

June/July 2004

Double Open

A Publication of
the New York City Chapter of
the American Guild of Organists
<http://www.nycago.org/>

Chapter Program Fall Preview

Two do-not-miss events in autumn New York City will lead off a year of great programs. The place to be in October is "An Evening with Marilyn Mason," 18 October, at Christ United Methodist Church, 520 Park Avenue, with host Steven Pilkington.

A legendary teacher and an engaging speaker who has influenced a whole generation of young organists, Marilyn Mason will teach a master class followed by a reception where she will speak about her career and life in music and answer questions. Anecdotes and stories from a long life in organ music not to be missed!

Then, in November, be sure to come out for "Hans Davids-son, Master class and Recital," 7 & 8 November, at St. Michael Episcopal Church, Amsterdam Avenue and 99th Street, with host Nicholas White.

The newest organ faculty member of The Eastman School of Music debuts in NYC with a master class and recital. A native of Sweden and former student of Hans Fagius, he is currently the Associate Professor of Organ; Affiliate faculty, Musicology Department; and Project Director, Eastman-Rochester Organ Initiative. He is a brilliant scholar, musician, and speaker.

More in the next issue!

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From the Editor

What a year it has been! From the largest Pipe Organ Encounter in the history of the Guild, to the introduction of a large digital instrument to the life of a downtown parish. From a concert and master class with John Grew to even more musical and educational experiences over the Presidents' Weekend holiday with James David Christie, Stephen Pinel, Craig Whitney, and James Feddeck. From the complete organ works of Ned Rorem played by Gregory D'Agostino to a program of works played at Grace Church in Brooklyn Heights preceded by delicious appetizers and a

warm, friendly family-style dinner. Add to this the dozens of concerts and recitals, not to mention hundreds of services of worship, and it's safe to say that we have had a rich and rewarding year.

But we cannot rest on past accomplishments, and your chapter leaders have been hard at work with plans for the future, including a year of regular programs which continue our tradition of being a leading chapter in the Guild. Check out preliminary information in this issue—we held back publication so you'd get as much of a preview as possible. As final details are secured, now is the time to

set aside a few hours for your own professional growth as well as to meet new colleagues and greet familiar friends on these occasions. The Guild, and especially chapter programs, exist for you. Take advantage of all that is available to you!

We have news about the American Institute of Organbuilders 2004 Convention in September. Watch for a visit to New York from Pipe Dreams producer and host, J. Michael Barone, in October.

There is Convention news, imminent and future, and news about members and friends. Enjoy a pleasant summer!

AIO Convention in New Jersey

The American Institute of Organbuilders is holding their annual convention, 29 September – 2 October 2004, across the river in New Jersey and will be easily reached from Manhattan. Guild members are invited to participate.

Two days at the convention hotel provide us a rare opportunity to hear lectures and view presentations on a variety of subjects from the point of view of the organ builder. Then, two days of organ demonstrations throughout the New York metropolitan region.

Organ demonstrations are free to guild members. Lectures require a daily registration, payable at the convention hotel, and includes meals. Complete information and details will be posted on the chapter web site as they are finalized, or visit <http://www.pipeorgan.org>.



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In honor of the members of
the Metropolitan New Jersey and
New York City Chapters of
the American Guild of Organists.

You serve our profession well.

Best wishes to all.

Yvonne L. Sonnenwald
Past Dean, Metro New Jersey Chapter

Anniversary Customs

In 1996, the New York City Chapter hosted the Centennial National Convention of the American Guild of Organists. It was such an acclaimed success, and with the eleventh anniversary of that event coming up in 2007, the Board was wondering what we could do to honor the occasion.

For a fiftieth anniversary you give gold, for a 25th you give silver. A first anniversary rates paper. But what do you give for an eleventh anniversary of a convention? Why, you give another convention!

Three years may seem like plenty of time to arrange a convention. It can be, provided we can count on your valuable help and input. At this stage, we need you to think of what you'd be able to commit in terms of your time and talents to the planning of the 2007 Convention. Next issue we'll have names and contact information for how to get yourself involved.

Just a few weeks from now, some 2,250 organists will gather in Los Angeles for the AGO National Convention. Will you be there? If not, we'll miss you. If so, we have an assignment for you.

Don't worry, there is no exam. There is not even a grade on this assignment. All you have to do is to show up. Well, show up, and drop by the Glück New York booth, or stop one of the Chapter Officers or Board members you pass, and get a special limited-edition "New York City in 2007" button and wear it proudly throughout the convention. Be sure to get your button before they're all gone!

See you in Los Angeles, or in New York City in 2007, and of course at chapter gatherings, recitals and concerts, and all the other *unconventional* places around town.

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Publisher and Editor reserve sole discretion to accept copy or to reject any and all advertising information and/or copy and/or photographs which they determine to not advance the mission and message of the New York City Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Next issue is July/August 2004; items due 15 July 2004. With pending, significant revisions to the format of the newsletter in response to member suggestions and requests, advertisement sizes will undergo some changes. Details to follow in the next edition.

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Pipe Dreams in New York City

Vincent G. Alukonis, Dean of the Queens Chapter, writes with the following news:

I am pleased to announce that Mr. Michael Barone will host a gala benefit concert/taping of PIPEDREAMS at Queens (NY) College on Sunday, 10 October. The event is a fundraiser for WNYE-FM, which transmits our program in the metropolitan New York region. The cost to air our show on WNYE-FM is \$15,600/year. Via ticket sales for the concert and advertisements in the program booklet we plan to raise at least \$5,000.00. We hope to count on your support through several options.

First and foremost we ask you to attend plus bring a colleague and/or friend. In order to maximize the potential audience pool we kindly request that your church (if located in the metro. NY area) not plan a concert for Sunday, 10 October 2004 around 6:00 PM. Please disseminate the event information via sources you may utilize for your musical series. Finally, plan to advertise in the program booklet.

Concert tickets will be minimally priced. Artists for the concert work or reside throughout the area served by WNYE-FM.

News of Members & Friends

On 19 May 2004, Dr. Gerre Hancock, retiring Organist and Master of Choristers at Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue, was awarded the degree of Doctor of Divinity (Honoris causa) at the General Theological Seminary, New York City. And for those who may have missed it, at the fête on Sunday, 2 May 2004, Judith Hancock was awarded the degree of Doctor of Sacred Music by St. Dunstan's College of Sacred Music, Providence, Rhode Island. Do we have an etiquette expert among the membership? I need to know how to address Christmas cards. Is it "Dr. & Dr. Hancock"?

or perhaps "The Drs. Hancock"? Congratulations to these long-time members of the Guild and residents of New York City.



News this month is rather sad having recently learned that David Messineo, long-time member of the New York City Chapter, has died at age 43 after a sudden heart attack. Dr. Messineo was Principal Organist of Princeton University Chapel, served several other significant posts in the New York metropolitan area, and made a return visit to Radio City Music Hall, in a performance with Peter Schickele (aka PDQ Bach) at the conclusion of the 1996 AGO Convention, where he first

performed in the late 1970s, opening the new Christmas show, and performing over several years there with celebrities such as Liberace and Frank Sinatra. Further details can be read on the Chapter web site (<http://www.nycago.org>). A funeral was held at Milford United Methodist Church, Milford PA, with a memorial service at at Glen Ridge Congregational Church, and at Princeton University, in the future. David's family have requested that memorial contributions be directed to: The AGO New Organist Fund 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1260 New York, NY 10115



The sad news continues with word of the passing of M. Searle Wright, FAGO, long-time member of the Guild, serving as its 21st president. His lengthy career began with study in New York, and Wright was Director of Chapel Music at Columbia University and concurrently on the faculty of Union Theological Seminary School of Music. A prolific composer for orchestra, chamber ensemble, chorus and organ, Wright was equally at home at the classical organ and the theatre organ. A memorial service was held in Binghamton at Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church. Memorial gifts may be made to the Roberson Museum and Science Center, 30 Front St,

Binghamton, NY 13905 for the continued care of the Link Theatre Organ. You may view the full Guild obituary at <http://www.agohq.org/bulletin>.



Carl MaultsBy has had a busy month, with a concert of organ music at the Church of St Mark (Episcopal), Brooklyn, in observance of Juneteenth and the tenth anniversary of the end of Apartheid in South Africa. In the state of Texas, the African American community originated the celebration of June 19th as "Juneteenth," the day news of the Emancipation Proclamation reached Texas. Rejoicensemble!, Angela Stark, and Dr. MaultsBy presented Roumel Reaux's

"Marian Anderson—What a Voice! What a Life!" with the author narrating. Finally, Dr. MaultsBy returned to the Church of St Mark for a program of organ music by black composers. All this, within a ten day span of time. Congratulations, Carl!



The choir of Christ's College, Cambridge, is performing up and down the eastern seaboard this summer, including the following New York dates and locations: Grace Church, NYC, 4 July; St Anne and the Holy Trinity, Brooklyn, 6 July; Christ Church, Riverdale, 7 July. For full details, go to the choir's Web site: <http://www.christs.cam.ac.uk/choir/>

Attitude of Gratitude

We gratefully thank the following chapter members for their contributions which were designated to support the NYC Chapter, the Region II Convention Fund, POE (Pipe Organ Encounters), and/or Pipedreams:

Leland R. Abbey; Peter Adamczyk; Gail Archer; Louise Basbas; Daniel M. Beckwith; Justin H. Bischof; John W. Brooks; David L. Brown; Robert H. Busch; Neal F. Campbell; Valerie K. Cardona; Mary S. Caskey; Nancy N. Cliff; Christopher Creaghan; Frank L. Crosio; Ronald W. Cross; Kenneth V. Dake, Jr.;

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Let's see this thank you column double in size next year!



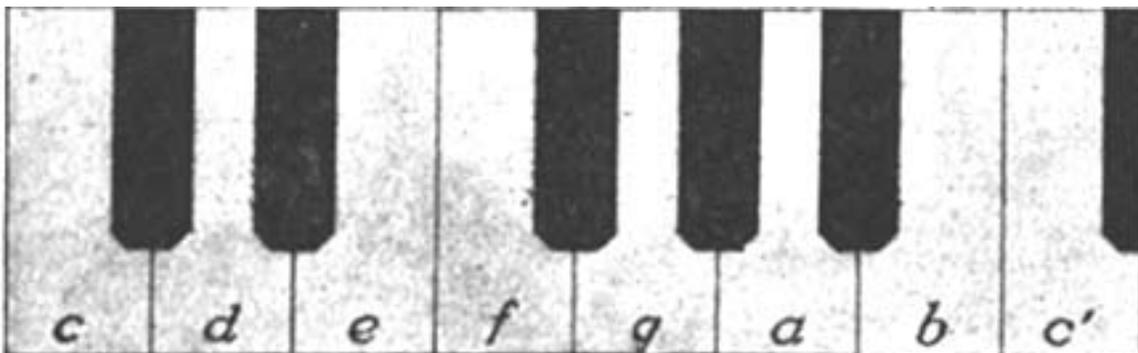
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For Your Review

The accompanying text needs no comment for those of us who have had the pleasure of trying to make sense of liturgy-by-committee. So I pass it along to you—typographical errors intact—with the hopes that for whom this is nothing new it will nevertheless bring forth a chuckle. If this is new to you, you may laugh, you may cry, or you may be silent, or you may have tea, or something else, or nothing at all.

The following Service is taken from the Proposed Book of Common Prayer
(or whatever is appropriate, or whatever you like)

An Order of Service for the Evening

*(or morning, or noon, or after tea, or before tea,
or during tea, or whatever is appropriate)*

*Bishop or
Priest or
Deacon or
Whatever* Blessed be God (or Someone, or some other introductory remarks, or
silence, or tea).

*People or
Whoever* And blessed be His Kingdom (or Thing, or Whatsit, or some other reply,
or silence, or tea).

*Followed by this Collect in Traditional or Contemporary form, or some other collect, or silence or lemonade,
or a drive in the country, or some other appropriate response:*

Traditional:

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts be the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love Thee, and worthily magnify Thy holy Name: through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Contemporary:

God is big, to Him we are here.
Give us the Paraclete, God, so we can make Your name big.
By God, this is it.

*Bishop or
Priest or
Deacon or
Whatever* O Lord, open Thou our lips. *or*
You are God, open our mouths. *or*
Open our mouths, God! *or*
God! God! Mouth! Mouth!

*People or
Whoever* And our mouth shall show forth Thy praise. *or*
You are God. We praise You. *or*
God! God! Praise! Praise!

*Then is to be sung or said a Psalm or canticle or hymn or some other act of praise, or penance, or celebration,
or happening, or silence, or tea, or sherry (except in Advent or Lent unless it is appropriate).*

*The Service is then ended or continued with a collect or sermon, or Eucharist, or tea, or light snack (Tuna an
Rye is especially appropriate on Friday) or a movie or whatever, or something else, or nothing at all.*