

The Worcester Organist

Newsletter of the
WORCESTER CHAPTER
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

POST OFFICE BOX 20208 • WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS • 01602



MARCH-APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2011

VOLUME IV ISSUES V,VI

In this issue: May Chapter Program; Preview of Annual Report; Summary of earlier programs

Annual Meeting and Scholarship Recital in May

Our annual meeting, albeit very brief this year, will be held on May 22 at 7pm at First Baptist followed by a delightful concert by our 2010-11 Scholarship Students playing works of Wilbur Held, Austin Lovelace, John Ferguson, D. Buxtehude, and Bach. A reception will follow – get reconnected with your colleagues!

Below is a preview summary and outline of our Annual Report – hope you can attend to see the full report’s juicy details!

State of the Chapter – 2010-2011 - May, 2011 - from Dean Will Sherwood, ChM, AAGO

Summary

2010-2011 was a productive year with respect to organizational accomplishments, but a disappointing year regarding general interest in WorcAGO from the membership. A lot of effort was put in to setting up the year’s 15 events, and member attendance ranged from 2 to 15 for these programs (out of a membership of 142). We’ve had very little feedback in terms of what we can improve to serve your needs better, so we continue to guess what will benefit the membership overall: we’re flying blind and using our best judgment. In this report, you’ll find an enumeration of the major aspects of the chapter, our activities, and future plans.

Chapter Mission Statement:

The Worcester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists educates and empowers local organists by providing resources to develop their skills and to network with other members of the arts community and church music profession in Central Massachusetts. It heightens the visibility of the pipe organ and its music by promoting recitals and recording projects, workshops, and other programs while actively supporting the next generation of organists by providing scholarships, seminars, and performance opportunities for young musicians.

Program Goals:

WorcAGO would like to take advantage of the talents of our members and the quality of Worcester’s organs to provide programs that will appeal to all of our members and provide learning and networking opportunities for colleagues and enthusiasts to connect and improve their skills.



WorcAGO Membership

WorcAGO is one of 369 AGO chapters: our group comprise about 1/2% of the total national membership of some 20,000...

(additional topics covered...)

Chapter Accomplishments

Chapter Programs – The Year In Review (pictures and reviews in WorcAGO blog)

Open Lofts 2010-2011 (pictures and reviews in WorcAGO blog)

Finances

Scholarships and Scholarship Fund

Publicity Summary for 2010-11

Volunteering – Accomplishments 2010-11

Volunteering – Our Wishlist Continues – *How Can You Help?*

The year ahead: 2011-2012 Programs and Goals

Here's a summary of recent announcements and events, hope you were able to attend.

get hooked

Set your pistons for 7pm on Monday April 4 for our final “First Mondays” Open Loft gathering for this 2010-11 season. (and maybe final forever—previous attendance has often been poor with 2-5 people in attendance)

Mechanics Hall, E.G & G. Hook 1864 Organ: 52 stops, 64 ranks, 3504 pipes

Because seating is limited on stage, you will need to [RSVP](#). We will notify you which door will be open and the *specific window of time* you will be permitted to enter.



Richard Jones, former curator at the hall, presented a brief history of the hall, and the organ and its restoration in the late 1970s and early 80s.

Stefan Maier updated us on the more recent ongoing restoration projects and the future of the instrument. After a brief demo of the instrument, we had tours of the chambers. Playing is limited to 5 minutes (SIGN UP when you arrive! – 12 slots only; please preview the [stoplist](#) so you'll be familiar and not spend 4 of the 5 minutes deciding which stops to pull), and tours of the chambers 5 people at a time (BE CAREFUL, it's an antique!!) Request or offer a carpool ride at http://worcesterago.org/members_area/tools/ (second form) Unfortunately there are a few steps involved to get up on stage. We'll try to get anyone unable to negotiate the stairs as close as possible with a seat on the main level.

announcements

- **Dues** will be **collected at the chapter level** again this year (the new National dues system is not ready for release this year). Please **renew at your earliest convenience, preferably online** www.WorcAGO.org/membership. We **expended some 70 hours** of volunteers' time last summer calling people to renew—we just cannot expend that type of energy again this year (we'd rather be teaching or practicing or performing!).
 - The new "**Substitutes List**" searchable database is now online. Although it's always listed weddings and funerals in addition to church services, there's more visibility now for all types of performing. We're working on making this list more visible to brides etc to get you folks more gigs! . . . Another benefit of WorcAGO membership.
 - **First Thursdays LUNCH BUNCH** – A beta test of this suggested idea will be held in April and May to determine interest.
An informal lunch (pay your own lunch) for socializing and networking was held at **noon 4/7** at Thai Place, Rt 9 Shrewsbury (White City plaza). The next event is **Thursday 5/5**.
-

miscellanea

FREE (Jazz musicians LOVE Hammonds)

Friends of ours from Massachusetts have a 1960 spinet (2 manual, 3.5 octaves) Hammond organ model M3 with the serial number 135995 which can be obtained for free. It is located in Reading, MA in a finished basement room. At the time of purchase it cost \$1,400. and has been always owned by the same person. Someone wanting this organ will need to move it from Reading, MA.

Please contact me at stagerfamily@vermontel.net , and I will connect you with our MA friends.

Thank you for your help.

John Stager (former member of Worcester Chapter AGO)
Wells, VT

subs ahoy!

We have deployed our new Online Substitute database, which will:

1. Allow churches to do a **more effective search** when looking for subs
2. Allow YOU to **post and update your profiles instantly** online

We have looked at several chapters' substitute lists and taken the best aspects of all to make ours truly wonderful and effective at getting you work!

Because this is new, you will want to login to the Profile Editor and update your information. (Even if you were among the few in our test group, please double check, a few additional fields were added)

For those without internet access, call someone on the board to enter the information interactively for you.

Note: The online Substitute Database Search serves a similar function as the previous (static) lists that were manually updated quarterly upon request. Previously musicians were listed in several categories that were sometimes confusing to both the musicians and the churches. With a database solution, we are able to record your preferences/availability in much more detail than before, and churches will accordingly be able to do a more surgical search such that the results will likely have better logistical matches for their needs. The database search is one-way only: musicians post, churches search. Once contacted by a church, you can then discuss more specifics about the church and its instruments.

Here is the process:

1. Access your profile at: <http://worcago.org/placements/subst-admin.php>
2. Login using your **LAST NAME** (no spaces), and your **National ID** (on your TAO label, just above your name on the left)
3. Go through all the fields to set them according to your own situation and preferences.
Note: nothing is perfect – pick the closest value/selection that represents you the way you would want a church to find you. Check all that apply to you. You can always say no if a church contacts you and it's not quite the match you wanted.
It's okay to leave boxes unchecked: for instance, if you don't do singing or directing, leave all of those unchecked.
4. Once you've looked at all your settings to make sure they are as you like them, click on UPDATE at the bottom
5. Then go to the search page to pretend you're a church looking for a musician (for a service, funeral, wedding) and see if you're found and how your data is displayed.
6. If you don't like how you look, go back to step #1 and edit thyself.
7. For first-time substitutes (not currently on the list), at present, you'll need to contact the Dean to be enabled as a member, and then you can fill in your details.

Some particulars about certain fields:

- **BROADCAST RESTRICTIONS:**

Because of the increasing usage of audio and video recording and broadcasting of services, we have included several "levels" of recording that a church might do: from *nothing at all*, to *live TV/internet video broadcasting*. Most churches will just record audio on CDs for shut-ins and Sunday School teachers. If you don't want to be considered for live TV, for instance, then select the next "lower" (less restrictive) level that you are comfortable with (the drop-down list is in order of *increasing confrontiveness*). You can always select the bottom one (Live TV) in your profile and then discuss it when they contact you.

- **MINIMUM FEES:**

Please enter the minimum amount you would perform the service for – separately for church services, funerals, weddings (most people have different fees for each).

Enter only the dollar amount, but NO dollar sign, and no .00 – thus usually 3 digits.

The lower an amount you enter, the more likely you'll be matched with a church, and you can discuss it in detail when they contact you.

Example: If you set a *minimum fee* of \$300, and a church can only pay \$200, then you would *not* be listed in their search results.

As a professional guild, we strive to have employers value the services we musicians offer, thus we encourage you not to under-sell yourselves.

Because this is a new online service (we are not aware of any other chapter offering this!), we are starting out leniently with the concept of fees—I'm sure your dean will hear plenty of discussion on both sides of more restrictive and more lenient fees. (Please don't pester him too much, it's taxing enough just to get this far!) We can refine as we go in future months with experience of using the new tool.

- **AVAILABILITY:**

Since neither you nor we want to keep your calendars precisely up to date for these purposes, we have chosen to do a GENERAL AVAILABILITY categorization. You choose, in general, the days of the week and times of days that you're typically available. You can always discuss specific dates when the church calls you.

In particular, the timeframe Sunday Mornings is split into Summer and non-Summer, since this is the most common differentiation (if any).

bach bash



TRINITY LUTHERAN, WORCESTER

5PM SUNDAY MARCH 13

FREE WorcAGO MEMBERS' RECITAL

73 Lancaster St (Lancaster @ Salisbury- across from the Art Museum)

Prelude & Fugue in E-flat, BWV 552

Prelude and Fugue in C, BWV 545

Toccat, Adagio, and Fugue in C, BWV 564

Wachet auf, Meine Seele, O Mensch, Kommst du nun

Chorale Preludes

Performing:

John Weit, Peter Krasinski, Brett Maguire, Dominic Richards

"It's restaurant week in Worcester." (Discounts!)

Meet up with your colleagues and dine after the event – lots of nearby possibilities.

TRINITY HAS A LARGE PARKING LOT, thus no problem parking!

Tomorrow's the day—5 pm is the time—
Music of J. S. Bach presented by four of your fellow
members who answered the call to perform. Bring a
friend to this free admission event at Trinity
Lutheran, Worcester.

scholarly

ATTENTION AGO **TEACHERS** AND MEMBERS:

The WorcAGO Scholarship Committee is again offering financial awards to students of the organ for the year 2011-2012.

Deadline for applications is **March 31, 2011.**

The committee is urging teachers to inform their students(any age) of this opportunity.

Letters of intent should include:

- Goals, brief musical bio, repertoire

- Recommendation by your teacher (organ preferably)
- Name of teacher with whom you'll be studying

For those selected, the following MUST be received by email to dean@worcesterAGO.org before any funds are released.

- A (jpg) photo, and short bio text (for use on our web site and scholarship publicity to our membership)
- Current membership renewal for WorcAGO, or membership application (sent to our registrar OR new online membership)

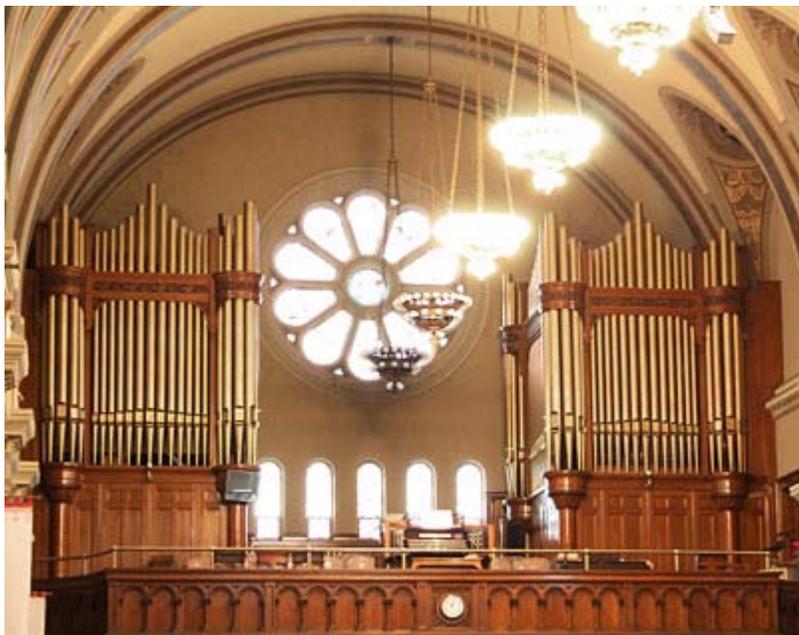
Other regulations and procedures should be consulted at the AGO website under Education> Scholarship Program.

Letters of intent should be sent (hardcopy) to:

AGO Scholarship Committee

Janeen Baker, Chair, 44 Leominster Road, Princeton MA 01541

a touch of france



HOLY FAMILY – OPEN LOFT

What an evening to enjoy the architecture of one of the finest church architecture examples in Central Mass, and of course be up front and personal with the historic and exquisite Casavant!

Steve St. Denis will present a brief history of the instrument followed by Lucia Clemente-Falco's demonstration of the variety of high-French voicing in the instrument. Then it's your turn!!

Holy Family Parish is at 35 Hamilton St, Worcester, across the street from St Stephens, between Plantation and Dupont

The 1928 Casavant Frères organ in St. Joseph Church (Opus 1239, 3/29) will begin 83 years of service this Easter Sunday. All chapter members and friends are invited to an open console on this grand organ in the very live acoustics of Saint Joseph Church. Come hear this remarkable survivor, once slated for removal and actually silenced for three years in the 1990s as plans for closing the church were made. With recent parish consolidations and closures in Worcester, the fate of the organ was again in question but again Saint Joseph Church and the Casavant organ have remained intact. With a renewed Christian mission as Holy Family Parish, the organ continues to inspire organists and enlivens the sacred worship for this community on "French Hill". Come visit, play, and hear the oldest surviving Casavant organ in the city of Worcester. Lucia Clemente-Falco Organist/Music Director, Holy Family Parish Worcester, Stephen St. Denis, Curator.

Worcester member David Hagberg comments about the church building architecture:

St. Joseph's church building was completed in 1928. The Thomas & Company firm of Worcester was awarded the contract to do the interior woodwork and other details. My paternal grandfather, Martin Hagberg, was one of

those woodworkers. Most of the employees of the Thomas & Co. firm were of Swedish heritage, with the exception of the wood carver named Adolf Zwinck. He was German. Most of the men, my grandfather included, spoke Swedish in the shop. I don't know how Mr. Zwinck dealt with that.

Although my grandfather rarely talked about the work he did when he was young, after he died I met one of his fellow workers from his Thomas & Co. days, who told me that the whole shop regarded the St. Joseph's job as the best one they ever did. The interior woodwork in that church certainly is of remarkably high quality.

High up in the chancel is a cross, applied to the ceiling, in yellow gold leaf with a blue background. It is remotely possible that my grandfather applied the gold leaf, as that was one thing he was known to be good at. I cannot look at that cross without thinking that the prominent sacred symbol also looks very like the Swedish flag. I suspect the other workers might have shared that opinion, and if they did, must have thought it was a good joke on the many people of French heritage that made up the parish.

On the roof of the building is something that is geologically remarkable: red slate. Red slate comes from just one place in the world, which is on the border of Vermont and New York. Red slate, unlike the nearby and very common "Vermont Sea Green" slate, is very difficult to wrest from the earth and turn into a usable product. However, red slate is extremely durable, and is by far the most expensive slate available. (It is still available, for an astonishingly steep price.) The roof on St. Joseph's church was the best roof at that time that human hands could make, and with all the advances in technology since then, still is. The roofing alone says a lot about the faith and the stewardship of the original members of the congregation.

The Casavant organ, of course, is a masterpiece in its own right, but that is preaching to the choir.

On the basis of the above information, I rate St. Joseph's as one of the most noteworthy church buildings in Worcester. An open console night at such an extraordinary place will be a special treat. Those that attend should remember what the building has weathered storms of hurricanes and of questionable futures: the church was forced to be closed for 4 years, the first of which the parishioners occupied the building 24/7. After they were evicted by a court order, they continued to meet for the next three years outside the then-fenced property for a nightly prayer service on the sidewalk. A "farewell" organ concert had been held to a packed church just before the closing.

Lois Toepfner sends her regrets and best wishes:

I wish I could be in attendance but there is a Worship Commission meeting at St. John that I must attend. Since I have played a recital on St. Joseph's instrument, I do know the beauty of the instrument as well as the wonderful acoustical space. I'm happy to see that through the efforts of many dedicated parishioners, this space continues to be regularly used and music on the Casavant is apparent at worship services. I recall how wonderful the instrument was when I premiered Dan Locklair's "In Wonder and Praise" at St. Joe's at the time of Casavant's anniversary. Please extend my greetings to all those attending.

Lois

friend and colleague

PETER J. GOMES DIES AT AGE 68 *(See our blog for more details & his Worcester Connection)*

May 22, 1942–February 28, 2011

AGO National Chaplain (1979–1981) and Distinguished Minister of
Harvard University's Memorial Church Remembered

organ competition

Worcester had no applicants for this year's Quimby competition. Robin Dinda is our competition coordinator. Worcester's competition was to be held Mar 5 2011. Encourage your students to enter in two years!

Boston's coordinator sums it up well:

Every other year, the Boston Chapter of the American Guild of Organists sponsors an organ playing competition for competitors under 24 years of age as of August 1 of the year in which they compete. It is a part of the AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions, which are made possible by a generous grant from Michael Quimby, President, Quimby Pipe Organs, Inc. Our chapter competition for 2011 is scheduled to take place on April 2, 2011. A location has been selected but is not being disclosed as yet since the final location will depend on who the competitors are. As competition coordinator, I encourage any chapter member young enough to compete to do so, and/or to encourage any of your students or other young people to compete. Guild membership is not required in order to compete. I have coordinated the competitions for several years now, and it is always exciting to see and hear exceptional young talent performing. I hope that all chapter members will put this on their calendars and be there to encourage competitors. Winner of the chapter competition will go on to compete at the regional level against winners from other chapters in our region. The regional competitions will be in Morristown, New Jersey, in July, 2011. There is a \$50 application fee to participate. Applications must be postmarked no later than January 21, 2011, so time is short. Rules and repertoire requirements are available on the Guild's website.

As of this moment, we have NO competitors!! Please encourage any qualified young people to enter.

Any questions may be directed to the undersigned. I look forward to an exciting competition!

David Baker, Competition Coordinator

dgb137@mac.com

january workshop

Workshop: Technology for the Musician – *MADE SIMPLE*

1st U choir loft 10-noon 1/15/11 (SNOW: 1/22) – Enter State Street lower side door (lower parking lot, next to (snow-covered) garden patio)
90 Main St, Worcester

This presentation is a sampling of live demos for what is possible, rather than a tutorial on *how to do* each concept. Our goal is to wow you and then inspire you to return to your own music programs to see what works for you and how to use specific techniques/tools to enhance your music program's success.

10:00 INTRO: THE VERY BASICS/DEFINITIONS

- Email vs. Web
- Links!
- Your computer & browser may not be configured to display/play all media files (PDF, MP3, etc.)
- Browsers; URL web address vs. search phrase field
- Google, Wikipedia - Your portals into the information world
(Your statute of limitations has not expired with Wikipedia for topics you think you "should have known"!)
- What is a blog/forum/newsgroup/RSS feed
- What is YouTube?
- Tour of WorcAGO web site

10:30 THE MUSICIAN AS AN INTERNET "CONSUMER" (VIEWER/USER)

- Organ/Choral/Instr: rep ideas, listen, hear how others perform pieces
- Discussions: Blogs, forums, RSS
- News: web articles, press releases, filtered/aggregated RSS feeds/readers
- Scores: View archived/old scans; FREE PDFs; purchase
- Purchase: MP3, CD, DVD, PDF Scores
- Research/Connect/Network
- Education: view tutorials, explore topics (choral directing, organ performance, organbuilding)
- How YouTube can widen your horizons and save you money!

11:00 THE MUSICIAN AS AN INTERNET "PRODUCER" (PUBLISHER/CREATOR)

- Communication (web/email schedules/reminders; kudos/thanks; planning; email lists; SMS text mssg emergency alerts/cancellations)
- (Web-based) Reh “tapes”, instructions/details, homework, online(!) “rehearsals” (Seriously!)
- Choir/etc pictures
- Audio/video of past performances
- Publish reference materials, arrangements
- Repository of: score library database, MP3 references, etc.
- Sell your (Church’s) CDs
- Promote/advertise concerts/services

11:30 MP3, MIDI BASICS

- Definitions: MP3, WAV, MIDI
- Use MP3 & MIDI as *at-home* choral rehearsal tools
- Conversions among audio/CD/video/DVD formats
- MIDI capture, editing, playback
- MIDI applications in church services: the absentee accompanist (direct while MIDI accompanies; be somewhere else while your MIDI plays back in the service); Record your pieces and go out into the room to listen (balance); organ duets(!)
- Capture what you improvise
- If the MIDI gods are with us, we’ll have a fun MIDI ending.

Summary of THE CONSOLE Chapter News Online (blog)

4/5/2011 - Congratulations to First Place Winner Jennifer McPherson
 4/4/2011 - First Mondays Open Loft at Mechanics Hall - see [pictures](#)
 4/3/2011 - See [pictures](#) from area concerts at Holy Cross and All Saints
 3/27/2011 (Our Own) Peter Krasinski Is Not So Silent At the Consoles
 3/24/2011 (Our own) Robin Dinda Selected to premiere organ concerto in Region IV Convention
 3/23/2011 Welcome Lunch for Graeme McCullough
 3/7/2011 First Monday Open Loft: Holy Family (St Joseph’s), Worcester
 3/3/2011 PETER J. GOMES DIES AT AGE 68 - May 22, 1942–February 28, 2011
 2/20/2011 Congratulations to Frank Corbin on the occasion of his new appointment in Ipswich - CB Fisk II/23
 2/19/2011 New Arrival in David Moulton’s Family!
 2/7/2011 First Monday Open Loft: Immaculate Conception, Worcester [See Blog picture gallery](#)
 1/9/2011 Welcome Graeme McCullough, new Organist & Dir of Music at All Saints
 1/6/2011 Moller Organ Factory Annex Major Fire (Eastern Organ Pipes, Inc.) Hagerstown, MD
 1/3/2011 First Monday Open Loft St John’s Sutton [See Blog picture gallery](#)

Placements (Jobs) and Substitute Listings are viewable online

(The online Substitute list is current as of the last member’s update)

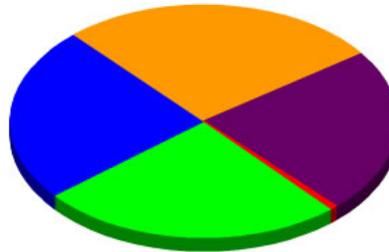
Worcester Chapter Mission Statement

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Lyrics of YMCA that people know

"The Last Page"

Web humor



GraphJam.com

<p>Worcester Chapter American Guild of Organists P.O. Box 20208, Worcester, MA 01602 Web: www.WorcesterAGO.org</p>	<p>Jean Breidenbach, Registrar 99 Waterford Dr., Worcester, MA 01602 Phone: 508-752-7613 E-Mail: registrar@WorcesterAGO.org</p>
<p>Will Sherwood, Dean 171 Rowley Hill Rd., Sterling, MA 01564 Phone: 978-422-7195 E-Mail: dean@WorcesterAGO.org</p>	<p>Calendar, Placements & Substitutes Coordinator</p> <p>David Moulton, Secretary 10 Maple Dr., Auburn, MA 01501 Phone: 978-943-6098 E-Mail: secretary@WorcesterAGO.org</p> <p>Placement listing fee is \$20.00 for 4 mos., payable in advance to: Worcester Chapter American Guild of Organists P.O. Box 20208, Worcester, MA 01602</p>
<p>Brett Maguire, Sub-Dean 46 Elm St. #9, Worcester, MA 01609 Phone: 508-667-0655 E-Mail: subdean@WorcesterAGO.org</p>	<p>Worcester AGO Website links:</p> <p>Membership – www.WorcesterAGO.org/membership Online Store – www.WorcesterAGO.org/store Blog – www.WorcesterAGO.org/blog</p>
<p>Lois Hagberg, Treasurer 485 Grove St. Apt. 26C, Worcester, MA 01605 Phone: 508-853-5070 E-Mail: treasurer@WorcesterAGO.org</p>	<p>Region I Councilor</p> <p>E Lary Grossman 24 King St., Hatfield, MA 01038 Phone: 413-247-9426 Cell: 413-687-7228 E-Mail: elg@bradygrossman.com Blog: www.agonewengland.blogspot.com</p>
<p>National Headquarters American Guild of Organists 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1260, New York, NY 10115 Phone: 212-870-2310 Web: www.agohq.org</p>	



**WORCESTER CHAPTER
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS**

POST OFFICE BOX 20208
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2011 CHAPTER PROGRAM CALENDAR SUMMARY
Always check web site for last-minute changes

1/3: 7pm First Monday Open Loft, St John's Episcopal, Sutton (*RSVP)

1/15 (snow:1/22) Sat. 10am-12: **Organ Tech & Mus Pgm Tech MADE EASY:**

*Learn What's Possible - Will Sherwood at 1st U (*RSVP)*

2/7: 7pm Open Loft - (tbd) please check web site (*RSVP)

2/21: 9am **Pedals, Pipes & Pizza -Free** (*RSVP <--really needed!)

CANCELLED

2/27: 4pm - **Members Organ+Plus Recital**, CANCELLED

3/7: 7pm Open Loft, Holy Family Parish (formerly St Joseph's) (*RSVP)

1928 Casavant III/31 Lucia Clemente Falco and Stephen St. Denis hosts

3/13: 5pm - **Members Bach Recital**, Trinity Lutheran

4/4: 7pm Open Loft, Mechanics Hall, 1864 E&G Hook IV/65 (*RSVP)

5/22: 7pm - **Scholarship Recipients Recital & Annual Meeting** - First Baptist

(RSVP link on web site (preferred) or leave message at 978 286 1083)

CHECK WEB SITE FOR **SNOW** / RE-SCHEDULINGS

