



VOX OCEANA

APRIL 2012

NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS | VOLUME XLV, NO. 4

RI CHAPTER OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS 2011-2012

Dean/CEO, Kevin DiLorenzo
401-524-4484
kdilorenzo@riago.org

Subdean, Joseph Gama
401-499-5846
jgama@riago.org

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

Financial Officer, Janice Black
401-245-2356
jblack@riago.org

Publicity, Stephen T. Martorella
401-885-0623
steve.fbc@verizon.net

Newsletter, Althea Allard
401-728-4431
aallard@ccri.edu

Education, Philip Faraone
401-323-8600
faraonefour@msn.com

Historian, N. Peter LaMoria
401-723-6974
npeterlam@aol.net

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

Membership, Doris J. Alberg
401-365-7273
dalberg1@cox.net

Reg. Councillor, Cheryl Duerr
clduerr@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2012
Philip Martorella: 401-885-3431

2013
Jean-Richard DuPont:
401-434-8476

2014
John C. Black: 401-245-2356
Leilani Nixon : 860-774-1333

www.riago.org

DEAN'S MESSAGE

"We can do anything we want to do if we stick to it long enough." – Helen Keller

Last month, on a Sunday morning, I was perusing the TV program guide and came across a particular program that I hadn't seen in years: *The Hour of Power*. I anticipated hearing the one-of-a-kind organ and the disciplined professional Crystal Cathedral Choir! However, the Ruffatti was silent and its large V manual console had been abandoned. Instead of the 273 rank organ heralding the congregation, a band took its place. I realized that the Crystal Cathedral's renowned choir no longer existed, leaving only a group of "vocal stylists," belting into their microphones, smothering the congregation's singing. This epidemic of "Praise Bands" is a serious threat to the organ industry and its multi-faceted roles in American society. In other parts of the world, notably Europe, organ concerts are crowded with attendees, and music at worship services continues to be led by the organ. Organists enjoy well deserved respect and recognition for their skills. Unfortunately, many organists in our great nation are instructed by non-musicians on how the organ should be played. These self-proclaimed musicians are ignorant of the hours of instruction, practice time and natural talent to make beautiful music on this instrument. Only a handful of organists are treated as professionals. My colleagues, I urge you to continue to play the organ as you were trained. Use sound judgment and trust yourself to provide beautiful organ music. If you are in doubt, the RIAGO has teachers to fit your needs. Check our website for more information on continuing education. Together we will advocate for the purpose and fulfillment the organ can provide.

I am proud to announce the RIAGO is collaborating in the dedication of a brand new organ at Greenwood Community Church, Presbyterian. Through exceptional enthusiasm and determination, the church raised the money necessary to have the organ continue to lead song. This dedicatory event will be held on April 15 at 4:00 pm.

Our Chapter is reviving the traditional Members' Recital at Phillips Memorial Baptist Church in Cranston on June 4 at 6:00 pm with elections to follow (7:30 pm) at the Annual Dinner to be held at Spain Restaurant, Cranston. Bring family and friends to hear our talented recital volunteers and join us at Spain. Details for these highlighted events plus other quality programs appear in this and next month's editions of *Vox Oceana*.

–Kevin

AN INVITATION TO SHARE YOUR TALENT

We welcome all to perform at this year's Members' Recital on Monday, June 4 at 6:00 pm. Performers are limited to six and to one piece. Members wishing to perform should contact Philip Faraone at 401-323-8600.

Proposed Slate of Officers for 2012-2013: Dean: Kevin Di Lorenzo; Sub-Dean: Philip Faraone; Secretary: Dav Cranmer; Treasurer: Open; Members at Large 2013: Joe Gama & Jean Richard DuPont; Members at Large 2014: Leilani Nixon, Lois Conboy & John Black; Members at Large 2015: Elaine Alexander & Chris Souza

As you see, we are missing an important member of the RIAGO officers team for 2012-2013: TREASURER. I am beseeching one of you to volunteer to occupy this critical position for us. Our wonderful current treasurer, Janice Black, has invested many hours creating a new template and a budget for the next treasurer to follow. You will not have to recreate the wheel as she did. Perhaps one of you has some significant other who could assist you. Please think about this, for indeed our need is great.

Thank you. *Doris Alberg*, representing the Nominating Committee

EVENTS

Sunday, April 15, 4:00 pm: Celebrate the installation of the Rogers Allegiant 698 organ with guest recitalists **Diana Norton-Jackson, Kevin Di Lorenzo, Phillip Faraone** and **Stephen Martorella** playing music of Bach, Bennet, Brahms, Guilman, Vierne and Walton, and improvisations. Greenwood Community Church, Presbyterian, 805 Main Avenue, Warwick, RI. See enclosed flyer.

Tuesday, April 24, 12:05 pm: Althea Allard, Professor of English at CCRI, will present a voice recital in Room 2210, the music room, featuring music from Mozart to Sir Arthur Sullivan. Accompanist is **Jay D. Lane**. Free and open to the public; refreshments follow. Community College of RI, 1762 Old Louisquisset Pike (Rte. 246), Lincoln, RI.

April 28 & 29: Sine Nomine choral ensemble presents *Revel in the Richness of the 17th Century* featuring Monteverdi's Mass of 1650 and Schuetz's Latin Motets of 1625 under the direction of **Paul Cienniwa**. The choir will be joined by Roger Williams University professor **Will Ayton** on viola da gamba, and Sine Nomine founder **Glenn Giuttari** on organ. The program will also include instrumental works of Girolamo Frescobaldi. For more information: <http://www.sinenominechoir.org>.

Saturday, April 28, 8:00 pm: St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 399 Hope Street, Bristol, RI.

Sunday, April 29, 3:00 pm: Grace Episcopal Church, 113 School Street, New Bedford, MA. Suggested donation: \$20. Handicapped accessible. Information: Vi Taylor, (508) 748-2178; otrv_gtaylor@netzero.com; <http://www.ccsatsm.org/>

Sunday, April 29, 3:00 pm: *Good News in Hard Times: Fighting Hunger through Music* will be presented by Newman Congregational Church Choir and features **Rachael Maloney** and **Chris Turner, Sam Hill Trio**, and Newman Adult Choir singing spirituals, Gospel music, songs by Stevie Wonder and Sweet Honey in the Rock. Suggested donation: \$20; all proceeds donated to Bread of Life Food Pantry of Newman Congregational Church, Rumford. See enclosed flyer.

Sunday, June 3, 3:00 pm: "An Afternoon of Mozart" featuring the Chancel Choir and soloists performing favorite works of W.A. Mozart. Barrington Presbyterian Church, 400 County Road, Barrington. A freewill offering will be collected to benefit the church's music program. www.barringtontable.wordpress.com

THE QUESTION CORNER

I was recently asked the following question by a member:

My niece asked me to play for her wedding. She has not chosen any music and wants to know my suggestions for a wedding. The last few weddings I played, the brides did not know anything about what they wanted, so I played the old music that I liked for the standard placements, no nice enhancing solo showing any personal style or wonderment. Do you have anything to suggest that would be nice for a wedding?

I thought, why not turn to our membership for suggestions at various skill levels? Please e-mail me any suggestions and I'll publish them for anyone who may be looking for a bit of refreshing of the repertoire.

Thanks,
The Editor (aallard@ccri.edu)

MEMBER MATTERS

Welcome to new member **Lawrence E. Wilson**, MBA, 151 Benefit St, Providence, RI 02903; 860-857-5493; wilsonlawrence@aol.com

A MEMOIR OF MY MUSICAL LIFE

by BRIAN LARKIN

PART 9

In 1972 the Conference moved for the first time to the First Unitarian Church on Benevolent Street at Benefit. The mists of time have clouded the reason somewhat. We moved twice to that location, that I remember. This may have been the time when a steam line under St. Stephen's burst and steamed the underpinnings of the sanctuary, doing serious damage and pretty much poaching the organ console. Brown University had some years earlier sought permission to run the district steam lines from their power plant under the old church with, I assume, the offer of free heat. In any event, the move was not a big problem. We were still within a short walk to the Sharpe Refectory where students and faculty took meals, and the facilities at the church were perhaps marginally better than they were at St. Stephen's. The Unitarian church had a fine Moeller organ that was fairly new then. The parish house had a large auditorium for choral workshops and kitchen/leisure space for our other needs.

It was here where by a happy set of circumstances we were able to get Jean Langlais to give a recital. Gerre Hancock was teaching again. He had been one of Langlais' students in Paris

(continued on page 3)

LARKIN continued

and I had done some workshops with him in Washington. I had learned a little quirk of Langlais from my primary teacher, Robert Twynham in Baltimore. Twynham had been Messiaen's protégé and knew all the quirks and intrigue among French organists. He reported that after Langlais familiarized himself with a new console, he would set some pistons, rattle through parts of a few pieces and then say, "Nous permettre d'aller manger!" "Let's go eat!"

As an aside, I also learned from Twynham about the fierce feuds and petty grudges among the French organists. When I was preparing for a jury exam at the university, he warned me NOT to play anything by Langlais in the presence of Conrad Bernier, head of the organ department. Bernier was a protégé of Joseph Bonnet, having studied with him in the 1920s and in fact was his assistant at St. Eustache then. Well, the jury came and I forgot Twynham's advice. I played Langlais' *Dialog for the Mixtures*. About half way through, old Conrad nearly swallowed his trademark Gauloise cigarette and screamed "Stop, stop...stop playing that degenerate piece of crap!" I could feel my head burning red. Bernier mumbled something in French, unprintable here, but in the end said, "You play it better than HE does!"

I think I got a B+ in that jury. It was later explained that Bonnet left France when the Germans were invading and took off for America where he enjoyed his freedom to concertize. He was highly successful and made many friends here and in Canada. His compatriots were left behind to fend for themselves and the evidence of the war in Paris is well documented. The pictures of Dupre's bombed out home in Meudon come to mind along with sandbagged churches in Paris and elsewhere in France. Notre Dame, I was told, was used as a beer hall by the Nazi troops. Langlais' *Piece Heroique* written about then has strains of La Marseilles injected into an otherwise growling paean to fallen French troops. Bonnet died in Canada in 1944 and is buried there at an abbey, and so, what was interpreted as a desertion of the motherland was never forgiven. Bonnet's music quickly fell into eclipse, and only recently has interest surfaced. Since Conrad Bernier was of the Bonnet "camp" I had become collateral damage by playing something by an organist who apparently despised Bonnet. I found more of this kind of thought in the John Near book on the life of Widor, where the old master speaks openly about other organists in a negative vein. On a closing note to this anecdote: I never mentioned Conrad Bernier to Langlais, but he certainly had to know that my primary organ teachers were both from the "degenerate" side!

Excerpted from Brian Larkin's wide-ranging recollections as an organist. We thank him for sharing. -The Editor

PLACEMENT LISTING

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

First Baptist Attleboro (American Baptist) 12/11
118 South Main St, Attleboro, MA 02703
Linda Snyder, interim pastor: 203-927-5387
O/ChM Austin 1925/1975 Call Brian Larking for salary info

SUBSTITUTE LISTINGS

Contact Brian Larkin (272-8318) with changes.

AVAILABLE SUNDAYS & WEEKDAYS

Brown, Ronald: 508-222-0824 (please inquire)
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 (please inquire)
Larkin, Brian: 401-272-8318 (all, interim, consultant)
Norton-Jackson, Diana: 401-783-0402 (no RC/weddings, \$150 min)
Phelps, Howard: 508-224-8475 (no RC)
Scheibert, Beverly Jerold: 508-339-0579 (all, weddings/funerals)
Tagen, Julia L.: 401-885-7438 (all, weddings/funerals/interim)
Taylor, Terry: 401-253-9030 (no RC, pipe organ only)
Wiant, William: 401-683-3178 (all, weddings/funerals)
Wilson, Lawrence 860-857-5493 (no RC/Episcopal)

AVAILABLE WEEKDAYS ONLY

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
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)
Westhaver, Verna: 401-683-2636 (midweek only/no RC)

SUBMISSIONS

Deadline: 20th of each month
Submissions: Send Word or Text files to 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.

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.