



VOX OCEANA

SEPT. 2015

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

RI CHAPTER OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS

2015-2016

Dean, John Brooks
401-289-2650
jbrooks356@gmail.com

Sub Dean, Stephen Kirby
401-246-0039
kevl4@aol.com

Secretary, David Cranmer
401-447-9848
dcranmer@neit.edu

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.net

Placement, Brian Larkin
401-272-8318
brianlarkin1@cox.net

Membership, Christopher Souza
401-368-2758

Auditors:
Denise Petrucci, Jackie Gourd

Reg. Councillor, Cheryl Duerr
clduerr@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2016
Henri St. Louis
Julie Tagen: 401-225-9594

2017
Steve Kirby 401-246-0039
Philip Martorella 401-885-3431

2018
Alan Cotnoir
Cody Mead

www.riago.org

FROM THE DEAN

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back to another season of music ministry, teaching, planning, playing in your churches and schools! I hope you have enjoyed rest and re-creation, both professionally and personally, this summer.

It was a pleasure to return to England after a hiatus of several years,* and re-connect with organist, singer and conductor colleagues from my time there as a member of the choirs of Wells and Gloucester Cathedrals. It pays to keep up one's connections in this field, and I am becoming more conscientious at corresponding with friends, sending thank-you notes, and keeping aware of developments in my chosen fields –the organ, church music, professional development and education!

Speaking of professional development and education, I hope you are gearing up for our opening event on Friday September 18th, when RIAGO hosts Jeanne and John Jordan for their wonderful multi-media presentation "From Sea to Shining Sea" at The First Baptist Church in America in Providence. See "Events" for details. A huge thank-you to Steve Martorella for masterminding the arrangements and publicity for this event! Please invite family, friends, teachers, students, and all those who may be interested in American musical history and the history of the organ in America to this one-of-a-kind event!

On a sad note, I assume many of you have heard of the sudden death of Dr. John Scott, lately Organist and Master of the Choristers at St. Thomas Church, New York City. I heard John play a stunning recital as the celebrity guest recitalist at the Three Choirs Festival on July 31 at Hereford Cathedral. Soon after arriving home in New York, he suffered a heart attack and was rushed to hospital on August 12th. Unfortunately, he never regained consciousness, and leaves a grieving wife, Lily, two sisters, and two children by a previous marriage. Please hold him and his family, and the parish family of St. Thomas Church and the Choir School, in your prayers. As a friend and colleague, he was an inspiration to me and many others. His legacy, both at St. Paul's Cathedral, London (for 26 years before succeeding Gerre Hancock, at St. Thomas Church in 2004) and at St. Thomas, will be remembered with high honor. May he rest in peace, and rise in glory!

On a happier note I leave you with this prayer, which I have used in every parish I have served, at choir rehearsals or on Sunday mornings before the procession into church. It reminds us that we strive to be true *ministers* of music:

Bless, O Lord, us thy servants, who minister in thy temple. Grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts we may show forth in our lives. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All best wishes,
John Brooks, Dean

*[*Editor's note: See the Dean's report on his summer experiences on p. 2]*

RIAGO SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, September 18 at 7:30PM: *From Sea to Shining Sea* features a program of some of the most-beloved American concert organ works and a narration that encompasses how American history interacted with the development of the organ, with stunning visuals of American history events, and a live video feed so every audience member can see how the instrument is played with the amazing coordination of feet, hands, and body to produce music filled with color and imagination. This event will be free to the public, young and old alike. For more information about this program, sound samples and photography, visit the website at: <https://fromseatoshiningsea.net>. This event is sponsored by RIAGO. First Baptist Church in America, 75 North Main Street, Providence. Free.

Sunday, October 18 at 4:00 pm: First Presbyterian Church of Newport presents a FREE concert with internationally acclaimed organist Maestro Hector Olivera on the 3 Manual/38 Rank Casavant-Freres pipe organ, successfully blended with 60 ranks of digital voicing. Reception follows. FPC is located at the corner of Broadway and Everett Streets.

Saturday, October 31 at 11:59pm: Mark Steinbach, Sayles Hall, Brown University. Free admission. Come in costume!

NEW LONDON EVENT

November 8 at 3:00pm: Recital by **Stephen Hamilton** at St James Episcopal Church, 76 Federal St., New London CT. Reception follows. New music for sale from Lois Fyfe in Nashville TN. 5:00pm dinner (self-pay) at Tony D's, near St James. 7:00 Workshop presenting new music for church organists led by Stephen Hamilton. Questions: Elizabeth Limkemann: 860 536-2136; elim44@99main.com

FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA

The Rhode Island Chapter of The American Guild of Organists in conjunction with The First Baptist Church in America Presents multi-media artist David Jordan and concert organist Dr. Jeannine Jordan who share the fascinating story of how the organ developed in America -- from its roots in Europe to becoming the premiere social instrument in America. *From Sea to Shining Sea* features a program of some of the most-beloved American concert organ works and a narration that encompasses how American history interacted with the development of the organ. (*See Events*)

WHAT I DID ON MY SUMMER VACATION

I had a wonderful month's visit to England, which included attending two of the country's well known choir festivals, visiting friends and making new ones, and visiting historic churches and other sites in the Cotswolds and the Welsh Border country. I attended the Southern Cathedrals Festival at Salisbury Cathedral (the choirs of that cathedral plus Winchester and Chichester in four days of concerts, services, and other related musical events, a thrilling recital by the great Naji Hakim, and a moving closing concert, Michael Tippett's thought-provoking oratorio *A Child of Our Time*), and the world-famous Three Choirs Festival (celebrating its 300th anniversary this year) at Hereford Cathedral. The cathedral choirs and choral societies of Hereford, Worcester and Gloucester join each summer for a week of splendid concerts, "fringe" events, recitals, workshops, lectures, and more informal musical events. The Philharmonia Orchestra was in residence the entire week, and 1800 music lovers crowded into Hereford Cathedral to enjoy one blockbuster choral/orchestral work after another, including Elgar's classic *The Dream of Gerontius* on the opening night, the Beethoven *Missa Solemnis*, Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* (sung by the combined cathedral choirs with internationally-known soloists, and accompanied by the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment), and the Verdi *Requiem*! Some world premieres (including Bob Chilcott's *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis*, sung by the combined cathedral choirs and broadcast live at the midweek Evensong), and two stunning song recitals by the eminent singers, baritone Roderick Williams and mezzo Sarah Walker (who also sang the role of *The Angel* in the *Gerontius*, most beautifully) were only a few of the week's highlights. The newly-formed Three Choirs Youth Choir made its second festival appearance in a concert of the Bob Chilcott *Requiem* (a new work, rather bland I thought, but crowd-pleasing nonetheless!) and Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* in the pared-down organ-and-percussion arrangement. Quite a summer to remember!

John Brooks, Dean

On our "trip of a lifetime" on Viking's *France's Finest*, my husband and I enjoyed a serendipitous experience of returning to Notre Dame de Paris at 6:00pm to finish a tour started earlier in the day. We found ourselves entering during a special vespers to celebrate the dedication of the church. We heard the largest organ in France, joining in with the French hymns thanks to a program with the words . We stayed for Mass, had a quick omelet across the street, and returned for a recital of 20th century French composers. Heavenly! *Althea Allard*

PLACEMENT LISTINGS

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

First Baptist Church 5/15
21 Cottage Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860
American Baptist
Rev. Linda Watkins, pastor
401-725-7225; 952-9951 evenings
Mus. Minister Wicks 3-manual/12 ranks 7-10K

First Congregational 8/15
300 High Street, Bristol, RI 02809
UCC?
Sandie Campbell
401-253-5685
Org/ChM Roche/tracker 15-22K

Church of the Epiphany 8/15
1336 Pawtucket Avenue
East Providence, RI
Episcopal
Jennifer Zogg, Rector
401-434-5012; 401-680-0155, evenings
Org/ChM Moller 2M 16/19K

MEMBER MATTERS

Welcome **Deborah E. Bramblett-Mollohan**, 401-793-1723,
and Flyfishdeb@aol.com.

Ron Almeida, organist at St. Mark's RC Church in Cranston,
historyguy101@yahoo.com

Baldwin Spinnet from estate, free to anyone willing to pick
up. For details contact **David Riedel** at dtriedel@msn.com.
(David can e-mail pictures of the organ.)

SUBSTITUTE LISTINGS

Contact Brian Larkin (272-8318) with changes.

AVAILABLE SUNDAYS & WEEKDAYS

Bramblett-Mollohan, Deborah 401-793-1723 (call for availability)
Casteel, Eden: 401-932-5589
Clarke, Margaret: 401-726-4128 (all)
Funk, Richard: 401-272-0693 (all)
Goncharova, Natalya, 401-334-9157
Gourd, Jacqueline: 401-828-4057 (all, no weddings)
Higgins, Stephen: 401-441-2270 (comfortable with any keyboard situation)
Johnson, Winfred: 401-847-8548 (interim)
Jones, Philip: 508-427-0081
Jones, William: 401-848-4327 (all)
Kohl, Karen: 401-787-2695 (please inquire)
Madubata, Chiduzie: 301-919-9632 (please inquire)
Norton-Jackson, Diana: 401-714-2700 (no weddings, \$150 min)
Phelps, Howard: 508-224-8475 (please inquire)
Scheibert, Beverly Jerold: 508-339-0579 (all, weddings/funerals)
Schmidt, Dennis: 401-284-3958
Tagen, Julia L.: 401-885-7438 (all, weddings/funerals/interim)
Taylor, Terry: 401-253-9030 (tutti@fullchannel.net)
Vecchio, Gina: 401-954-2163
Westhaver, Verna: 401-683-2636 (substitute/interim)

AVAILABLE WEEKDAYS ONLY

Allard, Althea: 401-728-4431
Black, John: 401-245-2356 (all, available Saturdays & weekdays)
Brown, Ronald: 508-222-0824 (funerals only)
Cienniwa, Paul: 617-466-9042 (\$150 min, no Sun. a.m.)
Conboy, Lois: 401-658-3838 (please inquire)
Cranmer, David: 401-447-9848
Larkin, Brian: 401-272-8318 (weddings/memorials/funerals/consultant)
Martorella, Philip: 401-885-3431 (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)
Valentine, Br. Enoch: 401-440-4784 (funerals, weddings, all denominations)
Wiant, William: 401-683-3178 (weddings/memorials & funerals)

RENEWED YET?

If you have not yet renewed, we encourage you to visit agohq.org and find the membership tab. Have a label from *The American Organist* handy for your membership number. Then follow the clear instructions. We'd like all members listed in the Directory. Add-ins too often fall through the cracks. Don't miss out on any issue of *The American Organist* and the opportunity to be listed among the available substitutes on the website and in the newsletter. *Thanks.*

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.