



THE NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER
of the
American Guild of Organists

www.nycago.org



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John Bishop, editor

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and attend some concerts!

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Dean's Message

Dear Colleagues,

This is my last message to you as your chapter dean. As I said in my first message four years ago, I have hoped to encourage and assist, and not to hinder, your work in the Guild, and in music generally. Where I have succeeded, I have been borne up by the efforts of many; where there were faults, they have been my own.

I am so glad for the important work we have all done together: presenting great performers in concert, offering educational events for our members, bringing the organ before the public in as wide a way as we could manage, making partnerships with some of our great religious institutions and other organizations, offering examinations which uphold standards of musicianship and serve as educational goals, offering social time for colleagues to support and greet one another, and, I hope, for good stewardship of the chapter's resources.

Several of us on the board now pass the baton to new leaders. My hope for them is that they build on the good parts of what has come before, and discard anything we have done in the past that has proven unhelpful or cumbersome. These are trying times for religious music, art music, and their exponents, and it might be that our efforts now will have mattered more to the



continued liveliness of our art more than in any recent past time.

Thank you all for your support of our work, and I look forward to seeing many of you at chapter events.

Please give your new board your support, in time and treasure, and encourage one another.

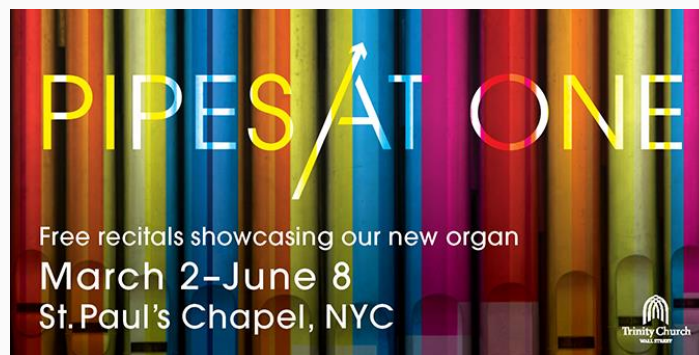
Yours truly,

David Enlow
Dean

NYC AGO Election Results, 2018

With many thanks to all who were willing to serve, and to those who voted for the next chapter leadership.

<p>Dean James Kennerley Sub Dean James Wetzel Secretary Raymond Nagem Treasurer Christopher Babcock Registrar Larry Long Auditors Claudia Dumschat Steve Lawson</p>	<p>At-large (Class of 2022) Samuel Bartlett Gregory D'Agostino Donald Meineke William Randolph Jason Roberts J. David Williams</p>
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Program News

Our final event of the year is the **Concert by James David Christie**, 2017 International Performer of the Year winner, at Saint Thomas Church on **Monday, June 18 at 6 PM**. The concert, performed on the 1996/2015 Taylor and Booddy gallery instrument, will be followed by the award presentation and a festive dinner, catered by renowned Executive Chef, Heidi Thomas. Many of us will remember Heidi's incredible food from our dinner there a few years ago - it's quite something. **Tickets for the concert are free and open to all but must be reserved by clicking here.** Tickets for the dinner are \$75 per person, available here. Please note that there is a 65-person limit for the



dinner so be sure to purchase yours now! Guests are always welcome.

We look forward to welcoming you to this fabulous event - also my last as Sub-Dean. It has been a pleasure to serve the Chapter over these past four years.

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



James Kennerley
Sub-Dean & Chair of the Program Committee



James David Christie, winner of the 2017 International Performer of the Year Award, will play a concert on Monday, June 18 at 6 PM. See above for more details.



David Hairston II
Institutional Sales Associate
631.351.9000 (Showroom)
David@FaustHarrisonPianos.com

277 Walt Whitman Rd
Huntington Station, NY 11746
www.FaustHarrisonPianos.com

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Quote of the Month

Music with dinner is an insult both to the cook and the violinist.

-- G. K. Chesterton



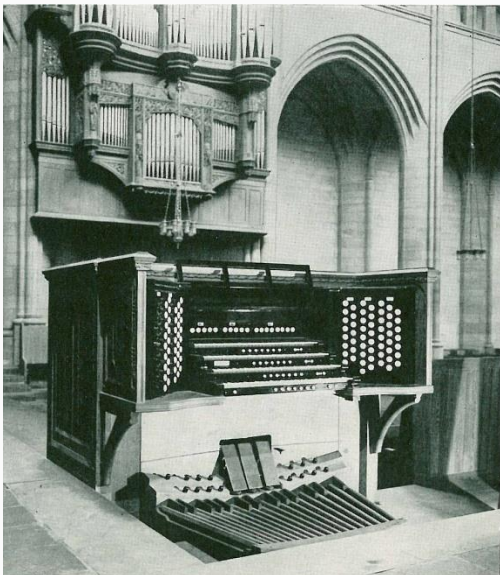
David Enlow, FAGO
Juilliard Faculty
Organ Lessons, Coaching,
AGO Exam Preparation

Won't you be my neighbor?

St. Thomas' on Fifth Avenue is one of a handful of iconic churches that stands out as a bastion in the world of church music, preserving and upholding one of the finest choir programs in the United States. According to the church's website, the first worship service was held in the present building on October 4, 1913. The previous building on that site was destroyed by fire in 1905. The site also lists William MacFarlane as organist for the parish between 1900 and 1913.

T. Tertius Noble was called from his position as organist and choirmaster at York Minster to serve at St. Thomas Church starting in 1913. I'm guessing that call intended him to be the first organist in the new building. According to the website of the St. Thomas Choir School, Noble accepted the call "with the understanding that a Choir School would be necessary to achieve the musical standard desired by the parish." The school was founded in 1919 and approaches its Centennial Celebration.

There has been a lot of big news from St. Thomas Church in recent years including the retirement of Gerre Hancock, the commissioning of the new organ by Dobson Pipe Organ Builders, the appointment of and sudden tragic death of John Scott, the appointment of Daniel Hyde, and Mr. Hyde's subsequent appointment as successor to Stephen Cleobury at King's College, Cambridge, speaking of iconic churches. Incredibly, Daniel will be only the ninth person to serve as Director of Music at King's since 1799!



I like to point out an interesting tidbit from the early history of St. Thomas' present building. The Skinner Organ Company's Opus 205 was in place for the opening of new building in 1913. This photograph shows that it was one of the first furnishings in the chancel. It reflects all of the elegant design details that made Mr. Skinner famous, including the comfortable geometry that predated the origin of the word, ergonomic, still prized by organists more than a century later. But there's one specific detail that I think is especially important – the set button. That button reveals the presence of a commercially available, user-programmable, electro-pneumatic, binary computer built in Boston in 1912. What other machine built that year could be described that way.

I've had conversations with several colleagues especially knowledgeable about Skinner organs and haven't zeroed in on which was the first Skinner organ to have a set button. Any thoughts?

ARTHUR LAWRENCE

D.M.A. A.A.G.O.

alawrence28@nyc.rr.com

Joke of the Month



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

From the Editor

A Royal Photobomb.

Last week's wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle provided organists with lots to celebrate, and to judge from some comments I've seen on social media, to cackle about, including amusing jabs at the hat worn by the Duchess of Cornwall. But there was one scene that caught my eye at the moment it happened. The twin sons of Ms. Markle's close friend Jessica Mulrone were serving as Page Boys, carrying the expansive train behind the bride. When the bride entered St. George's Chapel, the State Trumpets (real State Trumpets, not just a noisy organ stop!) let loose with a brilliant fanfare, seven-year-old Brian Mulrone burst into a huge gap-toothed smile. Of course, the whole experience must have been thrilling, even overwhelming for a young child, but Brian's father, Canadian television host Ben Mulrone, shared that Brian had never heard a trumpet before, and the sound simply thrilled him.



Colleague organists commented on that image, sharing thoughts like, "that's the way I felt the first time I heard the thirty-two-foot at such-and-such church." I've had many such moments

when something artistic has moved me, including the thirty-two-foot Open Wood at Durham Cathedral, and the first time I saw Van Gogh's *Starry Night* at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. If it's your job to play the organ, never allow yourself to think of it as just a job. Always remember what a privilege it is to send those monumental sounds down the length of a huge building, and that someone in the room may be bursting into tears, simply because they never heard anything like that before.

Young Brian Mulroneý's smile was a candid joyful moment in the life of a child, broadcast for the entire world to see. I vote for trumpet lessons for Brian, as soon as his new teeth grow in.

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Our mailing address is:

NYC Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
552 West End Avenue
New York, Ny 10024