



VOX OCEANA

OCTOBER 2009

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

VOLUME XLII, NO.9

RI CHAPTER OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS 2009-2010

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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

ORGAN-ISE YOUR SERVICE PLAYING

There are four or five Sundays in a month. Most of us have planning calendars on our desks. Keep a service calendar as well. Map out your preludes, postludes, hymns and anthems on that calendar. Working a month at a time and a month ahead of time will give your choir confidence. Start with your scripture readings. Some churches use a lectionary; others pick their scriptures in accordance with their sermons. Ask your pastor if he or she has an idea of where they want to go in terms of scripture and sermon for the next few weeks.

Opening the door to a “theme” enables you to pick more appropriate selections for your music. Over four weeks your preludes should show a variety of styles and moods. A hymn-based prelude might be appropriate for a service whose sermon is based on or suggests a particular hymn. In that way the hymn becomes thematic for the entire service or a portion of it. Bach often composed his cantatas that way.

Hymns, too, should reflect a variety of styles and moods. Most pastors have very little training in music, and rely on a small repertoire of hymns that they know and can theme to their sermon topic. Many would welcome your suggestions for something that fulfills their aim while offering “a new song” for the congregation.

Of course, don’t neglect the old familiar hymns. So many of the people we serve are rooted in them. Many older persons are reminded of pleasant childhood memories of loved ones long gone through the singing of an old “chestnut.” Why don’t you dress it up a bit? Try improvising a hymn-fantasy for the introduction instead of just playing it through.

Most hymns have four lines. Play each line separately and try putting a flourish, fanfare or just a scale in between each line. If you are a beginner at this sort of thing, keep your material very simple. There are books of flourishes and fanfares as well as alternate harmonizations that can give you ideas to try out.

Make sure your calendar has one challenge for you each month – something new for you to try or a goal to work towards. As you grow, so will your choir and your congregation, and you will be sharing one of the most important aspects of worship with them—the sense of being on a journey towards something new and exciting that heightens their sense of being. It is only when we step outside of ourselves and risk leaving our comfort zones that we can truly be open to an encounter with God. —Steve

YOUR RIAGOCTOBER

Sunday, October 4, 5:00 pm:

The public is cordially invited to a special service of Evensong at St. Paul's Church, 55 Main Street, Wickford, The Parish and Youth Choirs of St. Paul's Church, **Philip Tierney**, Rector, and **Mark Steinbach**, DMA, director of music will be singing works of contemporary composers Gerald Near and David Hurd as well as 17th. c. German composer Heinrich Schütz. St. Paul's Choirs are affiliated with the Royal School of Church Music and are always welcoming new members. Contact Mark Steinbach, Director of Music, at 294-4357, ext. 106 for more information.

Friday, October 9, 8:00 pm:

Join **Kevin DiLorenzo** and St. Mary's choir accompanying their special guest **Emma Tobia** (pictured) at St. Mary's Church, 12 Williams Street, Newport. Ms. Tobia will sing classical Gaelic songs from her latest album and a selection of famous Ave Maria settings.



Monday October 12, 8:00 pm:

Stephen Martorella will be appearing as piano soloist with the Rhode Island College Symphony in a performance of Vincent D'Indy's haunting *Symphonie on a French Mountain Air*. Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center. Tickets are \$10. Box Office 456-8144 or at <http://www.ric.edu/mtd>

Sunday, October 25, 7:00 pm:

The vibrant and pulsating excitement of the **Africa Children's Choir** can be heard in concert at St. James Episcopal Church, 24 Hamlet Avenue, Woonsocket. A free will offering for the choir will be taken at the concert. 401-762-2222.

Saturday, October 31, Midnight:

Sayles Hall, Brown University, Providence. **Mark Steinbach**, Brown University Organist will perform works of Bach, Gounod, Schumann and others. Free admission. Come in Costume!

EVENTS

Saturday, November 7, 4:00 pm:

Organ recital at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Peirce St., East Greenwich. **Jason Roberts** will perform on the Karl Wilhelm Organ as part of the 175th anniversary of the church. The tracker organ was installed in 1989 by Mr. Wilhelm, who will be present at this concert. Jason Roberts is Organist and Choirmaster at St. James's Episcopal Church in West Hartford, Connecticut. A graduate of Rice University and the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, he studied with Clyde Holloway and Martin Jean. Mr. Roberts is currently a Doctoral candidate at the Manhattan School of Music, where he studies with McNeil Robinson. He has given recitals at the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City, Trinity College in Hartford, and Mercer University in Mercer Georgia. He is winner of the 2005 Albert Schweitzer Organ Competition USA. Free. Reception follows. Handicap accessible. Ample parking.

NEWPORT BAROQUE PRESENTS

Audrey Cienniwa plays the complete Bach Cello Suites on **Saturday, November 7** in the Hawes Room at Trinity Church, One Queen Anne Square, Newport, RI. Handicapped accessible. For tickets and all other information: www.newportbaroque.org, 401-855-3096.

November 7th:

3:30PM: Suites I, IV, V

7:30PM: Suites II, III, VI

Each concert:

\$25 General Admission (\$22.50 online)

\$22.50 Students/Seniors/Military

\$10 Ages 6-18

Both concerts:

\$30 General Admission (\$25 online)

CALLING ALL VOICES!

Join the St. Paul's Parish Choir. Make great friends making great music! Come sing Mozart's Coronation Mass! Rehearsals: Thursday's 7:30 to 9:30pm; Sundays 8:55am. Services Sundays 9:30 am. For more information please contact Mark Steinbach, DMA at 294-4357 x 106. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 55 Main St., Wickford, RI.



ACDA PARTNERING WITH AGO FOR DIVISIONAL CONFERENCE

Breaking new ground, the American Guild of Organists (AGO) and the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) are working in cooperation to make the *ACDA Eastern Divisional Conference* in Philadelphia, February 11–13, 2010, a magnificent experience for both organizations. ACDA is extending its discounted ACDA member registration rate to AGO members attending the winter conference in Philadelphia. This will allow AGO members to attend the three-day conference while enjoying financial savings on registration rates.

Conference presenters will include Helmut Rilling, Helen Kemp, and ACDA Executive Director Timothy Sharp, along with the *Conspirare* choral ensemble from Austin, Tex., and choirs from Temple University and Westminster Choir College. Several honor choirs also will be performing.

Of particular interest to AGO members is the first-ever **United in Praise Festival Chorus**, which will draw its members from select church and synagogue choirs in the ACDA Eastern Division states (Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, Maine, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and the District of Columbia). This 200-voice choir will be presented in worship at the United in Praise Interfaith Worship Service on Friday, February 12, at 5:00 p.m., at the First Baptist Church of Philadelphia. After a day of rehearsals with **Craig Courtney**, noted American composer of sacred music and editor for Beckenhorst Press, the chorus will be ready for a major role in the service.

AGO members are invited to recommend this opportunity to their choirs. There are high expectations for the singers; the music will be uplifting and of varying styles, satisfying the desire for quality and for inspiration. For more information, please visit the ACDA Eastern Division website at www.acdaeast.org and click on United in Praise Festival Chorus. There you will find detailed information and application forms.

Please note: space is limited to 200 singers for the Festival Chorus. The postmark deadline for application is October 1, 2009. For further information, please e-mail Ken Steele, Chairman, Music in Worship Repertoire and Standards, ACDA Eastern Division, at krsteele45@comcast.net with "Festival Chorus" in the subject line.

From AGO Committee on Professional Networking and Public Relations, Margaret Evans, DMA, Director. John Walker, EAGO, Vice President pnpr@agohq.org.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Many of our RIAGO members in addition to playing church services are professionally engaged in recitals here in Rhode Island and beyond! This month we are highlighting **Brink Bush**, one of our most active recitalists. Many of you heard him premiere his *Variations on a Theme of Paganini* (the famous *Caprice #24*) earlier this year at St. John's.



Brink has also appeared this summer on the massive organ at the Ocean Grove New Jersey Great Auditorium "Organ-Fest 101 By The

Sea" and at a recital at St Paul's Memorial Church in Charlottesville, Virginia in a recital honoring William A Little, author, scholar and organist. Mr. Little will shortly be releasing his new book *Mendelssohn and the Organ* which will be available from Oxford University Press.

Mr. Bush will be performing on Sunday, October 18 at Federated Church of Hyannis, 320 Main Street, Hyannis on Cape Cod at 4:00 pm and again on Sunday, November 1 at St Bridget Church, 80 Main Street, Manchester, Connecticut.

We believe all our members should be highlighted, so... send your information and photos to the Dean at steve.fbc@verizon.net or submit your programs to Althea by the 20th of any month to be listed in the next month's newsletter. aallard@ccri.edu

MEMBER UPDATE

Directory changes: **Justin Kisch** has a new address:
3395 Pawtucket Ave, Apt. 2, Riverside, RI 02915.

MUSIC OF RHODE ISLAND

The Rhode Island Pipes CD features Rhode Island organists playing noteworthy Rhode Island instruments. Only \$18.50! See performer and venue details online at www.riago.org. Contact Julie Tagen to order.



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

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A radio program for the king of instruments

O **#0940 - Verizon Virtuosity** - Todd Wilson, Hector Olivera and Gillian Weir play the Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ (by Dobson) at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia.

C

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O **#0941 - Fireworks and Dreams** music and conversation featuring internationally touring British recitalist Christopher Herrick, in celebration of his 40th anniversary as a recording artist.

B

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R **#0942 - Pipedreams Live! in Rochester** performances by students and faculty of the Eastman School of Music during a remarkably popular and successful weekend organ festival.

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0 **#0943 - Austria Revisited** - some musical memories featuring artists and instruments enjoyed during the 2009 Pipedreams Tour.

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SPREAD THE WORD. PROMOTE THE SHOW. SUPPORT PUBLIC RADIO.

SUBSTITUTE LISTINGS

REPORT ANY CHANGES TO HOWARD PHELPS

AVAILABLE SUNDAYS

Clarke, Margaret: 401-726-4128 (all)
Gage, Christopher: 401-632-1863 (all)
Larkin, Brian: 401-272-8318 (all)
Lide, Mary Jane: 401-714-0011 (all)
Norton-Jackson, Diana: 401-783-0402 (no RC/weddings, \$150 min.)
Phelps, Howard: 401-821-8475 (no RC)
Westhaver, Verna: 401-683-2636 (all, interim)
Wiant, William: 401-683-3178 (all, weddings/funerals)

NOT AVAILABLE SUNDAYS

Allard, Jeff: 401-447-9035 (funerals)
Boucher, Paul: 401-837-4802 (weddings, funerals, including RC)
Bush, Brink: 401-245-4065 (weddings, funerals)
Cienniwa, Paul: 508-676-8483 (\$150 min)
Conboy, Lois: 401-658-3838
Hart, Kathy: 401-837-8873 (weddings, funerals, accompanist)
Johnson, Mark D.: 401-996-9796 (no weddings; \$150 funerals)
Martorella, Philip: 401-885-3431 (weddings, funerals)
Morse, David: 401-486-0244 (no Sunday AM)
Nicholson, Nancy: 401-521-9097 (no Sunday AM)
Nolan, Robert: 401-884-7172 (weddings, funerals, non-Sun. services)
Rankin, Jane B.: 401-884-0669 (funerals)
Sobaje, Martha: 401-626-0099 (weddings, funerals, no RC)
Tagen, Julie: 401-885-7438 (weddings, funerals)
Teitelbaum, Kajsja: 401-965-3304 (Org./Soloist-weddings, funerals)
Yoreo, Dorothy: 401-246-1223 (all)

PLACEMENT LISTING

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

There are currently no placement listings.

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
NOVEMBER 1st-7th 2009**

Nov. 1st Choral Festival
St. Paul Church, 4:00 pm

Nov. 2nd The First Baptist Church in
America

Nov. 3rd Beneficent Congregational Church

Nov. 4th Holy Ghost church

Nov. 5th Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Nov. 6th Cathedral of Ss. Peter and Paul

Nov. 7th First Unitarian Church

**All events at 7:30 pm unless otherwise posted.
Free will donations to benefit local food pantries.
For more information, visit www.riago.org**

St. Paul Church
30 Warwick Ave
Cranston

The First Baptist
Church in America
75 North Main St
Providence

Beneficent Congregational
300 Weybosset St
Providence

Holy Ghost Church
472 Atwells Ave
Providence

Pilgrim Lutheran Church
1817 Warwick Ave
Warwick

Cathedral of Ss.
Peter and Paul
30 Fenner St
Providence

First Unitarian Church 1 Benevolent St Providence

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