

# The Worcester Organist



## The Newsletter of the Worcester Chapter American Guild of Organists

*P.O. Box 20208  
Worcester, MA 01602*

*April/May 2005*

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Frank Corbin, *Editor*

Will Sherwood, *Webmaster*

**WORCESTER CHAPTER AGO Events and Information**

*Saturday, April 16th from 10:00am to 12:00*

**Prelude & Postlude Repertoire Workshop for Organists  
with William Ness, Will Sherwood, & Peter Stoltzfus Berton**

First Congregational Church, Shrewsbury, On the Common

*Coordinator:* Peter Stoltzfus Berton: peter@allsaintsw.org 508-752-3766 x 17

*See article, page 3*

*Monday, May 9th at 6:00pm (Dinner), 7:00pm (Meeting) & 8:00pm (Recital)*

**Annual Meeting: Potluck Dinner, Meeting, Competition Winner's' Recital**

First Baptist Church, Salisbury Street and Park Avenue, Worcester

*Coordinator:* Frank Corbin: frank.corbin@verizon.net 508-799-9701

*See notice, page 4*

***Save the Date:*** Tuesday, October 25, 2005, 7:30pm

**John Scott, Organist & Choirmaster of St. Thomas Church, New York**

All Saints Church, 10 Irving Street, Worcester

*Coordinator:* Peter Stoltzfus Berton: peter@allsaintsw.org 508-752-3766 x 17

***Additional information on the Chapter's full program of events for 2005-2006 will be available at the Annual Meeting.***

***Calendar:*** Karin Gustafson

Karinj.gustafson@worldnet.att.net 508-879-7262

1296 Worcester Road Apt 2411, Framingham, MA 01702

*Please e-mail Calendar items by the 15th of the preceding month. The Worcester Organist Calendar of Events lists organ and choral recitals and concert events given by and for Chapter members. Non-member and other music events of interest may be included as space permits.*

***Placement:*** Debra LeBrun

debra@lebruns.com 978-692-1309

68R Stony Brook Road, Westford, MA 01886

*The cost to place an ad for four months is \$20. Checks should be made payable to Worcester Chapter AGO and mailed to Debra LeBrun at the above address.*

***Membership:*** Frank Corbin

frank.corbin@verizon.net 508-799-9701

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**DEAN'S MESSAGE - April/May 05**  
***Eclectic Music Ministry (Part 1)***

Most well-trained church musicians experience mixed feelings on hearing the words, "praise music." When the subject comes up, I have found it helpful to steer the discussion toward Duke Ellington's clear cut assessment, "good music" and "bad music." That can lead to rather some unexpected results; not always, but sometimes a common meeting place between otherwise conflicting philosophies and constituencies on the role of music in church.

With that in mind, and knowing how delicate is the ground we tread, I thought I would make this an interactive Dean's Message by asking our membership to respond to some questions on the role of various musical idioms and styles in church music programs. Send me your responses and I will put together a summary article for one of next year's newsletters. Let me know if I can quote you or not.

Mail responses to:

**Worcester Chapter AGO**  
**P.O. Box 20208**  
**Worcester, MA 01602**

or email me at [frank.corbin@verizon.net](mailto:frank.corbin@verizon.net).

What factors should be taken into consideration when making musical choices either for a specific occasion or in the more general sense of an overall programming vision?

Should a music program encompass many styles, a few styles, or only one style of music?

What factors contribute to a good working relationship between clergy, music directors, accompanists and choir members when making choices and establishing policies and guidelines about a music program?

How would you define "good" music?

How would you define "bad" music?

What other questions should I be asking?

*- Frank Corbin*

**Organ Repertoire Workshop*****Saturday, April 16 at 10:00 a.m. First Congregational Church, Shrewsbury***

Have you ever been to an anthem reading session at a convention and come away unexpectedly excited by several new pieces for your choir season? Especially if you had thought there might be, at best, just one new piece to your liking? This workshop promises to hold that experience in store for you, and features three chapter members presenting choice "off the beaten track" morsels from their prelude and postlude repertoire, some of which obviously will be of interest for recital programs as well. William Ness, Will Sherwood and Peter Stoltzfus Berton each will present 25 pieces of music in 45 minutes, before we have lunch where you will have the opportunity to look at the scores and share titles of some of your favorite repertoire gems with your colleagues. Handouts listing the titles and publisher information of all the pieces presented will be available, to take notes during these mini-recitals. The music has been selected with a general approach to difficulty and instrument size, and will be useful in many situations. Not all pieces will be played in their entirety, of course, but all will be sampled and you should find much of interest in this quick-moving morning. For example: Louis Vierne's Prelude funebre, Opus 4 (long out of print, but available by xerox to all who attend); Caterina Assandra's Ego flos campi (from a collection of music by women composers), and many delightful chorale-preludes from composers living and long dead.

- Peter Berton

The workshop is free; lunch is \$10 and needs to be reserved in advance by April 14 by contacting:

**Frank Corbin at 508-799-9701, [frank.corbin@verizon.net](mailto:frank.corbin@verizon.net)**

Send payment to Worcester AGO, P.O. Box 20208, Worcester, MA 01602, or bring with you, or just call to reserve (*We will need to assume you are good for your \$10 if you don't show up*).

**Update on Recording Project*****Great Pipe Organs of Worcester***

*CD release date rescheduled for early September*

In the last issue of the newsletter, it stated that "*if all goes according to plan, the master recording and program booklet should be completed by the end of March, allowing four weeks for manufacture and duplication...*" All is almost going according to plan, but not quite...It now looks like the original release date of early May was a bit ambitious. A number of factors have contributed to our having to postpone the release date by a few months, the main one being the way organs behave in Winter months, especially when some sanctuaries go unheated for most of the week or for the entire Winter season. In order to get the best recording possible, it has been decided to reschedule the release date for early September so that some recording sessions may take place during the months of May and June when temperatures, tuning, and other mechanical issues can be stabilized. The opening event of our 2005-2006 program year will be a banquet celebrating completion of the project. Details and registration information will be published in the Summer issue of the newsletter.

- Frank Corbin

## CHAPTER BUSINESS

The Executive Committee was scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup> at the home of Ronna Archbold. A quorum not being present, no business was transacted. Peter, Frank, and Ronna enjoyed conversation, snacks, and apple cider.

**Notice of Annual Meeting:** As per Article V. Section 2 of the Operating Procedures, the annual meeting of the general membership of the Worcester Chapter American Guild of Organists will be held on May 9<sup>th</sup> at First Baptist Church beginning at 6:00PM. Article V. Section 2. looks like this:

The annual meeting of the Chapter shall be held between May 1st and May 31st. A general meeting may take place at such other time as deemed necessary, with the approval of the Executive Committee, and provided that written notice be given no less than thirty days prior to the date of the meeting. At all meetings of the Chapter the presence at the commencement of such meeting of not less than twenty-five percent of the membership, or twenty-five members, whichever is fewer, shall be necessary and sufficient to constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business.

## ANNUAL MEETING, DINNER, & RECITAL

**MAY 9<sup>th</sup> at First Baptist Church, Salisbury Street at Park Avenue,**

**Dinner at 6:00pm followed by Annual Meeting at 7:00pm**

**Recital at 8:00pm by Michael Ruminski, Winner of the Worcester Chapter Regional Young Organists Competition**

We will try something different this year by having a potluck dinner. There is no need to mail in a registration form and payment, but don't come empty handed. Bring a dish of your choice and a dollar or two for beverages, which we will provide. Let us know whether you plan to attend by telephoning or emailing Frank Corbin:

**508-799-9701 (leave a message), [frank.corbin@verizon.net](mailto:frank.corbin@verizon.net)**

## CONVENTION UPDATE:

**MYRIAD WORKSHOP CHOICES  
&  
FOUR-STAR ACCOMODATIONS  
at the 2005 AGO Region I Convention  
June 26-29, Hartford, Connecticut**

Have you completed your registration and sent it in? Are you curious about the workshop opportunities and presenters? Are you aware that the Hilton Hartford hotel just completed a \$33,000,000 top-to-bottom renovation? Read on...

There will be something for everyone in Hartford. Consider playing for David Briggs, Bradley Welch, and Paul Jacobs in a masterclass. Sharpen your service playing creativity with David Spicer and Horace Clarence Boyer. Uncover the musical and spiritual depth of Bach's cantatas with Pastor Louis Nuechterlein. Add anthems to your library via Richard Coffey's now much-anticipated choral repertoire session, "Masterpieces in Miniature." Dive into repertoire for men's voices with Peter Bagley. Let Mary Ellen Junda assure you of and encourage your ability to work with children and their voices. Hear and discuss ways to build better relationships with clergy and lay leaders from Pastor John Marschhausen. Sign-up for choral conducting masterclasses with Marguerite L. Brooks. Learn about initiatives by David Clyle Morse, the Boston AGO Chapter, and Dr. Patricia Snyder designed to get young people interested in the organ. Want to get new ideas for chapter programming? Then plan to attend Lois Toepfner's "idea swap" session. Attorneys Susan Smith and Donald Romanik will present information about your legal rights pertaining to your employment. Ring those handbells with Debra LeBrun, learn more about new music software, and attend anthem reading sessions. Phillip Truckenbrod's expertise in concert artists' management will no doubt be fruitful for you in planning concerts or engaging artists. Improvise it with Peter Krasinski and Peter Niedmann! Find out from Martha Sobaje how to get your music published and explore with Kenneth Grinnell what's new in hymn-based works for organ. Along with Carol Allen and James Barry, discover the wonder of choral works by Region I composers. Glenn Goda will share what it takes to get certified, and hear from William Czelusniak how to work with organ maintenance professionals to determine what's best for your instrument. The choices are nearly endless!

Convention headquarters will be the just-reopened and –renovated 22-story Hilton Hartford hotel. A year-long, \$33,000,000 top-to-bottom upgrade has resulted in a four-star facility with enhanced amenities, including wonderful guest rooms, wireless Internet capability, and expanded exhibit and restaurant spaces. Located in the heart of downtown Hartford and convenient to Interstates 84 and 91, many convention venues are within a five-block walk. There are plenty of restaurants nearby to fit all price ranges and tastes. The per-night rates (\$109 for a single or double; \$225 for a suite) are a steal – make the most of it by getting a roommate or two! Call 1-800-HILTONS to make your reservations now, and be sure to mention “American Guild of Organists Region I Convention.”

Complete that registration form and mail it in. If you have not received one or would like additional forms, you may download it from our convention website: [www.HartfordAGO.org](http://www.HartfordAGO.org). We want to you to join us and your colleagues from all over Region I (and beyond!) in Hartford.

See you in June!

Jason Charneski, Publicity Chair  
2005 AGO Region I Convention  
Dean, Greater Hartford Chapter  
E-mail: [CharneskiJ@aol.com](mailto:CharneskiJ@aol.com)