

The Clarion



Newsletter of the Fairfield West Chapter AGO

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FROM THE DEAN

The AGO has reached a settlement with the Federal Trade Commission over the endorsement of non-competitive practices and restraining of competition. The FTC sees our Guild documents, i.e. Sample contract, Code of Ethics, and Salary Guide as restricting free trade, injuring consumers by discouraging and restricting competition, and depriving consumers and others of the benefits of free and open competition among organists and choral directors. Please see James Thomashower's article on P. 6 & 7 of the February 2017 issues of The American Organist for more information and Frequently Asked Questions.



The executive board wishes to express it's condolences on the passing of chapter member Flora Major. Flora taught in the Norwalk Schools for many years, and was most recently Organist at the First Congregational Church in Norwalk.



Stephen R. Lewis, *Dean*
203-227-4795/203-451-7415 cell
Le73@optonline.com

Vacant, *Sub-Dean*

Alma Hamilton, F.A.G.O, *Secretary*
203-322-1669 c
hamiltonaajh@gmail.com

Andrew Gordon, *Treasurer*
203-938-1539 h/203-869-2395 w
arkel@aol.com

Jonathan Ryan, Class of 2017
Social Media
203-869-6600 x22
jr@jonathan-ryan.com

Arno Steinig, *Class of 2017*
Arnosteinig@gmail.com

Heather Hamilton, *Class of 2018*
Hahamilton88@yahoo.com

Frederick Tripodi, *Class of 2018*
Rickmatt@optonline.net

David Johnson, *Class of 2019*
203-227-0379 h/203-837-2447 w
David_b_johnson@snet.net

Edwin R. Taylor, *Class of 2019*
Musicatfirstcongregational.com

Dr. Sean Jackson, *Webmaster*
646-345-1491 cell/203-348-2619. x21
drseanjackson@gmail.com

Editor *Clarion*
Vacant

Chapter Webpage address:
<http://www.fairfieldwestago.com>

OUR NEXT EVENT

Sunday afternoon, April 2 at 4 PM.

The chapter invites members to share your favorite organ and choral music for the liturgical year. First Congregational Church, Ridgefield.

Each of us is probably the busiest musician each of us knows, so your Fairfield-West AGO Board has designed a program for April that will provide each of us an opportunity—without adding “one more thing”—to be part of a fun, practical, and enlightening event. Your Board looks forward to hosting a Members Recital on Sunday, April 2, at 4:00p, at First Congregational Church, Ridgefield. Most all of us play Preludes and Postludes and conduct anthems on most, Sundays of the year, and this ‘recital’ is intended to be a time of sharing...aimed more at sharing than performing...but welcoming just the same those true performers in our midst...and having fun thinking up your favorite organ piece or two, along with a few of your favorite anthems, that you would like to share with your fellow colleagues. Ponder your repertoire (sacred, secular, recital, liturgical, whatever you may dream up), and please say “yes” to sharing it in the Members Recital on April 2. When not sitting back listening to your organ gifts, we will sit up and joy to sing through whatever choral pieces you bring.

First Congregational Church’s 2,638-pipe Wicks-Buchanan Organ was built in 1995 by the Wicks Organ Company of Highland, Illinois, and dedicated in recital by the late William Whitehead. By the Summer of 2015, numerous electronic systems were breaking down, and Jonathan Buchanan of “Opus-Two Instrument Control Systems” of Philadelphia (the same firm which recently re-wired the 26,000+-pipe Wannamaker Grand Court Organ in Philadelphia, and is now re-wiring and restoring to playability the seven-manual organ at the Atlantic City NJ Convention Hall), was contracted to re-circuit and re-circuit both the organ and the console with his own patented electronics. In addition to his four-month repair and replacement project, Mr. Buchanan expanded and updated the instrument to include 99 banks of memory, a thoroughly-programmable pedal divide, a multi-control piston sequencer, 256 tracks of recordable play-back, and more. Now one of the more innovative, versatile, and advanced pipe organs in the country, the instrument is maintained by the A. Thompson-Allen Company of New Haven, Connecticut.

Your Fairfield-West AGO Board hopes you will think of one or two of your favorite organ pieces, tote along some of your favorite anthems, and will look forward to sharing them in the Members Recital. If you will please e-mail Edwin R. Taylor (music@firstcongregational.com) with your “yea”, he will furnish you the instrument’s stop-list, and help you plan practice time.

FUTURE Fairfield West Chapter Events 2017

Sunday afternoon, June 4 at 4 PM

Annual Business Meeting/social event at Bertucci’s Restaurant in Darien.

CALENDAR –March 2017

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at 7:30 PM

Ash Wednesday - The Christ Church Singers will sing Berliner Messe by Pärt, Call to Remembrance by Farrant, and Miserere mei; Deus by Allegri. Jonathan Ryan, choir director and Jamie Hitel, organist. Christ Church, 254 E Putnam Ave Greenwich, CT.

Saturday, March 4 at 6:30 PM

Young Musicians Concert – Grades 2-12 are invited to participate. For more information contact Charlotte Gage at musicdept@christchurchgreenwich.org. Free Admission. Christ Church, 254 E Putnam Ave Greenwich, CT.

Sunday, March 5 at 4 PM

Wholly Brass - With performances at New York's Alice Tully Hall, and Carnegie Hall, Wholly Brass brings music in an educational and entertaining fashion everywhere it goes. The repertoire of the group includes Classical Masterpieces, Jazz, Broadway, World and Hollywood music. Part of the Sunday Afternoons Live series in the First Church Auditorium. Tickets \$20, including light refreshments are available at the door. First Congregational Church of Greenwich, 108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, CT

Sunday, March 5 at 5 PM

Choral Evensong and Organ Recital –Music by Howells, Stanford, and Lehman. Victoria Shields, appointed Director of Music and Organist at the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan in January, 2016, plays the recital on Trinity's famous Wilhelm organ. Trinity Episcopal Church, 651 Pequot Ave, Southport.

Sunday, March 12 at 4 PM

First Church Musicians LIVE! -All of your favorite First Church musicians wrapped up in one concert! These outstanding musicians have graciously donated their services to make this a special afternoon of vocal music to benefit the Music Ministry at First Church. Performers include Linnea Conley, Hanna Golodinski, Carolyn Paulus, Drew Seigla, Gianna Barone, Vasil Golodinskii, Craig Symons, Vance Briceland, Carol Woodman, Tom Woodman. Tickets at \$20 are available at the door. Light Refreshments included. First Congregational Church of Greenwich, 108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Tuesday, March 14 at 7 PM

Notre Dame Comes to Hartford - Messe Solennelle by Louis Vierne, Olivier Latry, Organ, Chorus Angelicus and Gaudeamus, Gabriel Lofvall, Conductor and Ezequiel Menendez, Choir Organ
Cathedral of Saint Joseph, 140 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT

Sunday, March 26 at 4 PM

The Fontenay Chamber Players - Named for a French town with a connection to the composer, Maurice Ravel, whose luminous Introduction and Allegro is the group's inspiration, it was a no-brainer to invite this flutist, harpist, clarinetist, cellist, violist, and two violinists back for a second hearing! First Congregational Church, 103 Main St., Ridgefield

April 2017

Saturday, April 1 at 8 PM

Chanticleer – “The world's reigning male chorus” (New Yorker) will be in concert at Christ & Holy Trinity Church performing a diverse repertoire, from Renaissance to jazz, and from gospel to venturesome new music. Tickets (\$45; all seats unreserved) may be purchased online at www.chtwestport.org/tickets. Reception follows in the Great Hall. Christ & Holy Trinity Church, 75 Church Lane, Westport, CT, (203) 227-0827

Sunday, April 9, 2017 at 5 PM.

Join the Christ Church Singers as they sing the Tenebrae. - Unaccompanied choral music from the Renaissance and 21st century, centering around the darkness of the crucifixion. Choir director Jonathan Ryan. Christ Church, 254 E Putnam Ave Greenwich, CT.

Clarion Correction

Correction to the February Clarion – In addition to sharing his own music, David Johnson also presented music of chapter member Jamie Hitel and new chapter member Dr. Liya Petrides. Apologies from the Interim Editor!

LOOKING AHEAD

Young Organists Encouraged to Apply for Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival

(Minneapolis, MN) Lutheran Music Program has selected Kenneth Miller to serve as the Regina Holmen Fryxell and Patricia Schaad Legee Chapel Organist at the 2017 Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival (LSM) from June 25th to July 23rd on the campus of Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Indiana. Miller currently serves as Assistant Professor of Church Music and Organist and Choirmaster of the Chapel of the Apostles at the School of Theology at the University of the South in Sewanee, TN.

As a member of the artistic faculty, Miller will maintain a private organ studio, teach the Introduction to Pipe Organ elective class, and serve as a member of the LSM worship team. In addition to serving as primary organist for all LSM worship services, Miller will also perform as a soloist and with the LSM Bach Cantata.

Lutheran Summer Music is a four-week residential training and performance program. Each summer, LSM brings together 150+ 8-12 grade band, orchestra, choir, keyboard and organ students from the U.S. and abroad in a supportive, intentional community.

AGO members from the Fairfield West Chapter are invited to refer students for the 2017 convening of Lutheran Summer Music Academy. All students using the application code AGO200 will receive an automatic \$200 tuition discount. Other merit and need-based assistance is available.

For more information, go to lutheransummermusic.org or contact Dietrich Jessen and Kristina Rodel, Admissions Directors at 888.635.6583 or email at admissions@lutheransummermusic.org.

Hartford POE July 23-28, 2017

Hartford is continuing their commitment to the region by hosting a POE next summer, based at the beautiful Trinity College. Registration will be open in January.

Vaughn Mauren Coordinator, vmauren@gmail.com

Montreal Organ Festival

July 1-7, 2017

Register Today!

- ▶ World-class artists including Olivier Latry, Nathan Laube, and Cherry Rhodes
- ▶ Daily Evensong featuring the Choir of Kings College (London)
- ▶ Stunning venues, exciting city
- ▶ 40 masterclasses and workshops



25% savings

with the current \$CAD-\$USD
exchange rates

montrealorganfestival.org