

The Worcester Organist

Official Newsletter of the
WORCESTER CHAPTER
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

POST OFFICE BOX 20208 • WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS • 01602

JULY – AUGUST 2009

VOLUME II, ISSUE IV

A Message from the Dean



Ronna Archbold

Dean

Dear Colleagues:

Summertime. I hope this finds you in the midst of some rest and relaxation. I hope for you a change in routine. I hope for you the opportunity to find your inner artist and recreate your spirit.

Joseph Bloch was a pianist and scholar who taught piano literature at Julliard. Mr. Bloch died recently and left a rich legacy in his students, his teaching, his hospitality, his recordings and series of music books that he published. However, of all of the things I read about this distinguished man, what I enjoyed most was the fact that when he signed an autograph, he signed it with the date, hour, minute and second, and a large crescendo. In fact, he signed a monograph on three different occasions for Sara Davis Buechner, Professor at the University of British Columbia, and each time he signed his name and

made the crescendo indication – the crescendo got larger and larger – indicating their ever-growing friendship.¹

What a great idea – signing one's name with a crescendo!

I am signing this Dean's message with a crescendo – and by it I mean onward, upward, positive thoughts and many opportunities for growth and fulfillment in our music and in our lives.



Ronna Archbold
Dean, rrarchbold@hotmail.com

¹ Mr. Isacoff, *Purchase College Conservatory of Music. Editor – Piano Today.*
Cited from the Wall Street Journal.

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2008 – 2010

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Diane French
Thomas Ingrassia
Dawn Thistle

Members' Forum. News & More!

Chapter Member Takes SPC Exam

We proudly use this opportunity to congratulate Deborah Page who, after many grueling hours of practice and preparation, recently took and successfully passed the Service Playing Certificate examination offered by the AGO. This was Deborah's second attempt, and while she admitted her nervousness, her excitement was evident. Congratulations, Deb!

Fr. Tom Garlick: Celebrating 25 Years of Ordination

This year is a special one for all Catholic priests as it has been proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI as the Year of the Priest. Closer to home, it is special for our Chaplain, Fr. Tom Garlick, who is celebrating 25 years of ordination to the priesthood this year. Congratulations, Fr. Tom!

QR 101: Publicity for Worcester Chapter Events

As Publicity Director for the Worcester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, I thought it might be helpful to give a little primer on what I do and how I do it.

Under the direction of the Executive Committee, I am responsible for writing and distributing information to the media – local, regional, and national; print and electronic – about Chapter-sponsored events, including meetings, recitals, and other special events. Here is some critical information for us all to keep in mind when planning events:

1. Most local media (i.e. Telegram & Gazette) require a minimum of 4 weeks advance notice to get an event into calendar listings. For feature articles, the earlier we can get information into the hands of a reporter, the better our chances of coverage of the event.
2. National media (i.e. The American Organist or The Diapason) require a minimum of **2-3 months** advance notice to get the events into their listings (e.g. calendar listings, forthcoming events, etc.).
3. Providing photos with a press release increases the chances that the release will get the attention of a reporter.
4. With enough notice, I also submit event information to Social Web. This is where Worcester Magazine and the Worcester Cultural Coalition, for example, pull all information for their listings.

When the Chapter is hosting an event for which we want publicity, it is critical to get the detailed information – who, what, when, where, cost, etc. – to me as soon as possible. As soon as I have information, I draft a release and distribute it to the appropriate media outlets.

Following the event, I also send an article about the event – including photos, if available – to The American Organist (TAO) for its *Chapter News* section.

The bottom line is the timely submission of event information – first, to me so that I have enough time to prepare a release, and second, so that we comply with media deadlines, thus maximizing media exposure for the Chapter and its events. If you are planning a Chapter-sponsored event and have questions, please contact me and we'll walk through the process.

Tom Ingrassia
Publicity Director, tom@ingrassiaartists.com

Auditions: Worcester Children's Chorus

The Worcester Children's Chorus announces auditions for its 2009-2010 concert season.

Founded in September 2008, under the co-direction of Jennifer Kane and Malcolm Halliday, the Worcester Children's Chorus offers children of ages 10 through 18 an opportunity to sing choral music ranging from classical to gospel. Singers are selected by audition and pay a modest tuition to participate. Scholarships have also been offered to families on a financial needs basis. Current membership includes singers from Grafton, Holden, Hubbardston, Jefferson, Lancaster, North Brookfield, Northborough, Oxford, Paxton, Shrewsbury, Sturbridge, Westborough and Worcester.

The Chorus is a program of the Master Singers of Worcester and resides on the campus of Assumption College.

The mission of the Worcester Children's Chorus is "to enrich the lives of children throughout Worcester County by providing a quality musical experience through training in choral singing. Membership offers professional-level instruction in vocal technique, music theory, sight singing, ear training and presentation, as well as exposure to a variety of choral styles. Involvement also enhances young people's lives, helping them to develop qualities of self-reliance, personal integrity, responsibility, compassion and confidence in their abilities."

To schedule an audition for membership in the Worcester Children's Chorus, please contact Jennifer Kane at 508-767-7077 or send e-mail to wccchorus@gmail.com. Information about the Worcester Children's Chorus may be found online at www.worcesterchildrenschorus.com.

Membership Renewal: Reminder

We are now in the midst of our annual membership renewal drive. Many thanks to those of you who have already forwarded your membership renewal form. For those of you who have not yet renewed, please remember that the new membership year officially began on July 1, and the Worcester Chapter's deadline is September 1 if you wish to be included in the Chapter's yearbook. Renewing now will enable the Chapter to avoid extra postage and allow timely reporting of membership information to National Headquarters. A renewal form has been included at the end of this newsletter for your convenience.

Calendar of Events

July 14, 2009 at 8:00 p.m.

David Beyer, Organist. Old West Organ Society Summer Series (131 Cambridge St., Boston, MA). Free admission, donations welcome. Handicap accessible. For more information, call 617-739-1340.

July 21, 2009 at 8:00 p.m.

Joyce Painter Rice, Organist. Old West Organ Society Summer Series (131 Cambridge St., Boston, MA). Free admission, donations welcome. Handicap accessible. For more information, call 617-739-1340.

July 28, 2009 at 8:00 p.m.

Mark Nelson, Organist. Old West Organ Society Summer Series (131 Cambridge St., Boston, MA). Free admission, donations welcome. Handicap accessible. For more information, call 617-739-1340.

August 4, 2009 at 8:00 p.m.

Naomi Shiga, Organist. Old West Organ Society Summer Series (131 Cambridge St., Boston, MA). Free admission, donations welcome. Handicap accessible. For more information, call 617-739-1340.

August 11, 2009 at 8:00 p.m.

Jonathan Wohlers, Organist. Old West Organ Society Summer Series (131 Cambridge St., Boston, MA). Free admission, donations welcome. Handicap accessible. For more information, call 617-739-1340.

August 18, 2009 at 8:00 p.m.

Old West Organ Society Summer Series (131 Cambridge St., Boston, MA) presents a 75-minute program by seven visiting Japanese organ students of Hatsumi Miura. Free admission, donations welcome. Handicap accessible. For more information, call 617-739-1340.

August 21, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

Wentworth Congregational Church (Wentworth, NH) presents its 35th annual recital, featuring Organist Lois Regestein and the church's classically voiced 124-year-old Hook & Hastings/Andover II-7, locally famous as the "Wentworth Classic Tracker." For more information, call 603-764-9081.

September 11, 2009 at 8:00 p.m.

Methuen Memorial Music Hall (192 Broadway St., Route 28, Methuen, MA) presents an organ recital to benefit the MMMH Scholarship Fund, featuring internationally recognized Dr. Douglas Major, playing works of Bach, Mendelssohn, Vierne, Franck and Gershwin. To learn more, visit mmmh.org.

Please submit future calendar items and placement listings to Jean Breidenbach by August 15, 2009. Contact information can be found on the rear cover of this newsletter. Thank you!

Available Positions

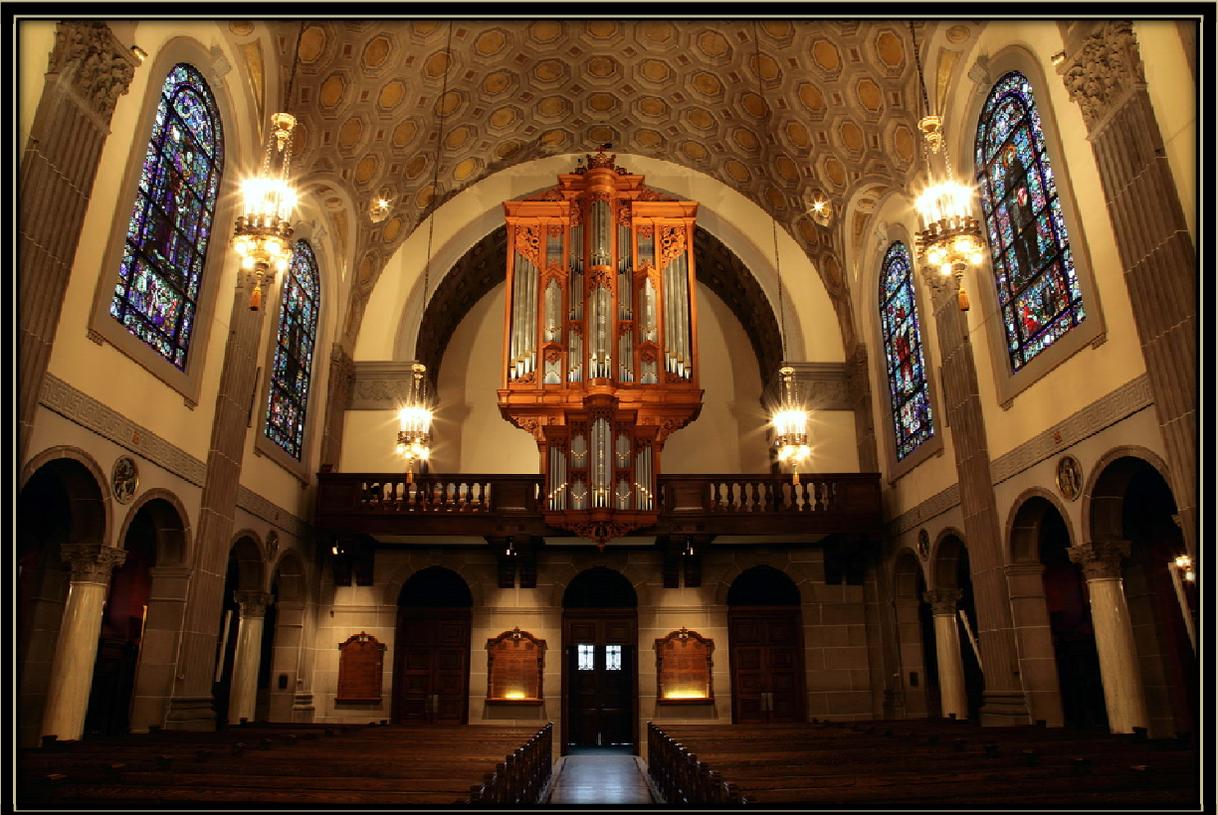
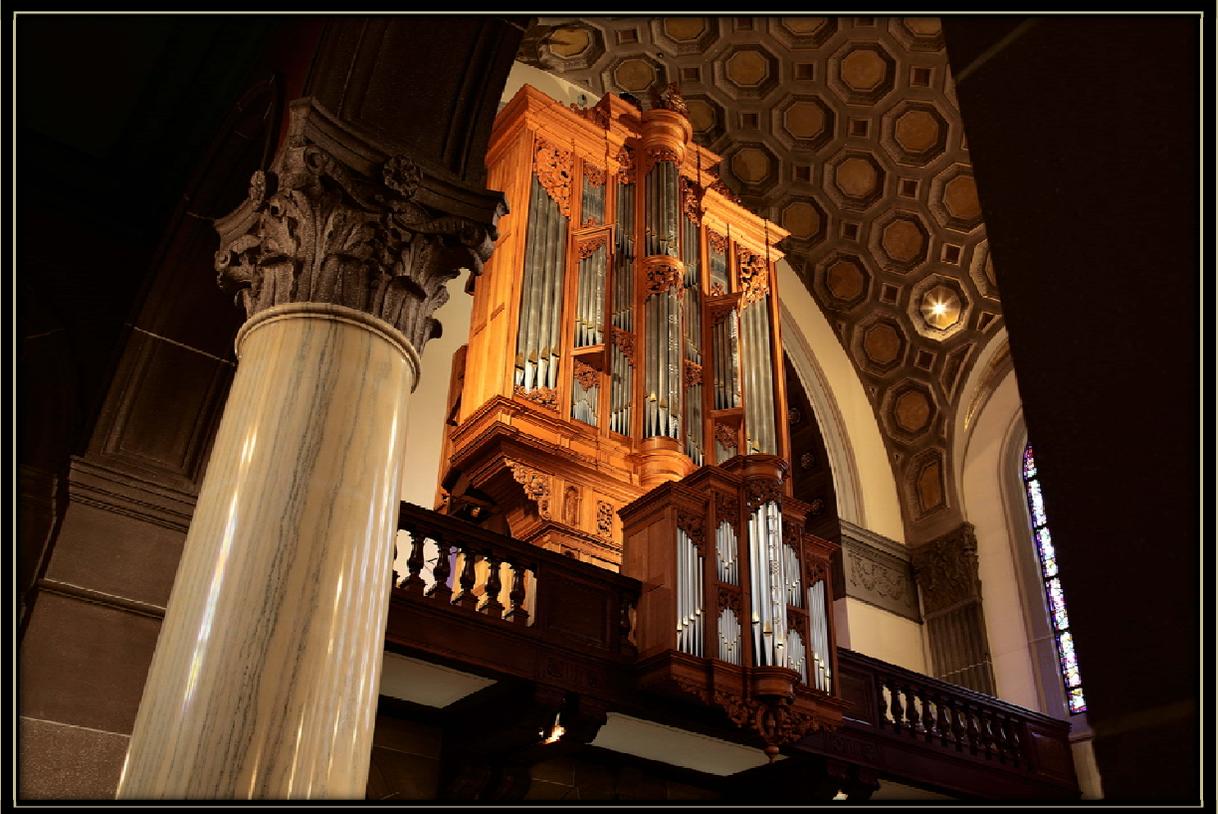
Saint Luke's Episcopal Church (*Director of Music*) 921 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA 01602

Part-time position (10 hours per week) in a small, vibrant Episcopal parish in the West Tatnuck neighborhood. Organist, choir director. Provide music for one weekly service at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays, plus special services (e.g. Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter). Rehearse adult choir during a 90-minute rehearsal on Thursday evenings, as well as before each Sunday service (September through June). Aid in development of children's choir, currently inactive. First refusal for weddings and funerals. Preference will be shown to candidates who have prior experience and/or familiarity with Episcopal, Lutheran or similar liturgically-based music. Skill in organ, piano and vocal coaching required. Ability to organize and direct volunteer choir. Salary negotiable, based on AGO guidelines. Two weeks paid vacation. Rodgers 205 hybrid pipe/electronic organ. Technics digital piano in sanctuary. For more information about the parish, visit www.stlukesworchester.org. Please submit cover letter and resume to the search committee at the above address, or send e-mail to stlukeac@verizon.net. (Listing printed 7/1/09.)

Reflections: AGO Certification Exam

Offered by Deborah Page: How awkward it can be, attempting to pass an exam at the age of 52. It is even more awkward performing with talented teenagers at the scholarship recital! But I don't regret any of it. The second time around was the charm. My recommendations: go for it! Apply for a scholarship and take lessons. You're never too old to learn. The biggest hindrance is time. Being more mature, most of us have an assortment of commitments (e.g. job, family, church position). What I did at my lessons, I used for preludes and postludes. That was good practice for the big day. It was recommended to tape oneself playing. That is a good idea, but it was only me and the machine, so it wasn't too stressful. At church, I don't get nervous because I feel anyone who can do a better job than me can have the bench. Being recorded for the test is the most nerve-wracking experience. I feel what helped me beat my nerves was that I was prepared. I gave it my all; kicked myself for mistakes, but I was ready. That pulled me through. I had a great time playing with the two other organists at the scholarship recital. I wasn't even nervous. I played the exam pieces; they were well-prepared, and I could just have fun. Will I try another test? I think I might. It took three years to truly prepare for this last one. I think I'll make a goal of five years to do the next one. Everyone should give it a try, just for your own personal goal, growth and satisfaction.

Featured Organ: 1985 Taylor & Boody (Opus 9)



Featured Organ: College of the Holy Cross



Professional photography by Andrew Fladeboe, reprinted with permission. Visit andrewfladeboe.com.

**College of the Holy Cross
Worcester, Massachusetts**

1985 Taylor & Boddy (Opus 9)

Hauptwerk

- 16' Principal
- 8' Octave
- 8' Spillpfeife
- 5 1/3' Quinte (c')
- 4' Octave
- 3 1/5' Tertia (c')
- 2 2/3' Quinte
- 2' Superoctave
- VII-IX Mixture
- 16' Trompet
- 8' Trompet

Pedal

- 32' Gross Untersatz
- 16' Principal
- 16' Subbass
- 8' Octave
- 4' Octave
- 2' Nachthorn
- II Rauschpfeife
- V-VI Mixture
- 16' Posaune
- 8' Trompet
- 4' Trompet
- 2' Cornett

Rückpositiv

- 8' Principal
- 8' Gedackt
- 4' Octave
- 4' Rohrflöte
- 2' Octave
- 2' Waldflöte
- 1 1/3' Sifflet
- II Sesquialtera
- V-VIII Scharff
- 16' Dulcian
- 8' Schalmey
- 8' Trichterregal

Brustwerk

- 8' Gedackt
- 4' Blockflöte
- 2' Octave
- II Terzian
- III Zimbel
- 8' Regal

- Zimbelstern
- Two Tremulants

Oberwerk

- 8' Principal
- 8' Hohlflöte
- 8' Quintadena
- 4' Octave
- 4' Spielflöte
- 2 2/3' Nasat
- 2' Gemshorn
- 1 3/5' Tierce
- IV-V Mixture
- III Rauschende Zimbel
- 8' Trompet
- 8' Vox Humana

Couplers

- RP / HW
- OW / HW
- HW / PD
- RP / PD

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*The Worcester Organist is published six times annually:
January, March, May, July, September and November.
Newsletter items must be submitted by the 15th
of the month prior to publication.*

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*Calendar items must be submitted by the 15th of each month.
Placement listing fee is \$20.00 for 4 mos., payable in advance to:
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