

## WorcAGO Newsletter Digest - March 1, 2014 – April 28, 2014

4/28/2014

In This 4/28 Mailing

- First Thursday Lunch... Topic: **Rainy-Day/Summer-Choir Anthem** Repertoire
- Sunday: Free **Worcester Composers** Concert – come hear your colleagues' creations
- Monday: Lancaster Bulfinch **1869 Simmons** organ, with introduction by **Barbara Owen**
- **Young Musicians** Were Busy This Weekend in Worcester
- *Globe* article: **Making A Living** As A Church Musician
- **Cameron Carpenter** in the news again ☺

### Rainy Day Anthems are the topic for this Thursday's LunchBunch



Join us Thursday May 1 noon at Tweeds on Grove Street/Worcester for our monthly gathering of good conversation and good food.

Bring along your favorites unison/SAB easy anthems to pass around and discuss ideas.

### Composers/Improvisations Concert – Mechanics Hall 3PM This Sunday

WOW! What an **opportunity to sit back and enjoy great music composed by your colleagues!**

For several of the pieces (improvisations), you'll be the FIRST (AND LAST) to hear these new pieces, since they will never be performed again!

This concert is quite tonal and listenable and FUN. When can you say that you've ever been to a live concert that featured tunes from Walt Disney animations? Lucia Clemente Falco is preparing a tremendous improvisation combining some of our favorites.

And, don't forget Robin Dinda's Worcester premiere of his "Kiya Pup Strut" which is in *stride* style, an early type of piano jazz centered in New York City. It is a tribute to the great stride pianist/composers James P. Johnson and Fats Waller.

This concert is part of THE YEAR OF THE ORGAN celebrating the Hook's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Please don't let the year go by without attending these FREE concerts.**

### Barbara Owen to introduce Bulfinch Simmons – First Monday Open Console

5/5 7PM is the time to be present in Lancaster Center at the historic Bulfinch church. The wonderful Simmons tracker will be open for hands-on demonstrations – bring your music!

### Young Organists Busy Last Weekend in Worcester

One of WorcAGO's main focuses is that of promoting aspiring organists of all ages, especially younger musicians.



Last Friday, WorcAGO co-sponsored the Worcester Debut of **Alexander Pattavina** at First Unitarian – what an incredible

command of the instrument Alex had (he used almost every tool and piston this modern console afforded), and made wonderful music for the dozen people attending (sadly no WorcAGO members in the audience).



The next day down the street at Mechanics, Holy Cross Organ Scholar **Abe Ross** was the organist with the orchestra accompanying the Collegium's performance of Durufle *Requiem*, and a fine balance Abe provided to select period-appropriate registrations to blend with the orchestra. The Hook is a versatile instrument!

## Globe: Making A Living As A Church Musician



**A soprano and a composer/organist share their struggles and successes.**  
- interviews by Colin Fleming

IF YOU SPEND much time in Boston, you're spending a decent chunk of your life in the company of people who took a lot of years to be able to do a special something not a lot of other people can do. We see it when David Ortiz hits a grand slam or when an MIT physicist dreams up a theory that just might explain the origin of the universe, and we see it in all sorts of smaller and quieter ways. Into that last category falls a particular kind of musician that's big in these parts: **the church performer**.

. . . No one gets into this line of work to get rich, but there is still a wealth of ambition here. On a Lenten Sunday, I visit organist-director Andrew Clarkson's church in Brookline. I'd hoped to see him conduct singer Sarah Moyer and other choir members in Mozart's *Requiem*. But another opportunity had come up, and Moyer had to drop out to chase it. Her career choice means she has to make difficult decisions — everyone else does, too, so no one holds it against her.

The performance is beautiful and unusual. "It's pretty rare that Mozart's *Requiem* is part of a church service, and not simply performed on its own," Clarkson says, noting the profound difference between a performance and "an offering." And even after listening to the work for the better part of two decades, I'm able to hear it anew.

The church is full of people seeming to share the same experience. Some are in attendance because they always go, others are here just for the Mozart, and, ideally, some are here looking to become engaged with a musical world not a lot of other cities have. A Boston blessing, then, for the religious and nonreligious alike, and a communion of the most musical kind.

[Read full article>>>](#)

## In the Websphere, Out in the Universe

Sony/Cameron Carpenter premiere Marshall-Ogletree's Digital Touring Organ (designed in Needham MA)



Reminiscent of Hammond's 1960s vintage X-66 rockstar organ stylings, the Marshall&Ogletree International Touring Organ debuted in a video filmed at (are you sitting down?!) theater-fog-filled Methuen Music Hall, with the Walcker sitting silent in the background.

The Sony Corp. rental slipped in under the radar, after other venues such as Alice Tully Hall and Woolsey Hall had turned them down.

Regardless of your opinion of Cameron Carpenter, you have to admit he is getting attention for live organ music. (Your dean just wishes he didn't come across with as much arrogance.) Virgil Fox would have been proud.

View promotional modern rock-style [video documentary](#)>>> (viewer alert: it's controversial on **many** levels!)

4/25/2014

## Program Announced for Worcester Debut TONIGHT



**Alexander Pattavina**, 18, is Organ Scholar at St. Paul's Church in Harvard Square, and Assistant Organist at St. Joseph Parish in Needham. Next year, he will launch his university studies in organ performance at Juilliard studying with Grammy-winning Paul Jacobs.

Tonight's performance will include Mendelssohn #2; his own transcription of Kreisler's Caprice Viennois; Swinnen Aria; Improvisation on a submitted theme; Hancock Aria and two pieces by Langlais: Cantilene & Fete.

Come and see the new operational prototype for 1<sup>st</sup> U's new flip-top, height-motorized organ bench!

## **Sunday May 4 Composers Showcase Features WorcAGO's Best!**



Worcester-area composers and improvisers are featured in a full-length concert that highlights the 150th birthday year of our old musical friend the Mechanics Hall Hook Organ ("The Worcester Organ"). Members of the Worcester AGO (American Guild of Organists) are not only *performers* on the instrument, but they are *creators* of the music. Several world premieres will be showcased, and the organ (solo as well as duets) will be joined/augmented with oboe, handbells, and choir to present an spectacular "multi-media" event with very listenable and tonal music, some of which you'll be the first to hear in performance, and some (improvisations) will never be heard again. Witness music creation in the moment.

### **WorcAGO Year-End Program Summary Released**

Hope you were able to attend most of these great events – we've been busy!

[www.worcesterago.org/membership/2013-14-pgms.php](http://www.worcesterago.org/membership/2013-14-pgms.php)

Next year's subdeans (Lucia Clemente Falco and Kurt Blomstrom) are collecting ideas for next year's programs.

### **Important Annual Meeting this year**

We'll have a final discussion just prior to our election/voting closing deadline. 3:30 Saturday May 10 at Pakachoag Church/Auburn.

### **Annual Scholarship Recital Saturday May 10 4PM**

Directly following the annual meeting, our fine scholarship recipients will delight us with what they've been busy with this year.

Teachers William Ness and Malcolm Halliday tell us everyone has been quite productive this year. Please attend and support these fine students in our profession!

### **WorcAGO Local Voting Closes May 15**

We've had a great response thus far, don't be left out! Refer to the email sent around 4/13.

4/16/2014

**IN THIS 4/16 MAILING**

- 4/27 **AGO Workshop** in Andover - FREE
- 5/4 Worcester **AGO Composers** Concert at Mech Hall
- 4/28 (TV: Ch 11) Harvard Memorial **Fisk PBS Documentary: *To Hear The Music***
- 5/5 **Barbara Owen at Lancaster** First Monday Open Console (Historic Simmons/Bulfinch Church)
- 5/17 Brattleboro **Estey Tour** (8 organs)
- Reminders

**THE THRILL OF A TRILL – WHICH ORNAMENT TO USE?**



MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAPTER – AGO WORKSHOP

**“THE INTERPRETATION OF BAROQUE MUSIC”**

with **John SKELTON**

**SUNDAY APRIL 27th, 2014 – 3:00 pm**

CHRIST CHURCH, 33 CENTRAL STREET, ANDOVER (MA)

C.B. **Fisk** organ – [Opus 137](#) II/37 (2012)



In order to study the interpretation on practical examples, volunteer participants are encouraged to come prepared to play a short baroque piece (2-3 minutes).

Some works recommended by John for their rich ornamentation:

Francois Couperin

Tierce en taille (from both Masses)

J.S. Bach

Wer nur den lieben Gott ( manual setting, BWV 691)

O Mensch, beweine deine Sünde gross ( Orgelbuchlein, BWV 622)

Wenn wir in höchsten Nöten sein ( Orgelbuchlein, BWV 641)

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLAY, PLEASE LET ALAIN KNOW ASAP.

([alain.bojarski@comcast.net](mailto:alain.bojarski@comcast.net))

So, bring your music, your shoes and .... your questions !!

Cookies and refreshments and social hour after the workshop.

## Worcester Composers Showcase - FREE CONCERT

### Pipes Alive – Mechanics Hall Resonates with Local Composers

Sunday May 4, 3PM, Free

**Worcester-area composers and improvisers** are featured in a full-length concert that highlights the **150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year** of our old musical friend the Mechanics Hall Hook Organ ("The Worcester Organ"). Members of the Worcester American Guild of Organists are not only *performers* on the instrument, but they are *creators* of the music. Several world premieres will be showcased, and the organ (solo as well as duets) will be joined/augmented with oboe, handbells, and choir to present an spectacular "multi-media" event with very listenable and tonal music, some of which you'll be the first to hear in performance, and some (improvisations) will never be heard again. Witness the creation of music in the moment.

The concert begins with an incredible Symphonic Improvisation in three movements (on a submitted theme) by **Peter Krasinski**, famous for his delightfully creative musical creations and resourceful Silent Film accompaniments, and continues with compositions and improvisations by **Lucia Clemente Falco, Kevin Murphy, Dorothy Frisch, Scott Olson**, and the **world premiere** of **Robin Dinda's** original set of variations on Handel's *The Harmonious Blacksmith*. Unlike many organ duos, which have only the left-seated organist to play the organ pedals, the organ duos by Dinda divide pedal duties equally between the two organists, and will feature a solo passage for four feet. This composition demonstrates many of the resources of the Mechanics Hall instrument, and was **written specifically for this concert**.

The concert **concludes** with two compositions by **Malcolm Halliday**:

*Festival Postlude on Holy God, We Praise Your Name* for handbells, percussion, and organ; and *With Music Now We Raise*, text by Thomas Rosiello for handbells, organ duet, and choir.





## PBS Organ Documentary – TV premiere spotlights building king of instruments

*Fisk at Harvard: 40,000 hours from concept to concert*

The story of Opus 139, a tracker built by C.B. Fisk, made its TV debut earlier in the month on **New Hampshire public television**. The documentary “*To Hear the Music*,” created by Gloucester’s own Dennis Lanson, had screening debuts in local theaters in Gloucester/Rockport MA Oct 2013. Dennis is not a musician and provides an layperson’s perspective to help introduce the general public to pipe organs.

*To Hear* also showcases the **Tracker Organ Movement** in America and **Charles Fisk’s role** in bringing this ancient craft into the modern era. “The **people at Fisk are musicians**, so they have this incredible erudition. These are people who have studied at conservatories, who are organ players, and more, and they all work in this shop together.

[Opus139 Project Website](#) (all sorts of info/resources/outtakes)



[YouTube Link for excerpts](#)

**ONE MORE SHOWING: ch 11  
NHPTV MON 4/28 3 AM(!)  
program your tivos!**

## 5/5 Open Console – Bulfinch Church Simmons



Preceded by an instrument from 1841, the 1816 Bulfinch church welcomed the Wm B D Simmons instrument in 1869. Beautiful flutes and crystalline upperwork awaits our fingers and ears for this rare opportunity to get up close and personal with one of our area’s finest small mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century instruments. The church is still heated (only) by two magnificent wood stoves!

**Barbara Owen** will lead us through some of the Simmons history and the unique aspects of this Lancaster beauty!

ALL ARE INVITED – FREE - [RSVP](#)

## Brattleboro Estey Organ Tour in May



The [Estey Organ Museum](#) will host a Tour of Estey Organs in Brattleboro, VT on **Saturday, May 17**, beginning at 1:00 PM.

The tour will begin at the First United Methodist Church (home of **Estey Opus 1 from 1901**) and conclude at the Museum. Eight pipe organs will be visited, most of which are in playing condition. The event will include brief demonstration programs on most of the organs. Participants will receive handout sheets describing each instrument and its history. Refreshments will be served at the Museum, and visitors will see and hear the Estey "walk-through" pipe organ as well as other reed organs on display. For further information and directions, phone 802-246-8366.

**WALK OR DRIVE**(easy parking); **FREE** (but donation to museum happily accepted)

- 1:00 First United Methodist Church
- 1:30 St. Michael's Catholic Church
- 2:15 B.P.O E. Lodge, No. 1499, formerly home of Julius Harry Estey
- 2:30 First Church of Christ, Scientist
- 3:15 The Stone Church, formerly All Souls Unitarian-Universalist Church
- 3:30 Brattleboro Masonic Center
- 4:00 First Baptist Church
- 4:45 Estey Organ Museum; Refreshments & Museum Tour

4/11/2014

## CONGRATULATIONS TO **AMANDA MOLE – POISTER COMPETITION WINNER**



Holden resident **Amanda Mole** is making headlines during her studies with **David Higgs** at Eastman, just having won the prestigious Poister Competition at Syracuse University. She's also in the final rounds of the 2014 Rodland Memorial Scholarship (NJ), and the quarterfinals of the Dublin International Organ Competition.

One of six contestants (the others were from North Carolina (School of the Arts), Georgia (Mercer), Ohio (Oberlin), Denver, and Indiana (IU at Bloomington), Amanda's winning performance included Bach D Major BWV 532, Durufle P&F on ALAIN, and Bolcom's Sweet Hour of Prayer gospel prelude. Using the limited three hours to prepare at the instrument, she carefully selected pedal registrations for balance - one of the main 16' ranks was around the corner from the chancel console and sounded louder out in the room. Also finding the right color for the mixture for the "bell-like" sixteenth notes of the Durufle was tricky. The organ had nice [enclosed] solo flutes that she could demonstrate in the Durufle prelude and colorful celestes that were good for Bolcom's Sweet Hour.

There was a half hour warm up time preceding her performance and the judges were not permitted to know who the competitors were and vice versa. The console was hidden by a curtain and the contestants' names were announced only as letters. They waited with each other in a room where all the windows were covered in tissue paper to be completely hidden. Congratulations on a great job!

## MH Concert – "Thumbs-Down" IS GOOD!



**Peter Stoztsfus Berton** tackled *The Worcester Organ* in fine form at Wednesday's noontime concert, co-sponsored by WorcAGO & Mechanics Hall, part of the 150<sup>th</sup> Year of the Organ celebration of our dear Hook friend. In the Gershwin *Piano Prelude* (transcription by Peter; see all the score notations!), he used his dexterity for "thumb-down" technique to solo-out additional Gershwin counter-melodies on the Great- fascinating to hear and watch! Due to seasonal climate & humidity changes, there were several sticky notes throughout the concert, which Peter masterfully handled and proceeded to make beautiful music without interruption.

**Rachel Long**, trumpet, admirably performed the Haydn Trumpet Concerto, accompanied by tone colors from the Hook.

(Rachel is also a trumpet performance intern at First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury with Malcolm Halliday.)

**Annecca Smith**, former All Saints head chorister and organ scholar and current student at Smith College, was a two-time recipient of the Worcester AGO Scholarship Award, and joined Rachel as co-registrant at The Worcester Organ.

A Charter Cable Ch 13 interview was done following the concert.



Peter directs audience applause and appreciation to the 150-year-old Hook

## Alexander Pattavina Limbering Up For Concert at 1<sup>st</sup> U



Save the Date

**Friday April 25 7PM**

FREE

Works by Bach, Vierne, Dupre, Langlais  
Improvisation

## Noted Organ Historian **Barbara Owen** to Join First Monday in Lancaster



The 1869 Simmons is featured on **5/5 at 7PM** at the famed **Bullfinch Church** in Lancaster.

Altho a few ranks were added by Andover in 1963 to make it more serviceable for modern-day church usage, its original delightful character still remains for us to enjoy.

**Barbara Owen** will join us to introduce us to the Simmons instrument and general historic context for its time period.

The organ was featured in the 1983 OHS/AGO convention, and many still hold on to echoes of concerts played there.

## 2014 Boston National Convention Volunteers from Worcester Needed!

by Steven Young

The 2014 AGO Convention will take place in Boston June 23-27, and we need volunteer help in many areas to make this convention a success. The Steering Committee, under the leadership of Ray Cornils, has put together an exciting program of events that will highlight the marvelous musicians and instruments in our city and surrounding communities. We have over 1,300 registrants already, and we anticipate close to 2,000 attendees, so we need your help.

An email has gone out to all Boston Chapter members with information about the events for which one can volunteer. You may sign up directly by [clicking here](#). <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4DAFA82DA3FB6-convention> You may also go to [www.agoboston2014.org/volunteer](http://www.agoboston2014.org/volunteer). You will see a broad overview of all the available slots to be filled. Please send this information to your choir, church members, students, and others who might want to volunteer for the convention.

Assistance is needed with ushering, transportation, hosting workshops, assisting with disabled guests, hospitality, registration, providing directions, and more. As you can see from this list, there is a great deal that will go into this event to help it run smoothly.

Please help make this a great event for all our members and guests. Feel free to contact Steve Young at [volunteers@agoboston2014.org](mailto:volunteers@agoboston2014.org) if you need further information.

### Divertissement



### Organ 12 hands "duets"

Played on a magnificent Erard made in Paris in 1847 - the La Grassa Organ (three consoles!)

*Piano Concerto in A Minor* op. 54 by Robert Schumann

Church of San Pietro, Trapani, Italy

<http://youtu.be/HcDIVUrViFM>



4/8/2014

**Program Announced for Concert Wednesday**(tomorrow)

**– GREAT REPERTOIRE!**

Peter S Berton has finalized his program for the (free!) Wednesday noontime Mechanics Hall concert (organ freshly tuned Monday).

It includes the rarely heard **Worcester Processional** by Francis Jackson, audience favorites by Vierne, some amazing transcriptions, and the Worcester Premiere for his latest composition *Hereford Variations*. Join Us!

**Worcester Processional** was commissioned by the Church of Our Lady of the Angels, Worcester MA, for its organ, and published in England in 1999. Composer Francis Jackson (who introduced it to Peter and reminded Worcester audiences of it in a recital at All Saints Church in 2004) describes it as "Pomp and Circumstance No. 6" after a comment received from a listener in York Minster, the vast cathedral where Jackson was organist and choir director 1946-1982 (succeeding his mentor Sir Edward Bairstow). This refers to Sir Edward Elgar's celebrated five marches in more or less the same model: a perky military style march surrounding a more subdued "grand tune" B section. The ending of *Worcester Processional* has a jazzy rhythmic swagger, and overall its harmonies are not unlike those of Leo Sowerby; Jackson premiered several of Sowerby's works in England. While the Mechanics Hall organ lacks a solo Tuba of commanding volume, it is possible to create the effect of same through a combination of several stops while greatly subduing the accompaniment; thus, this follows a quiet piece in the lineup.

**Joining Peter tomorrow will be Rachel Long**, a former All Saints Chorister now a singer and music intern for Malcolm Halliday at First Congregational Church in Shrewsbury, is developing into a fine orchestral trumpet player and performs a delightful movement from a Haydn concerto in this program. Annecca Smith, former All Saints head chorister and organ scholar and current student at Smith College (of course), joins Rachel as co-registrant of the Worcester Organ and it is rumored that the two of them also will be singing somewhat unexpectedly in the middle of one of the Hereford Variations.

Fugue in d minor, BWV 539 ("Fiddle") (1720)      Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)  
 Six Pieces (1881) Eugène Gigout (1844-1925)      VI. Grand-choeur dialogué  
 Trumpet Concerto in E-flat (1796) Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)      I. Allegro  
                                          Rachel Long, trumpet  
 Three Piano Preludes (1926)      George Gershwin (1898-1937)      II. Andante con moto e poco rubato  
**Worcester Processional**, Op. 83 (1990)      Francis Jackson (b. 1917)  
 Hereford Variations, Op. 22 (2014) Peter Stoltzfus Berton (b. 1968)  
     Theme: Largamente M.U.M. The visible body of God  
     Variation I: Allegro G.F.A. The runner  
     Variation II: Andante J.D.Y. To love  
     Variation III: Adagio U.G.H O thou who camest from above  
     Variation IV: Allegro con fuoco M.H.O. Toccata: The wondrous Cross  
 Elegy (1944)      Sir George Thalben-Ball (1896-1987)  
 Symphony No. 2, Op. 20 (1902)      Louis Vierne (1870-1937) III. Scherzo  
 Pieces de Fantaisie, 3rd Suite, Op. 54      Louis Vierne      VI. Carillon de Westminster

## United for Open Console at UCC



Many thanks to our Hosts  
**Lucia Clemente Falco** (assisted by  
 Sandra Johnson) for opening up United  
 Congregational's rarely used instrument  
 for us to enjoy at our First Monday  
 Open Console event. It was fun to hear  
 and play a valued member of  
 Worcester's instrument collection.  
 Kurt helped fix a cipher and we filled the  
 room (currently sans pews) with  
 glorious music!

Next month we'll visit the 1869 Simmons at the Bullfinch Church in Lancaster.



## AGO MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS AND ONLINE PROFILE UPDATES

You have no doubt heard about **change in membership dues collection** beginning this month. The centralization of dues collection at the national level will help eliminate much paperwork at the local level, and also allows for a consistent electronic collection of dues and information across the guild. Worcester AGO is working to update our own procedures to complement the changes at the national level. We will continue to keep the Worcester AGO profile/membership directory on our website as in the past. Our local system keeps more data than the AGO HQ, so this will mean you will have two profiles, one local and one national. We will work to keep the information consistent among the two systems, but we will need your help along the way.

We have made a few adjustments to help simplify all this! First, on the WorcesterAGO website ([www.WorcesterAGO.org](http://www.WorcesterAGO.org)) you can now easily find the links to login to both the local membership profile and the national ONCARD system. On our website, under the MEMBERS AREA menu near the top middle of the page, the first item listed gets you to the login links for both local and national profiles.

Also, effective today, we have updated your local WorcesterAGO profile login to coordinate with the national login. Your login "username" is now your first initial + last name (i.e. John Smith would be *jsmith*). Your "password" continue to be your National ID number found above your mailing address on your copy of *The American Organist* magazine.

Please look for your renewal invoice via e-mail in the coming days. For those without valid e-mail addresses in the national system a paper invoice will follow in early May.

If you have any questions about ONCARD, your dues renewal, or your local Worcester AGO profile, please contact John Weit ([treasurer@worcesterago.org](mailto:treasurer@worcesterago.org), 508.459.8807)

4/5/2014

## Worcester Premiere of Peter Stolfus Berton's Latest Composition

### *Hereford Variations*, Op. 22 (2014)

Join us Wednesday Noon at Mechanics Hall for a delightful organ concert by Peter S Berton – a part of the Mechanics Hall Year of the Organ Concert Series, Will Sherwood, Artistic Director. Peter will be joined by trumpeter Rachel Long. Among the works performed will be the Worcester Premiere of (excerpts from) the *Hereford Variations*. This concert is a part of Peter's concert tour celebrating this new composition.

*Hereford Variations* is a set of fifteen organ pieces inspired by the life and works of the priest and writer Thomas Traherne (1636-1674), as commemorated in the stained glass windows by Tom Denny (2007) placed in the Audley Chapel at Hereford Cathedral. While the musical program in microcosm is informed by the content of the windows, the structure of the Variations overall is arranged in homage to Variations on an Original Theme for Orchestra ('Enigma'), Op. 36 (1898-1899), by Sir Edward Elgar (1857-1934). Thus, fifteen musical movements are entitled Theme and fourteen Variations. "Elgar was a resident of Hereford between 1904 and 1911, and composed some of his finest works while in the area. In the manner of Bach's cantatas and profound moments from the Passions, a readily known, sung and loved hymn tune, Hereford, and above all its original text's attendant layers of meaning, forms the subject. Such is their multifaceted range of interpretation that the windows, whether by design or destiny, also relate in order extremely well to the four stanzas of this hymn. A second, somewhat similar hymn Rockingham makes appearances in several Variations as related to Traherne's theology and sense of wonder revealed in the windows. History, tour notes, audio & score samples: [www.herefordvariations.org](http://www.herefordvariations.org)



## First Monday Open Console 4/7 7pm @ UCC



**Lucia Clemente-Falco** hosts us at **United Congregational Church**, Institute Rd The (Berkshire) instrument is comprised mostly of the Schantz from the former Chestnut St Congregational (which merged to form United).

Even tho it is currently unused(!) it is quite playable, and Lucia will demonstrate some of the great sounds produced from the front and back divisions.

*Dust off your seismographs!*

Be blown away with the **64' Resultant**,  
the only one for hundreds of miles!

Some of the flutes are drippingly beautiful!

Join us to listen, try-out, or just catch up on local gossip J

## National AGO Election Is More Than Just Officers!

I am forwarding a message from James Thomashower, our AGO Executive Director, to you as chapter members. In this message regarding *national* elections, James asks your help to vote. (Note that this is DIFFERENT from our local chapter elections, which there'll be more information next week)

This election is especially critical to Region I as we combine with New York State, with whom we often combine anyway to have a Region I + II Regional Convention every other year.

James' message here:

*After nearly four days of balloting, Intelliscan has reported to me that 1,869 ballots have been cast in the 2014 Election of National Councillors and Regional Councillors. (See chart below.) That's about 11.5% of all eligible voters. This is an exceptionally important if not historic election, and we traditionally enjoy about a 31% return rate from our members. There's a long way to go in this election which runs through April 30, but I ask that you join me in urging all of your colleagues to vote. Judging from past experience, the margin of victory or defeat may be as little as 2% or even 1% in some races, so truly, every vote counts.*

<https://www.intelliscaninc.net/aqo/2014>

Voting members will only need to record their AGO Member ID number and their last name as printed on their TAO label in order to cast their ballot on line or by using the ballot enclosed in the April issue of TAO.

ELECTION STATISTICS			
	Ballots Returned	Eligible Members	Percent Returned
National	1,869	16,238	11.51%
Northeast Region (former Regions I and II)	337	2,761	12.21%
Mid-Atlantic Region (former Region III)	347	2,791	12.43%
Southeast Region (former Region IV)	265	2,738	9.68%
Great Lakes Region (former Region V)	304	2,526	12.03%
North Central Region (former Region VI)	195	1,659	11.75%

Southwest Region (former Region VII)	177	1,454	12.17%
West Region (former Regions VIII and IX)	244	2,315	10.54%
Total Ballots Received	1,869		100.00%

4/2/2014

**In This 4/2 Issue**

- Passing of longtime member **Marion Rogers**
- First Thursday Lunch Celebrates **POSTLUDE** Repertoire
- First Monday Open Console celebrates the **64' Resultant at UCC**
- **Malcolm Halliday & Will Sherwood** draw near-capacity crowd at Mech Hall (*MP3 organ+brass excerpt below*)
- Elections: National (now!) & Local (soon)
- Holden Church Launches Restoration Project (Casavant)
- Refresher of **FREE resources** on WorcAGO.org
- Technically Inclined – Call for help: **Social Media Chairperson**, etc.
- Not fencing "OnGuard", but **OnCARD** – what does it mean?
- Area Concert Calendar – tired of distorted MP3/recorded music? **support live music!**



Longtime WorcAGO member **Marion Daulton Rogers**, age 97, a former resident of Fitchburg, MA recently of The Huntington at Nashua, Nashua, NH, died on March 31, 2014.

She became a church organist at the age of 15 and served many churches as organist and choir director in the Fitchburg area and throughout Worcester County, lastly at Rollstone Congregational Church in Fitchburg. She was the staff organist at Bosk Funeral Home, Fitchburg, for over 40 years. She played for countless weddings, graduations, musicals and was also a piano and organ teacher for numerous aspiring musicians.

[Read More>>>](#)

**First Thursday Lunch Celebrates POSTLUDE Repertoire This Month**

Join us Thursday 4/3 Noon, Tweeds/Grove St Worcester, when members not only hungry for food but also **hungry for new repertoire** ideas will bring our favorite Organ Postludes – easy to medium range of difficulty.

## First Monday Open Console 4/7 7pm @ UCC



**Lucia Clemente-Falco** hosts us at **United Congregational Church**, Institute Rd The (Berkshire) instrument is comprised mostly of the Schantz from the former Chestnut St Congregational (which merged to form United). Even tho it is currently unused(!) it is quite playable, and Lucia will demonstrate some of the great sounds produced from the front and back divisions.

*Dust off your seismographs!*

Be blown away with the **64' Resultant**,  
the only one for hundreds of miles!  
Some of the flutes are drippingly beautiful!  
Join us to listen, try-out, or just catch up on local gossip ☺



### Near-capacity at Mech Hall for *Peacemakers*

WorcAGO co-sponsored Sunday's performance of Jenkin's *The Peacemakers* featuring a massed choir and orchestra under the co-direction of Malcolm Halliday and Will Sherwood.

This concert was a part of the ongoing series to celebrate the Hook organ's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary – The Year of the Organ.

Opening the program with a blast was Rimsky-Korsakov's *Procession of the Nobles* arranged for Organ Duet and orchestra.

[LISTEN HERE >> MP3](#)

WorcAGO member and organbuilder Stefan Maier was on hand to help with last-minute adjustments, since 150 years has made the Hook particularly sensitive to humidity – and we had just had over 4 inches of rainfall. Mechanics Hall is to be commended for the outstanding care and continuing restoration of our beloved Worcester Organ!

## Elections: National & Local

*Sharpen your pencils and computer mouses: Come to the AGO Polls.*

National Elections are already open (online, now!). WorcAGO has some IMPORTANT financial referendum topics that NEED YOUR VOTE (coming mid-April).

We will be proposing to the membership a nifty outline for usage of some of the Investment Account monies to further the cause of Organ Music in our area – rather than just letting the funds just sit there unused and music left unheard by the public. We'll also be having an affirmation vote for our 2014-16 slate of local chapter officers.

Get your **National ID** handy (it's on your TAO mailing label, 3 to 6 digits right below the asterisks and above your name). No driver's license needed. No Poll Tax. No waiting in line.

## Holden Church Starts Organ Restoration Fund



*Church has faith funds will be raised*

The **Casavant** pipes of Holden's **First Congregational Church** organ were designed to make a joyful noise unto the Lord, but right now they need some help with that task. All 1,274 of them. [Read More >>>](#)

Note that WorcAGO will be visiting another [historic instrument in Holden](#) 6/2 for our last First Monday Open Console of the season.

## At Your Fingertips – PreProgrammed *Web Pistons* Give You Free Access

We'd like to remind you of all the resources available on the web – our website has links to many. Browse our site – much better than TV re-runs!

**Warning:** after browsing, you may suffer from any of the following:  
inspiration, exhilaration, knowledge overload, inquisitiveness, calendar overflow

*A mini-tour:*

- [Free Music](#) (PDFs, libraries, repertoire lists) *Nav Menu:* MEMBERS> Music Resources & Holy Cross WorcAGO Organ Library
- **Organs** (Worc History, Central Mass List of Instruments, OHS database lookup, etc.) *Nav Menu:* ORGANS! > various topics as listed
- WorcAGO Members: **Directory**/search (even if you only know a first name, poke around), Substitute List, Job Openings, etc. *Nav Menu:* MEMBERS AREA> (poke around)
- Update your **member profile** (contact, church, FB/LinkedIN connection, phone, PICTURE!, etc.) *Nav Menu:* MEMBERS AREA (click on "MEMBERS AREA" itself)

## Technically Inclined – We Need Help

Your dean is overwhelmed by all the positive new energies demonstrated by our latest **half dozen or so new members**. We have someone now to help with web editing, but still need someone to help with formatting the newsletter (it's easy, all web-based, the text and pictures are supplied), and we need a Social Media (SM) chairperson to post FaceBook, Instagram, Twitter and other SM channels for our events – we **gotta get the word out to the general public** (and musicians) whose **focus is with SM**, not just web and email. As Cheryl Duerr, our regional councilor, says: people these days are more likely to stumble upon a concert listing rather than be searching for a concert to attend. I think we all agree that it's important to further the "cause" of spreading the good word about organs and organ music and live concerts: please help us accomplish this.

*On-Guard for OnCARD*

## ONCARD Membership Renewal

Starting this year, annual AGO membership dues will be collected and processed by Headquarters in New York City instead of by individual chapters.

The system used is named ONCARD ([Online National Collection and Remittal of Dues](#)), and it will allow members to pay their dues online by credit card. (AGO Executive Director James Thomashower explained the program in the February issue of *The American Organist*, page 7.) An invitation was sent from AGO HQ by e-mail to current members, inviting us to review and update personal data through ONCARD, and to renew membership dues starting in April. Memberships may continue to be renewed or begun paying by check sent through U. S. mail.

3/27/2014

## Passionate *Peace* Resonates from Mechanics Hall

**WorcAGO is co-sponsoring** a large-scale performance of the New England premiere of *The Peacemakers*, utilizing almost 200 choristers from a dozen local groups and an orchestra of 40 to be held **Sunday 4PM 3/30 at Mechanics Hall**.

Malcolm Halliday (Master Singers of Worcester) and Will Sherwood are sharing the podium, joined by the Master Singers of Worcester, the WPI Orchestra and the Worcester Children's Chorus.

Gabrielli antiphonal brass fanfares, and Rimsky-Korsakov's *Procession of the Nobles* (**organ duet** + orchestra) launch the concert, which is a part of the Year of the Organ series celebrating the Hook's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. Tickets available at the door.



Dress rehearsal earlier this week for *The Peacemakers*, concert to be at 4PM Sunday 3/30

### **First Thursday Lunch Bunch Browses POSTLUDES This Month**

In past months, we've had a great time passing around small stacks of scores that we've brought "to the table" – Easter Choral Music, and last month was Organ Preludes... some great suggestions.

For April (Thursday 4/3 Noon, Tweeds/Grove St Worcester), we'll bring our favorite Organ Postludes – easy to medium range of difficulty.

### **First Monday Open Console** 4/7 7pm @ UCC

**Lucia Clemente-Falco** hosts us at **United Congregational Church**, Institute Rd, Worcester.

The (Berkshire) instrument is comprised mostly of the Schantz from the former Chestnut St Congregational (which merged to form United).

Even tho it is currently unused(!) it is quite playable, and Lucia will demonstrate some of the great sounds produced from the front and back divisions.

### **Peter Berton Returns to Worcester** – Wednesday 4/9 Noon – Free

Former Director of Music at All Saints, Peter Stolfus Berton returns to Mechanics Hall's Hook to delight us with some dazzling repertoire in this noontime concert, a part of the **Year of the Organ** series.

Works include: Gigout, Haydn, Gershwin, Jackson, Vierne, and the Worcester Premiere of his newest work: *Hereford Variations* Op. 22

## WorcAGO Composers' Concert Coming in May 4 (3PM) - Free

### Part of the *Year of the Organ Celebration at Mechanics Hall*

Hook Organ Concert with compositions & improvisations by our own members:

Robin Dinda, Lucia Clemente Falco, Malcolm Halliday, Kevin F. Murphy, Dorothy VanAndel Frisch, Peter Krasinski, and Scott Michael Olson

*Dean's Note: We need ushers for this concert!*

## From the Web

### How Does a \$45 Million Viola Sound? (NY Times)

It may well prove to be the most expensive musical instrument in the world — a Stradivari viola, whose asking price will start at \$45 million when it is offered for sale this spring — but, just for a moment, it was held up with no hands.

It is a staggering sum for a fiddle: Its \$45 million base price is more than enough to have saved both [New York City Opera](#), which has folded, and the [San Diego Opera](#), which is also closing because of money woes, or to buy several hundred top-of-the-line concert-quality grand pianos. While there are roughly 600 violins made by Antonio Stradivari, only around 10 of his violas are known to have survived intact. The \$81,000 it cost in 1964, he noted, was more than three times the auction record for a Stradivari violin then.

[READ MORE>>>](#)

## Area Concerts *(click on titles below for more information about each event)*

### 3/30 (Malcolm Halliday & Will Sherwood, directors in Worcester) **AGO** *The Peacemakers*

(Choir, organ, orchestra), part of The Year of the Organ

4/4 (Cambridge) THURSDAYS AT HARVARD: Members of the Harvard Organ Society

4/4 (Dylan Sauerwald, Music Director, Kateri Chambers, Stage Director, Laura Osterlund, Artistic Director in Cambridge) Hildegard von Bingen's Ordo Virtutum

4/5 (Ellen Gilson Voth, Artistic Director; Scott Bailey, Organist/Accompanist in Simsbury) From dawn to dusk: Spring Concerts with Novi Cantori

4/5 (The Seraphim Singers/Jennifer Lester; Peter Krasinski in Chestnut Hill) La Passion de Jeanne D'Arc

4/6 (Northfield) Historic Organ Concert

4/8 (Cambridge) TUESDAYS AT HARVARD: The Gough Duo

### 4/9 (Peter Stoltzfus Berton, organist in Worcester) **AGO** *The Year of the Organ: Free Noontime Concert*

4/10 (Cambridge) THURSDAYS AT HARVARD

4/11 (Christopher Houlihan in Hartford) Organ Recital

4/12 (Michelle Graveline, Salisbury Singers, Assumption College Chorale in Worcester) Beethoven's MISSA SOLEMNIS

4/12 (Ellen Gilson Voth, Artistic Director; Scott Bailey, Organist/Accompanist in Northampton) From dawn to dusk: Spring Concerts with Novi Cantori

4/13 (Carolyn & John Skelton in Gloucester (Annisquam)) TWO for THREE 2:3 The Skeltons Play Two Organs & Harpsichord

4/13 (First Church Choir and Cantata Singers, select Hartford area church choirs. Wayne Dixon, Conductor; David Spicer, Organist in Wethersfield) Palm Sunday Memorial Concert

4/13 (Peter Stoltzfus Berton, organ and the St. John's (West Hartford) Choirs in West Hartford) Hereford Variations Concert - Palm Sunday organ and choir meditation

4/13 (Chorus Angelicus and Gaudeamus and the Choir of St. Patrick-St. Anthony, Directed by Gabriel Löfvall in Hartford) Journey for the Soul: The Music of Fauré and Eric Whitacre

4/18 (Scott Allen Jarrett; Marsh Chapel Choir; Marsh Chapel Collegium in Boston) Marsh Chapel Good Friday Service: BUXTEHUDE Membra Jesu Nostris

4/22 (Boston) PIPES ON THE PLAZA

4/22 (Cambridge) TUESDAYS AT HARVARD: Murray Forbes Somerville

4/24 (Cambridge) THURSDAYS AT HARVARD: Sarah Carlson

4/25 (Alexander Pattavina, organist in Worcester) **AGO** Young Artist Series: Alexander Pattavina, organist

4/26 (Chorus Angelicus and Gaudeamus and the Choir of St. Patrick-St. Anthony, Directed by Gabriel Löfvall in West Hartford) Journey for the Soul: The Music of Fauré and Eric Whitacre

4/26 (Ellen Gilson Voth, Artistic Director; Scott Bailey, Organist/Accompanist in Longmeadow) From dawn to dusk: Spring Concerts with Novi Cantori

4/26 (Scott Allen Jarrett; Marsh Chapel Choir; Marsh Chapel Collegium in Boston) BACH Mass in B minor, BWV 232 (complete)

4/27 (Scott Allen Jarrett; Marsh Chapel Choir; Marsh Chapel Collegium in Boston) The Bach Experience: BACH Mass in B minor (Sanctus, Agnus Dei)

4/27 (Philipp Christ in Worcester) **AGO** Holy Cross Organ Recital - Philipp Christ, Organist

4/27 (Chorus Angelicus and Gaudeamus and the Choir of St. Patrick-St. Anthony, Directed by Gabriel Löfvall in Litchfield) Journey for the Soul: The Music of Fauré and Eric Whitacre

5/4 (Norwell) Erica Johnson, organ, and Daniel Davis, trumpet, perform at First Parish of Norwell

5/4 (Woburn) Memorial Concert for Bill Goodwin

5/4 (WorAGO Composers' Concert in Worcester) **AGO** The Year of the Organ: Free Concert

5/4 (Chorus Angelicus and Gaudeamus and the Choir of St. Patrick-St. Anthony, Directed by Gabriel Löfvall in Litchfield) Journey for the Soul: The Music of Fauré and Eric Whitacre

5/4 (Choirs of St. John's Church West Hartford, the Choir of Church of Christ, Congregational (UCC), Newington, members of CitySingers of Hartford, chamber orchestra in West Hartford) Celebrating Connecticut Composers

5/9 (Jason Roberts, organist in Worcester) **AGO** Young Artist Series: Jason Roberts, organist

3/17/2014

### ***In this 3/17 issue***

- 1<sup>st</sup> B Anthem Competition
- OnCard National AGO Renewal – *Member Profile update requested*
- Boston Bach Bday 329
- HS Student Competition Announced
- Northfield Historic Concert
- England: Royal Festival Hall Organ
- Area Goings On

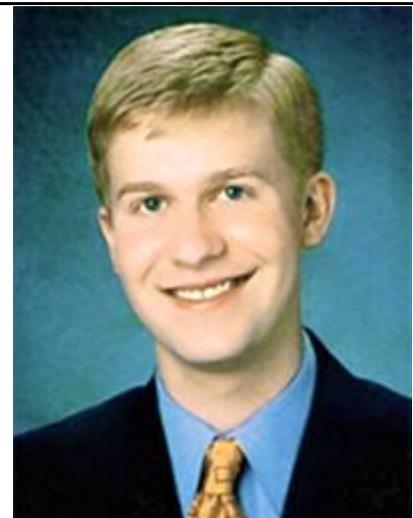
### **First Baptist Anthem Competition Winner Announced**

For the second year in a row a graduate of Eastman School of Music has won the Eighth Annual International Anthem Competition of the **First Baptist Church of Worcester**. Steven Seigart, now a graduate student at Boston University studying choral conducting with Ann Howard Jones, won the \$1550 prize with his composition "**Rejoice in the Lord Always.**"

This year's competition had six entrants from Russia, Germany and the US write an anthem for flute, organ and SATB choir based on the Philippians text. Steven was the unanimous choice of all judges.

Judges for this year's competition were Eleanor Daley of Toronto, Ontario, Canada; Prof. Bruce Neswick of Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana; and Robert J. Powell of Greenville, South Carolina.

The winning anthem will be presented in 10:00 am worship on May 4, the Music and Arts Sunday at First Baptist Church, along with representative anthems from all three judges.



### **ONCARD Membership Renewal**

Starting this year, annual Worcester AGO membership dues will be collected and processed by AGO Headquarters in New York City instead of by individual chapters. The system used is named ONCARD (Online

National Collection and Remittal of Dues), and it will allow members to pay their dues online by credit card. (AGO Executive Director James Thomashower explained the program in the February issue of The American Organist, page 7.)

**An invitation has been sent from AGO HQ by e-mail** to current members, inviting us to review and update personal data through ONCARD, and to renew membership dues starting in April. Memberships may continue to be renewed or begun paying by check sent through U. S. mail.

## **Boston Bach Birthday 329**

Saturday, March 22, 2014, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

First Lutheran Church, 299 Berkeley Street (Berkeley & Marlborough Streets), Boston Cost: Free-Will Offering

Boston AGO and First Lutheran Church of Boston jointly present the sixth annual Boston Bach Birthday celebration.

Full schedule: <http://flc-boston.org/bbb2014>

Reservations for the German Lunch (\$15; children 3-10,

\$10): <https://bachbirthday2014.eventbrite.com>

Contact: [joyceorganist@aol.com](mailto:joyceorganist@aol.com)

FREE ADMISSION  
SATURDAY MARCH 22, 2014 8AM-6:30PM  
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF BOSTON  
299 Berkeley St at Marlborough  
CELEBRATING THE MUSIC OF JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

Presented for the 1<sup>st</sup> time by the First Lutheran Church of Boston and the Boston American Guild of Organists with thanks to Cambridge Cantata, Ecumenical Choir, Lutheran School of Theology at Boston and FLS, WGBH

### BOSTON BACH BIRTHDAY 329

8:00 Members of the Harvard Organ Society  
ORGAN RECITAL

8:00 Toccata, Minuet & Menuet in C Major, BWV 543; Lutebook Chorale

8:45 Peter Dinklage plays organ in the great pipe organ in the basement

9:00 "BACH MEETS BOSTON, A SILENT FILM STAFF" <http://www.bachbirthday2014.org>

9:15 A BACH CONCERTATION

10:00 First Lutheran Church of Boston & Boston American Guild of Organists  
CANTATA "WIR BÄCKEN DIE GOTT, WIR BÄCKEN DIE", BWV 29

10:45 Members of the Harvard Organ Society  
ORGAN RECITAL

11:00 Johann Sebastian Bach: Notebook for Anna Bach, BWV 999  
MOTET "SINGET DEM HERREN EIN NEUES LIED", BWV 225

11:30 Organ Recital  
Toccata in F Major, BWV 543; Six Shorter Chorales, BWV 445-450

12:00 Lunch (Reservations: <http://bachbirthday2014.eventbrite.com>)  
SONATA IN G MAJOR, BWV 1015; SONATA IN G MAJOR, BWV 1027

1:30 Members of the Harvard Organ Society  
MOTET OF BACH'S STUDENT GOTTFRIED AUGUST HANDEL

4:00 Ralph Howard: The Lutheran Organ and His Legacy  
FANTASY & PRÄLUDE IN G MAJOR, BWV 542; PRÄLUDE IN C MAJOR, BWV 522

5:00 Members of the Harvard Organ Society  
A MAJOR PARTITA FOR ORGAN, BWV 826

5:45 Light Refreshment  
PRELUDE AND FUGUE IN E-FLAT MAJOR FOR ORGAN AND PIANO, BWV 552

## **The Twenty First Annual L. Cameron Johnson Memorial ORGAN COMPETITION For High School Students**

Saturday, May 17, 2014, 11 o'clock am STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

on the Campus of the University of Connecticut

- 1st prize \$1,500 offered by Storrs Congregational Church
- 2nd prize \$750 offered by the Northeastern Connecticut & Greater Hartford Chapters, American Guild of Organists
- 3rd prize \$300 offered by Johannus New England

Entries must be submitted by March 31, 2014 containing one composition from each of the following periods:

Baroque, Romantic, and 20th or 21st Century

Rules and application forms available online at [www.northeasternctago.org](http://www.northeasternctago.org)

The L. Cameron Johnson Memorial Organ Competition is sponsored jointly by the Northeastern Connecticut Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and Storrs Congregational Church

## Historic organ concert set for Sunday, April 6 in Northfield

Permelia Singer Sears of Dunstable will give a concert on the oldest, non-altered, **two-manual EG&G Hook organ** in North America. The concert will take place at First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church at the corner of Main Street and Parker Avenue on Sunday, April 6 at 3 p.m., and will benefit First Parish Church. A free will donation of \$10 is suggested.

**Built in 1842** for the Springfield, Mass., Unitarian church, this rare instrument was installed in First Parish in 1871. "Nothing has been changed from the way the Hooks built it back in 1842," says Sears, who is famous for making historic organs sing. Rather than focus on the limitations of early organs, Sears chooses pieces which highlight a particular instrument. Sears says of this instrument, "There's a sweetness to this organ and some pieces just blossom under that."

Joining her on the program are husband David Foster Sears, who plays with the Arlington Philharmonic, and daughter Rebecca Ann Sears, who has appeared in chamber music recitals and was the violin soloist in the premier of David Sears' Violin Concerto for the Arlington Philharmonic.

David Sears says, "We love to make the acquaintance of instruments that other people would find a difficult challenge and we find a wonderful opportunity."

A reception will follow the concert.

For more information, call Lynne Walker at 413-498-5716 or Chris Harris at 413-498-2133.



## Pull Out All the (Refurbished) Stops



Console of the newly refurbished pipe organ

**Royal Festival Hall's** magnificent organ has been undergoing a six-year restoration, thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund and our incredibly supportive audiences. To celebrate its return to full glory, Southbank Centre is presenting Pull Out All The Stops – an organ festival on an unprecedented scale.

[More>>>](#)

## Area Calendar

**New!** on the [AGO calendar](#) (thanks to a suggestion by our Regional Councilor **Cheryl Duerr!** ) --

[Social Media SHARE buttons](#) for each calendar entry:

(1) Simple web link to that single event listing; (2) Share the event with your Facebook friends; (3) Share with your LinkedIn colleagues.

Each line in our listings below are a link to more information.

[3/22 \(Boston\) Boston Bach Birthday 329](#)

[3/25 \(Cambridge\) TUESDAYS AT HARVARD: James D. Hicks](#)

[3/27 \(Cambridge\) THURSDAYS AT HARVARD: Mark Nelson](#)

[3/29 \(The Seraphim Singers/Jennifer Lester; Peter Krasinski in Boston\) La Passion de Jeanne D'Arc](#)

[3/30 \(Malcolm Halliday & Will Sherwood in Worcester\) AGO The Peacemakers 4pm Mech Hall](#)

[4/7 7pm Open Console United Congregational Worcester – an under-utilized instrument](#)

[4/6 \(Northfield\) Historic Organ Concert](#)

[4/8 \(Cambridge\) TUESDAYS AT HARVARD: The Gough Duo](#)

[4/9 \(Peter Stolfus Berton, organist in Worcester\) AGO The Year of the Organ: Free Noontime Concert](#)

[4/10 \(Cambridge\) THURSDAYS AT HARVARD](#)

[4/11 \(Christopher Houlihan in Hartford\) Organ Recital](#)

[4/12 \(Michelle Graveline, Salisbury Singers, Assumption College Chorale in Worcester\) Beethoven's MISSA SOLEMNIS](#)

[4/12 \(Ellen Gilson Voth, Artistic Director; Scott Bailey, Organist/Accompanist in Northampton\) From dawn to dusk: Spring Concerts with Novi Cantori](#)

3/12/2014

### In this 3/12 issue:

- The **Year of the Worcester Organ**
- Elections Selections
- Open Console at Salem Covenant – *revisiting an old friend (Reuter III/34)*
- Verily Verify Thyself!
- Maestro Wada's retirement
- Master Class with David Hill
- National Convention Boston AGO
- Organist Introduces New Partner in Concert Tour
- Happenings . . . (3/16 Kyle Bertulli at Trinity)

## The Year of the Worcester Organ

*Our Pride and Joy, "The Worcester Organ" Is 150 Years Old*



**The Worcester Organ**, installed in 1864, dominates Mechanics Hall's Great Hall. American organ builders Elias and George Hook, brothers from Boston, constructed the 52-stop, 3,504 instrument, which has been called *The Worcester Organ* since its earliest days. It is also called simply the Hook Organ. The Organ has recently undergone a substantial restoration, conducted by Stefan Maier of Orange, MA. A major investment, Mechanics Hall raised \$85,000 for the painstaking work, which took just over a year to complete. The instrument is a tracker organ, which means the keys and pedals are mechanically linked to the air valves—when the keys and pedals are depressed, the valves open to allow air flow into the pipes. Pipe organs, particularly those installed in 19<sup>th</sup> century concert halls and cathedrals, are considered among the most complex and sophisticated “machines” ever constructed.

The Worcester Organ **cost the Mechanics Association \$10,000** to build and install, but even the Hook brothers realized that they could have charged more than double that price for the finished instrument. The Organ was “modernized” three times. In 1889, the pitch was lowered to A435, a pitch that most American orchestras had adopted at the time. Among other changes, the original hand-operated blowing mechanism was replaced by a water-vaporized engine. Hook & Hastings (the successor of the Hook brothers firm) made extensive repairs and possibly some revoicing in 1914. Electro-pneumatic pulldown action was installed and modifications to the wind system were done between 1923 and 1927.

The Worcester Organ was all but forgotten when use of the Hall declined from the 1930s onward. The electro-pneumatic action deteriorated to such condition that the Organ was rendered silent. The Noack Organ Company of Georgetown, MA under the direction of Fritz Noack was engaged in the early 1980s to restore it. Old photographs and scavenged parts of damaged or disused Hook organs were used to piece the instrument back as closely as possible to its authentic self, and the Organ was re-dedicated in September 1982.

Since then, the Worcester Organ has become one of the most popular and respected organs in the United States. It has been featured numerous times on National Public Radio, performed in several recordings, and has been featured on television and in a major motion picture, as well as in a music video starring Michael Crawford, the original “Phantom of the Opera.” It is regularly featured in the Worcester Organ Concert Series begun in 2007 with Frank Corbin as Artistic Director. Will Sherwood is the current Artistic Director of the Series, which has featured young organists and established professionals, silent film accompaniment and choral music. Will has also provided the Hall with the beautiful images of the Hook Organ you see on this page.

## Elections Selections

Every two years WorcAGO chooses a new slate of officers to lead the chapter to new heights.

We welcome write-ins and suggestions to the nomination committee (and it's encouraged to offer your own volunteering services!).

We'll be electing almost all offices this year: Dean, SubDean, Members-At-Large. John Weit has consented to continue with his role as Treasurer and since the Registrar's role is diminished due to National-level collection of dues (renewals, etc.), he will take on that role too. Please let us know if you're interested in helping either as an officer or specific single tasks that further the chapter's vibrant operation.

## Open Console At Salem Covenant

AGO members and churchfolk made for a group of ten for this open console night. Host Brad Hendrickson (organist & director for 34 years at Salem) gave an overview of the Reuter's history and played from 'Suite Medievale' by Langlais. Other members took turns exploring the organ's wide tonal palette with improvisations and works by Bach and others. To wind things up we were 'postluded' by churchmember Gary Landgren who offered some [lively piano wizardry](#) on their [recently](#) restored Steinway grand. The Reuter here is an excellent example of meager beginnings with prepared-for stops, and then a few years later, the church raised funds to complete the original spec. The organ still sounds great, and it was loads of fun to walk around the sanctuary to listen from differing perspectives.

Join us April 7 7pm at United Congregational (one of the instruments on our "[Underutilized Instruments](#)" list!



Salem Covenant Church Open Console

## Verily Verify Thyself!

As we prepare for membership renewals and coalesce our chapter membership records, please check your online profile. Add your picture if you haven't (chapter members want to connect a face with a name with a church)

1. Either search for your "public" information in our online Member Directory  
or  
Check your listing in our PDF Yearbook (emailed to you a few times throughout the year, or posted [temporarily here](#))
2. [Login](#) to your online Profile data form to correct any information that is out of date. Add your picture (upload your jpeg)

Colleagues in our Area:

## Maestro Wada's retirement will leave 'a substantial void' for Thayer Symphony Orchestra



FITCHBURG -- Maestro Toshimasa Francis Wada's shoes are going to be mighty big ones to fill.

Wada, in his 31st year conducting the Thayer Symphony Orchestra, has announced his retirement, effective at the end of the current season. His final show will be the March 29 concert "Bugs Bunny Meets Beethoven," the final concert of the 2013-2014 season, to be held at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School. Chris Asgeirsson of Reading, a longtime percussionist with the TSO, called Wada "a wonderful person and a wonderful conductor" who has done tremendous work to bring classical music to everyone in the area, not just the upper class and elite.

[Read more](#)>>>



### Masterclass with David Hill Saturday, April 26, 2014, 9am-1pm

Masterclass with prominent English choral musician David Hill, conductor of the Yale Schola Cantorum. Prof. Hill will give a presentation and masterclass in choral and organ skills for the church musician. We will start with coffee and end with a catered lunch (sign-up will be required in April). Free and open to all. Location TBD. Contact Lars Gjerde for more information: [lars@larsgjerde.com](mailto:lars@larsgjerde.com)

### National Convention Boston AGO June 23-27, 2014

The four and a half day convention offers:

- Fifty concerts by thirty-acclaimed musicians, instruments, and our
- Eight finely crafted worship from Renaissance polyphony
- Ninety workshops and master
- Fifty-two scholarly research
- Fourteen commissioned
- Ten reading sessions of choral and organ music;
- More than one hundred exhibitors;
- Two national competitions and opportunities to hear previous competition winners;
- An opportunity to explore one of this nation's greatest cities.



seven performers, featuring internationally Boston's rich choral heritage, many new famous landmark organs. services in a wide variety of styles, featuring music to Duke Ellington; classes on a vast array of topics; papers; works;

Headquartered in the heart of Boston's beautiful Back Bay, the Marriott Hotel at Copley Place is central to our many great churches and Symphony Hall.

Boston's compact core allows for easy walking or use of our public transit system to events in Boston and Cambridge. Our teams of volunteers will easily guide you to find convention venues and to enjoy Boston's beautiful neighborhoods. On Friday we offer side trips to Methuen, Shanklin, and Wellesley for a limited number.

Come to Boston to renew acquaintances and make new friends. Arrive early and enjoy a wealth of pre-convention activities.

Register early to assure the availability of your preferred choices. To register, click [here](#) For the convention's main website, click [here](#)

Philadelphia Classical music review (a rare organ concert write-up)

## Organ recital full of revelations

Once again, the Kimmel Center's Fred J. **Cooper Memorial Organ** emerged from its splendid semi-isolation with revelations at many turns Sunday with the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. Organ recitals have their audience, but recent collaborations have uncovered important but neglected repertoire and perhaps have expanded the organ audience. In Sunday's program of Handel, Josef Rheinberger, and Joseph Jongen (with four different soloists), the big discovery was Stephen Paulus' 1992 Concerto for Solo Organ, Timpani, and Percussion.

It's a terrific piece that would have to rank among the best American organ concertos of the last century, with four hefty movements that strike out in many directions, from elegiac to comic, with equal conviction. The organ made a crazy, explosive first-movement entrance in a piece that found several places of harmonic stability, only to leap away from them in compulsive sorties to everywhere and nowhere. Most entrancing was the second movement, with the organ creating a liturgical atmosphere joined by a sensuously pagan violin solo playing in an intriguingly alien key. [Read](#)

[more >>>](#)

## Organist Introduces New Partner in Concert Tour



**Cameron Carpenter** Performs on His Long-Awaited Touring Instrument Built by **Needham, Mass**-based firm

Like him or hate him, he attracts attention to the King of Instruments, and hopefully piques the interest of the younger crowd. Recall that Virgil Fox was highly controversial during his time!

Every pipe organ in every concert hall and church in the world is essentially built to order and, of course, immobile. Each is also usually conceived with a specific repertory in mind. Important touring organists must adjust to each instrument and locale, which can be fascinating, frustrating or both. [Read More>>>](#)

3/8/2014

**Reminder to set your clocks 1 hr ahead.** Get me to the church on time. We lose an hour.

**Second Monday Open Console** at Salem Covenant Monday 3/10 7pm –

(was postponed due to potential snow – hey: we're organists not weatherforecasters!)

Brad Hendrickson (former subdean) is our host. 1969 Reuter III/38 Op. 1864



3/5/2014

**First Thursday Lunch – Tweeds** Noon 3/6 - Preludes to pass around

**Bring/share your favorite coupla preludes.** 229 Grove St, Worcester [RSVP](#) appreciated (for us to make reservations – several have already)

Last month was a hit with choral repertoire, so we'll be sharing thoughts for our favorite easy-medium preludes.

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Reuter III/38

❖ **ORGAN SPECIFICATIONS** ❖

**Great Organ**

8' Principal 61 pipes  
8' Gedeckt 61 pipes  
4' Octave 61 pipes  
4' Nachthorn 61 pipes  
2' Fifteenth 61 pipes  
Mixture III 183 pipes  
8' Trompette 61 pipes  
Chimes  
Great to Great 16'  
Unison Off  
Great to Great 4'

**Choir Organ**

8' Nasonflote 61 pipes  
8' Gemshorn 61 pipes  
8' Gemshorn Celeste 49 pipes  
4' Spiliflote 61 pipes  
2' Spitz Principal 61 pipes  
1½' Quinte 61 pipes  
1' Sifflothe 61 pipes  
Zimbel II 122 pipes  
8' Krummhorn 61 pipes  
Tremolo  
Choir to Choir 16'  
Unison Off  
Choir to Choir 4'

**Swell Organ**

16' Rohr Gedeckt 12 pipes  
8' Rohr Gedeckt 61 pipes  
8' Viole de Gambe 61 pipes  
8' Viole Celeste 49 pipes  
4' Spitz Principal 61 pipes  
4' Koppelflote 61 pipes  
2⅔' Nazard 61 pipes  
2' Blockflote 61 pipes  
1⅓' Tierce 61 pipes  
Mixture II-III 164 pipes  
8' Trompette 61 pipes  
Tremolo  
Swell to Swell 16'  
Unison Off  
Swell to Swell 4'

**Pedal Organ**

32' Acoustic Bourdon  
16' Principal 32 pipes  
16' Bourdon 32 pipes  
16' Rohr Gedeckt (SW)  
8' Principal 12 pipes  
8' Bourdon 12 pipes  
8' Rohr Gedeckt (SW)  
4' Principal 12 pipes  
4' Bourdon 12 pipes  
Mixture III 96 pipes  
16' Fagott 32 pipes  
8' Fagott 12 pipes  
4' Krummhorn (CH)

16 Couplers  
5 Adjustable General Combinations  
duplicated by Toe Studs  
20 Manual and Pedal Combinations  
Crescendo Pedal  
Full Organ Piston and Roe Stud  
Great, Swell, Choir to Pedal Reversible  
Pistons and Toe Studs

**Positive Healing Energies for Speedy Recoveries – Among Our Members**

Our WorcAGO chaplain and longtime AGO member (and former MH curator) Rev Richard Jones is home resting after several cancer treatments and surgery. He is expected to make a full recovery, altho it'll be a long road of recovery. Please join us in wishing him well and patience throughout his procedures.

Edla Ann Bloom is home recovering from back surgery, a procedure which has finally gained her significant pain relief. We fondly recall her hospitality and great food at our Twelfth Night party at the Bloom Residence. Best wishes for continued healing!

## Our Own Malcolm Halliday to perform at Mechanics Hall

We celebrate the 150th anniversary of the beautiful Mechanics Hall Hook organ (and its recent refurbishment) by opening the concert with Adagio and Finale from *the Sonata no. 1 in F minor* by Felix Mendelssohn. An exciting performance that will offer the chance to hear The Worcester Chorus in this mass that sounds like an opera! This is vintage Rossini, full of wonderful melodies, and will also feature performance on the newly restored Hook organ of Mechanics Hall.

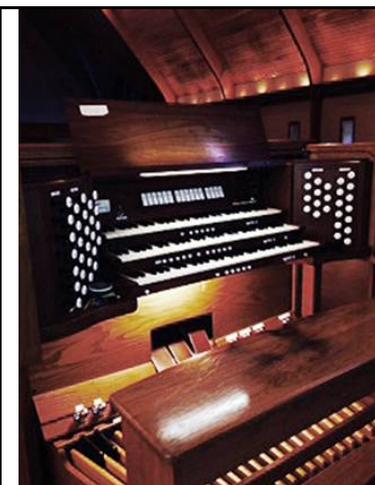
### Patented Breakthrough Technology: **Organ Bench Leveling Device**



Amazingly reliable, micro-adjusting technology unearthed by WorcAGO chapter Dean while substituting for a funeral

3/1/2014

**March Open Console POSTPONED One Week** - 7pm 3/10/14



"Second Monday" Open Console this month  
Is at Salem Covenant – 1969 Reuter III/42 Op. 1864

WorcAGO member Bradford Hendrickson is this month's host at Salem Covenant Church (East Mountain St, Worc)

WorcAGO last heard this versatile instrument in a hymn-playing workshop and an organ-piano duet concert. Join us to try out the instrument, and catch up with all your colleagues.

Kurt Blomstrom is our series coordinator.

April's Open Console is at United UCC (sanctuary currently unused for services),



February's Open Console at First Presbyterian featured a tour and demonstration of their 1895 Gilbert & Butler, hosted by 1<sup>st</sup> Pres organist Elliot Browning and Gary MacConnell.

### **First Thursday Lunch Bunch to discuss *Prelude* Repertoire**

March 6 (noon) at Tweeds (Grove St, Worcester, plenty of easy parking) will feature a lively discussion and passing around of our favorite (easy to medium) Preludes.

Last month's choral repertoire was quite well received.



*Please don't spill mustard on the tenor part!*

(February's discussion and sharing centered around Lent/PS/Easter choral repertoire)