

THE Worcester Organist

Volume 1

Number 4

DEAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings from somewhere in this land of ours.

Congratulations on a good looking newsletter. One which I both miss being a part of and am very relieved not to have to worry about any more. If I had to choose, however, I would rather be there, being a part of it all. I actively miss my involvement in the chapter's activities and get a dreadful itch to come back and run things again.

However, it really isn't necessary. Things are going so well with the convention that it is almost unbelievable to recall all the dread and worry that many of us had about the financial success of the undertaking. I can say from afar, and without any vested interest in doing so that the Worcester Convention is going to be one to go down in the annals of AGO-OHS history as a model for all future conventions of a regional type. Its planning, execution, concept, and all about it have been done with an immense amount of thought, work, and finesse. I am going to miss being there when it happens.

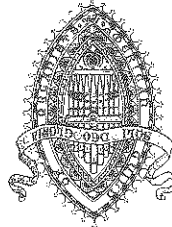
Enough. I do hope that none of the new members of the chapter drink white wine. I'm not sure how the juxtaposition of Ms. Davis and the bio's on the members ended up on the same page. Was there supposed to be a message there?

Also, after reading about the concern over the Worcester local organ competition only having one entrant . . . having heard Paul Roy play a full recital at First Baptist Church, including a horrendously difficult pedal piece by Leo Sowerby, I have no doubt that he is fully deserving to represent our chapter in the regional competition, and that we are lucky to have him put in all the demanding time and effort to do so. All my luck to you, Paul. And thank you for representing our chapter so well.

Before I sign off, one can send mail c/o Jonathan Tessier, 41 Clayton Road, East Hartford, CT 06118.

Sincerely,

Gilbert H. Lay
Past Dean



FALCO, Lucia Clemente
36 Bridgeport Street
Worcester, MA 01604

THE WORCESTER CHAPTER
American Guild of Organists
6 Institute Road
Worcester, MA 01609
(617) 755-4978

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 354
Worcester, Massachusetts
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

ISAAC WATTS, 1707. Rev. F. Major. "Ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."—LUTK 13: 36. Psalms 124th Hymns.

WORCESTER. S. N.

And words of peace reveal! Who bring salvation on their tongues, How charming, charming is their voice,
Who stand on Zion's hill; Who bring salvation on their tongues, How charming, charming is their voice,
And words of peace reveal!
How beauteous are their feet Who bring salvation on their tongues, Who bring salvation on their tongues, How charming, charming is their voice,
Who stand on Zion's hill; And words of peace reveal! And words of peace reveal!

The above is one the oldest American tunes. Some claim it is an English tune, older than any of the American composers of Billings and others. It was in the first "Sacred Harp" by White and King 1844 and in all revisions up to 1869, also "Missouri Harmony" and in other American publications.

THE WORCESTER ORGANIST is published monthly by the Worcester Chapter of The American Guild of Organists, a professional association of church and synagogue musicians and friends. For membership information, call 755-4978.

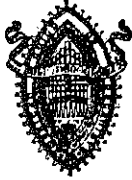
The deadline for articles and other submissions to be included in this publication in the first of the preceding month, in writing. For information concerning the inclusion of ads or your own printed flyers, call the Editor.

EDITOR:

Richard F. Jones
27 Bowdoin Street #23
Worcester, MA 01609
617/798-0548

CALENDAR:

Lois Hagberg
77 Whitmarsh Avenue
Worcester, MA 01606
617/853-6659



THREE * TWO * ONE * CONVENTION!


As I write this Easter is a fresh memory. It's nice to hover between the past (beautiful liturgies with lots of music) and the future (visions of good times coming up in the Convention). My sleeves are already rolled up, though, to get set for the final days of preparation.

Brenda Fraser, Registrar, has 305 registrations in hand as of March 29th. WE'VE CROSSED THE 300 MARK! A special reminder that April 30th is the LAST day that registrations will be received at the NEW, LOW price of \$85. As of May 1st, the fee will be \$99. So send in your check to Brenda now and reserve a place for yourself!

The Program Committee has burned some midnight oil dealing with some last minute changes. Scaffolding and painters' tarps at St. Cecilia, Leominster have made us reschedule that evening event to St. John Chapel, Groton School (Thomas Murray). In addition we will have the additional opportunities of seeing two more important instruments in Leominster: Pilgrim Cong'l. Church (Steere and Turner) and St. Mark Episcopal Church (E&GG Hook). The Competition winner will play a recital at Christ Church, Fitchburg following which the choir of Christ Church, under Brenda Fraser's direction, will sing Evensong.

It's is not too late for you to volunteer some time and talent, if you haven't already done so. Judy Jepson (Hospitality) is looking for more hands to make the work lighter, as is Lucia Clemente Falco (Ushers). Your well-placed phone call to ANY of the sub-committee chair-people would be appreciated. We're all busy with these plans, but most of all, we're having FUN.

Sincerely yours,


Stephen Long, Co-Chairman



*Don't forget
to speak scornfully
of the Victorian* Age;
there will be
time for meekness
when you try to better it.*

J. M. Barrie

**or whatever age is currently out of fashion . . .*

Organ Clearing House

ALAN LAUFMAN, DIRECTOR
POST OFFICE BOX 104
HARRISVILLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03450
TELEPHONE: AREA CODE 603-827-3055

ABOUT OUR NEW MEMBERS

LEONA CLEMENTE is a native of Worcester whose many years of singing experience includes various recitals, soprano roles in light opera and show productions, recordings for radio commercials, and church soloist work throughout Worcester County. Her vocal training includes 15 years of study with Mme. Marie-Antoinette Comeau. She is a past member of Worcester County Light Opera Club and the Worcester Chorus. Presently, she is soloist at St. Margaret Mary's Church, and organist/soloist at Our Lady of Mercy Church.

THE REV. RONALD G. FALCO, a Worcester Native, was graduated from Boston University in 1975 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in World Religion. He completed his studies for the priesthood at St. John's Seminary, Brighton, Mass. During that time he received one basic unit of Clinical Pastoral Education under the Psychology Dept., Andover Newton School of Theology, and a Master of Divinity from St. John's. He was ordained a priest by Bishop Bernard J. Flanagan in 1981. Fr. Falco is presently Associate Pastor at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, West Boylston.

CALENDAR

APRIL

- 24 Sun 3:30 p Cambridge, St. Paul's Church. Benefit Concert. BOSTON ARCHDIOCESAN CHOIR SCHOOL, HANDBELL CHOIR, BOSTON FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA, THEODORE MARIER, DIRECTOR, JOHN DUNN, ORGANIST. \$7/\$5.
- 24 Sun 4:00 p Waterbury, Conn., Sacred Heart Church. SUSAN ARMSTRONG, ORGANIST OHS concert on 3-manual Johnson.
- 24 Sun 7:00 p Groton School Chapel, Groton, MA. MOZART: MISSA BREVIS IN D, TE DEUM, CHURCH SONATAS K. 263, 278, GROTON SCHOOL CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA, CRAIG SMITH, DIRECTOR, BRENDA FRASER, ORGANIST

MAY

- 1 Sun 3:30 p Boston, Church of the Advent. WILMA JENSEN, ORGANIST
- 1 Sun 8:00 p Worcester Mechanics Hall. CAROLINA DURANA and other works. WORCESTER CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA

WORCESTER CHAPTER AGO - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The March meeting of the Worcester Chapter AGO Executive Committee meeting was held at the Friend's Society Building and hosted by Richard Jones. Dean Joseph Policelli called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m., March 7, 1983.

Present were Dean Joseph Policelli, Richard Jones, Lois Hagberg, Nancy Chouinard, Darle Hand, Donna Merrill, David Lasky, Janeen Baker, Sr. Mary Ellen McLaughlin, Lucia Clemente-Falco, and Andrea Goodrich.

Lois Hagberg read the minutes of the February meeting. The minutes were accepted with one addition. Under new business the last item should read "Richard Jones reported that \$50. has been paid to the Worcester Historical Museum for the use of materials published in the TAO."

Treasurer's Report - Nancy Chouinard

| <u>Beginning balance</u> | <u>Debit</u> | <u>Credit</u> | <u>Ending Balance</u> |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| \$718.46 | \$629.78 | \$313.18 | \$401.86 |

A detailed treasurer's report is on file at Central Church.

Nominating Committee - Darle Hand

The position of Chaplain was discussed and decided that following the elections the dean will appoint a chaplain for the upcoming year.

Program - Richard Jones

The proposed program for the 83-84 season, our 35th anniversary, is as follows:

September 17 and 24, Choral Workshop, 11-2;
October 10, Fawl Crawl; November 13, Cantata Sing;
January 1 or 8, Twelfth Night; March 18, 35th Anniversary Festival Service; May ?, 35th Anniversary Meeting and Dinner (Mechanics Hall) Well-known recitalist

The Program Committee will work on details and present the program to the Executive Committee for approval at a later date.

Hospitality

Thank you to Lucia Clemente-Falco, our hospitality chairperson, for providing three receptions in one weekend.

Membership - Darle Hand

Two people have recently joined the Guild, Randolph Bloom and Roland Poulin.

Publicity - Lois Hagberg

Lois will prepare an article on the Worcester Chapter Competition and also Twelfth Night and send it to TAO.

Under new business a discussion of AGO mailings took place. People outside of the city of Worcester are receiving their mail very late. A motion was made and withdrawn that we send all chapter mailings first class. The consensus of

opinion was that a notice should be put in the newsletter stating that anyone wishing to receive AGO mailings first class contact Nancy Chouinard and for a \$1.00 fee for the remainder of this year this would be done.

In the April Newsletter three articles must appear -- the official ballot, a registration form for the April workshop, and a registration form for the Annual Meeting.

April - Workshop

Friday, April 29 - organ recital at St. Peters, 8 pm (pending approval of St. Peters). Four performers from the Worcester Chapter to be contacted by Richard Jones.
Saturday, April 30 - workshops to be held at The United Church of Christ (formerly Central Congregational Church).
Morning session - lunch - afternoon session
Sunday, May 1 - Hymn Festival 4 pm

Annual Meeting

By May 15th a number on registrations must be sent to Andre Dargis.

Meeting adjourned 10:00 pm.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be April 4th, hosted by Sr. Mary Ellen McLaughlin.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Merrill
Secretary

GRAFTON, MA, EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GRAFTON.
Organist/Director. Salary \$3,000+ trng. and exp.
One service 10:00 am. Senior choir, junior choir.
Stipend for Music Conference and workshops. Pipe organ - Wicks.



a column of comment by the editor

Voicings

Lately, I have been feeling very sorry for the TELEGRAM AND GAZETTE's music reviewers. By nature, theirs is not the most popular of professions for if they do their job correctly, more enemies stand to be made than friends. But now I wonder if the critics are not scared to pull up their window shades or start their cars. Whether they are reviewing a Centrum concert by Kenny Rogers or a Mechanics Hall concert by the Master Singers, their critiques have drawn more criticism than the critics themselves usually offer to the subjects of their review. This is unfortunate since I have always thought that Worcester reviewers are often a lot nicer than they might be or even should be. In Worcester, they have to be. For Worcester is a city run by relationships and more business is conducted over drinks and dinner than has ever been conducted in board rooms. This is especially true culturally and therefore really honest criticism is at times unwelcome. There is such a home-town spirit and so many rival groups and rival loyalties that criticism is taken far too personally and the critic's ability to fulfill his or her calling is inhibited. The recent fusillade of fuming letters to the editor in the T&G speak most eloquently of this. It's as if critics were supposed to say "Golly gee -- isn't it great that these people were great enough to put on such a great show for our great city." Criticism is not designed to give offense. It is designed to provide performers and public with an objective understanding of what went on in the concert hall so that if it's good, congratulations can be offered and if it's not so good, there will be an understanding of what needs to be improved and why. If music in Worcester is to be all that it can be, then the critics must be allowed to call it as they see it or hear it. And we must rid ourselves of short-sighted loyalties to one chorus over another, one orchestra over another, one concert series over another, or even one organ over another -- loyalties which tend to interfere with our hearing. By the way, I did not go to either the Kenny Rogers concert or the Master Singers performance so I cannot offer my own critique here. But I will say that while a reviewer should and does take into account the courage necessary to mount a massive production, the spirit lying in the work(s) itself, or even the spirit which characterizes the performance, the reviewer's chief task is to review the quality of the performance. And if the quality of the performance is not up to the standards demanded by the nature of the work, then the reviewer should be expected to tell us so just as much as we expect him or her to offer laurel crowns when they are called for. It is an Alice in Wonderland attitude that expects laurel crowns all the time.

Worcester Organist

June 1983

The great event is almost upon us and the chapter is caught up in a crescendo of activity preparing for the opening of the convention. With well over 400 registrations, all systems, as it were, are go!! After June 30 there will be laurel crowns all around. The only stitch that has occurred in the proceedings appears to be gracing our Dean, Joe Policelli who has had the marvelous good fortune to be felled by appendicitis. He is mending, however, and will be able to participate fully in the convention. No newsletter this month --- the convention is the only news, but we will publish in July with complete reports on the convention, annual meeting, etc. In the meantime, here are a few announcements of note. Catch you at the convention, in between organs!



.....

SPEND YOUR SUMMER WITH E. & G.G. HOOK --- Mechanics Hall has made ample provision for music-lovers this summer by planning weekly recitals on its reknowned Hook organ. Beginning on July 6 and each Wednesday thereafter through August 24 at noon, free 20-25 minute organ recitals will be offered in the air-conditioned splendor of Mechanics Hall. Bring a brown bag lunch - coffee and soft drinks will be sold - and become better acquainted with the Worcester Organ and Worcester area organists. The organists are in order Steve Long, Ken Simmons, Suzanne Davis, Joe Policelli, Lucia Clemente-Falco, Charles King, David Lasky, and Suzanne Davis ,again.

Also, on Thursday July 21 at 7:30 p.m., Earl Miller will perform an important recital entitled " A Victorian Summer Evening ." Earl has chosen works especially suited to the organ and the ambitious program is divided into 3 sections : The European Victorian Composers and Transcribers, At the Opera, and American Transcribers and Composers. The concert will be interesting and appealing, with the style we always expect from this true virtuoso. Included are works of Gounoud, Mendelssohn, Guilmant, Lemmens, Verdi, Wagner, von Suppe, Sousa, Handel, Bizet, Foster, Massenet, and Yon. And Earl promises that it all will take only 1 1/4 hours ! Don't miss this special recital. Tickets will be \$4 for the general public and \$3 for Mechanics Association members.

- and -

The Townsend Congrgational Church, Towns , MA and the Fisk United Methodiist Church, Natick,MA have been looking for O/D's. Both pay less than the Guild minimum. If interted call 597-8921 for Townsend and 653-9614 for Natick. St. Joseph' Church in Leicester,MA has an opening for an O/D at \$3600-\$5000. all 755-9688.