

CRESCENDO

MAY 2010

VOLUME LXXII, NO. 9

NEWSLETTER OF THE PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

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JUNE CHAPTER EVENT

ANNUAL MEETING and GALA DINNER

Macy's Department Store
13th and Market Streets, Philadelphia PA.
Saturday, June 5, 2010, 5:30 PM

Our June event is truly a one-of-a-kind experience, and we are very excited about it!

We will gather in the Grand Court of Macy's Department Store at 5:30 PM on Saturday, June 5, 2010, where Grand Court Organist Peter Richard Conte will play a stunning program of organ works and some of his own magnificent transcriptions.

At 630 PM, we will go the Greek Hall on the 3rd floor of Macy's where we will partake of a catered buffet dinner, during which we will be the very first witnesses of some interesting history: the perfectly-restored Wurlitzer organ in Greek Hall will be presented for the first time in public to our chapter, both verbally and musically. Curator of Organs, Curt Mangel, will discuss the history and

Continued on page 10

CRESCENDO, the official bulletin of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, is published monthly, September through June. All material for publication must reach the Editor by the 1st day of the month preceding the date of issue, i.e. November 1 for the December issue. This must be type written and e-mailed (text supplied in an attachment), or mailed. A hard copy should be included for display ads. Submissions become the property of the Philadelphia Chapter of the AGO and will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed and stamped envelope. **CRESCENDO** reserves the right to make editorial changes and to shorten articles to fit space limitations. Articles in *Crescendo* reflect the views of the writers and not necessarily those of the Guild. All advertising must be arranged through the Advertising Manager.

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Camera-ready:	One-Time	Season
1/8 page:	\$40	\$285
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full page:	\$140	
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(members only; no phone numbers)		

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Visit our website at www.AGOPhila.org

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MAY 2010

CRESCENDO

VOLUME LXXII, NO. 9

D E A N ' S L E T T E R

Repertoire and Elitism

"The rector ruled that no music in minor keys was permitted in worship. Worship must always be 'happy'."

"The senior pastor has explicitly forbidden use of the music of Olivier Messiaen in worship."

"The reason that attendance at churches has diminished is that organists are playing music for themselves and not what the congregations want to hear."

"The public high school teacher doesn't know what she's doing. Her holiday concert included Vivaldi's 'Gloria.' Parents don't want to listen to that kind of music. We want 'Winter Wonderland' and Rudolph. What is she teaching these kids?"

"College choir programs are misguided. Graduates are indoctrinated to change the manner in which they sing, to recognize that they may be singing out-of-tune, to adjust their diction, and to overemphasize blend. Worse, these graduates come back home wanting to hear works of Bach, Bruckner, Brahms, Britten, or Byrd in church. They end up growing dissatisfied and leaving the church. College music programs need to stop brainwashing their students."

"Choir directors spend too much time perfecting the sound. They need to learn that it's all right to make a joyful noise. It is not important to get the notes right."

While I may be paraphrasing these comments, I have been told all of these things during my time in and around church music and church music education. I have to admit that all of these things make me cringe. It is further troubling when I learn that many of our members share some of these sentiments.

In response to my November 2009 Dean's Letter, one correspondent conveyed the opinion that the real reason organist salaries are so low is because organists are not choosing the right repertoire. This is, of course, the same line of reasoning that has led certain mega-church clergy to conclude that a factor in dwindling attendance in traditional denominations was repertoire choice. The mega-church pastors advocate excising the use of the organ, eliminating hymnals, removing evidence of musical notation, substituting karaoke projection screens with repertoire styled after the current top-40 pop chart hits. If the music is more than 10 or 15 years old, how could it be relevant to today's worshipping congregation?

The anti-intellectual movement is growing in this country. (From *Wikipedia*, "Anti-intellectualism is the hostility towards and mistrust of intellect, intellectuals, and intellectual pursuits, usually expressed as the derision of education, philosophy, literature, art, and science.") In inner cities, success in school marks students for persecution. There, peer-acceptance comes from being youngest to produce progeny, to commit larceny or other acts of vandalism without capture, or to demonstrate true superiority by taking lives of those who have not conveyed appropriate respect. ("He dissed me, so I offed him.") Likewise, rural areas, such as Appalachia, have similar longstanding cultural patterns. Parenthood at very early ages, in lieu of high school completion, continues to be commonplace. "We don't want no book learnin'" is the majority view. Having grown up in the foothills of Appalachia, I still recall the woman who conveyed that she was glad her son was "normal" and not a "straight A" or "honor roll" student.

In that region, elected school board members battle state-recommended or mandated curricula: Why should their children be reading "Romeo and Juliet," "Hamlet," or "Julius Caesar"? Of what use is poetry? Why should we even offer high school calculus, when even algebra seems useless? Let's focus on the important

Continued on page 9



David Beatty

CHAPTER EVENTS IN REVIEW

Philadelphia, PA, February 28, 2010. The Philadelphia Chapter presented **Tom Sheehan** in a varied organ recital at Grace Epiphany Church, Mount Airy (Philadelphia). His program included music of German Romantic and Twentieth Century French composers. In 2009 Mr. Sheehan won first prize in both the Arthur Poister National Competition in Organ Playing and the AGO/Quimby Regional Competition. He is currently a senior at Westminster Choir College and serves as the Organ Scholar at Trinity Episcopal Church, Princeton.

REGISTRAR'S CORNER

JOE LEWIS, REGISTRAR

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

At publication time, we stand at 392 members. We welcome new member David Himmer of Blue Bell, PA to the chapter.

DUES COLLECTION FOR 2010-2011 BEGINS THIS MONTH

Our renewal program for the upcoming 2010-2011 membership year will start in May, and all members will receive a personalized renewal form in the mail early in the month. Also in that envelope you will find an AGO Volunteer form (AGOVOL), which we ask you to fill out and to include with your dues payment, and a special message from Dean David Beatty. Please use this checklist to assure your continued membership:

1. As soon as your renewal form arrives, please give it your immediate attention. Remember that the membership year ends on June 30th, and your subscription to TAO depends on a prompt response.
2. Correct and update all your personal data that appears on the form (if it has already changed or soon will), by crossing out old info and writing updates nearby.
3. Determine the appropriate membership category for you, especially if your age or circumstances are different. Your current category on file will appear after your name.
4. Consider supporting the chapter as a Patron, which then allows a much greater scope of events to be considered by our Planning and Executive Committees.
5. Check the box on the form if you desire to be on the 10/11 Sub List, and inform our Sub List Coordinator, Allen Popjoy, as well. (610-269-7069, apopjoy@msn.com)
6. Send the form to me at your earliest convenience, along with a check/money order and school ID (if required).
7. If you find you are unable to renew for 2010-2011, please inform me ASAP so that I can remove your name from the database during the summer and not keep re-contacting you.

BIG CHANGE COMING IN DIRECTORY PUBLISHING DATE

In last month's Registrar's Corner, I announced that our 2011 Membership Directory will be published in October, much earlier than in the past. To guarantee that your name will appear in the Directory, it is important that you renew on time. The AGO HQ in New York has again requested that we remind renewing members to be prompt, hoping that the entire National dues process is finished by September 1st. If you have any questions, please contact me by phone or email. **If you do not receive your renewal form by mid-May, let me know ASAP.**

Joe Lewis, Registrar
Registrar@agophila.org
610-935-0895

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

JOSEPH LEWIS, REGISTRAR

Want to join the Philadelphia chapter of the American Guild of Organists?
Need to report AGO Directory changes on your current membership?
Need to purchase a set of chapter mailing labels for your next music event?

Contact our Registrar, Joe Lewis at: 49 North Spring Lane, Phoenixville, PA 19460
610-935-0895
Registrar@agophila.org

MASTERPIECE *Signature*



let your ears be the judge

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2010

7:30 P.M.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Stephen A. Tippet
Edward Wilk

CHAPTER EVENTS

2009-2010 PROGRAM YEAR

Sunday, 27 September, 2009, 4:00 pm
First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia
Evensong and Installation of Officers

Saturday, 3 October, 2009, 11:00 am
St. Mark's Locust St., Philadelphia
A weekend with Barry Rose

Sunday, 8 November, 2009, 4:00 pm
St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Chestnut Hill
Members Recital: Music of Felix Mendelssohn

Sunday, January 3, 2010, 5:00-8:00pm
A Holiday Party
Pot-luck Dinner and Christmas Conviviality
Home of Roy Harker and Bob Ranando, Philadelphia, PA

Saturday, 16 January, 2010
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
January Jumpstart

Sunday, 28 February, 2010, 4:00pm
Grace Epiphany, Mt. Airy
Chapter and Regional competition winner, Tom Sheehan, in concert

Sunday, 18 April, 2010, 4:00pm
Trinity Lutheran, Lansdale
Recital: Isabelle Demers

Saturday, 5 June, 2010
Wanamaker Organ Spectacular
5:30pm - recital by Peter Conte on Grand Court Organ
6:30pm - unveiling of the perfectly-restored Wurlitzer organ in Greek Hall with special guest artist and buffet dinner. \$40 per person. Please send your check by May 25 to confirm your reservation directly to the program chairperson, Rudy Lucente, at 960 Flintlock Drive, Lansdale, PA 19446-5566.

Kimmel Center Presents: Co-sponsored by the
Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

Saturday, 17 October, 2009, 3:00pm
OLIVIER LATRY

Saturday, 6 March, 2010, 3:00pm
CAMERON CARPENTER

Saturday, 8 May, 2010, 3:00pm
PAUL JACOBS

SUBSTITUTE LIST

ALLEN POPJOY, COORDINATOR
610-269-7069 ALLEN.POPJOY@AGOPHILA.ORG

This list is published as a courtesy to the chapter membership. Only members of the Philadelphia AGO Chapter available for regularly-scheduled services are listed. Although the AGO assumes no responsibility for the musicianship or reliability of substitute organists, Guild certificates and other degree programs indicate preparation beyond the minimum.

Substitute	Location	Phone Number
Frederick K. Astmann	Cherry Hill, NJ	856-424-3820
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A. David Deery	Phoenixville, PA	610-933-3666
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TIMOTHY M. EVERS, COORDINATOR
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SATURDAY, MAY 1, 7:30 PM

Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius*. The Wayne Oratorio Society, a ministry of Wayne Presbyterian Church. 160 voice choir & professional orchestra and soloists. Free will offering. Handicapped accessible. Wayne Presbyterian Church, 125 E. Lancaster Ave, Wayne PA 610.688.8700
www.waynepres.org

SUNDAY, MAY 2, 4:00 PM

Singing City Choir, Jeffrey Brillhart, presents its 62nd Anniversary Concert - Masterpieces of the 20th Century. Featured works: Stravinsky *Symphony of Psalms*, Poulenc *Gloria*, Schoenberg *Friede auf Erden*. Tickets: 215.569.9067 or www.singingcity.org Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, 625 Montgomery Ave, Bryn Mawr PA

SUNDAY, MAY 2, 5:00 PM

The St. Martin's Choir, Ken Lovett, director. Harold Friedell: *Canticles in F*; Ronald Staheli: *Peace like a river*. Handicap accessible; childcare provided. Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Willow Grove Ave & St Martin's Ln, Chestnut Hill PA 215.247.7466 www.StMartinEC.org

SUNDAY, MAY 2, 7:30 PM

Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius*. The Wayne Oratorio Society, a ministry of Wayne Presbyterian Church. 160 voice choir & professional orchestra and soloists. Free will offering. Handicapped accessible. Wayne Presbyterian Church, 125 E. Lancaster Ave, Wayne PA 610.688.8700
www.waynepres.org

TUESDAY, MAY 4, 12:00 PM

Glenn Kinckner, organ. Philadelphia AGO's Tuesday Noon Recitals. Free admission. White Horse Retirement Community, Delchester & Gradyville Rds, Newtown Square PA

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 12:30 PM

John Miller, organ. After Noon Concert Series: 30-minute recitals on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. Free admission. 1991 Mander, IV/137. Princeton University-Chapel, Nassau and Washington Rds., Princeton NJ 609.258.3654 eplutz@princeton.edu www.princeton.edu/~choir/

SATURDAY, MAY 8, 7:30 PM

"This Shining Night," Chester County Choral Society, Gary Garletts, conductor. Premiere of Valerie Crescenzo's *Mass of Peace*, and a Samuel Barber choral retrospective. Free will offering.
www.chestercountychoralsociety.org Church of the Good Samaritan, 212 W. Lancaster Ave, Paoli, PA, 610-944-4040 www.good-samaritan.org.

TUESDAY, MAY 11, 12:00 PM

Elizabeth Forsyth, organ. Philadelphia AGO's Tuesday Noon Recitals. Free admission. White Horse Retirement Community, Delchester & Gradyville Rds, Newtown Square PA

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 7:30 PM

Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna* presented by The Valley Forge Chorale. Steve McBride, Conductor, Marc F. Cheban, Organist.
www.valleyforgechorale.com Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 132 E. Valley Forge Rd., King of Prussia, PA 610.265.4545

SUNDAY, MAY 16, 4:00 PM

Memorial Evensong for James Weidemann. Free admission and open to the public. St. Mark's Church, 1625 Locust St. (center city), Philadelphia, PA. 215.735.1416

SUNDAY, MAY 16, 4:00 PM

"Bach and the French." David Clark Little, harpsichord. Works of Louis Couperin, François Couperin, Rameau, J.S. Bach, Jacques Duphy. Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 2313 Concord Pike, Wilmington DE 302.478.2575 www.aldersgatede.org

SUNDAY, MAY 16, 4:00 PM

Handbell Concert by the handbell choirs of Abington Presbyterian Church. Ensembles range from 4th grade to adult. Free will offering. Handicapped accessible. Abington Presbyterian Church, 1082 Old York Rd, Abington PA 215.887.4530 www.apcusa.org/MusicatAbington

TUESDAY, MAY 18, 12:00 PM

Tim Evers, organ. Philadelphia AGO's Tuesday Noon Recitals. Free admission. White Horse Retirement Community, Delchester & Gradyville Rds, Newtown Square PA

FRIDAY, MAY 21, 8:00 PM

Abington Symphony Orchestra concert. Jennifer Montone, Principal Horn of the Philadelphia Orchestra, plays a 2007 Kile Smith composition *Exsultet*. Pre-concert lecture at 7:00pm by Smith. Also works by Rossini, Mozart and Bizet. Free will offering. Abington Presbyterian Church, 1082 Old York Rd, Abington PA 215.887.4530
www.apcusa.org/MusicatAbington

TUESDAY, MAY 25, 12:00 PM

Andrew Heller, organ. Philadelphia AGO's Tuesday Noon Recitals. Free admission. White Horse Retirement Community, Delchester & Gradyville Rds, Newtown Square PA

FRIDAY, MAY 28, 3:30 PM

Eric Plutz, organ. Free admission. 1991 Mander, IV/137. Princeton University-Chapel, Nassau and Washington Rds., Princeton NJ 609.258.3654 eplutz@princeton.edu www.princeton.edu/~choir/

• • •

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

Summit Presbyterian Church
6757 Greene St. (West Mt. Airy), Philadelphia, PA 19119
(215) 438-2825 • www.summitpres.net

One Sunday service and adult choir that rehearses after worship (Sept-June); optional handbell choir and interest in working with children and youth a plus. A spirited and welcoming congregation most comfortable with traditional hymns, but appreciative of other sacred music. 3-manual Moller/Duddy pipe organ with 61 stops, including 20 couplers. Baby grand piano and 3 octaves of Schulmerich handbells. Extensive music library. Seek musician who will work collegially with Pastor and a volunteer choir with a range of training and experience. Quarter-time. Salary commensurate with experience. Contact Rev. Cheryl Pyrch (214) 438-2825 or cpyrch@summitpres.net

ORGANIST

Trinity United Church of Christ
2340 State Street, East Petersburg, PA 17520
717-569-1632

Resumes are now being accepted for the position of Organist at Trinity United Church of Christ, East Petersburg. Position description is available upon request. Organist is part of team which includes the Director of Music, Choir Director and Pastor. Involves one service per Sunday plus one rehearsal from September through May. Compensation dependent upon skill, training and experience. Send resume and questions to: Trinity United Church of Christ, 2340 State Street, East Petersburg, PA 17520. E-mail: trinityeastpete@paonline.com. Position opens July 1, 2010.

ORGANIST/CHOIR ACCOMPANIST

St Peter's Pikeland United Church of Christ
1193 Clover Mill Road, Chester Springs, PA 19423
610-933-6419 • www.stpeterspikeland.org

St. Peter's Pikeland UCC is a family-oriented church with a highly valued music ministry. We are seeking an Organist/Choir Accompanist to join our music ministry. St. Peter's, located in Chester County near Philadelphia, has an established music program supporting a traditional worship service with Adult and Children's Choirs. Responsibilities include: Providing traditional worship service music and accompanying Adult and Children's Choirs; one traditional 10:00 a.m. service; Thursday evening Adult Choir rehearsal; Sunday morning Children's Choir rehearsal; Availability for other services as needed, including weddings and funerals. Instruments include an Allen 2-manual Digital Organ, piano, and Clavinova CVP30. Other opportunities exist for musical leadership, such as a Handbell Choir. Compensation is in the \$10,000-12,000 range and is based upon experience. A complete job description is available from St. Peter's Pikeland UCC, and more information about our church is available at our website, www.stpeterspikeland.org.

For further information and to apply, write St. Peter's Pikeland United Church of Christ, Attn: Organist/Choir Accompanist Search Leader, 1193 Clover Mill Road, Chester Springs, PA, 19425; or email St. Peter's at stpetersuc@verizon.net ; or phone the Church office at 610-933-6419.

PERFORMING ARTS INTERNSHIP

Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA

The Performing Arts Internship offers arts administration students an opportunity to work within the Performing Arts Department at Longwood Gardens in the areas of marketing, publicity and artist services. This internship is for one year. A strong interest in the arts is expected.

Longwood Gardens Performing Arts presents a year-round program of theatre, dance and music from around the world in indoor and outdoor garden settings. Artists are drawn from international and national professional touring ensembles as well as from community arts organizations. The Performing Arts Department includes four full time and 30+ part time employees.

Longwood Gardens is a world premier horticultural display garden. Its 1,077 outdoor acres and 20 indoor gardens are located in Kennett Square, PA, 30 miles from Philadelphia, PA, and 12 miles from Wilmington, DE. The Gardens are the former country estate of Pierre S. du Pont.

Performing Arts Intern Duties: The Intern will learn how a performing arts office operates through hands-on involvement in the daily operation of the office. Specifically, the intern will focus on publicity and marketing efforts, website promotion and artist services. The work schedule includes some evening and weekend hours. A 40-hour work week between the hours of 8 am-5 pm is expected.

Eligibility: The program is open to current college students and individuals who have graduated within the past year and who are legally able to work in the United States. Must have a valid driver's license.

Requirements include: Strong writing and editing skills; Able to multi-task and work independently in busy office environment; Strong computer skills required (Word, Excel, Quark, Photoshop); Keen interest in and knowledge of the Performing Arts preferred. Organ knowledge a plus.

Stipend: Interns are paid \$8.50/hour and receive living accommodations on the grounds free of charge.

For further intern information, contact Emily Moody, Performing Arts Assistant Manager at (610) 388-5452 or at emoody@longwoodgardens.org.

ORGANIST

Gloria Dei Church
570 Welsh Road, Huntingdon Valley PA 19006
215-947-8200

Gloria Dei Church is seeking an organist for their 11am service. The organ is a large 3-manual Allen with a brand new MIDI Ensemble Tone. Responsibilities include: prelude, 4-5 hymns (with doxology) offertory,

Continued on page 8

Positions available
Continued from page 7

postlude and occasional accompanist duties. There is no mid-week commitment. We seek someone to play for 36 Sunday services a year plus 6 additional services (Thanksgiving Eve, 3 Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Good Friday) Pay is \$200 per service. Starting date is May 9. Contact Jerrett L. Hansen, senior pastor, at 215-947-8200 X225 or DrJ700@aol.com if interested.

ORGANIST/PIANIST/ACCOMPANIST

Sacred Heart Church
103 Fourth Street, Riverton, NJ 08077

Sacred Heart Church, a large, vibrant, Roman Catholic community located five minutes from the Tacony/Palmyra bridge, is looking for an Associate Liturgical Musician to provide organ, piano, choral accompaniment and congregational accompaniment at two of its Sunday weekend Liturgies and Holy days. Duties also include one Thursday night rehearsal (7-9 pm), every other wedding and second call after the Director of Music for funerals. Applicant must be equally skilled at the piano and organ, and be able to coordinate and direct a choir at Sunday Liturgy if necessary. A full job description (including Microsoft Word or PDF download) can be found at our website — www.sacredheartmusicministry.org. Please contact Mark McKeever, Director of Music, at 856-829-0090 x 22 or by e-mailing mark@sacredheartmusicministry.org to apply, for more information and for remuneration schedule.

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Folcroft, PA
610- 583-4977

St. John's is seeking a church musician to provide musical leadership to enhance our worship experience.

Responsibilities include:

- Playing the organ or electric piano for all services throughout the church year (one Sunday morning service, mid-week Lenten services and other festival services throughout the year)
- Selecting and preparing preludes, offertories and postludes appropriate to the day/liturgical season
- Planning, in consultation with the pastor and worship and music committee, special services (i.e. Thanksgiving, Good Friday, weddings, funerals etc).
- Selecting anthems for and directing the choir.

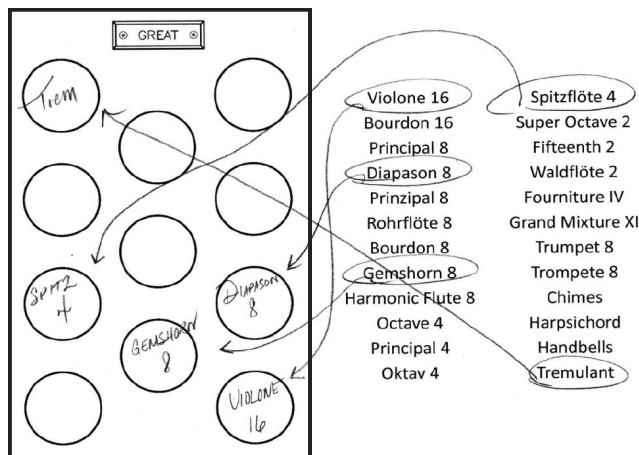
The position involves approximately 6-10 hours per week (Sunday morning along with evening choir rehearsal during the week). Interested candidates should email weiserl@verizon.net or contact the church office at the number above.

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Dean's Message
Continued from page 2

aspects of education--the high school football team and the senior prom!

While some of these sentiments may be localized, they appear to be facets in the growing anti-intellectual movement. While that movement may be growing, I cannot endorse it or suggest that we, as the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, embrace its tenets. The AGO was chartered as an educational institution, and as such, our charter is directly at odds with the anti-intellectuals. There are those who view this endorsement of education or the search for increasing the quality of music making as elitist. There are many who seek to bury the educational efforts of this chapter in attempts to increase attendance at events. For them, the number of people attending is the only mark of success. If so, why are we promoting the organ at all? If we're only interested in number of people, let's bring in a top-40 group!

In a parallel domain, I believe that any of the chains McDonald's, Arby's, Bob Evans, or Old Country Buffet have served more meals than our local Le Bec Fin, Lacroix, Buddakan, or Morimoto. There are those who would declare that these latter dining establishments are clear failures because they are not serving what the greater population wants. In the parallel to their repertoire arguments, these folks would like to see such restaurants all replaced with the next Burger King or Wendy's. Likewise, they would declare that anyone seeking to eat at one of those local establishments is "elitist".

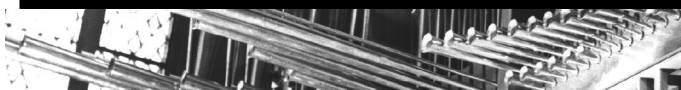
I strongly and vehemently disagree with the anti-intellectual movement. Just as I cannot advocate converting Lacroix into Arby's, I cannot condone the elimination of the classics, contemporary and historic, from repertoire in church or in our AGO programming. Moreover, it is our responsibility to expose our congregations and our audiences to the finest repertoire. If that is not the tradition where you are, some gradual education may be required. Immersing a person whose idea of fine seafood dining is McDonald's Fillet of Fish in the midst of the sushi at Morimoto or the ceviche at Alma de Cuba may result in radical rebellion.

Please be inclusive in your selection of that finest repertoire. When you're dining at Lacroix, make sure you sample the sweetbreads, or when you're at Tequila's try the chapulines (grasshoppers). Allow yourself to be open to discovering the wonders that may lie in certain rarer composers' oeuvre. If a parishioner mentions that she appreciates the work of Babbitt, Finzi, Britten, Albright, Ellington, Rorem, Rheinberger, Scheidt, or Perotin, don't allow your preconceived prejudices to prevent you from broadening your exposure. Even the chosen repertoire doesn't make it into your personal "top ten" list, introducing the wider repertoire to your congregation or audience will enrich their lives and yours.

The search for the finest repertoire is not solely ours as organists or church musicians. Over the Christmas holidays, I learned that several classmates with whom I had sung in college or university choirs are no longer singing or are no longer attending church. Those that were no longer singing have been unable to find any church choirs with which they can sing the great works of the choral repertoire. They would gladly volunteer their time and talents to participate in a church choir that would sing the range from Bach cantatas and Palestrina motets to Felciano anthems and the Poulenc *Mass*. However, a common complaint was that such choirs, if they existed in their areas, were "all professional". The volunteer church choirs were too monochromatic. "It's

Continued on page 10

TUESDAY NOON RECITALS



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MAY, 2010

White Horse Village Auditorium
535 Gradyville Road
(at Delchester)
Newtown Square, PA. 19073
610-558-5000

HOST ORGANIST: Marshall Nelsen

ORGAN: Johannus, digital, 2 manual, 2006

RECITALISTS:

May 4: Glenn Kinckner
11: Elizabeth Forsyth
18: Tim Evers
25: Andrew Heller

NEXT MONTH (June): St. David's Episcopal Church, Wayne, PA.

Friends and Colleagues of

Dr. Martha Johnson

are invited to a
Tribute Concert

in Honor of Her 25 Years of Service to
St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley
Sunday, May 23, 2010, 4:00 p.m.

The Barn at St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley
2475 Church Road, Malvern PA

For information please contact K. Mallon-Day at kantakate@aol.com



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June Chapter Event
Continued from page 1

restoration of this instrument, and it will be played by a special guest artist.

In addition, this event will also include our annual meeting, and we will have a few short agenda items, including the presentation of certificates to our members who have attained certification status.

As if that were not enough fun and entertainment for the chapter's closing event, a handful of lucky "winners" selected at random from confirmed reservations will have the opportunity (after dinner and therefore after Macy's has closed for business for the day) to play the Wanamaker Grand Court Organ for a few minutes under the guidance of Grand Court Organist Peter Conte and Grand Court Substitute Organist Rudy Lucente, our Sub-Dean. The "winners" will be notified ahead of time so that they can bring music as necessary.

Cost for the entire event is only \$40. per person for the dinner, which is being arranged by Macy's through their catering service, which has an excellent reputation for both quality and variety.

Don't miss this exciting event for our chapter!! Get your reservation in early, as seating is limited. Please send your check by May 25 to confirm your reservation directly to the program chairperson, Rudy Lucente, at 960 Flintlock Drive, Lansdale, PA 19446-5566.

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Dean's Column
Continued from page 9

all just Victorian anthems and Tudor music"; "It's all Singspiration"; "If a composer was mentioned in a music history textbook, you can be sure our church choir WON'T sing her/his music." "I want to sing Billings and Buxtehude, ... and Bruckner, and Brahms, and Verdi, and Vaughan Williams; where are the volunteer church choirs that will let me do that?" Likewise, many who have ceased their church attendance cite liturgy and word that is barely as deep or insightful as a Hallmark card, sermons that fail to engage the mind, and instrumental music (organ or otherwise) that is poorly chosen, poorly written, and poorly played. Yes, there are others who are also seeking the finest. Perhaps they do not form the majority of the population, but they exist and deserve to be rewarded in their quest. Indeed, it is the mission of this Guild to be able to provide such experiences!

If offering the best of the broadest repertoire is considered elitist, so be it. If seeking to educate ourselves and our congregations is considered elitist, so be it. If teaching all to read musical notation is considered elitist, so be it. If improving the quality of our music making is considered elitist, so be it. If refusing to stay within the slums of former existence is considered elitist, so be it. Let us refuse to be brought down to the level of the least common denominator. May we all heartily strive for such elitism!

David P. Beatty

...



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