

THE CLARION

FEBRUARY 2009

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF EASTERN NEW YORK CHAPTER OF
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

EASTERN NEW YORK
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ORGANISTS
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*Late copy may not be
included!*

CHAPTER WEBSITE

<http://agony.bizland.com>

Check out the Clarion at

<http://agony.bizland.com/clarion>

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DEAN

Our Skills Fair was a real shot in the arm for everyone who attended. Charlie Moose hosted the group at First Reformed, Schenectady, on a cold morning, and Gayle Hinsdill warmed us up with coffee and her renowned coffee cakes. The music sale brought nearly \$150 to our scholarship fund.

John Schreiner and Steven Rosenberry taught us all how to diagnose and solve the problems of tuning, ciphers, wind leaks, and other routine maintenance issues. It was all peppered with amusing stories of bats' and squirrels' and other varmints' causing damage to organs.

In the other session Iteke Prins and Al Fedak presented a challenging session on Guild Certification. They explained the many advantages of taking these exams, including developing useful practical skills, having recognized professional credentials, advancing the standards of our profession, and obtaining better positions or higher salaries.

At the conclusion of this session, I challenged everyone in attendance who has never taken a Guild exam (I am one of those people) – and now I challenge each of you – to join me in seeking one certificate. The Service Playing Certificate, for instance, involves doing the things that we church organists do every single week: play a couple solos, play hymns (even transpose), accompany anthems, and even a psalm. (No written exam.) You could, of course, go for one of the more advanced certificates. The June TAO will have next year's requirements, so you have time to think about this challenge, and a year to prepare. Charles Jones suggested that we have some classes to help each other prepare. This would be a wonderful chapter project. Let's get some letters after our names, boost our abilities through a team effort, and learn a bit in the process. Will you join me?

All in all, we had a most informative and instructive morning at the Skills Fair. Another reminder: have you sent in your donations to the Annual Fund and the Endowment? Your contributions need not be large, but your donation is an important part of the Guild's programs, and dues account for less than 50% of the budget. Thank you so much!

Finally, it is time to register for the Regional Convention in Boston, which is a combination of Regions I and II. If you need roommates, we might get groups together. Contact me if you are interested.

Barbara Adler, Dean



American Guild of Organists

15th AGO National Conference on Organ Pedagogy

January 27, 2009

Dear AGO Members,

Have you ever grappled with the challenges of preparing a student to serve in the church music world while studying in an academic environment?

Have you ever tried to prepare a sixth grade student to serve as a church organist?

Have you ever helped an older student make the transition from piano to organ?

Have you ever had a young student ask you about the future of church music?

If so, this year's AGO National Conference on Organ Pedagogy cosponsored by the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, March 11–14, 2009, is for you!

This year's theme, "Teaching Church Music in North America: An Old Vocation in a New Millennium" will delve into these challenges. We will hear details of representative church music programs in colleges and universities from around the country, and leaders in the field will offer masterclasses every day featuring the nuts and bolts of teaching church music (including hymn playing, anthem accompaniment, and improvisation). We will also delve into the future of church music and how that will reflect our pedagogical emphasis in years to come. Keynote speaker Martin Marty will be joined by Quentin Faulkner, Don Saliers, Bishop Robert Rimbo and Marva Dawn. The conference will feature the organs and facilities of Yale University.



AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
15TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ORGAN PEDAGOGY
TEACHING CHURCH MUSIC IN NORTH AMERICA: AN OLD VOCATION IN A NEW MILLENNIUM
MARCH 11-14, 2009 YALE UNIVERSITY, NEW HAVEN



PRESENTED BY THE YALE INSTITUTE OF SACRED MUSIC AND
THE AGO COMMITTEE ON CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION



Please follow the link below to register and take advantage of the discounted "early-bird" registration which ends Jan. 31: http://www.yale.edu/ism/events/ago_main.html

We hope to see you in New Haven!

Sincerely yours,

AGO Committee on Continuing Professional Education

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