



**THE NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER**  
*of the*  
**American Guild of Organists**

[www.nycago.org](http://www.nycago.org)



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**John Bishop, editor**

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Don't miss events presented by your friends and colleagues.  
Visit the Concert Calendar of the NYC Chapter,  
and attend some concerts!

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## **Table of contents:**

- **Dean's Message**
  - **Program News**
  - **Report on the NYC AGO Chapter Competition**
  - **Quote of the Month**
  - **Won't you be my neighbor?**
  - **Joke of the Month**
  - **From the Editor**
-

## Dean's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Yesterday was a lovely spring day, all of eighty degrees and sunny. I hope I never tire of the endless, orderly changing of the seasons, or take them for granted. What beauty surrounds us!

One day I particularly hope shall be beautiful and fair is that of our **Boat Cruise, Monday, June 5th 2017**. One year we had the cruise in a dense fog with chilly temperatures — our city and harbor were still strikingly gorgeous and we all had a great time! But of course, it is even more fun to motor around in seasonal conditions.

We, your executive board, have subsidized the cost of the cruise heavily with chapter funds — you will not find a better deal that includes food made by a real chef, an open bar, and a beautiful vessel packed with a lively crowd of your colleagues and fellow organ lovers touring our own historic and yet lively waterways, the mighty Hudson and our own tidal estuary, the East River.

It is in the nature of humanity to take things for granted at least part of the time; I hope you will join us that evening in stopping to smell the roses (and the fresh air, and the fresh drinks, and the fresh food!).

Yours truly,  
David Enlow  
Dean

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Over 800 people applaud Peter Krasinski following his accompaniment of the movie *Metropolis*. Most of these people had never heard an organ before!



## Program News



Our signature year-end event is approaching, the celebrated **New York Harbor dinner cruise**, on **Monday, June 5** from 6:30-9:30 PM. We are delighted to return to the yacht, *Affinity*, for the first time in a number of years.

Embarkation commences at 6 PM. We will set sail from Pier 60 at Chelsea Piers on the West Side of Manhattan at 6:30 PM sharp, sail around lower Manhattan and up the East River, taking in splendid sunset views of the Statue of Liberty, the Freedom Tower, and Manhattan's iconic skyline. An open bar will accompany a splendid catered dinner. We will return to Pier 60 at 9:30 PM. It will be a superb evening!

Tickets are heavily subsidized by the NYC AGO Chapter and are available for current Chapter members at \$75 and non-Chapter members at \$95. [CLICK HERE to purchase tickets](#). **We are limited to 60 guests so make sure to book early and invite your friends.** We look forward to welcoming you on board!

Additionally, the vote for the 2017 International Performer of the Year Award is due to take place this year. Look out for information on that. In the meantime your Program Committee is busy planning a spectacular set of events for the 2017-18 season.

As always, please see our website for complete information. All events are free to current NYC AGO members, and some are also open to the public.

With my very best wishes, on behalf of the Program Committee,



James Kennerley  
Sub-Dean & Chair of the Program Committee

[Click here to buy boat cruise tickets now!](#)



The pre-concert line outside Marble Collegiate Church in anticipation of the final event of the Presidents' Day Conference. Have you ever seen so many people waiting to attend an organ concert?!

**ARTHUR LAWRENCE**  
D.M.A. A.A.G.O.  
alawrence28@nyc.rr.com

## Report on the NYC AGO Chapter Competition

On Saturday, March 11, 2017, the Chapter Competition was held at Marble Collegiate Church, with Director of Music Kenneth Dake as host.

The winner was Alessandro Pittorino (of Juilliard) and the runner-up was Michael Ryan (of Westminster Choir College). The judges were Bill Trafka, Judith Hancock, and Bálint Karosi.

Alessandro will compete in the regional competition at the Convention in Montreal in July.

- Chelsea Chen, Competition coordinator.

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## Quote of the Month

“To keep a band together, you simply need a gimmick. The gimmick I use is to pay them money.”

- Duke Ellington

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**David Enlow, FAGO**  
**Juilliard Faculty**  
**Organ Lessons, Coaching,**  
**AGO Exam Preparation**

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## Won't you be my neighbor?

Joseph Pulitzer was born in Hungary in 1847, and died aboard his 300-foot yacht, *Liberty*, moored in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina in 1911. Joseph immigrated to the United States in 1864, attracted by bounties being offered for joining the Union Army. When the Civil War ended, he settled in St. Louis, finding linguistic comfort among the large German population there.

After several unsuccessful odd jobs, he started to work as a newspaper reporter,

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and in 1879 purchased both the *St. Louis Post* and *St. Louis Dispatch*, merging them into the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. By 1883, Pulitzer had purchased the *New York World*, and lived in New York City. At the time of his death, Pulitzer was worth more than \$30,000,000 which was the equivalent of more than 1/1100th of the Gross National Product!

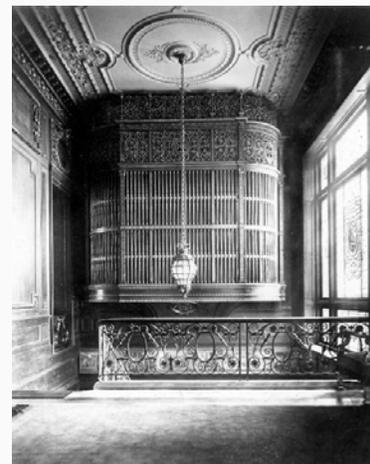
Today, Pulitzer is best known for the annual prizes in journalism, literature, and the arts that bear his name. His will provided for the founding of the School of Journalism at Columbia University, including \$250,000 for the establishment of the prizes.



In 1901, Pulitzer commissioned Stanford White of McKim, Mead, & White to design a huge house patterned after an Italianate Palazzo at 11 East 73rd Street. Pulitzer's health was poor, his eyesight was terrible, and he was unusually, even neurotically sensitive to noise. The acoustics expert from Harvard University, Wallace Sabine (best known for his design of the acoustics at Symphony Hall in Boston), was engaged to create a soundproof environment in the new house. When Pulitzer expressed his dissatisfaction with the results, architect William Mead exclaimed to a colleague, "...nerves are his trouble and that is not part of an architect's business to supply the client with a proper set of nerves."

Given his neurological condition, it seems incongruous that Pulitzer commissioned the Aeolian Company to install a two-manual, eleven rank organ (Opus 924, 1902) in the house on East 73rd Street. Edward Rechlin was organist to the Pulitzer family. When the family was in town, Rechlin played between 9:30 and 10:00 each evening for a fee of \$20, a huge sum in an age when a typical factory worker earned less than \$10 a week.

Pulitzer's house still stands on East 73rd Street, and has been converted to coop apartments. According to StreetEasy, there's a one-bedroom apartment available in the Pulitzer House for about \$1,100,000. Pets are allowed.



And by the way, according to my primary literary source, it's *pull-it-sir*, not *pewl-it-sir*.

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## Joke of the Month

Years ago, I was working with a colleague finishing the installation of a new organ. We were running flexible tubing from the ground-level Great windchest to the sills on which stood the polished pipes of the 16' Violone in the façade. It was late in the day, and it was hard work. The paths for the tubes were obstructed by rackboards, rackpins, windlines, and case pieces, and we stood on opposite sides of the organ, struggling with each successive note. Working in whole steps, we finished C, after a brief battle, we finished D. Facing the prospect of another challenge, we looked at each other: "To tube E, or not to tube E? That is the question."

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David Lloyd ben Yaacov Yehuda Klepper  
Cantor/Hazan-in-training, synagogue care-  
taker, author, architectural acoustician.  
Co-author, *Worship Space Acoustics*  
[www.jrosspub.com](http://www.jrosspub.com)  
website: [www.proaudioencyclopedia.com](http://www.proaudioencyclopedia.com)  
Yeshivat Beit Orot, Shmuel ben Adiya 1  
Mount of Olives, Jerusalem 97400, ISRAEL  
Email: [daveklepper@yahoo.com](mailto:daveklepper@yahoo.com)

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## From the Editor

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Last summer, I traveled to the west coast for a consultation visit with the organ committee of a church that was busy discussing what they should do with their organ. The rector, who had been there about six years, told me that during his first week on the job, he walked through the building alone at night, opening every door, and inspecting every space.



He was appalled at the messes he found. Closets were jammed full of useless stuff, classrooms were depositories for broken furniture, and loot left over from last year's Rummage Sale was stuffed in garbage bags under the stairwells. There was chaos and disorder everywhere. Does that sound familiar?

That night, he vowed to himself that the entire building would be involved in active ministry within two years, and the parish achieved his goal. Together, they filled dumpsters, scrubbed floors, and painted walls, reclaiming the real estate that had been built for them by the earlier generation. A food pantry, soup kitchen, and after-school programs for students were established. Twelve-step programs were meeting almost daily, and the parish budget increased significantly because of rental income.

That story impressed me, and reminded me of the value of the buildings owned by our churches. I visit dozens of church buildings each year, and I've seen it all. Some parishes make use of every square inch, with departments and programs overlapping and clamoring for more, while some have vast unused spaces. Here in Manhattan, where space is valued more than almost anywhere, it's especially wasteful to harbor empty space. Think of the commercial value of a couple thousand square feet of heated space.

If you're a musician on the staff of a church, you might have the luxury of some dedicated space. It may be an office, a choir room, or a closet for storage of music and vestments. Does your space reflect your feelings about the music you make? Is it productive, attractive, comfortable, and useful? Don't take it for granted. I know some of you have upper-story spaces worthy of a corporate CEO, while some are in basement alcoves. Perhaps you can't control that, but have you done anything to personalize it?

I think that rector on the west coast was setting a good example.

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