit into your schedule. Check the Sub Dean's message, and mark your calendars.

Elsewhere in this letter, in Events, you will see that we are hosting **Peter Sykes**, renowned organist and teacher. Read about his many accomplishments and join us in October for his lecture/demonstration/recital.

Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions and concerns. I hope to hear from you.

Stephen P. Kirby
Dean

Readers will note that the position of secretary is currently vacant. Our hats go off, and our appreciation goes out to David Cranmer, who ably filled the position for many years. We wish him the best in his well earned retirement! Editor.

FROM THE SUB DEAN

The 2017-2018 Academic Year for the Rhode Island Chapter of the AGO will be both informative and exciting. As your new sub-dean, I was tasked to develop a comprehensive program year that can benefit all members of our chapter whether you are an amateur, professional, liturgical, or a substitute organist.

I have put together a tentative schedule for the year which will kick off with an installation service on Friday, October 6th at 6:30 pm, followed by a reception at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 50 Orchard Avenue, Providence.

Our second event will feature the talents of **Professor Peter Sykes** who will present a segmented, ninety minute long program at Phillips Memorial Baptist Church, 565 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston on Saturday, October 21 at 10 am. Professor Sykes will begin with practice techniques, work on repertoire with three or four organists of varying skill levels and will finish the program with a brief recital.

Our third event will be a Twelfth Night event on January 6th at St. Martin's Great Hall. **Fred Jodry** and I will present a program of epiphany works including a sing-a-long of several Epiphany Carols from The Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival; a Medieval Epiphany feast. A reception will follow the event.

Gigi Mitchell-Velasco will present a workshop on vocal pedagogy in March, time and venue to be announced.

Our end of the year recital and potluck will be hosted by **Fred Jodry** at the First Unitarian Church in June. I look forward to embarking on this journey together with you and am eager to see what the future holds.

Let me know what you think!
Nicholas Voermans, Sub-Dean

EVENTS

Friday, October 6 at 6:30 pm: RIAGO installation ceremony followed by reception at St. Martin's Church, 50 Orchard Avenue, Providence (Wayland Square).

Saturday, October 21 at 10am: RIAGO presents organist **Peter Sykes**, who will offer a 90-minute Lecture-Demonstration and Recital: *Techniques in Practicing the Organ* at Phillips Memorial Baptist Church, 565 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston. Free and open to the public; donations appreciated.

(See article, next page, and flyer)

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)
Conboy, Lois: 401-658-3838 (please inquire)
Gourd, Jacqueline: 401-828-4057 9all; no weddings)
Higgins, Stephen: 401-441-2270 (comfortable with any keyboard situation)
Johnson, Winfred: 401-847-8548 (interim)
Jones, William 401-848-4327 (all)
MacCubbin, Jay: 401-521-0698
Markham, Susan: 401-821-6786
Norton-Jackson, Diana: 401-714-2700 (no weddings)
Phelps, Howard: 508-224-8475 (please inquire)
Tagen, Julia L.: 401-225-9594 (all, weddings/funerals/interim)
Taylor, Terry: 401-253-9030 (tutti@fullchannel.net)
Vecchio, Gina: 401-954-2163
Westhaver, Verna: 401-683-2636 (substitute/interim)
Wilson, Lawrence: 860-857-5493

AVAILABLE WEEKDAYS ONLY

Allard, Althea: 401-728-4431
Black, John: 401-737-1230 (all, available Saturdays & weekdays)
Cienniwa, Paul: 617-466-9042 (\$150 min, no Sun. a.m.)
Cranmer, David: 401-447-9848
Martorella, Philip: 401-615-0769 (no Sun. a.m.)
Nicholson, Nancy: 401-521-9097 (all)
Nolan, Robert: 401-884-7172 (available to provide all needs)
Ogburn, William 401-294-4357
Sobaje, Martha: 401-626-0099 (weddings, funerals)

PETER SYKES

Associate Professor of Music, Harpsichord, Organ, Clavichord, and Fortepiano, and Chair, Historical Performance at Boston University's College of Fine Arts
Principal Instructor of Harpsichord, Juilliard School of Music

His playing has variously been called "compelling and moving," "magnificent and revelatory," and "bold, imaginative, and amazingly accurate." Peter Sykes has appeared in recital for the American Guild of Organists, the Southeastern Historical Keyboard Society, the Organ Historical Society, American Institute of Organbuilders, International Society of Organbuilders, at the Library of Congress, Boston Early Music Festival, and many other festivals, including an appearance in Boston's Jordan Hall as a featured soloist in the Bank of Boston Emerging Artists Celebrity Series.

He is frequently heard on the nationally syndicated radio program "Pipedreams." In March 2004 he was given the honor of performing the dedication recital on the newly restored 1800 Tannenberg two-manual organ in Old Salem, North Carolina, an event featured on the nationally broadcast television show CBS Sunday Morning. He now directs "Keyboard Day" mini-festival. He also appears regularly in concert and on recordings with Boston Baroque. With Christa Rakich he created "Tuesdays With Sebastian," an independent two-year benefit concert series in which he and Ms. Rakich performed the entire keyboard works of Johann Sebastian Bach for the organ and harpsichord in thirty-four recitals. He has premiered new works by Dan Locklair, James Woodman, and Joel Martinson, and has performed well over twenty dedication recitals for new or rebuilt organs.

Prof. Sykes's solo recordings include J. S. Bach's complete Leipzig Chorales recorded on the Noack organ of the Langholtskirkja in Reykjavik, From The Heartland – Two Nordlie Organs in South Dakota, Harpsichord Music of Couperin and Rameau, A Nantucket Organ Tour, MAXimum Reger: Favorite Organ Works, and Modern Organ Music, a disc of music by Hindemith, Heiller, Pinkham, Woodman, and Icelandic composers on the Noack organ in the Neskirkja in Reykjavik.

continued in next column

Sykes, continued

His bestselling recording of his organ transcription of Holst's orchestral suite *The Planets* was named Best of 1996 by Audio Review, a "Super CD" by Absolute Sound in 1999, and garnered accolades in every review. He appears on the Cambridge Bach Ensemble recording *The Muses of Zion*, performing organ works of Tunder and Buxtehude on the Fisk meantone organ of Wellesley College, the Music from Aston Magna recording of the oratorio *The Triumph of Time and Truth*, in which he performs the first known organ concerto movement of Handel, a recording of the organ concerto Cymbale of Julian Wachner, and the Grammy-nominated Boston Baroque recordings of Handel's *Messiah*, Bach's *B-Minor Mass*, and Monteverdi's *Vespers*. His most recent solo recordings include the dedication recital on the Tannenberg organ in Old Salem, available on the Raven label, and the complete Bach harpsichord partitas, available on the Centaur label.

PLACEMENT LISTINGS

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

First Baptist Church 1/17

91 Cottage Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860
Rev. Linda Watson 401-725-7225; 401-952-9951

Wicks 12 rks 3 manual
upon request; 1 service, 1 rehearsal O/D

Original Congregational Church UCC 7/17

1 East Street, Wrentham, MA 02093
Lesley Whittemore 508-954-6460 whitluce@comcast.net
Austin \$18,000-22,000 O/D

St. Barnabas Episcopal 8/17

3257 Post Rod, Warwick, RI 02886
Scott Lee day 401-737-4141 evening 806-640-4708
fatherscottboy@gmail.com
Allen \$15,000 O/D

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.



PETER SYKES

Lecture-Demonstration Master Class and Recital on Techniques in Practicing the Organ



The Rhode Island Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is honored to have Peter Sykes as a valued resource on techniques in practicing the organ. He is an Associate Professor of Music of Harpsichord, Organ, Clavichord, and Fortepiano, and is the Chair of Historical Performance at Boston University's College of Fine Arts. He is also the Principal Instructor of Harpsichord at the Juilliard School of Music.

His playing has variously been called "compelling and moving," "magnificent and revelatory," and "bold, imaginative, and amazingly accurate."

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - Donations appreciated

Saturday, October 21, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

**Phillips Memorial Baptist Church
565 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston RI**