

# The Cypher



THE NEW HAMPSHIRE  
CHAPTER  
OF THE  
AMERICAN GUILD OF  
ORGANISTS

**August 2009**

NHAGO Programming Committee gives a sneak preview at the upcoming year!!!

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# 2009 - 2010

Though there are holes to be filled in and concerts to be announced, Nick Girgus has kindly provided this "short" version of the 2009 - 2010 NHAGO program year for this issue of "The Cypher". More details shall be forthcoming in future issues. - *Ed.*

ORGAN CRAWL "ABOVE THE NOTCHES" -Susan Ferre, host. Sunday, 20 September, 2009 beginning at 3 pm. Visit the Chapel Arts Center in Gorham, NH; St. Kieran's Art Center in Berlin and the Patricia Dunn Residence in Jackson.

ORGAN "SPOOKTACULAR' MEMBERS RECITAL - Mark Frazier, host. Friday evening, 30 October. South Congregational Church, Concord, NH.

PEDALS, PIPES and PIZZA - David L. Wold, host and presenter. Saturday, 7 November at 10 am. Rye Congregational Church, Rye, NH. Lecture/Demonstration on piano and pipe organ. Program designed for students and all interested adults. Free pizza at conclusion!

MUSICIANS AND MINISTERS: SWEET HARMONY OR SPIRITED COUNTERPOINT? - Lecture/workshop by NHAGO Chaplain Celeste A. Hemingson. Sunday, 10 January, 2010 at 4 pm. Site TBA.

FEBRUARY - TBA.

MARCH - TBA.

ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER. Sunday, 23 May at 4 pm at a restaurant TBD. One-hour lecture/slide show by Greg Bover, Project Manager for C.B. Fisk Co., on the historic installation of the Opus 120 pipe organ at the Lausanne Cathedral. "Best Lecture of the Year", AGO, Utica, NH.

### Our Purpose:

The fundamental purpose of the New Hampshire Chapter is:

- To advance the cause of the organ and choral music, to increase their contributions to aesthetic and religious experiences, and to promote their understanding, appreciation and enjoyment.
- To improve the proficiency of organists and choral directors.
- To promote, by examination, attainments in organ playing, choral techniques, conducting, and the theory and general knowledge of music, and to grant certificates to those who pass such examinations at specified levels of attainment.
- To provide members with opportunities to meet for discussion of professional topics, and to pursue such other activities as contribute to the fulfillment of the purposes of the Guild.

## *A Letter From Our Dean*

Welcome summer, at last!! (Of course, it shall be departing in the not too distant future . . .

On June 23 Nick Girgus, Lois Thurston and I took a trip to the Portland Center for Assisted living, where we had arranged to visit Doug Rafter, our honoree at the annual meeting. He was waiting for us and had reserved a room for our visit, as his bedroom had only 1 chair. After visiting a while we presented him with his plaque, honoring him as our founder and former Dean. Then it was off to Merrill Auditorium to hear Peter Richard Conte, after enjoying our tail-gate picnic! A great day all around!

The very next day, a number of us had the pleasure of hearing our own Colin Lynch perform a delightful recital of

French organ music at Methuen. What a summer he has had and still is having!

The Boston Regional Convention was next, where lots of rain didn't dampen our enthusiasm for a fantastic 3 days of music, education, and social revelry.

When Colin Lynch returns from his teaching trip to England, we expect he will write a final POE Corner about a most wonderful, glorious week!

- Liz Black

P.S. This month, I asked Mark to put Colin's picture in place of my own - his recital at Methuen was marvelous!



*Colin Lynch acknowledges the audience at his Methuen recital, June 24.*



*Left: Douglas Rafter receiving his plaque honoring him as NHAGO founder and former Dean from current Dean Elizabeth Black. Nick Girgus and Lois Thurston look on.*

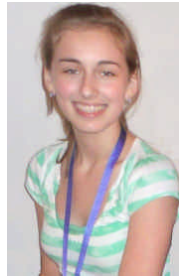
*Bottom Left: Douglas Rafter beaming upon receipt of his honor at the Portland (Maine) Center for Assisted Living*



### **DONATIONS WANTED**

Do you have extra copies of organ literature that you no longer play? Why not donate them to our NHAGO "pre-loved" music library? To do so, simply bring it and add it to our collection for sale at the next Chapter program or call Nick Girgus at 424-4743 to arrange for pick-up. All proceeds directly benefit our Scholarship Fund.

# My Week at POE



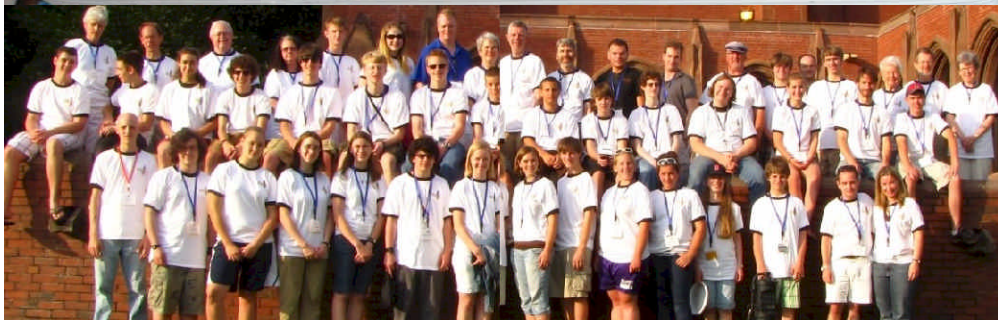
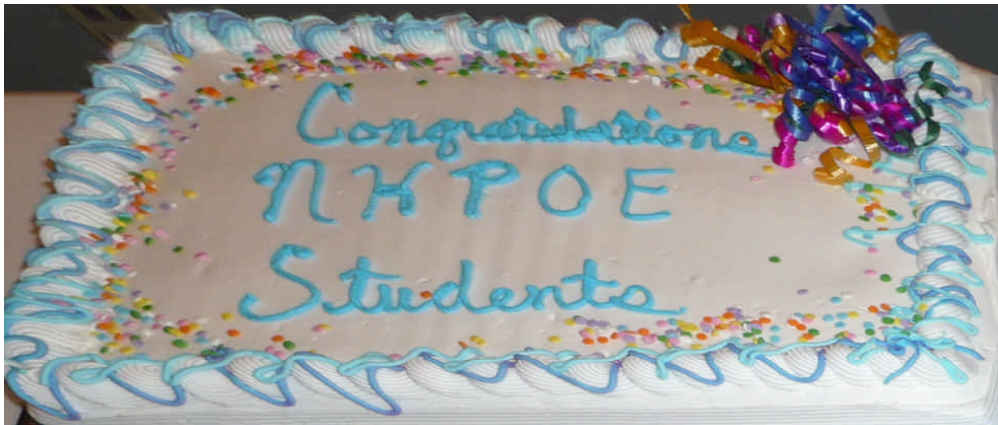
by Rachel Fairfield

"My week at POE was the best week of my life! I really liked going to so many concerts and seeing so many churches and organs. Each one was so amazingly unique and it was so exciting being able to see them all! My favorite organs by far were the ones at St. Paul's School in Concord, and the organ at The Mother Church in Boston. I played the one at St. Paul's School, which has the biggest organ in all of New Hampshire, and it was a very exciting experience. I also loved the concert that Chelsea Chen gave at St. Paul's School. My favorite piece of hers was her Super Mario Fantasia! I know everyone enjoyed that piece. Aside from that, her Taiwanese Suite was incredible. Hers and all the other concerts were such an awesome part of going to camp!

The daily lessons and periodic workshops and classes were very

important. Without them, I would not have moved so far forward with my organ learning in such a short amount of time. My teacher, Carolyn Skelton, helped me a lot with fingering. Also, Colin Lynch's workshop on practice habits was very helpful.

One of my favorite parts of the week was our outing to Boston. The churches there were incredible, and it was very fun to also have a history lesson while walking the Freedom Trail. Another fun part of the week was the student piano recital. It was very nice to get to hear the other students and what kind of music they like to play. I would have never gotten to do any of this amazing stuff if I hadn't gone to this Pipe Organ Encounter. I am so glad that I went! I will most definitely be going to one next year." Sincerely, --Rachel Fairfield 🍷



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David Wold (603) 749-9649

#### To 2012:

Emery Freethey (603) 644-2408  
Mark Pace (603) 224-7177

## Upcoming Events

### Big Moose Mini-Bach Festival!!!

The first ever Big Moose Mini-Bach Festival will begin on **Labor Day Weekend, Saturday and Sunday, September 5 and 6**, consisting of four concerts, featuring one of the country's best Bach interpreters, Christa Rakich. Miss Rakich ([www.iconcertartists.com](http://www.iconcertartists.com)) will play two featured solo recitals, one using organ, harpsichord and clavichord, the other, the famous Goldberg Variations played on her own French double harpsichord. Her most recent CD release of the works of Bach (Trio Sonatas and Preludes, Loft LRCD-1102-03, 2 discs) has won critical praise. "Christa Rakich's new recording of the Six Trio Sonatas of Bach is remarkable for its variety, ingenuity, elegance, and scholarship....Adding to that the precision, clarity, and vitality of the playing, there is every reason to welcome this outstanding recording to the Bach discography." (Robert Fertitta, *The Americian Organist*, July 2009) She recently performed as a return featured artist at the National Convention of the American Guild of Organists.

In addition to the solo recitals, Miss Rakich will team up with Susan Ferre for a performance of the Concerto for two harpsichords in C Major. She and Miss Ferre will play on the chamber music programs as well. Also featured will be William Rees, playing Baroque flute, and Charles Lang, playing viola da gamba and violoncello, both founding members of the Texas Baroque Ensemble. A wide variety of instruments will be used on the chamber music programs, which will highlight some of the superb solo writing by Bach. Concerts will be offered in Gorham, Berlin and in Randolph. The Festival will begin on Saturday with two concerts at Chapel Arts New England in

Gorham (across from the Town Common, intersection of Rts. 2 and 16 south), on Sunday afternoon at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Berlin (on Main and High streets), and ending Sunday evening at the little white church on Rt. 2 in Randolph, the historic Randolph Church. Afternoon concerts begin at 4 pm, evening events at 7:30 pm.

Following the closing recital at the Randolph Church at 9:30 pm a unique Compline service will be offered by area residents. Popular around the country the historic service is completely sung and chanted in candlelight, closing the day in a quiet celebration. This closing event is free.

Tickets to the Big Moose Mini-Bach Festival can be purchased at the door: \$12 for single events, \$6 for students, and passes for all four concerts at \$38. The festival is sponsored by Music In the Great North Woods, a newly formed non-profit organization which promotes concerts in the North country.

For more information:  
603-466-2865 or 603-326-3242  
[musicinthegreatnorthwoods@earthlink.net](mailto:musicinthegreatnorthwoods@earthlink.net)  
[www.chapelartsnewengland.com](http://www.chapelartsnewengland.com)  
[www.iconcertartists.com](http://www.iconcertartists.com)  
[www.loftrecordings.com](http://www.loftrecordings.com)

Big Moose Mini-Bach Festival - Event 1  
Saturday, September 5, 4:00pm  
Chapel Arts New England  
Intersection of Routes 2 and 16 south,  
across from the Town Common, Gorham,  
(603) 466-2865  
[www.chapelartsnewengland.com](http://www.chapelartsnewengland.com)  
[musicinthegreatnorthwoods@earthlink.net](mailto:musicinthegreatnorthwoods@earthlink.net)  
Virtuoso, Christa Rakich plays clavichord,  
organ and harpsichord in a solo recital of  
Bach works

Big Moose Mini-Bach Festival - Event 2  
Saturday, September 5, 7:30pm  
Chapel Arts New England  
Intersection of Routes 2 and 16 south,  
across from the Town Common, Gorham,  
(603) 466-2865  
[www.chapelartsnewengland.com](http://www.chapelartsnewengland.com)  
[musicinthegreatnorthwoods@earthlink.net](mailto:musicinthegreatnorthwoods@earthlink.net)  
Christa Rakich, Susan Ferre play multiple  
harpsichords, organs, and chamber pieces  
by Bach performed on period instruments  
with William Rees, traverso flute and  
Charles Lang, viola da gamba and  
violoncello

Big Moose Mini-Bach Festival - Event 3  
Sunday, September 6, 4:00pm  
St. Barnabas Episcopal Church  
Intersection of Main and High Streets,  
Berlin, (603) 326-3242  
<http://www.stbarnabasberlin.org>  
[musicinthegreatnorthwoods@earthlink.net](mailto:musicinthegreatnorthwoods@earthlink.net)  
Chamber Music by J. S. Bach, Christa  
Rakich and Susan Ferre, harpsichords and  
organ, Double Concerto in C for two  
harpsichords, and Sonatas for flute and  
viola da gamba, respectively, with William  
Rees and Charles Lang

Big Moose Mini-Bach Festival - Event 4  
Sunday, September 6, 7:30pm and 9:30pm  
Randolph Church  
Route 2, Randolph, (603) 466-2865  
[www.iconcertartists.com](http://www.iconcertartists.com)  
[musicinthegreatnorthwoods@earthlink.net](mailto:musicinthegreatnorthwoods@earthlink.net)  
Christa Rakich, harpsichord,  
Bach's *Goldberg Variations*, followed by  
Compline: The half hour service is sung by  
candlelight and consists of hymns and  
chants celebrating quietly the end of the  
day.

Johann Quantz  
holding flute



### Union Congregational Church in Groton, MA

The Union Congregational Church is pleased to announce the rededication of its unusual and unaltered 3-manual 1932 Estey (Op. 3040) by John Weaver. The 42 rank organ complete with full Echo

Division was recently restored by Andover Organ Company. The concert will take place **Sunday, September 20 at 3:00PM** at Union Church, 218 Main St., Groton, MA (978-448-2091). Tickets

are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door, proceeds going toward the restoration fund. Come hear a world-class organist play a truly fine historic instrument.

***A Note From the Editor***

I have a friend who is capable of telling about frightening events in such a way that one leaves howling with laughter. I'm not so sure I have the same ability, as I really wanted to be able to say that the experience of having to reload the operating system on my computer, along with all of the programs, TWICE, these past 2 weeks, was an amusing and delightful experience. How does the country song put it - "You are the hangnail of my life - you are the squeak in my refrigerator door . . ." Suffice it to say that my computer has won that award hands down. Thus, the lateness of this issue of "The Cypher".

Once I get back from vacation, though, September shall be more timely. I hope to have Reports from Mary Copeley about her experience at the Westminster Choir College Organ week, and a recap of the highlights of POE 2009 from Colin Lynch. Also, would someone be willing to do a report about the wonderful Convention we just had in Boston?



Mark Frazier



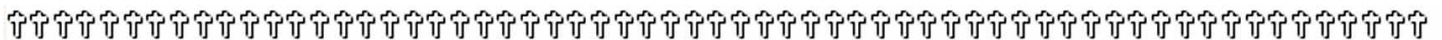
**Unique Opportunity for an NHAGO Radio Program,  
"Pipe Up!"**

Dear members of the NHAGO - we have a unique opportunity to share the music of our instrument with the greater public through the medium of radio. WKXL 1450 in Concord would like to add an organ program to its lineup of locally produced radio shows. This is a great opportunity seeing that many areas are discontinuing NPR's "Pipedreams" for simply business and/or financial reasons. This program will be far more

significant if a lot of NHAGO members step up to the plate and assist in its production. It would quite likely be unique throughout the national organization to have a chapter behind the creation of an organ radio broadcast.

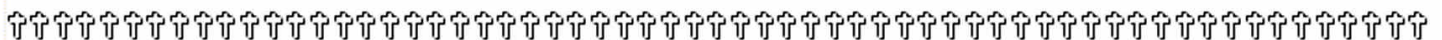
All that is needed is for members to pick a favorite organ recording and assist in recording announcements for each piece presented. Approximately 34 - 37 minutes of

music is needed along with spoken announcements to fill the 44 minutes required for an hour of commercial radio time. Mark Frazier will assist those in the actual recording and preparing for broadcast. Please let him know which recording you would like to hear broadcast, and make arrangements with him for about 30 minutes to an hour of your time to record the spoken parts!



\* \* \* **In Memoriam** \* \* \*

**Evelyn Fisher – July 2, 2009 Dean of NHAGO Chapter 1969 – 1970**  
**Rebecca Dole – July 23, 2009 Dean of NHAGO Chapter 1958 - 1960**



**The New Hampshire Chapter  
of the  
American Guild of Organists**

**156 Little Pond Road  
Concord, NH 03301**



The  
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