

EASTERN NEW YORK
CHAPTER
AMERICAN GUILD OF
ORGANISTS
CHAPTER ORGANIZED 1920

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CHAPTER WEBSITE
<http://AGOny.bizland.com>

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THE CLARION

September 2009

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

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DEAN

I'm very honored to be taking up the post as your dean—thank you for your trust and support. Now, let me poke you in the ribs a little bit! There are several churches losing their organs to a worship band. There were barely 300 college organ students in the country this past year. Many people think the organ is a relic that only plays dusty old scary music. What do we do? You—in your little corner of the world—have great power to bring the joy and wonder of the King of Instruments to people's attention. The well-known and talented artists have a special calling, but you and I who work with ordinary people every week can often make the most impact. Right in your church or synagogue on the weekend, right at grass roots—that's where change happens. Every little thing done with care makes an impact. Put a small blurb in your weekend bulletin about the history or the composer of your organ selections. Welcome the kids up to the console as you play the postlude. Let them play a few notes of whatever they're learning for their piano lesson. Come to our Guild events, a wonderful selection of which awaits this year. Prepare to take the Service Playing Exam, just the preparation of which will give you new skills and sharpen the ones you use every week. Support your fellow Guild members by going to their events—it means a lot to see your friends out in the audience hearing the fruits of your hard work. Listen to *Pipedreams* on WMHT, 89.1 FM Sundays at 8 pm (which our chapter sponsors)—hear what's happening in the organ world. Visit the events of our sister chapters as well as the local chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society at Proctors. A world of opportunity—right in your backyard! Help yourself and others to grow—spread the message of the King of Instruments. Don't save your resolutions for January—get up off that couch and start right now. Here's to a wonderful year of music!

Charles Jones, Dean

CHURCH MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCED

In 2010 the Charlotte Hoyt Bagnall Scholarship for Church Musicians will hold a competition for high school musicians. The scholarship will grant awards of \$300 to \$2,500 for the study of religious music and liturgy. High school students studying organ with an interest in church music are eligible to apply. The scholarship can be used for a variety of music studies including: organ lessons, high school and college level studies related to organ or religious music, participation in organ festivals, seminars, music camps, etc. Information and applications can be obtained by visiting the scholarship website <http://www.chbscholarship.com>, or by writing "The Charlotte H. Bagnall Scholarship," 17 Beaverbrook Rd., West Simsbury, CT 06092. Applications are due by December 31, 2009.

CHAPTER EVENTS 2009–2010

September 21 / 7:30 pm (6:30 cocktails) • American Organ Archives with Stephen Pinel, archivist
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Albany. Begins with cocktail reception at 42 Dove St. (former Albany Conservatory of Musical Art) followed by a slide presentation and display of select archival material from the AOA. Coffee and potluck desserts following. (Park at Westminster, walk to 42 Dove St. for opening reception.) Members are encouraged to bring potential new members.

October 19 / 8:00 pm • Bach's Monumental "The Art of Fugue" with Jon Gillock & Dean Kauffman, pianists
Emerson Hall, Union College, Schenectady. For many years musicians and theorists have considered *The Art of Fugue* a purely academic work in demonstrating the ultimate in the handling of the most complicated fugal techniques. These two performers, during their coast-to-coast tour, will present this rarely performed work on two pianos (as arranged by Bruno Seidlhofer for the *Neue Bachgesellschaft* in 1937). **Limited seating!** Chapter members must reserve their seat by September 21. \$20 tickets will be offered to the public beginning on September 22. (Members may make reservations for non-members, to be paid at the door, when they reserve before 9/22.) To reserve, contact Todd Sisley at tsisley@agohq.org or phone 518-462-2405.

October 31 / 12:00 noon • Phantoms & Pipes
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Troy (corner of State & Third Streets). Introduction to the organ followed by a recital of spooky music. Pizza party following. For the young and "young at heart"; costumes welcomed! Free admission.

November 20 / 8:00 pm • Isabelle Demers, organist
First United Presbyterian Church, Troy. This internationally acclaimed artist, who wowed the audience at the 2008 National Convention in Minneapolis, will play a recital of original works and transcriptions.

January 23 / 9:00 am • "The Chorale as Cantus Firmus," with Robert Fertitta
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Albany (Hackett Blvd.). Come and warm up to an overview of chorale prelude composition—looking at numerous examples by the masters in which a pre-existing melody is set in a particular texture; using repertoire from early Baroque to Mendelssohn, Vierne, and Langlais. And members, you may prepare a chorale prelude and participate by performing it so that discussion may ensue from the lecture material presented.

February 13 / 10:00 am–12 noon • SPC Exam Preparation
First Reformed Church of Scotia. Preparing for the Service Playing Exam with Barbara Adler and Itেকে Prins, AAGO, CHM.

April 25 / 4:00 pm • Fedak Choral Festival
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Albany. In celebration of twenty years of music ministry at Westminster Presbyterian and his significant contributions to organ and church music, a festival choir will rehearse and perform Al Fedak's works. (It will be a great opportunity for members to perform music that they may be able to take back to their own choirs.)

May 22 / 11:30 am • Student Scholarship Winners Organ Recital, Annual Meeting, and Lunch.
[venue TBA] Final event of the year.

Updates and further information on all events are posted online at AGOny.bizland.com

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Congratulations to John Walthausen from Saratoga (one of our scholarship students) on winning the Region II Young Organists Competition in Boston!

CHORAL AUDITIONS

Octavo Singers, now entering its 76th season, invites you to Open Voice Placement Auditions for the upcoming choral season on September 14, 21, and 28, 7:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church, State Street, Schenectady (use Chapel Street parking and entrance). Octavo Singers, which traditionally performs an orchestrated *Messiah* concert each December, also has concerts in mid-fall, and early spring. The group is directed by George G. Moross. For more information, visit www.octavosingers.com

OTHER EVENTS

September 13 / 3:00 pm • Organ Recital by Brian Hoffman

Played on the 390-rank Moller organ (the world's largest church organ) at the USMA Cadet Chapel at West Point. Works by Bach, Dupré, Franck, Hoffman, Langlais, Mulet, and Tournemire. Free admission. ID is required at gate. For more information, including directions, visit www.brianhoffmanorganist.com

September 20 / 3:00 pm • Organ Recital by Hervé Duteil

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 262 State St., Albany. Freewill offering.

September 26 / 10:00 am–1:00 pm • Choral Workshop with Richard Coffey

Berkshire AGO Chapter is presenting a choral workshop with Richard Coffey at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Pittsfield, Mass. Coffey is the artistic director of CONCORA (Conn. Choral Arts). The workshop is open to singers, conductors, and organists. Free admission.

September 27 / 3:00 pm • Baroque Chamber Concert

Baroque music for four harpsichords, strings, and chamber organ. Music of Vivaldi, Bach, Erbach, Froberger, Boehm, and Buxtehude. Harpsichordists William Carragan, Christine Gevert, Mariken Palmboom, and Larry Wallach. Admission \$10, \$8 seniors, students free. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 21 Hackett Blvd, Albany.

October 9 / 7:30 pm • Organ Recital by Todd Wilson

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 262 State St., Albany. Freewill offering.

October 14 / 12:00 noon • Preview Concert by Capitol Chamber Artists

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 262 State St., Albany. Free.

October 17 / 7:00 pm • Concert by Capitol Chamber Artists

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 262 State St., Albany.

October 17 / 7:30 pm • Choral Concert

Celebrating America's Song: Albany Pro Musica along with the Capital District Youth Chorale will celebrate Henry Hudson's discovery of our glorious Hudson River Valley with concert selections spanning 400 years of patriotic and folk music. For further information, contact www.albanypromusica.org. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 21 Hackett Blvd., Albany. Tickets: In advance, \$15/\$10/\$10; at the door, \$20/\$15/\$10.

October 18 / 4:00 pm • Choral Concert

Celebrating America's Song: Albany Pro Musica along with the Capital District Youth Chorale will celebrate Henry Hudson's discovery of our glorious Hudson River Valley with concert selections spanning 400 years of patriotic and folk music. For further information, contact www.albanypromusica.org. St. Joseph's Church, State & Lafayette Streets, Veteran's Park, Schenectady. Tickets: In advance, \$15/\$10/\$10; at the door, \$20/\$15/\$10.

October 20 / 12 Noon • Vocal Recital by Laurel Masse

Part of the Tuesdays at Noon Recital Series at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Troy. Free Admission.

October 23 / 12:30 pm • Organ Recital by Brian Hoffman

Part of the Friday Organ Recital Series at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 107 State St. Albany. Free admission. For more information, visit www.brianhoffmanorganist.com

November 1 / 3:30 pm • Organ Recital & Choral Evensong

Organist Brian Hoffman will play a recital of music for All Saints, as well as other selections. The recital precedes a choral Evensong sung by the Choir of Men and Boys at the Cathedral of All Saints, Albany. Directed by Woodrow Bynum. Free admission.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Employment listings are provided free of charge as a service to our members and to employing institutions. Since listings are published exactly as they are received, The Guild assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of their content. Ads will run for two months unless or until word is received that a given position has been filled. Please notify the editor when a position has been filled.

Lutheran Church in Castleton On Hudson, New York We have a need for an organist for our services and choir. We have a sister congregation, St. Stevens in Schodack, for which our organist would also play. Our services are liturgical and at 9AM and 11AM, one at each church. Our choir sings from September through June. Trinity also has a bell choir so the organist would occasionally need to participate in their musical presentations. We would like to find a person who would be available for two services each Sunday, one at each church, and a Thursday evening rehearsal. If the Thursday is an issue we could accommodate another day. The remuneration for the work is negotiable. Contact Linda Mallinson at 518-408-3516 during the day, or at 518-813-4541 in the evening. E-mail: linda@mallinson.us.com

First Baptist Church of Bennington, Vermont seeks a director of music for its worship and music ministries. The successful candidate must have strong skills with piano performance and experience with Protestant worship traditions. For a full job description, download via www.fbcbennington.org or e-mail the Rev. Jerrod H. Huguenot via fbpastor@sover.net.