



VOX OCEANA

NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

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RI CHAPTER OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS 2009-2010

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728-4431; aallard@ccri.edu

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434-4060; 434-7030

Regional Councillor,
Lary Grossman
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MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

2010
Jan Aubin: 721-5318
Jackie Gourd: 828-4057

2011
Jeff Allard: 447-9035
Laura Jensen: 787-3032

2012
Kathy Hart: 837-8873
Philip Martorella: 885-3431

www.riago.org

www.agonewengland.blogspot.com

FROM THE DEAN

'Twas the night before Christmas, and out from its perch
came the sound of the organ, preparing for church.
The leaves and the candles arranged with such care,
for this was the one time when all would be there.
The finishing touches were made by the Pastor
who called out to the organist "Play the hymn faster!"
So, out from the pedals arose such a clatter
of organist feet, to and fro, pitter-patter.
On Handel, on Bach, and on Mendelssohn, too;
it had to be just right, the organist knew.
The task, it was clear, that all must be inspired,
for if it were not there would be someone fired.
The tempi, the stop-lists, the choir and then,
remember to play the resounding Amen (or not!)
But when pageants and choirs are all going right,
Remember the reason for this special night.
For a long time ago, angels sang from above
the song of the Christ-child, the song of His love.

—Steve

MARTHA SOBAGE HONORED



Dr. Martha H. Sobaje was recognized with this year's annual *Anna Fiore-Smith Award* in the presence of her choir and pastor at the Festival of Choirs event on November 1st at St. Paul Church, Cranston. Tributes to Martha were given by her publisher Wayne Leupold, Cheri Markward, chair of the Department of Music at Community College of Rhode Island, and the Rev. Wesley Smith, pastor of Phillips Memorial Church, and were read by Stephen Martorella, Dean of the Rhode Island Chapter. The award was then presented to Martha "in recognition of her excellence in leadership, dedication, and vision." There followed a rendering of Ralph Vaughan Williams's *Old Hundredth* ("All people that on earth do dwell") by the assembled choirs, congregation, and organ.

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EVENT

Sunday, December 13th, 4:00pm:

Festival of Lessons and Carols for Advent including "Satyagraha, Act III, conclusion" by Philip Glass

The Choirs of St. Paul's, Wickford

Mark Steinbach, DMA, Director of Music

Reception to follow. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 55 Main Street, Wickford, RI; 294-4357

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

There is no meeting in December, but mark your calendars for our next two events. **Patrick Aiken** will perform *The Rheinberger Organ Concerto in F* on the newly reconstituted organ of Central Congregational Church on Sunday January 31 at 2:00pm. The orchestra under the direction of **Stephen Martorella** and the combined choirs of The First Baptist Church in America and Central Congregational will round out the program with American composer Mack Wilberg's compelling *Requiem* and Hubert Parry's magnificent anthem *I Was Glad*.

Acclaimed organist **Stephen Hamilton** will perform Marcel Dupré's *Le Chemin de la Croix* with the poems read in French. The performance will take place on Friday February 26 at 8:00pm in the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul, Providence, on the mighty Casavant.

TEACHERS NEEDED

Persons interested in teaching scholarship lessons should contact Nancy Nicholson at nlnpianist@cox.net and list their qualifications.

FREE ORGAN SHOES

(WHO NEEDS CONGRESS!)

A pair of organ shoes little used and in very excellent condition (almost new except broken in) size 11½ Medium can be had for the taking. Contact Steve (who unfortunately takes a size 11½ Wide) at steve.fbc@verizon.net or call 454-3418.

IN MEMORIAM

ANNA G. FIORE-SMITH



Our condolences go to the family and friends of Anna G. Fiore-Smith who died peacefully on November 11, 2009 at Adams House in Fall River. She began the study of the piano at age 10, eventually studying organ with George Faxon at the New England Conservatory, studying at Julliard, and with Nadia

Boulanger in Paris, winning first prize in piano, organ, chamber playing, and solfeggio. Anna was organist and Choir Director at the former Summerfield Methodist Church, Saint Stephen's Church and the Church of the Ascension, as well as the Temple Beth El, and finally at the Barrington Congregational Church. She also taught the organ at Barrington College. She served as Dean of the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. As a Dean of our chapter she inspired so many to excellence, and was the recipient of the first Anna Fiore-Smith Award which was established in her honor and continues to be given by our chapter to persons who display the vision, excellence and dedication that was so much a part of this most extraordinary and gracious servant of our musical art and its ministry. Donations in Anna's memory may be made to Christ Church, 57 Main Street, Swansea, MA 02777, or Adams House, 1168 Highland Avenue, Fall River, MA 02720.

ADA MAHLER



Our condolences go to the family and friends of Ada Mahler, organist and choir director for many years, and an active member of RIAGO, serving as our "Sunshine" person, keeping up with member news, sending cards or flowers to guild members at times of sickness or death in the family. Memorial

contributions to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, 220 North Main Street, Suite 104, Natick, MA 01760 would be appreciated.

MARTHA SOBAJE *(continued from front page)*

Martha Sobaje, Minister of Music and Education at Phillips Memorial Baptist Church, and Adjunct Instructor of Music at both the Community College of Rhode Island and Bristol Community College in Massachusetts, has held positions on the faculties of Gordon College, Barrington College, and the University of Northern Colorado. She holds the Bachelor of Music degree in Organ Performance from the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California, Master of Music degree in Organ Performance and Church Music from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York (studying with Russell Saunders and David Craighead), and the Doctor of Sacred Music degree from the Graduate Theological Foundation in South Bend, Indiana. She has studied choral conducting at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, and attended the Summer Programme in Theology at University of Oxford's Christ Church, England.

Dr. Sobaje has conducted choirs at all levels, including the Colorado Youth Chorale, which she founded. In Rhode Island, she has conducted the Junior High All-State Chorus and the High School All-State Chamber Singers, has adjudicated the All-State auditions, the Music Educators High School Choral Festival, and the South County Choral Festival. Dr. Sobaje has conducted choir tours through America, Canada, and Europe.

She is a member of ASCAP, publishing choral, organ, and handbell works through Kendor Music, Elkan-Vogel, Music 70, Wayne Leupold Editions Inc., The Organist's Companion and others. Her articles have appeared in Journal of Church Music, School Music News, GlorySounds and other publications. She has also served as clinician at several conventions across the country.

In July 2001, Dr. Sobaje performed an organ recital of her compositions at the University Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxford University, England. She is active as a recitalist and recently completed a two-year term as Dean of the Rhode Island Chapter of AGO

In 2008, Dr. Sobaje spoke about her book, *The Silver Fox: The Life and Legacy of Russell Saunders*, at a symposium at the EROI (Eastman-Rochester Organ Initiative) Festival in Rochester, New York.

Biographical material courtesy Philips Memorial Baptist Church

PIPE ORGAN COMPETITION

The next Carlene Neihart International Pipe Organ Competition will be held on April 10, 2010 in Kansas City, Missouri at the Second Presbyterian Church. The 1949 Moller Pipe Organ has been rebuilt and restored in 2009 and includes a new movable console. Contestants come from across the United States and other countries.

Quimby Pipe Organs, Inc. provides the 1st place award (\$2500); Casavant Freres and Caroll Hanson, the second place award (\$1500). The third place award is \$1000.

The Carlene Neihart Organ Competition Foundation, with a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, was formed to organize and present the competition and fund the prizes to help sustain the future of the pipe organ.

For more info visit: <http://organcompetitions.com>.

MEMBER MATTERS

New Member: **Vaughn Bryner, MM**, 22 Grassy Plain Road, Riverside, RI 02915; 401.654.4941; vaughnbryner@msn.com

Addition to Directory: **Andrew Howell**, 18 North Woody Hill Road, Bradford, RI 02808; 864-8066

PLACEMENT LISTING

Contact Howard Phelps (821-8475) for more information.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church (ELCA) 11/09
24 Berwick Street, Norwood, MA 02062
The Rev. Edward Saling: 781-762-9457; 781-762-9057
O/D \$24-25/hr (20 hrs) Wicks 2 Man 12 Ranks

View the Substitute Listings at www.riago.org.

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.

RHODE ISLAND ORGAN FESTIVAL

The Rhode Island Organ Festival was a tremendous success, with over a dozen of our members performing over fifty works over an entire week, and with nine choirs, their director-organists and associated clergy participating in the opening “Festival of Choirs” held on the opening day of the festival week in the sumptuous acoustic space of St. Paul Church, Cranston, where the Rev. Francis C. Santilli gave us a most warm, inviting, and inspiring welcome.

