

WorcAGO Newsletter Collection – Sept – Dec 2014

(latest emails shown first; repeated items omitted)

2014-15 WorcAGO PROGRAM YEAR, Spring-Winter 2015

January 4 Twelfth Night Party

Private Residence - Huge Success and lots of fun!

February 6 (13 snow) Friday Hymn-Sing with Organ Preludes **7:00 p.m.**

St. Peter's Church, Worcester

Saturday, March 7, 2015 at 7:00 PM String Quartet "plus" concert Shrewsbury Congregational on the Common
Chamber music for strings with three different keyboard instruments, including Schumann's celebrated Piano Quintet in E flat major, the Rheinberger Suite for violin, cello and organ, op. 149, and the world premiere of Fitchburg composer Robin Dinda's Organ Concertino #1 with the J. W. Walker Box organ.

March 14 (no snow) 10AM Practical Ideas for Hymn Playing/Leading and 1PM Choir Directing for Church Musicians

Trinity Lutheran Church, Worcester

Lunch, open console, music sale fundraiser

April 24 Young Artists Showcase: Jonathan Wessler, organist Friday, 7PM

Innovative Transcriptions and Works by Ludwig van Beethoven (Leonore 3),

Ralph Vaughan Williams, and Alexandre Guilmant.

First Unitarian Church, Worcester

April 15 Noontime Brown Bag Worcester Organ Concert, Peter Krasinski, organ

Celebrate the Hook organ in classic repertoire, along with a Silent Film accompanied by Peter.

Mechanics Hall, Worcester

April 17 Humanarts Organ Recital

Assumption College Chapel

May 18 Scholarship Recipients' Recital and Annual Meeting **7PM** (Catered Dinner adjacent)

Bolton Federated Church

June 5 Young Artists Showcase: Nicholas Capozzoli, organist Friday, 7PM

First Unitarian Church, Worcester

First Thursday Lunches Continue Jan 8, Feb 5, Mar 5, Apr 2, [RSVP](#)

First Monday Open Consoles Continue March 2

WorcAGO SCHOLARSHIP Application Deadline: March 1

<http://worchesterago.org/about-ago/scholarships/>

[APPLICATION FORM](#)

Worcester in the News - NYT



Long a College Town, Worcester Now Looks the Part

An interesting tour of Worcester from the perspective of a University town.

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/07/realestate/commercial/long-a-college-town-worcester-now-looks-the-part.html?_r=3

Wilma Jensen on YouTube

Wilma Jensen has recently completed the editing of an excerpt from her *85th Birthday Concert* in March 2014 and it is now available online. The concert included over 50 musicians of great talent with whom she has worked over the years. You can find the video on YouTube here: [Wilma Jensen & Friends 85th Birthday Concert Video](#).

From Boston AGO

Dear Friends of the Boston Organ Community,

It is with a heavy sadness that I inform you of the passing of Robert Byrd, organist, organ technician, and organ builder as well as a personal friend to many of us. A native of North Carolina and alumnus of Duke University, his untimely death this past weekend in his home-town of Salem, Massachusetts, comes as a stoic reminder to us all of the preciousness and fragility of life. Bob was most recently Organist at Old West Church in Boston and was well known among the pipe organ community as a tuner of experience, able to address maintenance issues with imagination and skill. His presence in our community will be sorely missed. Information will be forthcoming regarding plans for remembering Bob.

Peter Krasinski,
American Guild of Organists,
Dean, Boston Chapter

The Holly and the Ivories: This Sunday afternoon Jan 4 2015 at a private residence on Crown Hill in Worcester.



Menu announced for Sunday's WorcAGO party:

- **Cornopean hors d'oeuvre:**
 - Nachthorn cheese platter,
 - Unda Maris vegetable/dip platter,
 - Sifflote Spanakopita triangle pastries
- Fugura wine
- **Chicken Diapason:** puff pastry (chicken, mushrooms, onions, peas and carrots all in a delicate cream sauce)
- Gamba wine
- **Larigot Lasagna:** Spinach cheese lasagna (vegetarian)
- **Bread Gedackt:** Homemade organic bread
- Salicional wine
- **Super Octave Sweets:** at least two homemade cheesecakes for dessert

Reply to this message to RSVP, including number of people.

We will email the street address later.

Celebrate Twelfth Night With WorcAGO (*it's really tenth night, we know*)

Jan 4 4-6pm. [RSVP](#)

1/4/15: PARTLY CLOUDY - 40 degrees predicted – perfect party weather.

If you have a conflict, stop by when you can.

Address and directions will be emailed to you upon RSVP (it's a private residence)

Their historic "square" grand will be tickled as background music. Bring some fun showtune or popular music too.

A light hot buffet, sweets (cheesecakes!), and wine will be offered to complement great conversation and networking.

Parking on Congress Street, with overflow parking at All Saints just down the hill. **Carpooling suggested.**

RSVP ASAP to help plan the catered food. This is not only a social gathering, but a fundraiser for our scholarship fund.

In January 2014 we had a great time – catching up on goings-on, rumors, latest appointments.

And learning what mouse-capades Felix Mendelssohn (the cat) had had!



Your admittance:

Bring yourself, your appetite for great food and warm conversation, and if you like: your favorite beverage to share and/or a donation to the WorcAGO scholarship fund.

(check or credit card at the party accepted)

Donate now!

To get on your **2014 tax deductions** AND help Worcester AGO Scholarships.

Click here for paypal donation: [PAYPAL](#) (ignore the “reference” year, we’ll fix it soon)

Mail check to WorcAGO Box 20208 Worcester 01602

If 25 people donated \$25 each, we could add another Scholarship recipient for 2014.

Did you know?

- A contribution to a qualified charity is **deductible in the year in which it is paid**. Putting the **check in the mail** to the charity constitutes payment. A contribution made on a credit card is deductible in the year it is charged to your credit card, even if payment to the credit card company is made in a later year

Scholarship Application Deadline – *Celebrating 25 years*

March 1 is the deadline for online or postmarked applications – each year WorcAGO offers scholarships for organ lessons from WorcAGO member teachers.

If you haven't seen our [Scholarship web page](#), take a look – we have quite a history.

First Night Worcester – Concerts!

<http://www.firstnightworcester.org/events/2014/10/events-listing/>

In years past, there have been quite an array of organ concerts. Sadly, none this year; however there are several youth orchestra and opera classical concerts listed.

WorcAGO - Christmas Concert Broadcast Listings

-- Check out new choral repertoire (for your own pgms next year)

Consult web and local listings for updated, local information

EWTN

12/22 5AM Catholic University of America's Christmas Concert - Annual Christmas concert from Washington, D.C. also
12.28 12:30PM, 9:30PM

[IN CONCERT: A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION - O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM](#) 12/24 9AM

[IN CONCERT: CORRETTE'S CHRISTMAS SYMPHONIES](#)

[JOY OF MUSIC CHRISTMAS IN THE HOLY LAND \(SAP\)](#)

Joy of Music: A Danube Christmas Celebration Organist Diane Bish performs.

The King Singers 12/26 11AM

Sing Noel! A Christmas Concert 12/21 1:30

Christmas in Harvard Square 12/21 6PM (St Pauls/Cambridge MA)

PBS

[Christmas at Belmont 2014 - Belmont University](#)

A Christmas Carol: The Concert re-airs Sunday, December 21, 2014. [Web Preview](#) Charles Dickens' classic tale set to music and staged for television. harles

Christmas at Luther College: Tidings of Comfort and Joy [Web Preview](#)

[Christmas in Norway](#) with the St Olaf Choir [Watch full episode online](#)

12/25 [Christmas with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir](#) Featuring Deborah Voigt and John Rhys-Davies

BBC (internet)

King's Chapel [Nine Lessons and Carols](#) 12/24 [10AM Internet BBC2 Live Broadcast](#) [Program Book](#) (order of service 2014)

(LOCAL) LIVE Calendar Events

[12/23 \(Ray Cornils, Kotzschmar Festival Brass, Parish Ringers, Musica de Filia in Portland\) Friends of the Kotzschmar Organ Present: 25th Christmas with Cornils - A Kotzschmar Christmas](#)

12/24 (Lessons & Carols, **Will Sherwood**, director in Worcester) Candlelight with 5:15PM pre-service concert, 9 favorite anthems with flute and timpani, plus congregational carols

1/4/2015 Sunday **WorcAGO Twelfth Night** Social Gathering & Light

Refreshments

– WorcAGO event. 4PM, Worcester

SAVE THE DATE

(no first Monday open console in January; resumes February)

1/8/2015 "First" Thursday Lunch Bunch – resumes AFTER the holiday (not technically the first Thursday!)

3/14/2015 Saturday 10AM WorcAGO event – morning **HYMN PLAYING** with Stuart Forster; (lunch & open console); afternoon **CHORAL CONDUCTING** with Felicia Barber

All Saints, All Spectacular



Near-capacity crowd welcomes the holiday spirit from jubilant choir.

... the last of concerts in THE YEAR OF THE WORCESTER ORGAN (150th Hook anniversary)

A wide variety of Christmas music, all top-notch English choral music, was masterfully performed by the choir of All Saints, Worcester, under the direction of **Graeme McCullough**, accompanied on the Hook by **Brett Maguire**.

All musical aspects were spot-on: a delight for laypeople as well as seasoned musicians to hear such beautifully sculpted musical lines and clear diction to honor the emotion of the season.

Brett played two energetic Daquin noels, using superb registrations, and included subtle articulation and ornamentation nuances to bring out the true French spirit of these beloved noels.

The audience joyfully joined in with the organ and descants for six carols of the season with interesting arrangements and harmonizations (some old standards we love to hear, and some new refreshing ones)

It was heartening to see audience members from ALL walks of life and abilities be engaged thru the enjoyment of live music.

Colleagues in the News ...

Choir With a School Attached: St Paul's Cambridge – new album *Christmas in Harvard Square*



St Paul's - Only catholic boy choir school in US.

The boys of St. Paul's Choir School are in the holiday spirit, and these boys have plenty of reasons to sing. The school's choir recently released a debut album, "*Christmas in Harvard Square*".

From the rehearsal rooms to the church, music bellows through the Cambridge, Massachusetts, middle school where *only 12 new students* are accepted each year.

John Robinson, who moved from England to take this job, leads these young men.

[See video feature \(5:20\)](#)

Calendar events on the horizon...

[12/19 \(Jordan Prescott in Boston\) Fridays at Trinity](#)

[12/23 \(Ray Cornils, Kotzschmar Festival Brass, Parish Ringers, Musica de Filia in Portland\) Friends of the Kotzschmar Organ Present: 25th Christmas with Cornils - A Kotzschmar Christmas](#)

[12/24 \(Lessons & Carols, Will Sherwood, director in Worcester\) Candlelight with 5:15PM pre-service concert, 9 favorite anthems with flute and timpani, plus congregational carols](#)

1/4/2015 Twelfth Night Social Hour & Light Refreshments – WorcAGO event. 4PM, Worcester
(no first Monday open console in January; resumes February)

SAVE THE DATE

1/8/2015 “First” Thursday Lunch Bunch – resumes AFTER the holiday (not technically the first Thursday!)

3/14/2015 Saturday 10AM WorcAGO event – morning **HYMN PLAYING** with Stuart Forster; (lunch & open console); afternoon **CHORAL CONDUCTING** with Felicia Barber



AGO Member Graeme McCullough to Direct at Mechanics Hall noontime Christmas Concert

Wednesday 12/17 FREE

Brett Maguire, organ

All Saints Choirs and Soloists
Audience Carols

Program Announced

Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful

Choir: Resonet In Laudibus arr. Jacob Handl (Gallus)
All Bells In Paradise John Rutter

Hymn: The First Nowell

Choir: In The Bleak Midwinter Gustav Holst

Hymn: While Shepherds Watched

Organ: Noël X Louis-Claude Daquin

Choir: The Holly And The Ivy arr. Henry Walford Davies
Ding, Dong, Merrily On High arr. Charles Wood

Hymn: Once In Royal David's City

Choir: The Linden Tree Carol arr. Reginald Jacques
Up, Awake, And Away! Philip Ledger

Hymn: God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

Organ: Noël IX Louis-Claude Daquin

Choir: The Little Road To Bethlehem Michael Head

Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

In Memoriam: Wilma Vander Baan

Longtime member of WorcAGO, Wilma Vander Baan died Dec 3. She was organist at Fairlawn Christian Church in Whitinsville for more than 40 years and was author of Music Curriculum Guide and editor of The Children's Hymnbook and Hymns for Youth.

Calling hours at the Buma Funeral Home, 480 Church St., Whitinsville will be held on **Tuesday, Dec.**

9th from 5 –8 P.M. – Read obituary at>>

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/telegram/obituary.aspx?pid=173366122#sthash.jWIOevAR.dpu>



Recommended YouTube: Angels We Have Heard



[HomeFree Vocal Band](#) [Listen>>](#)

Your dean dreads the commercialized music of the holiday season every year – mostly muzac-style cheap arrangements performed poorly.

I was delighted and pleasantly surprised by this innovative cappella [quintet arrangement](#) sent to me by a choir member – the harmonies are refreshing and inspiring, a rare occurrence in the realm of new carol harmonizations these days.

You can tell that I'm **not** of the camp “Don’t mess with our Christmas carols” (as one parishioners told me years ago).

PIPE ORGANS IN THE NEWS: CHARLES FISK'S INSTRUMENT IN KING'S CHAPEL – 50 YEARS LATER



Archive photo of Charles Fisk

Sunday, King's Chapel organist and music director Heinrich Christensen, with oboist Andrew Price, performs the last of a series of concerts celebrating the 50th anniversary of the chapel's Fisk organ. Installed in 1964, the organ was adjusted for years afterward by Charles B. Fisk (1925-83), the Harvard-educated organ-builder who founded the C. B. Fisk company in 1961.

Fisk's devotion to ongoing process echoed an earlier career. **He started out as a physicist, and, at 18, joined the Manhattan Project**, building the first atomic bombs — a irresistibly provocative fact almost always mentioned in discussion of his work. But its impact was profound: While Fisk's role in the Project was minor, it left an unease that would partially spur his turn to music and organ-building as a full-time endeavor. And, by design or coincidence, the nature of the organs he and his company produced was, in a way, the opposite of his war work.

[READ GLOBE ARTICLE>>](#)

Dean's note: this is a great article and superb publicity for their concert (and instrument) to bring attention to historic instruments as well as live music performance.
-- a good example of a fine press release (as opposed to: "Come to our concert")

Other Music-Related Articles on the Web

[In Latin motets, composer William Byrd comforted covert Catholics](#)

The Elizabethan-era composer wrote music palatable to Protestant authorities, but laden with special meaning to a Catholic minority.

[Lorraine Hunt Lieberson, Bach Cantata BWV 170](#)

The new archival recording of the late, much-loved mezzo-soprano provides an early glimpse of an eminent career.

CALENDAR: Coming soon...

(click on links below to see details)

[12/12 \(Simon Jacobs in Boston\) Fridays at Trinity](#)

[12/12 \(Chorus Angelicus & Gaudeamus, John McDonough and Alan Murchie in Simsbury, Torrington, Litchfield, Hartford and Salisbury\)
Christmas Angelicus: A New England Tradition](#)

[12/13 \(Back Bay Ringers in Framingham\) Holiday Handbell Concert](#)

[12/13 \(Trinity Choirs and Orchestra in Boston\) Candlelight Carols](#)

[12/13 \(Vox Lucens in Cambridge\) Weinachtskonzert](#)

[12/13 \(Trinity Choirs and Orchestra in Boston\) Candlelight Carols](#)

[12/13 \(Back Bay Ringers in Waltham\) Holiday Handbell Concert](#)

[12/14 \(Trinity Choirs and Orchestra in Boston\) Candlelight Carols](#)

[12/14 \(St. John's Youth and Adult Choirs; Scott Lamlein, organist/choirmaster in West Hartford\) Advent Procession of Lessons & Carols](#)

[12/14 \(Daniel Ryan, Music Director in Carlisle\) Winter Holidays Conert](#)

[12/17 \(Worcester\) AGO The Year of the Organ- All Saints Choirs, Graeme McCullough, director: Free Noontime Concert](#)

[12/17 \(St. Paul's School Chapel Choir in Boston\) A Festival of Lessons and Carols](#)

[12/19 \(Jordan Prescott in Boston\) Fridays at Trinity](#)

[12/23 \(Ray Cornils, Kotzschmar Festival Brass, Parish Ringers, Musica de Filia in Portland\) Friends of the Kotzschmar Organ Present: 25th Christmas with Cornils - A Kotzschmar Christmas](#)

[12/24 \(Lessons & Carols, Will Sherwood, director in Worcester\) Candlelight with 5:15PM pre-service concert, 9 favorite anthems with flute and timpani, plus congregational carols](#)

[1/4/2015 Twelfth Night Social Hour & Light Refreshments – WorcAGO event. 4PM, Worcester
\(no first Monday open console in January; resumes February\)](#)

[1/8/2015 "First" Thursday Lunch Bunch – resumes AFTER the holiday \(not technically the first Thursday!\)](#)

[3/14/2015 Saturday 10AM WorcAGO event – morning HYMN PLAYING with Stuart Forster; \(lunch & open console\); afternoon CHORAL CONDUCTING with Felicia Barber](#)

In this issue:

St Joe's A French Christmas - **ATTACHED MP3** from THIS MORNING'S REHEARSAL on the Casavant! – end of Dupre Noel

Organs In the News

Twelfth Night WorAGO celebration

National AGO Annual Fund

A French Christmas

- *Un Noël Français*



Works by: Jean-François Dandrieu, Claude Balbastre, Louis-Claude Daquin, Alexandre Guilmant, Olivier Messiaen, Marcel Dupré and others

PROGRAM ANNOUNCED *MP3 attached*

Trois Inventions, Opus 1	Joseph Callaerts 1838-1901
Magnificat du Premier Livre d'Orgue 1739	Jean-François Dandrieu 1689-1748
Plei Jeu-Duo-Trio-Basse et Dessus de Trompète-Flûtes-Dialogue	
Poèmes Évangéligues	Jean Langlais 1907-1991
Noël-Joseph est bien marie	Balbastre 1724-1799
Les Bergers	Olivier Messiaen 1908-1992
du La Nativité du Seigneur	
Noël X-Grand Jeu et Duo	Louis-Claude Daquin 1694-1772
Offertoire sur Deux Noël, Op. 19	Alexandre Guilmant 1837-1911
Noël Parisienne, Op. 26, No. 4	Charles Quef 1873-1931
Variations sur un Noël, Op. 20	Marcel Dupré 1886-1971

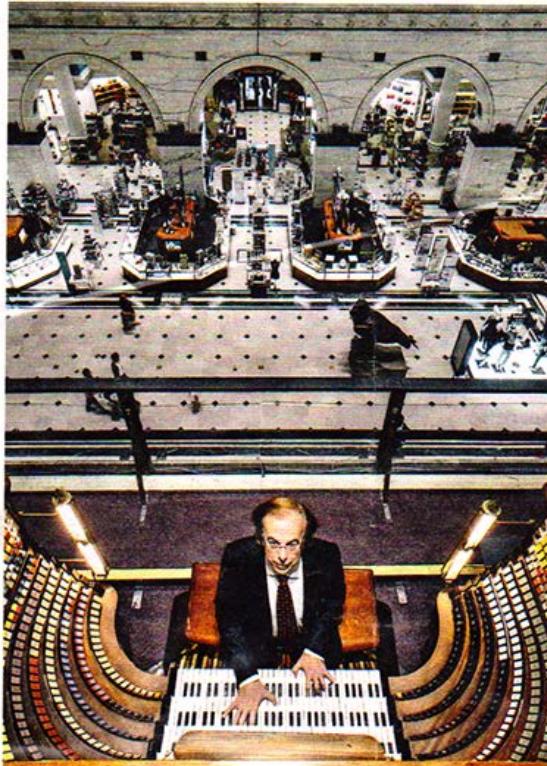
WANAMAKER IN THE NEWS

A Great Set Of Pipes

For the 25th year, Peter Richard Conte is ready to pull out all the stops for holiday shoppers at Macy's Center City Philadelphia.

Conte, 51, plays the store's 110-year-old Wanamaker pipe organ, the world's largest, and he'll kick off the season with Macy's 58th annual Christmas Lights Show on Nov. 28. A university music professor, church choir-master, organ transcriptionist, and concert and recording artist, Conte is the store's fourth Wanamaker Grand Court organist. He delights crowds twice daily, six days a week with music from the 28,500 pipes of the prized instrument he calls Baby.

"Playing the Wanamaker organ is like being a painter with an infinite palette of beautiful colors at his disposal," he says. "It's truly a privilege to have graced her bench for all these years."



A Concert of French Organ Music

William Ness, Organist

Saint Joseph Church

35 Hamilton Street, Worcester

Friday December 5, 2014

7:30 PM

Join The Worcester Chapter of The American Guild of Organists and Holy Family Parish for an evening of Classical and Modern organ music composed for the Advent and Christmas Season

Featuring the 3-manual, 1928 Casavant Frères organ

A WORD FROM OUR NATIONAL AGO TREASURER

When I asked everyone to donate at least \$1 per month, or \$12 each year, I hope that everyone **would** contribute this affordable amount, although many already give more. If you calculate \$12 from each of 15,000 members, this annual revenue would total \$180,000!!! With our diminishing membership rolls, this revenue could help keep us in the black and able to continue our educational and outreach programs as well as the beneficial services we offer our members.

Here **are** of the programs the Annual Fund makes possible, including:

- Certification programs
- Catalogue of educational materials
- Support for POEs (Pipe Organ Encounters)
- Support for January Jubilees
- Travel for volunteer leaders' meetings and visits to chapters
- Chapter Management Handbook
- Website and job postings
- National Online Collection and Remittal of Dues (ONCARD)

Please accept my thanks for using your contribution to the Annual Fund. Just \$1 a month would help balance the books!

With sincere appreciation,

Barbara Adler Treasurer/Councillor for Finance and Development

2014 National AGO Convention Opening Convocation Address – highly recommended

Attached is a transcription of Rev. Barbara Cawthorne Crafton Sermon at the Opening Service for the AGO 2014 National Convention.

You may open the sermon here: [CraftonSermon.pdf](#)

Many thanks to Ross Wood, hospitality chair, for providing this transcription.

Excerpt:

"He must increase, I must decrease"

-- the theme of many an annual budget meeting, I suppose, when they are seeking frills to cut and every year you wonder to what extent you will be one of them. How strange a thing it is to be an artist preparing for service in communities of faith, because to be an artist means that from a very early age --I think probably from birth or perhaps even before --you are preparing. You are honing your skill. You are single-minded about it, some of you so single-minded as to appear to be something in addition to being human. I don't want to say less than [laughter] but more than. More than. And so you eat and drink and sleep it for so many years. Your schooling is about it. Your friends are about it. You are all about becoming the best musician you can become, and part of that becoming is competition, isn't it?

Hear "Organists' National Anthem" This Sunday 3PM - FREE



Our own **William Ness** will perform the **Saint-Saens "Organ Symphony"** (#3 in C minor) this Sunday afternoon (3PM) at **First Baptist**, Worcester. Some call it the "National Anthem" for us organists because of the grand C-Major chord (all but full-organ!) in the middle of the last movement, with a *subito-fortissimo* effect, akin to Haydn's *Surprise Symphony*.

WARNING! this is an exciting performance where you'll need to "fasten your seatbelts" because of the combination of the **subito FFF**, the dynamite performers, the grand pipe organ, and sanctuary acoustics all combining to immerse you in a heavenly experience.

The WPI orchestra, under the direction of Dr Douglas Weeks, will join Dr. Ness in this brilliant performance.

And, get this: performing the symphony will not only include the

WPI **70-piece orchestra** (how will they all fit?!), but also WorcAGO member

Malcolm Halliday and **Olga Rogach** playing on

a specially rented **1906 7' Steinway**

(the symphony was completed in 1886, so this instrument is quite appropriate historically).

Just across town at Holy Cross ...

November 16 3:00 PM - College of the Holy Cross, One College Street, Worcester

Jonathan Moyer, organist, Newly appointed Oberlin Conservatory of Music organ professor, Jonathan Moyer, will be making his Holy Cross debut.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 16 – A BUSY DAY IN WORCESTER

Two great FREE concerts – a veritable candy store for organ enthusiasts!

November 16 3:00 PM First Baptist Church, 111 Park Avenue, Worcester

Vierne *Triomphale Marche* and Saint-Saens *Symphony No. 3 "Organ Symphony"* featuring William Ness, organ; Malcolm Halliday and Olga Rogach, piano with the WPI Symphony Orchestra and Brass Ensemble conducted by Douglas Weeks.

November 16 3:00 PM - College of the Holy Cross, One College Street, Worcester

Jonathan Moyer, organist, Newly appointed Oberlin Conservatory of Music organ professor, Jonathan Moyer, will be making his Holy Cross debut.

[RSVP](#) for information about a local restaurant discount (for those attending) following these concerts. Make a day of it – concert and dinner!

WorcAGO 2015-16 Scholarship Application Deadline is March 1, 2015

Celebrating 26 years, the WorcAGO Scholarship Program is one of the hallmarks of our chapter. It's an important part of our Mission, to not only provide educational programming throughout the year, but also financial support for training of member organists who are taking lessons from member teachers. Our program has had over 100 recipients in its 26-year history.

IN THE NEWS



Lorenz Maycher at A-S Op. 1173 at 1st Pres

[Read the entire article>>](#)

East Texas Pipe Organ Festival

Aeolian-Skinner area welcomes organ enthusiasts.

The Aeolians owe their prevalence in the region to the East Texas oil field boom of the 1930s and 1940s, when land-rich timbering families suddenly had the money to build impressive churches and fill them with some of the best organs around.

"It is good to see the churches where these organs are played filled with people, including not just the local congregations but people driving from long distances"

Highlights from this year's festival include a performance of patriotic music at First Presbyterian by Ray and Beth Chenault, duo organists known for commissioning pieces from more than 40 composers. The French master composer, Jean Guillou, will play the 1965 Aeolian-Skinner Opus 1438 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Dallas, and Walt Strony will accompany the silent movie "The General" starring Buster Keaton on Thursday. The festival closes on Friday with National Cathedral artist-in-residence Jeremy Filsell, at First Baptist Church in Longview, and Mark Dwyer, organist at Church of the Advent in Boston performing at First Presbyterian.

Sweet Célestes tonight at Assumption Chapel

Reminder of 7PM First Monday TONIGHT.

Check out especially the two Swell celestes: the **Spitzflöte Céleste** is soft and sweet.

Or if celestes are something you want to get off your chest, be energized by the magnificent **State Trumpet** (available from all divisions).

Jonathan Bezdegian will be our console guide.

(Assumption College is on Salisbury Street, Worcester) (turn left after the guard house to head toward the chapel parking lot)

AGO Programs Coming Soon to a chamber near you

AGO November 16 Sunday 4PM Organ and Brass concert –featuring Saint-Saens Organ Symphony
William Ness, organ WPI Brass, Doug Weeks, conductor; First Baptist, Worcester

AGO November 21 Friday 7PM Juan A. Mesa (organ) Joseph Mongelli (trumpet) and friends in Holliston Organ & Brass Extravaganza!
1906 Hutchings-Votey (AGO co-sponsored event)

AGO December 17 Mechanics Hall - *The Year of the Organ* - Free Noontime Concert
– All Saints Choir and soloists, Graeme McCullough director

diversions

MUSIC CORNER – John Cage 639-year-long piece began on organ in 2001

There is a project underway in Germany to perform "As Slow as Possible" (ASLSP). It is originally a piano work. If played at the indicated tempo, the piece takes --- it's an unimaginably long time --- 639 years. Yes, years.

They started playing it in year 2001, on organ, and are still in the opening measures, and the next note change will occur a summer or two from now.

The challenge of performing a piece of this duration raises many issues. Who will maintain the organ over all those years? If a piece of music is music because you can enjoy its sequence of chords or notes you have to be able to remember the last chord or note that was played. This strains the ability of even the most dedicated listener.

The first measure of the piece started with a half-measure rest, so even after the beginning of the piece, there was a wait of 17 months before the first actual note sounded. At the end of the performance, it will deserve a listing in the Guinness Book of World records (circa 2640 AD) and someone will press a commemorative boxed set of CDs of the performance, with over 4.2 million discs!

There's a whole article about the piece: http://www.musicweb-international.com/classrev/2007/Apr07/Cage_PSe.htm



OPEN CONSOLE NIGHT

Monday, November 3rd at 7PM

Assumption College, Chapel of the Holy Spirit
500 Salisbury Street, Worcester

Come see, hear, play another fine Worcester pipe organ---
[1995 Russell & Co.](#)

III/56 ranks---in a beautiful college chapel setting. Meet colleague friends old and new and share ideas for the holidays ahead. Our host is Jonathan Bezdeian.

Past the guard shack, take a left (have the fish pond to your right). Park in the lot adjacent to the chapel. Admire the unusual outdoor bells as you walk to the newly renovated/expanded chapel.

First Thursdays Continue at Tweeds 11/6 noontime

Enjoy lunch and conversation with your colleagues.

MH Commemorative Program Book PDF Posted

Last Sunday was a great day for the Worcester music community – we came together to celebrate 150 years of our beloved Hook organ. View [the program book](#).

A huge thank-you to all performers, page-turners, setter-uppers, technicians, artists, cake-makers, hall staff, and the list goes on and on!

50, 100, and 150 years FROM NOW, this concert will definitely be highlighted in history!



Participants in Sunday's gala concert with WPI Brass Ensemble and WPI Jazz Ensemble

Peter Krasinski featured in Silent Film at Old South Benefit Concert



MMMH: The Silent Movie scheduled for this Saturday, **11/1/14** is cancelled. Chandler Noyes, recitalist, is unable to perform due to illness. ["THE CAT AND THE CANARY" \(1927\)](#)

November Calendar Summary – Northeast Events

Organ Construction During the Civil War and other interesting history about our Hook

- **The Mechanics Hall Hook was built during the Civil War**, and while some of Hook's young men had left to join the Union Army and production decreased, the one main shortage was of good old-growth southern pine. Hook's reserve of this material seems to have gotten them through the period when utilized for important components like windchests and smaller wood pipes, but in this organ, as in its near-twin at Immaculate Conception Church in Boston, there is evidence of the use of inferior northern pine with occasional knots in structural parts and in the very largest pedal pipes. Otherwise their use of wood for Pedal Division pipes and certain manual stops was little different from their normal practice. The use of Belgian zinc, begun around 1850 for front pipes and larger interior pipes, seems also not to have been greatly affected, and the majority of their metal pipework larger than three feet in length continued to be made of tin & lead alloy into the 1870s, when higher-content tin spotted metal was sometimes used.
- In 1864, the cost of the custom-built **Hook organ was \$8000**, equivalent to \$5 million today.
- Organs were the **most complex large machines** invented before the Industrial Revolution. (Clocks were complex small machines.)
- At the time, this was the **Hook's largest instrument**. The largest extant H&H still in existence and regular use today is the 1875 one in Holy Cross Cathedral, Boston - heard at the 2014 AGO convention. And not one but three Tremont Temple organs (2 Hooks, 1 H&H) burned down in the 19th century - the first (1845) and second (1854) ones being the largest in Boston until the Walcker arrived (now at Methuen).
- New to American organs, the **Vox Humana** (a pipe rank introduced just the year before in Boston's Music Hall organ) caught the fancy of the press and was accorded much praise for its beauty.

- The swell chamber originally had **two horizontal sets of swell shades** because organists desired a substantial softening effect when the shutters were closed. Unfortunately the Hooks did not account for the sound-blocking casework - we fear the resulting overall low Swell volume (even at open shutters) was not really intended. The second set of shutters therefore has been (reversibly) removed over the years.
- The Swell was praised in Dwight's *Journal* as not only the largest Swell Division outside Europe, but also being easy to play (not to modern standards). While the restorer's intent was to restore all original aspects of the organ as closely as possible, Noack approved the (reversible) keyboard action modifications made by Andover Organs after the 1982 restoration.
- The original (and current) **stop list and voicing still remains valid** and useful today because the Hooks at the time had refined a sound that was eminently suited to the use with choirs and audience singing, and was clear, warm, never forced, and was effective in the less-reverberant American churches and halls.

Elias and George G. Hook, sons of a prominent Salem cabinetmaker, were among a small group of gifted young craftsmen who apprenticed in the 1820s with William M. Goodrich, considered the founder of the organ-building industry in Boston. George built the first organ in 1827 (still extant in Salem's Peabody-Essex Museum) and Elias built his first soon after. By 1829 they had formed a partnership and were building church and chamber organs, probably in their father's workshop. In 1832 they moved to a larger workshop in Boston and a year later built their first 3-manual organ. By the 1840s their work could be found in all the New England states as well as New York and Pennsylvania, and by the 1850s in the South and Midwest as well. In 1854 they moved from their original workshop to a large new factory with steam-powered machinery in the Roxbury Crossing area of Boston, allowing an increase in the number of instruments built per year. Although the Hook firm by this time had some worthy competitors, they remained for several decades the leading organ-building firm in the country, and organs of all sizes, from small one-manual organs for country churches to instruments for large churches, concert halls and cathedrals in urban areas. In the 1860s, American organists who had studied in Europe began to request newer tonal directions, and the Hooks complied with the introduction of greater variety in strings, flutes and reeds, while maintaining the high quality of their well-balanced Diapason choruses. Mechanically they were more conservative, relying on well-designed traditional windchests and action components. Francis Hastings had joined the firm as an apprentice, but his talents soon raised him to greater responsibility in the firm, and in 1871 the aging Hook brothers made him a full partner under the name of E. & G. G. Hook & Hastings. Under his direction the company flourished, building some important organs in the 1870s, and when the Hook brothers died in 1880 and 1881, Hastings continued to successfully guide the firm into the innovative 1880s and 1890s, showing good business sense by introducing a line of smaller "catalog" organs while still attracting important commissions for large churches and halls. However, strong competition was increasing, and after Hastings's death in 1916 the Hook & Hastings firm declined, closing its doors in 1936 after building their 2,614th organ.

— Hook biography contributed by historian Barbara Owen

Organ Scholarship Competition Announced (High School Level)

The Winston-Salem (NC) Chapter of the AGO is happy to announce the 4th annual HS Organ Festival & Competition that they co-sponsor with the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and Salem College in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

We would be grateful if you would please forward this information to your chapter's members either via email or through your newsletter (or both), and to any potentially interested student organists.

The competition is open to any high school senior or younger who has not previously won the competition's First Prize. In addition to cash prizes and potential scholarships, all prize winners (1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Hymn Prize) will receive a copy of one of the eight volumes of Bach works published by Wayne Leupold Editions, compliments of the publisher.

A CD Recording and application is due (received) by December 19, 2014.

For full information about the competition, festival events, and instruments, please visit: <http://www.timothyolsenorganist.com/hs-competition.html>

14

82

Excerpt from Dinda's 'Harmonious' for organ duet.



The Harmonious Blacksmith

- variations on a theme by Handel

- is an original set of six variations composed by Robin Dinda. The composition was written for Dr. Dinda and his wife, Renea Waligora, who have performed organ duo (four-hand and four-feet) programs throughout the United States. The piece was specifically written as part of the celebrations commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Mechanics Hall organ, and was designed to demonstrate many of the sounds of this landmark instrument and fully utilize the performers' EIGHT extremities (or 20 fingers and 20 toes!). [As a composer who is an organist and married to an organist, Dr. Dinda became inspired to write unique organ duos, several of which have been published and performed worldwide.]

MORE Organ-Organ duets featured at Sunday's Concert

Through a unique collaboration with Dr. Douglas Weeks, the WPI Brass Ensemble with percussion will perform with the Hook for two additional organ duets:

- A thrilling transcription of **Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition** (Gates of Kiev), complete with "campana" (bell, as prescribed in Ravel's famous orchestral transcription) will be included in the first half.
- The majestic **Procession of the Nobles by Rimsky-Korsakov** blends the organ with brass for a celebratory opening of the second half of the program.

Lucia Clemente-Falco, Malcolm Halliday, and Will Sherwood will share the bench for these exciting performances. Unfortunately there will be no primo/secondo seat-swapping (in the middle of the piece) that has become the hallmark of Lucia-Will collaborations in the past!

AND YET MORE Brass-Organ Collaboration



Portland's **Municipal Organist Ray Cornils** will join with the WPI Brass Ensemble in Cornils' own transcription of Guilmant's "March on a Theme of Handel". This is a unique arrangement that features the full forces of the brass, timpani, and organ.

Surprise Themes for Krasinski's Improvisation



Boston AGO Dean and WorcAGO member **Peter Krasinski** will delight us with one of his creative and inspiring improvisations on submitted themes.

He will "feature the Vox Humana" as was the case in the original 1864 Dedication Concert, and also one of the Hook anniversary programs.

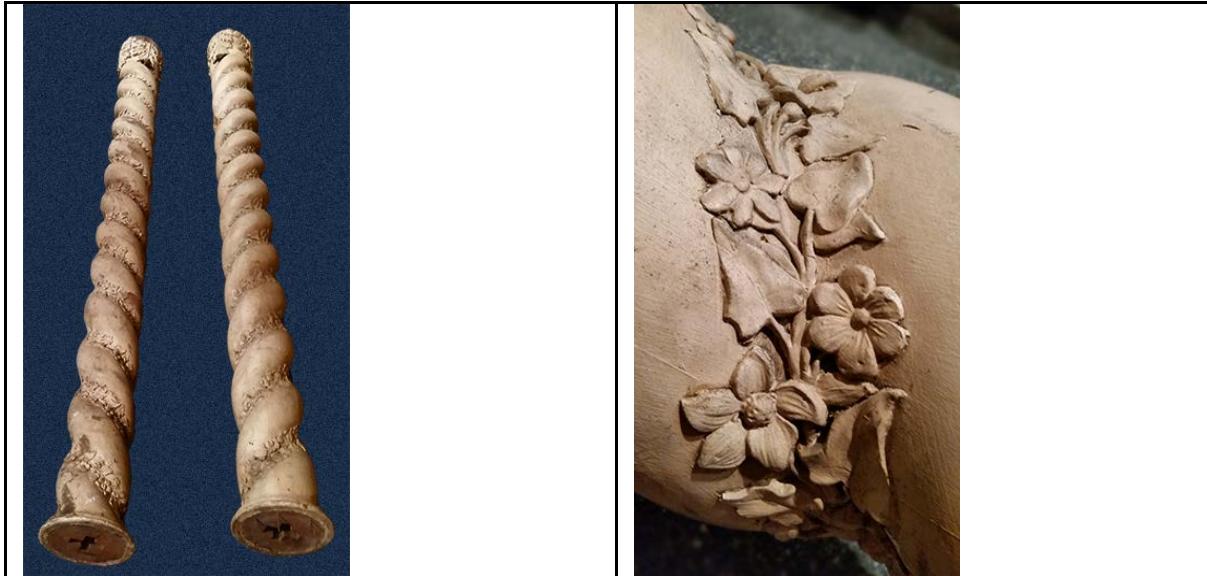
Because of the proximity of 1864 with the American Civil War, we have chosen two themes from that time period to present to him as he approaches the console (the scores will be in a sealed envelope of course!) (but he gets to open the envelope and divulge to the audience what the themes are). We're very excited to hear what Chef Krasinski will cook up for us on Sunday!

Second Wind for Mechanics Hall Hook Organ

Monday saw the completion of the installation of a **second blower for the Hook organ**. This new blower supplies the wind for the pedal reservoir, which can also help the other reservoir if it drops very low. Stefan Maier (current technician & restorer) played a big C major chord with practically every stop and coupler pulled and the main bellows still had air to spare.

With this addition, the organ can now be used without hesitation by musicians that perform orchestral works of later periods where wind had been in short supply for the Hook: pitch and volume sagged for those final held chords. The new blower adds flexibility that will make for a wider use of the instrument and a wider circle of organ friends. And this should ultimately help the longevity of the instrument. Gone are the days when Holy Cross football players were needed to hand-pump the bellows to provide additional wind for the Saint-Saens Organ Concerto!

Columns once towered in the temporary façade prior to Hook installation in 1864



(Photo: Will Sherwood; WHM Access Courtesy William Wallace & Rodger Comeau)

Left: two columns brought out from storage to be photographed for the 150th celebration

Right: plaster detail on hand-carved double-helix wooden columns.

Excerpt from

The Worcester Organ: A Retrospective

– The Rev. Richard F. Jones, Mechanics Hall Curator and Development Officer 1983-1991

There is an arch adorned with cherubs that has been hidden since 1864 behind the tops of the central façade pipes of the organ in Mechanics Hall. It is an artifact of the seven-year period when there was no pipe organ in the Great Hall. In 1857, Mechanics Hall was built to house the activities of the Worcester County Mechanics Association and as a place for the community to gather for lectures, concerts, and social events. Space was created for a pipe organ, but there was no money. Until Ichabod Washburn's gift of \$1000 in 1863 spurred his fellow industrialists to give the funds

necessary to build and install an organ, **twisted Solomonic columns** [see pictures above] and false façade pipes filled the space where the organ is now. (The columns exist and are in storage at the Worcester Historical Museum.)

A pipe organ was a standard accoutrement of large concert halls in nineteenth century America. Orchestral concerts were rare. In Worcester, as Dvorak lamented when he conducted here, orchestras were heard only one week each autumn when the Worcester Music Festival convened. Pipe organs filled the gap. With their many different sounds, they allowed for the performance of music people would otherwise be unable to hear.

It is probably no coincidence that funding for an organ in Mechanics Hall was made available the same year the magnificent Walcker organ was installed in the Boston Music Hall. Worcester can be justly proud of its contributions to American life, from the first National Women's Rights Convention to the suits that astronauts donned for space flights. It was

an important goal of the Mechanics Association that every detail in the Hall, including the pipe organ, be American made. So the Mechanics Association commissioned the finest American organ builders at the time, E. and G.G. Hook, to create the largest pipe organ that had ever been constructed in the United States.

The choice of an American firm was significant. At the organ's dedication, its "superiority over all other organs in this country" was claimed, a poke at Boston and its foreign-built Walcker instrument. The Hook brothers were probably eager to show what their firm was capable of as well, and provided the instrument essentially at cost.

Get your [commemorative Program Book](#) this Sunday at the Hook Organ Rededication Concert & Reception, and read Richard's entire article jam-packed with intriguing historical details.

Private Tour of Hook Organ Chambers



Buy one or more raffle tickets (to support the MH Hook Organ Fund) to be in the running to be one of 18 to have the **rare opportunity to see BEHIND THE FAÇADE**.

Organ Series Artistic Director Will Sherwood will offer an **interesting and unusual perspective view** of the chambers and inner working of the 3504 pipes, and associated trackers and chests.
(due to safety and to allow a closer view, we will form two tours of nine people each, during the reception)

Peter Krasinski will provide a quick demonstration of the console, replete with **creative improvisational excerpts** utilizing various ranks in the Hook.



Buffet Dinner With John Walker – a small group so far!

Join us at Viva Bene for a social hour (6PM) and dinner (7PM) [RSVP HERE](#)

Dinner with the Prez

Meet/greet/hear AGO President John Walker at dinner Sunday night Oct 26

Sunday Evening Oct 26, 2014 (after the 150th MH Hook ReDedication Concert)
Cash Bar Social Hour 6PM-7PM
Buffet Dinner 7PM

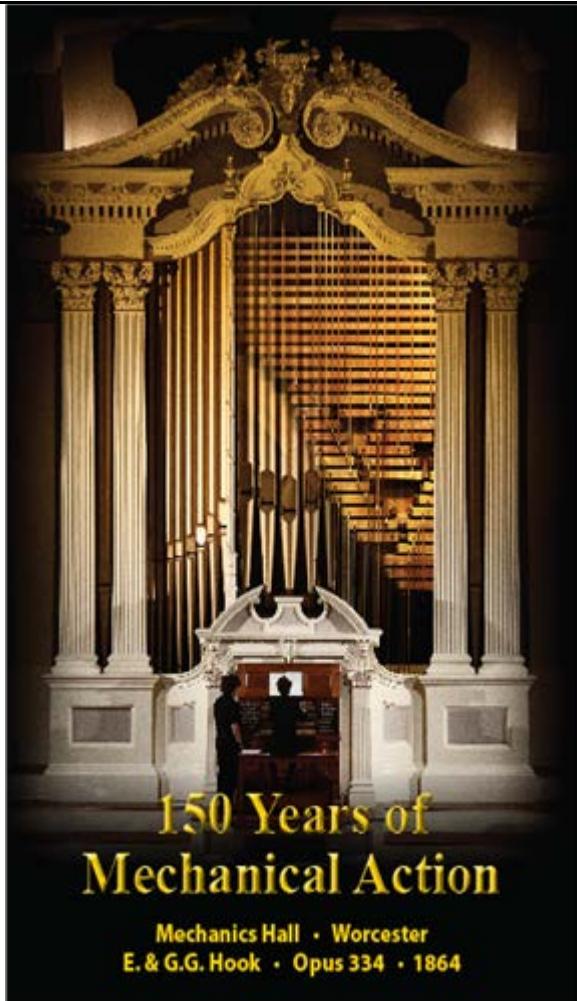
WorcAGO to host **AGO Member Dinner**

Following the Mechanics Hall Rededication Concert, there will be a buffet dinner "around the corner" from the Mechanics at Viva Bene, with a cash bar beginning at 6PM in their function room, followed by dinner at 7PM. [RSVP](#) to reserve your place at dinner. Online payments [here](#), or personal check at the door. \$25/person (tax and gratuity included; vegetarian cuisine heartily provided in addition to a chicken delight, with salad, pasta, vegetable, dessert). Free street parking, 3-5 minute walk from the hall to the restaurant. I-290 exits are nearby. Free wi-fi. John will be playing the postlude at St John's/Sudbury on Sunday Oct 26.



John Walker has held positions as Minister of Music at Brown Memorial Park Avenue Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, and The Riverside Church in New York City. He is a member of the organ faculty at Peabody Conservatory of Music, following previous teaching positions at Duquesne University, Manhattan School of Music, San Jose State University, and American Conservatory of Music in Chicago. John Walker earned the Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Stanford University as a student of Herbert Nanney. He holds two Master of Music degrees *cum laude* from American Conservatory of Music in Chicago. He has performed at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris and St. Paul's Cathedral in London. He has been a featured artist at the National Convention of the Korean Association of Organists, presenting hymn festivals, recitals, and workshops in Seoul. He has appeared frequently with the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Michael Tilson Thomas, even sharing one concert billing there with The Grateful Dead.

Program announced: 150th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CONCERT - FREE



Posters on sale at the concert

*Auction for chamber tour and demo
See "[ticket](#)" site for details*

*If problems signing up for free tickets,
Please call MH box office to RSVP*

The Year of the Worcester Organ – Celebrating 150 Years of the 64-rank E G & G Hook

A celebration concert and reception will be held at **3PM Sunday afternoon Oct 26** to "Re-dedicate" the Hook organ.

Get your free commemorative Program Book at the concert.

Grand Chœur et Dialogué	Eugène Gigout (1844-1925)
William Ness, organ; WPI Brass Ensemble, Douglas Weeks, director	
<i>Greetings from Mechanics Hall - Robert M. Kennedy, Executive Director</i>	
Toccata in F Major BWV 540	J S Bach (1685-1750)
Ray Cornils, organ	
<i>Words of Welcome from the Worcester Chapter AGO - Will Sherwood, AAGO, ChM</i>	
Pictures at an Exhibition	Modest Petrovich Mussorgsky (1839-1881)
"The Great Gate of Kiev"	
Lucia Clemente Falco & Will Sherwood, organ duet; WPI Brass Ensemble	
Improvisation featuring the Vox Humana (submitted themes)	Peter Krasinski, organ
Concert Variations on "The Star Spangled Banner"	Dudley Buck (1839-1909)
Malcolm Halliday FAGO, organ	
INTERMISSION	
Procession of the Nobles	Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908)
Malcolm Halliday & Will Sherwood, organ duet; WPI Brass Ensemble	
<i>Words of Welcome from National AGO - John Walker, President</i>	
March on a Theme of Handel	Félix Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911) arr. Cornils
Ray Cornils, organ; WPI Brass Ensemble	
The Harmonious Blacksmith: Variations on a Theme by Handel	Robin Dinda, FAGO
Robin Dinda & Renea Waligora, organ duet (<i>world premiere</i>)	
Symphony I for Organ - Final Op. 42	Félix Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)
Ray Cornils, organ	
Battle Hymn of the Republic (Brass exposition)	Jari Villanueva (b.1955)
adapted by Lucia Clemente Falco, organ; WPI Brass Ensemble	
<i>Audience is invited to sing one verse (words on back inner cover) after 2nd organ interlude</i>	
Gala Reception following - WPI Jazz Ensemble, Richard Falco, Director	

Member Krisjon Imperio Conducts: Chopin Piano Concerto E minor w/orchestra

- Featuring Krisjon's father **concert pianist Roy Imperio** - THIS SATURDAY



WorcAGO co-sponsored event

Wyatt Smith, Organist, in concert

Friday, October 31, 7 p.m.



Wyatt Smith returns to Music at Trinity for his second concert. In observance of Reformation Day, Wyatt Smith plays a concert entitled "J. S. Bach and the Lutheran Legacy." A reception follows the concert.

In this edition:

- **MH Hook 150th** - One week and counting
- **NE Regional Dinner with President John Walker**
- **Portland Kotzschmar piece on NECN**

Hook 150th

A 150th birthday gala reception (celebrating with an organ-pipe cake and a cash bar) and organ tours will follow the concert with refreshing music provided by the WPI Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Rich Falco. **John Walker** (incoming AGO National President) will offer words of greeting from National AGO.

When Mechanics Hall was built in 1857 to house the activities of the Worcester County Mechanics Association and as a place for the community to gather for lectures, concerts, and social events, space was created for a pipe organ, but there was no money.

Until Ichabod Washburn's gift of \$1000 spurred his fellow industrialists to give the funds necessary to build and install a pipe organ, baroque columns and false pipes filled the space where the organ is now.

With the money they raised, Mechanics Hall turned to the finest American organ builder of the nineteenth century, E. and G.G. Hook, to create what was at that time the largest pipe organ ever to be built in the United States. It was called "The Worcester Organ" when it was dedicated in 1864 because it was the gift of the citizens of the city. It is significant that the organ was built by an American firm while the country was engaged in the Civil War. This organ symbolized hope for peace, and confidence in the future.

In the nineteenth century, orchestral concerts were rare except in the very largest cities. Pipe organs were important. With their many different sounds, pipe organs allowed for the performance of music people would otherwise be unable to hear. In its heyday, well-known organists like Eugene Thayer, Clarence Eddy, and Dudley Buck graced the Hook's four keyboards. Throughout its history, all who performed had to wrestle with its challenging mechanical action keyboards without the push-of-a-button conveniences that organists enjoy today to help change the organ stops while playing without removing their hands from the keyboards.

After its precedent-setting restoration to original condition by Fritz Noack in 1982, The Worcester Organ again attracted some of the world's finest organists, including James David Christie, David Craighead, Gillian Weir, Catherine Crozier, Simon Preston, David Higgs, Peter Hurford, and just a few weeks ago, Hector Olivera.



Restoration of the Kotzschmar Organ

It was once the second largest instrument in the world; now, the Kotzschmar Organ in Portland, Maine, is one of only two surviving municipal organs in the United States.

The 100-year-old instrument has just gone through a \$2.6 million restoration in order to keep it singing for generations to come.

>> [See Video](#)

Portland Municipal Organist Ray Cornils will be performing at Mechanics Hall Sunday Oct 26 (Free Concert)

On showcase tonight at Sudbury Methodist is a modern-voiced/updated instrument with significant historic roots: the best of both world!
strings, reeds, flues, mixtures – come together from all ages.

Vintage 1870 Hall & Labagh Tracker Instrument – a historic journey to Sudbury AGO Members & Guests Get to Visit & Play

Monday 10/6 at 7PM Kevin Murphy will open Sudbury United Methodist's swell shades for our first Open Console of the fall season. (Former organists: Lois Toeppner, Will Sherwood)

This organ was originally built in 1870 for the "Old" Chapel at Princeton University. In 1880, the organ was moved into Princeton's new chapel building where it remained until 1896 when it was replaced by a new organ built by Müller & Abel. The 1870 Hall & Labagh organ was then donated to The Christian Herald Bowery Mission.

In 1956, the organ in the Bowery Mission was visited by founding members of the Organ Historical Society. Barbara Owen reported in *The Tracker* (Oct. 1956) that the organ was installed in a gallery above the pulpit platform and had an attached console located in a small space on the C end of the case. The organ had apparently been rebuilt at the time of its installation, as noted by several painted display pipes on offset chests behind the modified case.

F.R. Webber wrote in his "Organ Scrapbook" that "the stops have round shanks, a long draw, and bulbous, oblique discs, facing the organist. The engraving is Old English, Mason & Hamlin harmonium-style of lettering. Front pipes are rather slender, and neatly made. It appears to be an older organ, rebuilt about 1895 or 1900. It was here that Victor H. Behnke, who died July 15, 1904, was organist. He is 'the volunteer organist' of the well-known poem, and a wall tablet in the mission commemorates him."

In 1975, the Hall & Labagh organ was acquired by the United Methodist Church, Sudbury, Mass. It was removed by the Stuart Organ Company and the Organ Clearing House for incorporation of manual windchests and some pipework by Stuart into opus 10 (1976) for the Sudbury Church. Mr. Hedgebeth was a creative and resourceful craftsman: he used stylish drawer pulls for the drawknobs, and 1975 Ford grey paint for an enduring finish for the facade pipes.



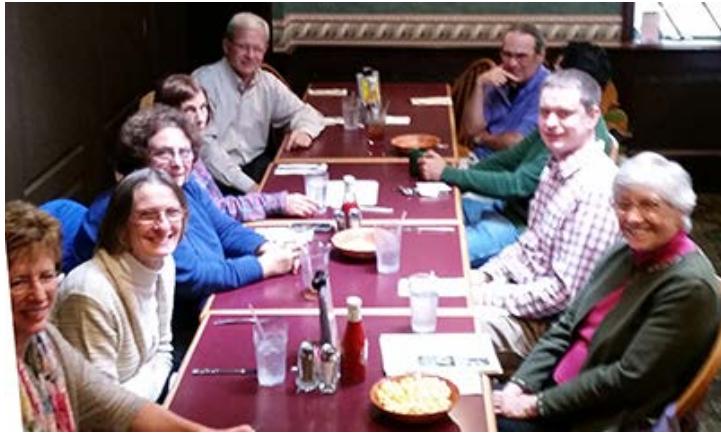
The 1976 New Console is detached and reversed, sporting a sleek, low profile, with a clear music rack for easy visibility to choir and director.

After having been removed from the Bowery Mission Church(Rev. David Henritz/The Christian Herald Association) in New York City, the Hall & LeBow pipe organ was stored and brokered by the Organ Clearinghouse (at that time headed by Allen Laufman). In 1976 the instrument was rebuilt by the Stuart Organ Company, Aldenville, Massachusetts for Sudbury Methodist for a sum of approximately \$50,000. The rebuild included thorough mechanical refurbishing, revised tonal scheme, and construction of a new case to complement the architecture of the church building.



Bowery Mission NYC, ca. 1879

First *First Thursday* of Fall Season off to a scrumptious start



Nine WorcAGO members (one guest) gathered at our monthly lunch and lively chat event.

The Mechanics Hall Hector Olivera concert dominated the conversation, with accolades for his improvisations and dazzling technique.

Memorial Service for Judy Ollikkala

A memorial service will be held on **Saturday, October 11, 2014, at 11:00 a.m.** at Christ Church, 569 Main St., Fitchburg, MA 01420. - See more at: <http://www.masciarellifamilyfuneralhomes.net/obituary/Judith-Anne-Ollikkala/Worcester-MA/1420299>

More information here>> <http://www.masciarellifamilyfuneralhomes.net/obituary/Judith-Anne-Ollikkala/Worcester-MA/1420299>

Memorial Service for Jean Melcher

A memorial service for former member Jean Melcher will be in Southborough, MA, at St. Mark's church on **Saturday October 11th at 1pm**

Probably the biggest international name ever to perform at the Hook Organ.

"Organ Day in Worcester" has arrived

3PM Holy Cross Chapel Artist Series - Andrea Toschi, organ, St. Joseph Memorial Chapel

(discount dinner at Viva Bene – **15% off food**; just mention the organ concerts to your waiter) free street parking, walk to the hall.

7PM Hector Olivera at Mechanics Hall – celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Hook Organ

Hector Olivera

INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED ORGANIST



Meet & Greet reception following.
TICKETS AT THE DOOR \$10 for AGO/EMCATOS
members

Note: due to the low ticket sales
(very sad indeed!), we have
decreased the seating on the main floor
in order to increase the acoustics.

So you will be one of a few to hear Hector's
Worcester debut in person.

Pass along the word to your organ enthusiast
friends.

Hector (and his pal "Harry" the frog) will be
offering verbal program notes. He is quite
interesting and amusing!

Hector arrived at Mechanics Hall mid-Friday afternoon and sat down to acquaint himself with the instrument.



Normally people play a few I-IV-V-I chords on each stop.

I was the luckiest person on the planet to get to hear an incredibly GORGEOUS
spontaneous improvisation (not really intended as such).
Such a rich and creative harmonic vocabulary. Wow.

Just wait until Sunday's second half, when he will perform an organ symphony
improvised on a submitted theme.

Longtime Member Judy Ollikkala Passed away yesterday



We were shocked to hear the news of Judy's unexpected passing, Sunday, after a brief illness. We'll email more information as we learn of arrangements.

For many years, Judy was an integral part of WorcAGO, and was the founder of and leader for our "Fall Crawl" series for many many years.

Some notes of remembrance from colleagues:

Judy was so welcoming to me when I first joined the Worcester AGO chapter twenty five years ago. Seems like it was just yesterday when I first met her! Her knowledge of organs in churches all over the Northeast was encyclopedic.

Judy was an amazing person and such a good person who cared so much about people. What an incredible loss for all of us of a dear and treasured friend! Judy was so committed to the Guild, its purposes and its members. She was a good friend, and she left us too soon.

Judy was one in a million and my deepest sympathy goes to her wonderful family as well as to her friend, Stephen St. Denis.

Judy was just incredible. Among many gifts she was extremely talented at getting people to hear the pipe organ and it finding incredible places to visit and wonderful organs to hear – I think of her very often and she will be greatly missed.

Hector is on his way to Worcester – This Sunday ("Organ Day in Worcester")

Sadly only 45 tickets (10 from AGO) have been sold (*MH seats 1400*)

Methuen was FILLED last fall when he was there! He's quite the performer. Don't miss this opportunity right in our own back yard.

15% discount on food at Viva Bene prior to concert (suggest ~5PM); free street parking.



Bourdon 16' pipe all tuned up.

**Click to buy
your tickets now!**

AGO member discount: \$10 ß
Enter discount code: **Hector**

Program Announced:

Toccata from Suite No 1 W. R. Drifill (1883-1916)
Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring J. .S. Bach (1685-1750)
Allegro from Concerto No. 13 in F Major HWV 295 G. F. Handel (1685-1759)
The Cuckoo & Nightingale
Prelude and Fugue in A minor BWV 543 J. S. Bach
Noel Etranger No. 8 L. C. Dauquin (1694-1772) (Amazing registration changes!)
Suite Gothique L. Boellmann (1862-1897)
Second half will include a major improvisation in 3 movements.

**Sept 21 2014 7PM Mechanics Hall 321 Main St Worcester
Historic Pipe Organ Celebrated in Classical/Popular Concert
Hector Olivera, international performer, comes to Mechanics Hall**

Celebrating the 150th anniversary year (The Year of the Organ), Mechanics Hall welcomes internationally acclaimed organist Hector Oliver Sunday Sept 21 at 7PM in a concert of classical and phenomenal improvisations.

His technical facility at the keyboard continues to amaze audiences around the world – performing Bach to Boellmann and beyond. He will be just returning from guest appearances in France, to concertize on the amazing E G & G Hook pipe organ ("The Worcester Organ") which was installed during the years of the American Civil War, and still sings on for today's concert audiences at the hall.

The concert is a part of **Worcester Organ Day** which will begin with Holy Cross's classical concert series opener at 3PM, followed by **discounts at local restaurants**, and then the gala event at Mechanics Hall. There will be a meet-and-greet reception time after Hector's concert in the Great Hall. Free parking.

"Hector Olivera is the greatest organist ever (that includes Virgil Fox). Not only is his musicianship unsurpassed, he translates the emotions of the music in a way that every fiber of your being is absorbed and affected like none other. He truly is in a class by himself."

Youtube samples: INCREDIBLE IMPROVISER 
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_mFg42LIUI
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XyvTxro9sg>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tI2o7xLoh8g>

2014-15 WorcAGO PROGRAM YEAR

September 21 Hector Olivera concert

Mechanic Hall 7:00 p.m. (tickets: discount for AGO members)

October 26 150th Hook Organ Anniversary Celebration concert

Mechanics Hall 3:00 p.m.

November 16 Organ and Brass concert – featuring Saint-Saens Organ Symphony

William Ness, organ WPI Brass, Doug Weeks, conductor

First Baptist, Worcester 4PM

December 5 Organ Recital

St. Joseph Church, Worcester

William Ness, organist

January 4 Twelfth Night Party

Bloom Residence

Westboro Church Welcomes New Organist – and the story of an 1895 organ resurrected



The Unitarian Universalist Congregational Society of Westborough is pleased to announce the hiring of Leonardo Ciampa of Natick as Music Director.

Leonardo Ciampa has long been a well-respected organist, pianist, and composer in the musical scene of Greater Boston. He is the artistic director of organ concerts at MIT and the founding director of the MetroWest Choral Artists. As a concert organist, he has performed in Italy, Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, but he is particularly admired in Italy, where he has played in many festivals.

One day, Ciampa's wife happened to see on Craig's List that the Unitarian Church in Westborough was looking for a Music Director. "There was nothing about it that excited me," admits Ciampa. "But I was open to meeting with them."

Little did Ciampa know that this was the home parish of the author and New York Times columnist Craig R. Whitney. In his book, *All the Stops*, Whitney devotes several pages to the church's 1895 Ryder organ, which he often played in his youth. In the 1960s, the church purchased an electronic organ, whose speakers were placed inside the organ. Unfortunately, much pipework had to be removed to make room for them. "I met with the committee," says Ciampa "and they told me about the Ryder organ. They proudly mentioned that they had decided to spend \$5,000 toward getting it playing again. I nodded my head politely. But I thought to myself, '\$5,000? What's that going to accomplish?' This is an organ which today would cost maybe \$350,000 to build. Then I took a peek inside the organ and was horrified. So much was missing, and there was no way to know if it still existed. Suffice it to say, I had no hope of ever hearing the Ryder. I was content to play the 1916 Chickering grand piano. And I took the job expecting that that's what I'd be playing."

Ciampa underestimated the determination of several parishioners, and of organ technician Alex Belair. To everyone's surprise, all of the pipes and mechanism were still extant. Each pipe had been carefully preserved in newspaper. Belair worked day and night, reinstalling the organ and tuning each pipe. He finished on August 15th at midnight. The next day, Ciampa and some members of the church went to see the organ. As Ciampa reported on Facebook, "Tonight I experienced something of an organ resurrection. ... One week and \$5,000 later, the organ plays! All of it! And in tune! A group of us gathered at the church this evening. Folks were emotional. Some had never heard the instrument. Others hadn't heard it in 50 years. ... When you pull the Great Open Diapason and play a few notes, you immediately remember that THAT SOUND is what it's all about. That's why we organists persist. What a great evening, one which says much about the power that music holds over the human spirit."

"To everyone's surprise, all of the pipes and mechanism were still extant."

"That's why we organists persist."

ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP

Assumption College will offer a full tuition scholarship for an Organ Scholar, renewable yearly, beginning in the fall of 2015.

Application deadline is January 15, 2015

For more info, contact: Dr. Michelle Graveline, Professor of Music, mgraveli@assumption.edu

National/Internet. . .

6-yr-old Brothers Sell Lemonade for Church Organ Fund



ALBANY, Ore. -- While some kids stake out on the street corner to turn lemonade into some summertime cash, these two brothers are working to restore a 108-year-old pipe organ at an Albany (OR) church.

The Whitespires Berean Fellowship church organ has been out of commission since about 2006. It'll cost nearly \$100,000 to repair the historic pipe organ, and after hosting community fundraisers the congregation is about \$35,000 short.

That's where 6-year-old Peter and 4-year old Simon come in. They've held a few lemonade stands this year, squeezing out some extra cash for the repairs. [Watch newscast video >>>](#)

Young Artist Begins on Piano – *this begins like a silly kids video, and then ... !*



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=omuYi2Vhgjo&sns=em>

Watch this little guy play!

Mechanics Hall Celebrates *Year of the Worcester Organ* as Anniversary Series Continues



Hector Olivera Prepares for Worcester Debut

Mark your calendars for internationally acclaimed performer Hector Olivera's appearance at Mechanics Hall on **Sunday Sept 21 at 7PM**

to continue the anniversary year celebration and kick off WorcAGO's concert season.

This is **Worcester Organ Day** which will begin with Holy Cross's concert series opener at 3PM, followed by **discounts at local restaurants**, and then the gala event at Mechanics Hall. There will be a meet-and-greet reception time after Hector's concert in the Great Hall. Free parking.