

American Guild of Organists
Central New York Chapter

Vox Onondaga

January - February 2015

Features:

- Dean's Message
- Sub Dean's Calendar

What You Missed:

- AGO Movie Night

Calendar:

- AGO Outreach
- Rising Star Recital

A slice of history comes alive in Cortland



-- AGO Outreach Concert featuring the historic 1896 Morey & Barnes Pipe Organ --
Saturday, January 24th - St. Mary's Church
46 North Main Street, Cortland
Doors open at 6:30 P.M., Concert begins at 7:00 P.M.

SAGO Scholarship

Ben Merchant

SAGO Scholarship Goes Begging!

The Syracuse American Guild of Organist' Chapter is still looking to award a scholarship to an intermediate piano student interested in learning how to play the pipe organ. This money is going begging! The student must be old enough to comfortably reach the pedalboard and younger than 21 years of age.

For more information visit to the Syracuse AGO website. Applicants must fill out the online forms and mail them to Debbie Cunningham, chapter Secretary.

*"Like family, we are tied to each other. This is what all good musicians understand."
- Billy Joel -*



Dean's Message

Abel Searor

Dear Colleagues:

Christmas and New Year's has come and gone. We are all now firmly entrenched in 2015 and I can't help but wonder what this New Year will bring. Our Executive Committee is hard at work making sure that events planned in the fall will be as successful as they can be. The Poister Competition is in full swing with submissions coming in regularly. There are several excellent recitals coming up in the next few months including an outreach recital in Cortland and a performance by Andrew Henderson. In June we have our banquet and annual meeting to look forward to which is always a treat. My challenge for the New Year is to you. These events are only successful with you.

This is your AGO chapter and the events that we plan are designed to meet your needs from an education standpoint as well as an artistic standpoint. It is our goal as an Executive Committee to have roughly one event per month ranging from workshops to recitals to social gatherings. We have tried to spread these events out geographically as well.

As a church musician I try to take the New Year as an opportunity to reset. I usually set some sort of a self-improvement goal; a new piece to learn, a new skill to practice, a new approach for rehearsal, something that would advance my journey as a musician. This year I extend that challenge to you and encourage you to allow the AGO to help you. Come to a recital and hear new music that you can bring back to your church. Go to a workshop and learn something about an area of church music that you can improve on. Come to an event and be with colleagues, build new relationships, strengthen old ones. Take this year as a chance to be a part of your local AGO and to grow with us as we move toward being the best musicians that we can be.

Submissions

We welcome your two cents.

The regular submission schedule for *Vox Onodaga* is as follows: September 1st, November 1st, January 1st, March 1st, May 1st. Expect to see *The Vox* published about one week after the submission deadline. All submissions can be sent to: [agonewsletter @ kernerandmerchant.com](mailto:agonewsletter@kernerandmerchant.com)

Syracuse AGO
Chapter Executive
Committee

Officers & Members at Large
2014 - 2015

Dean: Abel Searor
Sub Dean: Vincent Guarneiri
Treasurer: Armand DiScenna
Secretary: Deborah
Cunningham
Publicity: Gail Ferat
Membership: James Stanley
Newsletter/Webmaster:
Ryan J Boyle
Placement: Ben Merchant
Chapter Advisor: Will Headlee

Members at large:

Class of 2016

Tim Davenport
Steven Medicis
Wayne Skinner
Ann Schwartz

Class of 2018

Glenn Armstrong
Julia Tucker
Annie Laver

*"A painter paints his pictures
on canvas. But musicians
paint thier pictures on silence.
We provide the music, and
you provide the silence"
- Leopold Stokowski -*



Subdean's Message

Vincent Guarneiri

Dear Colleagues,

One of the goals of the executive committee is to develop a comprehensive and appropriate set of guidelines for organist compensation in the Syracuse area. We have found that the guidelines set by AGO national are either too wide ranging, or not fitting to our local demographic.

Currently, we are in the development and testing stage of an online survey to poll the membership about compensation. The survey will first be distributed to the executive committee for feedback on ease of use for the member, suitability of content, and the usability of the data for the team receiving it. Once the vetting process is complete, we will roll the survey out to the membership.

Included in the survey are categories for full and part time musicians, substitutes, weddings, and funerals. Within each category will be some questions to do with compensation, hours spent per week, job description and size of parish. These questions are based loosely on the national guidelines, but have some granularity which will help to make the data meaningful to our local employers.

We'd ask that when you take the survey please remember the following:

- No question is mandatory. you may leave an answer blank if you prefer not to answer
- All results are entirely confidential. No personal information will be shared with the guild or local chapter members.
- Please answer carefully. Answering questions accurately will help our guidelines be more helpful in the end.

In other news, we have started planning a one or two day bus trip to see one of the largest organs in the world. Being a sizable undertaking in planning and finance, we'd like to get some member feedback about preference for the trip. Unfortunately, without having a rough count of interested people, it's hard to assign a cost per person. If you are at all interested in going to tour (possibly play), one of the organs below, please drop me a line at vincent@cnyorganist.com

- Is May 14th and/or May 15th 2015 a good date for you?
- Where would you most like to visit? West Point, Atlantic City Boardwalk Hall, or Wanamaker (Macy's) Philadelphia. (We may make trips in coming years also)
- Would anyone from your choir or church be interested in coming? The more people, the more reasonable the cost.

Chapter Website

www.syracuseago.org

The reformatting of our website is complete! New and updated information is being added regularly. Please browse the website and offer any comments, corrections, or suggestions you may have.

- Regularly updated spreadsheet of substitutes. Please feel free to contact the webmaster to update your listing
- Direct email to webmaster
- Submit events directly through website
- Complete list of chapter officers with contact information
- Much more!

Call For Content

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform local AGO chapter members of organ and choral related events taking place in the Central New York area. Not only do we seek announcements of upcoming events in the area, but we gladly except reviews of local, regional, and national events as well.

"Musicians don't retire; they stop when there's no more music in them."

- Louis Armstrong -

What you missed...

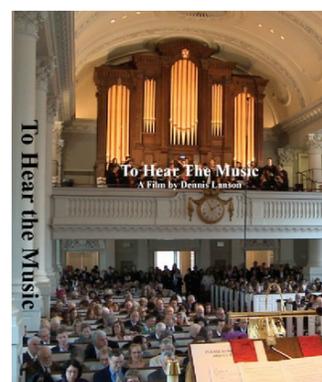
Ryan J Boyle

AGO Chapter Movie Night

AGO Chapter members gathered together at Holy Cross Church in DeWitt on Saturday evening December 6th for a fun filled evening complete with a pot luck dinner and fascinating videos. Beginning at 6 p.m., members trickled in to Yeasel Hall with containers in hand to share their delicious creations. The buffet table filled quickly with salads, chili, casseroles, deserts, beverages, and beyond. Saying there was too much food would be an understatement.

Once everyone had filled their plates and cups, we embarked on an educational journey. Two years ago, Fugue State Films completed a documentary entitled *The Genius of Cavallé-Coll*, a lavish boxed-set containing a three-part, 156-minute documentary about this builder's life and work. Two further DVDs include demonstrations of fifteen organs and more than three hours of music, all presented in surround sound. Not wanting to keep everyone until dawn, we played the first part of the three part documentary, and several of the instrument demonstrations. This leaves open the possibility to show the two remaining parts, and further demonstrations at subsequent chapter events!

Our educational journey was then brought into the present. C.B. Fisk, Inc commissioned a documentary about their company in 2012 surrounding the creation and installation of the new organ built for The Memorial Church at Harvard University, dedicated Easter 2012. Film maker Dennis Lanson created a "PBS quality" film which beautifully captured the history of the company and what goes into the creation of their fine instruments. Everyone who attended movie night left with both a full stomach and a full mind. The numerous and delicious dishes, along with fascinating documentaries left all wanting more. Hopefully, a new tradition has begun in the Syracuse AGO chapter.



Syracuse Area Events

Organ Scholarship

In an effort to encourage young people to study organ, the Syracuse AGO chapter and Park Central Presbyterian Church are each committing \$500 a year towards an organ scholarship. We are looking for other churches to help sponsor the scholarship on a yearly basis. If you, or your church are interested in helping, or if you know of a student who might want to apply for the scholarship, please contact Ben Merchant at 463-8023. Thank you!

"Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent."

- Victor Hugo -

- Chapter Outreach Recital -

St Mary's Church

46 N Main St, Cortland

Saturday, January 24th, 7:00 P.M.

Come and enjoy an evening of triumphant organ, brass, and choral music while surrounded by neo-Gothic splendor! St Mary's sanctuary was recently fully repainted and restored in time for the centennial of the building in 2013. It houses some of the finest examples of stained glass in upstate New York, a resplendent white marble reredos, high altar, and an acoustically reverberant worship space.

Featured highlights of the concert will include the following:

- A piece for organ, brass, and choir by local, nationally-published composer Lynn Arthur Koch,
- The talent of legendary organists Paulette Frye and (it is rumored) Jim Shultes as well, both having graced their own congregations and the community at large for over three decades with sensitive service playing in addition to thrilling performances of great organ literature.
- An organ improvisation by Emmanuel Sikora, a recent graduate of Queens College and SUNY Binghamton, with Masters degrees in composition and conducting
- St Mary's Brass Ensemble, directed by Michael Poole
- St Mary's Choir & guests, directed by Armand Di Scenna

The organ is an 1896 Morey & Barnes mechanical action instrument, one of only two from that partnership still in existence. Its tonal palate can enable an organist to play Baroque, Classical, Romantic, or 20th Century music. The original pump-handle and feeder bellows are still attached to the reservoir and functioning in the unlikely event of a power outage!

A splendid evening will be had by all. This concert is free, and is sponsored by the Syracuse AGO. Come and enjoy some magnificent music with us, and then join us for refreshments afterwards to meet with the artists.

For more information, contact Armand Di Scenna via email:
discenaj @ lemoyn.edu

Syracuse Area Events

Chapter Historian

The Executive Committee of the Syracuse AGO Chapter is looking for a volunteer to serve as chapter historian. The main responsibilities of the historian will be to collect a copy of the program from each chapter event for archival purposes and to keep a hard copy of the minutes from Executive Committee meetings and the Annual General Meeting. These materials will be kept in our archives at the Kerner & Merchant workshop. The historian will not need to attend all of the chapter events. If you are interested in assisting with this project, please contact Abel Searor.

"Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent."
- Victor Hugo -



- Robin Jenkins -
Malmgren Concert Series
Rising Star Recital
Hendricks Chapel, Syracuse University
Sunday, February 8th, 4:00 P.M.

A 2012 graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music with degrees in both piano and organ performance, she finished her Master's degree in Organ Performance and Church Music from Mercer University in May. Robin has performed across the U.S. in venues such as St. Louis' Christ Church Cathedral, the Sheldon Concert Hall, Cleveland's Trinity Lutheran Church, and twice at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Robin fell in love with the pipe organ at an early age, beginning lessons at age 12 with John Near, under whom she studied for four years. She resumed her training five years ago at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music under the instruction of Jack Mitchener. Robin currently teaches piano, music classes, and conducts children's choir in Macon, Georgia, and also serves as Organist/Choirmaster of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church of Milledgeville.

Robin won the second price in the 2014 Arthur Poister Organ Competition.

