



VOX ONONDAGA

2015 Poister Competition Winner Recital

Brian Glikes



Eastman DMA candidate **Brian Glikes** is the first place winner of this year's Arthur Poister Scholarship Competition in Organ Playing. **Wednesday, September 23rd**. Brian will give a recital at Setnor Auditorium at 8:00 P.M. His program will include works by Widor, Franck, Messiaen, Schumann, Welmers, and Mendelssohn. This event is free and open to the public, with parking in Q1. A light reception will follow.

September / October 2015

From the staff:



Dean's Message 2
- Abel Searor
Membership - James Stanley



Sub-Dean's Message 3
- Vincent Guarnieri



Poister Competition 4
- Will Headlee

News & Reviews



News From the Hill - 5
Annie Laver



Review - PPP May 2015, 6
Vincent Guarnieri
Review - Annie Laver Recital 7
given June 5th, Ernest Camerota

Events Calendar 8 - 9

Syracuse AGO Scholarship Opportunity

The Syracuse Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is offering a scholarship for Central New York students between the ages of 14 and 20 to study the pipe organ. Eligible candidates should already have piano skills and have a strong interest in learning about the *King of Instruments*. Students will be evaluated based on their current skill level, and

will be assigned a local instructor based on their location, availability, skill level etc. For further information, contact Ben Merchant, President of Kerner & Merchant Pipe Organ Builders at 315-463-8023. Also, visit www.syracuseago.org and look for the SAGO Scholarship form. We hope to hear from you!

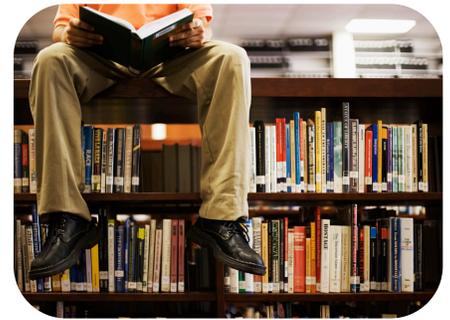
Dean's Message – Abel Searor

September brings with it a number of things, the end of summer, and the beginning of the new school year among them. This made me think about all that the new school year means. Some of us are students, some are teachers and some of us have not set foot in a school in a number of years. As I look back on my time in school and out at the new crop of students in my own classroom I reflect on my own personal growth as a student.

In spite of all the planning and preparation that we face going into the program year I have been thinking about what I can learn this year. What is it that I want to learn? What piece have I been putting off until I have time to learn it? What book have I wanted to read that I haven't found the time for? What improvements can I make in my own playing that will benefit both my own personal growth and the musicianship of my congregation?

The new program year is, in a way, the organist's New Year. It's a time for resolutions. What goals can you set for yourself? We are all busy but if we allow ourselves to fall into a rut of mediocrity we will quickly become complacent and then apathetic toward our craft.

Just as each one of us is planning our own personal programs the Syracuse AGO is planning our programs for the year. How can we help you reach your New Program Year resolution? Are you looking for a new piece to play? Come hear one of the many excellent guest artists and hear new pieces. Be inspired by the incredible playing of world-class organists including Poister winner, Brian Glikes, whose recital is on September 23rd at Setnor. Want to rejuvenate your service playing? We are scheduling a workshop to freshen up service playing. Please plan to plan to come! Do you have an interest in connecting with other musicians? Come to one of our upcoming social events. Utilize you AGO membership and let us help you refresh your program and to refresh yourself.



"Want to rejuvenate your service playing?"

Do you have an interest in connecting with other musicians?"

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Membership – James Stanley



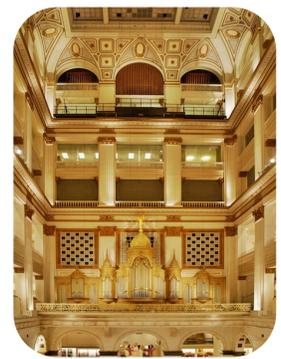
Still haven't renewed your AGO membership? There's still time, BUT... September 1 marked the end of the two-month grace period for anyone with a membership expiration date of 7/1/2015. Members renewing after September 1 will have their membership year reset to begin on September 1, or the first of the month in which dues are received. In addition, your subscription to TAO may lapse. Remember, all dues are now being collected directly by National Headquarters. You should have received e-mails and/or an invoice from National in the mail. You may renew online with a credit card, or by check sent directly to Headquarters along with your invoice. For assistance, please contact Jim Stanley (Membership, Chapter Registrar), jstanley@twcny.rr.com or 315-637-3980.

Sub-Dean's Message – Vincent Guarnieri

Greetings Colleagues,

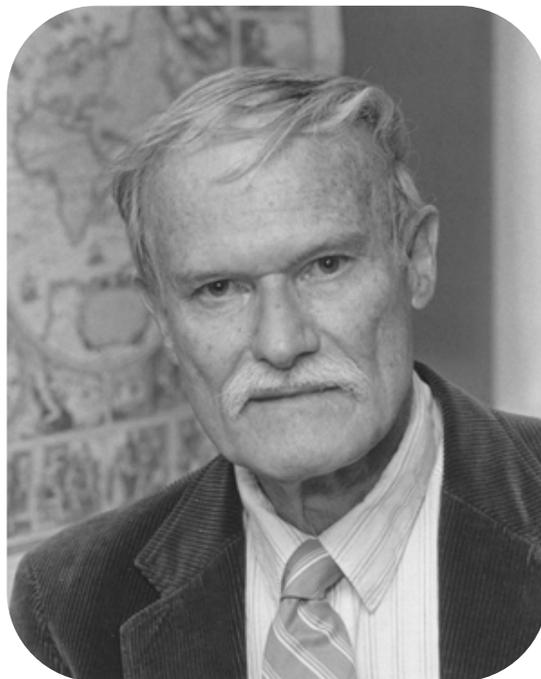
I trust that you have had a restful summer and are ready for another exciting year of Syracuse AGO events! We got a lot of very helpful feedback from the membership survey distributed at the banquet, and have included some of those great ideas into our schedule for this year. As it's still pretty early in the 2015-2016 season, we have some details to hash out as the events get closer. Here are the general ideas we had from our August meeting of the Executive Committee:

- September 23rd, Brian Glikes, the 2015 Poister Competition winner, will present a recital on the Holtkamp organ in Setnor Auditorium, Syracuse University
- In October, we won't be directly hosting any events, but there are many organ-related recitals and events going on around the Syracuse area. Please visit our website syracuseago.org and visit the "Calendar of Events" section for more information. There is a recital almost every Sunday in October
- During the month of November, Kerner & Merchant and Alan Lynch will present a program about instrument tuning and maintenance as it pertains to pipe organs and pianos.
- For December, since this is a busy month for us all, we hope to host another Organ Movie Night. A chance to relax during a busy season
- In January, we'll do another social event with the theme of a 12th night party. Possibly, we could roll a member recital into that evening.
- In February we discussed a Pedals Pipes and Pizza event at SU/Setnor. This time we would cater to students who are normally in school by having it during February break. Also, we may host a workshop on traditional service playing and improvisation.
- In March, our very own Annie Laver may present a Faculty recital at the University
- For April, we have the Poister finals on the 9th at Hendricks this year, along with a possible outreach recital in the Oswego area later in the month.
- Late May will most likely bring our Banquet and Annual Meeting. A bit earlier this year, but that frees up early June for....
- Our participation in the Wanamaker Organ Day at Macy's department store in Philadelphia. Last year we discussed hosting a bus trip to a large instrument on the east coast, but it never quite materialized. We realized while planning the 2015 banquet that the Wanamaker organ day was the same weekend as our event, thus we couldn't participate. Stay tuned for more details!



*Wanamaker Organ
Philadelphia*

I'd like to thank you all for your support in making the 2014-2015 program year a success. We got a lot of great feedback on the events we hosted, and hope to make this year as much or more beneficial to the membership and community!



Poister Competition Prizes Endowed Will Headlee

The Setnor School of Music at Syracuse University has established the Arthur Poister Endowed Prize Fund thanks to a generous endowment given by alumnus Richard A. Hudson. Dr. Hudson is Emeritus Professor of Musicology at UCLA.

The gift will be used to fund the first and second prizes of the annual Arthur Poister Organ Competition, which will be jointly hosted by the Setnor School of Music and the Syracuse Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

The Syracuse AGO has administered the competition for many years but will now have the opportunity to partner with the school in a collaborative event.

Dr. Hudson studied with the legendary organ professor Arthur Poister as an undergraduate at Oberlin College and later came to Syracuse University to pursue a master's degree in organ in 1950 after Poister was hired here. The Setnor School

of Music is *very* grateful for Mr. Hudson's gift to honor his late teacher, and is looking forward to opportunities in which it will increase visibility for both the competition and the university.

The Syracuse Chapter of the AGO welcomes this deeper cooperation with the Setnor School of Music and Hendricks Chapel at Syracuse University. We see it as insuring the future of the Poister Organ Competition. The Chapter established the competition in 1975, expanded to AGO Regions I, II & III in 1984, and to the USA & Canada in 1985. Will Headlee has been coordinator since 1998.

For the 2016 Poister Competition the Syracuse Chapter will continue to administer the competition and Will Headlee will continue as Coordinator. The final round of the competition will move to Hendricks Chapel, Syracuse University, and the date has been set for Saturday, April 9, 2016.



News from the Hill

Annie Laver

I love the first day of school! It is a time of great excitement and anticipation and I feel very fortunate that I get to experience it again this year at SU. There are lots of things to be excited about, too. I am pleased to share with you that nine students will be taking organ lessons at the Setnor School of Music this Fall; four Organ Majors: Alan Lynch, Joel Morehouse, Jared Shepard, and Julia Tucker, and five secondary students: Jolanis Alexandre, Chang Lee, Douglas Lin, Sarah Thune, and John Wassmuth.

Many thanks to those parishes and music directors who have offered the use of their instruments for practice and teaching this year! Our happy problem with nine students is that it is hard to find available practice time on the hill. It is a great help to us to have some alternate practice venues.

One of my goals for the semester is to have the students play regularly at all-school convocation so that the wider student body hears (and not just sees!) the organ in Crouse Auditorium on a regular basis. I also hope to line up a few studio concerts off campus this year so that these young people can have the chance to perform out in the community.

Four of these students are already out in the community serving churches as music directors and organists, and the rest are eager to build on their skills so they can fill vacant positions or serve as substitutes. All of these students strive to become skilled church musicians. If you run into any of these folks, please give them your encouragement! I look forward to keeping you updated with their accomplishments.

Event Reviews



Pedals – Pipes – Pizza! Vincent Guarnieri

On the 20th of May, 2015 the Syracuse AGO presented a Pedals Pipes and Pizza event. Glenn Armstrong was kind enough to offer a gathering space and the use of the organ at The Franciscan Church of the Assumption on Salina Street in Syracuse. This event was mostly targeted at the Syracuse area home school community and publicized through some of the area's Facebook groups. Close to thirty children and parents were in attendance!

First, pizza from the DiLauro's Bakery was enjoyed by all in the Mother Marianne room, known to AGO members as the site for our 2014 banquet. Annie Laver who presented the pipe organ portion of the event got a chance to talk with students and parents over lunch.

After lunch, Annie demonstrated the organ for the group with works of Lemmens and Vierne.

Kids got a chance to ask questions and answer some of Annie's after each piece. Once the performance portion was over, Ben Merchant demonstrated a few different types of organ pipes, and talked about the technical aspects of the organ. Then, Ben led an organ crawl straight through all the divisions of the three manual instrument.

When the formal portion of the demonstration was complete, children got a chance to play the organ and discover a few different functions of the console with Annie's direction. All the kids (and adults) had a wonderful time, and we look forward to presenting more of these events in the future!

Event Reviews

A unique and delightful organ recital in Cazenovia – Ernest Camerota

Friday, June 5th, 2015 – Recital given by Annie Laver

Following a general meeting of the Syracuse Chapter of the AGO, and the members' dinner, Annie Laver, Head of the Organ Department at Syracuse University, Setnor School of Music performed on the 1976 C.B. Fisk, Op.70, II/36 instrument. The organ has an un-enclosed and enclosed Great Division, the latter incorporating pipework from the pre-existing Marklove organ. The two manuals have 56 notes, while the radiating pedalboard has 30 notes. A commanding sound amply fills the acoustics of the sanctuary.

Ms. Laver comes to Syracuse from the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY, where she served as instructor of Healthy Keyboard Technique and Organ Repertoire. She has performed in the U.S. and Europe as recitalist and clinician. She studied at Brown University, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, and Eastman School of Music.

Her program opened with two works from the 18th and 19th Centuries in which she made full use of the resources of an instrument well suited for this music. *Offertoire pour le Jour de Paques*, by Alexandre Pierre Francois Boely, Op.38, No.10, is a delightful work by a composer who often performed Bach, though his French contemporaries did not because of the difficulty of the pedal passages in Bach's organ works. He was a mentor to both Cesar Franck and Camille Saint-Saens. Laver gave a reverent reading of 3 movements from *Mass for the Convents*, by François Couperin, a piece written to be played during a Low (spoken, not sung) Mass. *Mutations* and *Cremona* were featured.

Quite unique in the recital was the inclusion of *Two Preludes on Early American Hymn Tunes* by none other than George Shearing, internationally renowned British jazz pianist, composer and arranger who was sightless from birth! Arranged by Dale Wood, it was totally engaging and fresh,

demonstrating Laver's versatility. Following were two tender movements from *Symphonie No.3 in F-sharp Minor, Op.28*, by Louis Vierne. II (*Cantilene*) and III (*Intermezzo*) captured eloquently the gentle aura of an early June evening, the listener becoming lost in the sound and the environment. Laver ably coaxed from an instrument perhaps at home in other genres, a rich French Late Romantic sound. Incidentally, the *Intermezzo* is a personal favorite of this reviewer.

The glorious, but formidable *Prelude & Fugue in E-Flat Major, BWV552*, by J.S. Bach, concluded the proceedings. Space does not afford an analysis of its complexities. The *Prelude* begins and the *Fugue* concludes the *Clavier-Übung III*, with 21 *Chorale Preludes* and 4 duets between the two. One of the two longest Bach *Preludes*, it satisfies on many levels, having elements of French and Italian concerti. Three themes (the Trinity) in the *Prelude* culminating in the great "Triple" *Fugue* or "Two Double *Fugues*" employ all the themes, including the "St. Anne" hymn tune, which gives the work its name. Laver made the music sing while never losing the rhythmic drive and architecture of the great work. A standing ovation followed. Chatting with Ms. Laver after the recital revealed, if you will, a "girl-next-door" friendliness. This, plus her professionalism and scholarship make her a fine addition to the Syracuse music community, a colleague who will enrich the Organ Department at Syracuse University, aiding it to flourish and grow, a process which was begun by her predecessor, Kola Owalabi. Welcome, Annie Laver!

Calendar of Events

Poister Competition Winner's Recital - Brian Glikes

Wednesday, September 23rd – 8:00 P.M.

Setnor Auditorium, Syracuse University

Program will include works by Widor, Franck, Messiaen, Schumann, Welmers, and Mendelssohn. Free parking in Q1 directly behind Setnor. Reception to follow. For the complete program, and a bio of the artist, visit www.syracuseago.org

50th Anniversary Celebration of the Holtkamp Organ

May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

3800 E. Genesee St, Syracuse

Saturday, October 10th – 7:30 P.M.

This concert celebrates the 50th anniversary of Arthur Poister's dedicatory Bach recital which took place on October 10th, 1965. Allison Evans Henry, Robert Kerner, Glenn Kime and Christopher Dranchek will be performing. This event is free and open to all, with a free reception to follow.



Organ Recital - Joey Fala

First Baptist Church

27 Broad Street, Hamilton

Sunday, October 11th – 3:30 P.M.

This year's annual fall organ recital at Hamilton Baptist will feature Joey Fala. Known to many as a *renaissance man*, Joey gave a stunning performance at this year's OHS convention in Western Massachusetts.

You are sure to be enthralled with this recital! The program will include works by J.S. Bach, Mendelssohn, Vierne, Alain, Wm. Mathias, G. Shearing and Keith Chapman. This event is free and open to the public with a catered reception to follow.

CREDO! – A New Oratorio

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Syracuse

Friday, October 16th – 7:30 P.M.

CREDO is a new oratorio by Joseph Downing. It will be premiered by Symphoria, the Syracuse University Oratorio Society and members of the choirs of the Cathedral, Dewitt Community Church, Franciscan Church of the Assumption, Plymouth Congregational Church, Park Central Presbyterian Church, St. Daniel's Church, and University United Methodist Church. CREDO was commissioned with funds from the New York State Council of the Arts in conjunction with Syracuse University and the Connective Corridor.

In our prayers...



Tim Davenport

As many of you are aware, Tim has experienced some very serious medical issues. He IS recovering, but the process is slow and painful for him. The staff of the Syracuse AGO asks that all of our members keep Tim in your thoughts and prayers as he continues to recover.



Mary Sugar

We are pleased to announce that Mary Sugar has agreed to serve on the Syracuse AGO Executive Committee. Mary has an extensive bio that can be found at marysugarmusic.com

**AIO 2015
October 3 – 7
San Francisco, CA**



Ryan Boyle, Chris Fuller, and Alan Lynch from Kerner & Merchant will be attending the convention this year.

Lecture topics include: a comprehensive overview of flue pipe tuning mechanisms, restorative reed voicing, new examination format, lean manufacturing with a tour of the Schoenstein factory, Design considerations for shaky ground (earthquake country), listening to your clients, Haskell pipe construction, care and feeding of Wicks organs,

We will be seeing instruments built by: Los Angeles Art Organ Company, Robert Noehren, Taylor & Boody, Aeolian Skinner, Wm H. Davis, Noack, Greg Harrold, Woodberry & Harris, Wurlitzer, Rosales, Letourneau, anon. baroque German & Italian builders.

Annual Ranlett Organ Recital – Craig Cramer
Hosmer Hall, SUNY Potsdam
Sunday, October 18th – 3:30 P.M.

This year’s annual Ranlett organ recital at SUNY Potsdam will feature Craig Cramer, professor of organ. This event is free and open to the public with a catered reception to follow. This recital coincides with an historic event; a reunion of all Crane School organists taking place Saturday & Sunday October 17th & 18th. For much more information, visit www.syracuseago.org

Organ Recital – Andrew Henderson
Temple Concord, Syracuse
Tuesday, October 20th – 7:00 P.M.

This is a rare opportunity to hear a gem of an instrument seldom heard by Central New York organists! This 1965, 3 manual, 35 rank Tellers organ was inaugurated by Marilyn Mason. Andrew serves as the Associate Organist at New York City’s Temple Emanu-El – one of the largest Jewish houses of worship in the world, and as Organ Instructor at Teacher’s College, Columbia University.

Organ Recitals at Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Syracuse
Saturday, October 24th, 7:00 P.M. – Eugenio Maria Fagiani
Monday, October 26th, 7:00 P.M. – Gail Archer

Music for Chorus and Organ – Syracuse Vocal Ensemble
Saturday, October 24th, 7:30
First Presbyterian Church, Skaneateles
Sunday, October 25th – 3:00 P.M.
Hendricks Chapel, Syracuse University

Featuring *Cantos Sagrados* by James MacMillan
“One of MacMillan’s most powerful works, *Cantos Sagrados* sets poems by Ariel Dorfman and Ana Maria Mendosa on the subject of political repression in Latin America combines with traditional religious texts in Latin. The choral writing ranges from agitated speech-like violence to rapt meditation, and the organ part is a showcase for a talented soloist.” *Cantos Sagrados* was commissioned by the Scottish Chamber Choir with subsidy from the Scottish Arts Council. The first performance took place on 10 February 1990 in Old St. Paul’s Church, Edinburgh, with the Scottish Chamber Choir conducted by Colin Tipple. **This event is not to be missed!**

Joe Downing will be featured as guest conductor. Tickets: \$20 adults, \$18 seniors, \$5 students (available at the door)

New Organ Dedication Recital
St James RC Church, Carthage
Sunday, September 27th, 3:00 P.M

Wayne Skinner and Michael Perfetto Jr. will perform a concert spanning Four Centuries of Organ Music. Composers featured include Mendelssohn, Franck, Fletcher, Nelhebel, Young, Hamlin and more with a reception to follow. The venue IS handicap accessible.

Submissions for this newsletter are due by the following dates: September 1, November 1, January 1, March 1, May 1. We aim to publish approximately one week after all submissions are received.

Syracuse AGO

104 Johnson Street
East Syracuse, New York 13057