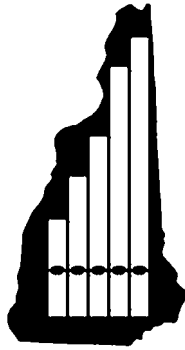


The Cypher



THE NEW HAMPSHIRE
CHAPTER
OF THE
AMERICAN GUILD OF
ORGANISTS
November 2008

BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TO FEATURE AN "ORGAN PLUS" MEMBERS RECITAL AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2008 at 4 PM.

Inside This Issue:

Dean's Letter	2
Methuen Young People's Theater	3
POE Corner	4
Upcoming Events	5
Concert Review	6
New Job Listing	7

The public is cordially invited to attend an audience-friendly concert with NHAGO members and guest artists performing both instrumental and vocal music along with the church's delightful 2 manual mechanical action Hutchings/Andover organ.

District Convener Marilyn Polson and Chaplain Celeste A. Hemingson will be present for the Installation of NHAGO officers, and to express greetings for this 2008/09 International Year of the Organ event!

Anchored in a strong heritage, Bedford Presbyterian Church is the oldest Presbyterian house of worship in New Hampshire. Since the

mid 1700s, our church has been a focal point for the faithful in Bedford and the surrounding NH area.

NH AGO members who are participating include: Jan Bordeleau, Cecile Dupuis, Nicholas Girgus, Barbara Flocco, Michael Joseph, and Darlene Poole.

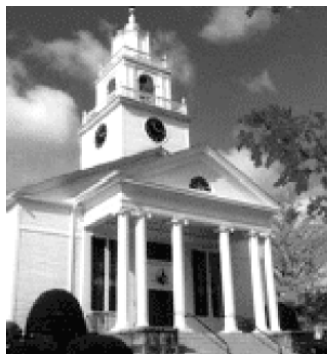
Reception with light refreshments to follow in the church hall. Members, if they wish, may bring hors d'oeuvres (cheese & crackers, fruits, vegetables) & dip, desserts, beverage, etc..

A flyer for this event is downloadable from the www.nhago.org website.

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.



Exterior and Interior images of Bedford Presbyterian Church.



A note from the NHAGO Executive Board:

NEWSFLASH - The "Cypher" is going ELECTRONIC starting in January, 2009. These are the advantages:

- Much reduced printing and postage costs
 - Your ability to view the Cypher (and print it, if you wish) in living color!
 - Instant availability at your email address.
- Of course, those without email, a computer or printer, etc. will still receive a hard copy. If you need to receive the "Cypher" in hardcopy, please let Dean Liz Black know.



A Letter From Our Dean



What a wonderful day October 19 was - a veritable banquet of delicious organ concerts! It was good to see so many of you at these events.

I began my feast at "Pipes of Portsmouth" with a brief stop at their first concert at St. John's Church with Abbey Hallberg Siegfried offering of Bach's 9/8 Prelude and Fugue. I had to leave early in time to be in Nashua for "Pops For Pipes" at the First Church (UCC) where I read the Governor's Proclamation before Joseph Olefirowicz' recital of mostly French and English compositions - some quite humorous! Then off to Concord to

hear Colin Lynch at the Saint Paul's School Chapel where he took us from Bach through the development of the French Symphonic literature. Such an inspiring and energizing day!

Please note the new column - "POE Corner" - where Director Colin Lynch will help us all stay up to date on the POE 2009 plans.

May your Christmas be blessed with glorious music making, and afterwards a brief respite before the new year!

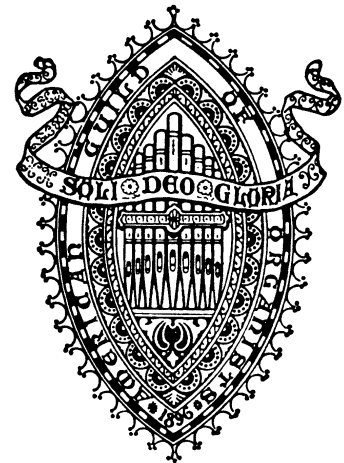
- Liz Black

Executive Committee Meeting

Saturday, January 10
10:00 AM

At St. Paul's Church
Centre Street
Concord, NH 03301

R.S.V.P. 224-1535



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.

NHAGO Obituary

AGO Member Virginia Desrosiers passed away last spring after a long and prolific life as a church organist. She began playing organ in the 1960's and studied with Marty Batista, Music Director at Brookside Congregational; under his direction she played in a recital at St. Anselm's. Virginia also studied with another AGO luminary -- Bruce Adami, another long time Brookside Music Director.

Although she had been an occasional summer substitute at Brookside, her passion was providing a music program at Hooksett Congregational Church where she had perfect attendance for 23 years. Not only did she play the organ for worship, but she also conducted the Senior, Junior and Cherub choirs as well as the starting the Bell Choir.

Virginia retired from Hooksett Congregational in February 1993 after a long and illustrious career. Because she enjoyed working with children so much, her husband Ernie has decided to donate her entire organ music library to our chapter in her honor. Proceeds from the sale of the music will go towards the POE Scholarship Fund.

* * * * *

Virginia Desrosiers' family would like to offer her grand piano for sale: **KIMBALL 5' GRAND PIANO** Circa 1993, walnut case in mint condition. Soundboard, bridge and pinblock: perfect. Action well regulated; holds tune well. Recent Appraisal: \$5,000.00. Make an offer.
Ernie: 669-4410 / Dan: 627-3376

Methuen Young People's Theater

The Methuen Young People's Theater, the Town of Titipu and the E. F. Walcker/Aeolian-Skinner Organ I have had the good fortune to be the Music Director of the Methuen Young People's Theater for four years now. MYPT has been in existence for 22 years as a program of the Methuen Memorial Music Hall. The program consists of the performance of one Gilbert and Sullivan show per summer by children as young as 7 and as old as 17. The trustees have overseen the program through this time and it continues to have a faithful following.

However, the organ has been used only once in all the 22 years that MYPT has been in existence. Over a decade ago, the overture was played. There seems to have been no record left of this performance, so it's not clear how the organ was used or what any of the registrations were. But in any case, that was the last time the organ has been

used. Every other show has used the piano exclusively for accompaniment until last year's performance of The Gondoliers.

In this performance, there were two romantic numbers, which called for a soft string accompaniment. In the first one (There Was a Time), I used a "string section" (Viola De-Gambe and Viola Celeste in the swell) and a simple flute chorus coupled from the Positiv to the Great (Gedeckt 8' and Nachthorn 4') to use for the pieces' introduction. Armed with this successful experiment from last summer (and permission from the MMMH Board), I proceeded to move on to this summer's production of The Mikado, or The Town of Titipu for MYPT's 23'd year.

As you can imagine, there was great interest in what was done. Executive Director Robert White was very supportive along with the Executive

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David Wold (603) 749-9649

Pipe Organ Encounter 2009 . . .

I used to work in a church with an eccentric woman who we called “The Hat Lady.” She was known for wearing a different hat every Sunday, each more outlandish and crazy than the one from the previous weekend. I could easily write an entire article describing her Easter bonnet—a headpiece that would make Carmen Miranda’s cranial cornucopia look like a yarmulke. I’ve recently begun to feel that I am becoming the crazy hat lady. I’ve just figured out how to strap on my treasurers’ hat (more of a helmet, really) and now I have a sleek new hat to wear as the director of this summer’s POE!

For those of you who are not well versed in the endless litany of AGO acronyms, POE stands for Pipe Organ Encounter. Originally, these week-long summer programs were intended simply to introduce teenage pianists to the organ. Some 20 years after the first POE’s, the program boasts an impressive list of alumni. Now, students who are lucky enough to make it off the long waiting list find the opportunity to study with world-class teachers at one of 4 or 5 POE’s throughout the country. Some have never touched an organ, and some can breeze through Bach Trio Sonatas from memory. As a shy ninth grader who had just had my first few organ lessons, I was encouraged to attend a POE at Wesleyan University where I became enraptured with the excitement of

playing such a large instrument and was encouraged by my POE teacher, Rob Ebrecht. I also met other organists my age, some of whom are still my closest friends and many of whom who have gone on to hold exceptional posts in the organ world.

This July, the granite state will host some 40 young organists from all over the country who will stay at Southern New Hampshire University. They will spend these days playing almost 20 organs in the Manchester area and studying with teachers from throughout the Northeast. Among our many workshops, activities, lessons, and concerts, we will spend an evening at St. Paul’s School for a recital by a surprise organist. We will also take a field trip to Boston to get a taste of city life and enjoy a tour of the exceptional list of instruments, led by Jonathan Ambrosino. There will be several concerts by both notable musicians and novice students and all will be open to the public.

As you might imagine, this is no small undertaking—especially for a chapter of our size! I am thankful for those on our wonderful executive committee who have already been working hard: Shirley Boucher-Treasurer, Jan Bordeleau-Funding, Kathy Metivier-Services coordinator, George Bozeman-Facilities coordinator, Bruce Adami-Faculty coordinator, Elizabeth Black-Secretary and Registrar. I

POE
CORNER



would also like to thank Ken Grinnell who dreamt big and laid the foundation to make this POE possible.

In the coming months, we will also need significant support from our chapter members. In particular, there is a strong need for financial assistance so we can give our students the best experience possible. The AGO is committed to making this an affordable experience and so we must raise \$516 dollars for each student. Please contact Jan Bordeleau if you are able to help.

With much excitement,
Colin Lynch
(The hat lady)



Upcoming Events

Organ Concert

Friday Nov. 7th 1:30 PM
Grace Episcopal Church
30 Eastman St. Concord, NH

Sponsored by Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Granite State College

Warren Geissing, organist graduate of West Chester (PA) University, graduate work at Temple University and the School of Sacred Music of Union Theological Seminary, where he studied with Vernon deTar. Music of Bach, Vierne, Boellmann, Purvis, Schroeder, etc. Admission free.
Allen Electronic Organ.



St. Paul's School Lessons and Carols

5:00 PM Sunday, December 14

Prelude to begin at 4:30
St. Paul's School, Concord, NH
Colin Lynch, Director

Ceremony of Carols

Benjamin Britten
Choirs of South Congregational Church and
Wesley United Methodist Church
7:00 PM Saturday, December 20
Wesley United Methodist Church
79 Clinton Street, Concord, NH
Mark Frazier and Nancy Cole, Directors



Organ Concert

Thomas Murray
7:30 PM Friday, January 16
St. Paul's School, Concord, NH



Pictures from Joseph Olefirowicz's IYO recital on October 19, 2008.



Guest Review of Chelsea Chen Recital - November 3, 2008

Sunday, November 2nd, Chelsea Chen played this year's McQuade Memorial Recital on the 1976 tracker Rieger organ at the Community Church of Durham. Chelsea played a varied program, entirely from memory that showcased not only the various colors of this organ, but also her talent. She opened the program with the 2002 *Sinfonietta* by Ola Gjeilo, a Norwegian who was a fellow student with her at Juilliard. As Chelsea explained, this is a theatrical piece. It also has some very close harmonies, and some tremendous pedal work. She closed the first half of the program with her own composition, *Taiwanese Suite* (2003). This is in three sections, each section based on a popular Taiwanese song from the 1920's and '30's. Originally

written to be played on the Spreckles organ in San Diego, Chelsea soon realized it could be played on classical organs, not just theater organs. It is a cheerful and refreshing ethnic piece, and sounded very well on this Baroque organ. She played two Bach pieces, one in each half of the program - the *Trio Sonata No. 5 in C Major* and the *Prelude and Fugue in A Minor*. Both of these were played so clean and even, and yet so contained and full of emotion – they were pure Bach, and for many in the audience the highlights of the program.

The second half of the program opened with Paul Hindemith's *Sonata No. 1* which had some delightful dances and a great "storm" in the middle of the second movement. Both movements ended with a beautiful quietness.

Between the Hindemith and the last

Bach she played a short piece by Mulet, *Meditation religieuse*, a lovely quiet piece that was introduced to her by her present teacher at Yale, Tom Murray. For an encore Chelsea played a piece by another of her teachers, John Weaver. Since it was All Saint's Sunday, she played his New Orleans jazz arrangement of both the hymn tunes of *For All The Saints*, and *When the Saints Go Marching In*. It is such an upbeat, happy piece that everyone left the concert smiling. This was an excellent program, with both "new" and "old" music played by an immensely talented young organist – she is 24 – who also relates to the audience with her engaging and personal program comments.

- Tom Madson
with help from Warren Geissinger

The "Cypher" welcomes guest reviews of concerts. Please contact Mark Frazier (frazma@verizon.net) if you have one that you would like to submit.

NH AGO November 2008

New Job Listings

Federated Church of Sandwich (Baptist – Methodist)
(PO Box 267)

Center Sandwich, NH 03227
(603) 284-6151 – Church Office
office@sandwichfederated.org

Organist/Music Director for 1 Sunday service 10:00 AM with Sunday morning Choir rehearsal with Adult Choir.

Extra services organist would be responsible for: *Christmas Eve, Christmas day, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Easter and Thanksgiving.*

\$200.00 Per week for approx 6 hour work week. Approximately 3 weddings per year for extra income.

2 Manual and Pedal, , 11 Rank, Hook & Hastings Pipe Organ, approximately 116 years old in good condition and is housed in the Methodist Building. The Baptist Building houses a 2 manual and Pedal, 7 rank, 132 year George Ryder Pipe organ.

Vacancy to be filled by December 1, 2008

Inquires made to above address OR

Alan Nichols (Search Committee)

166 Tilton Haley Road

Center Sandwich NH 03227

(603) 284-6504

janenick@ncia.net

Methuen (cont'd from page 3)

Board (especially John Skelton who I owe many thanks.) The children themselves were fascinated. At one point I gave them a brief very loud demonstration of how much volume the organ had when I just pressed the crescendo pedal down all the way and played the opening nine chords of Webber's Phantom of the Opera. I nicknamed it "The Big Big Organ" to try and keep this spectacular instrument as accessible as possible. This interest and curiosity may lead to a couple of our children perhaps studying organ one day.

Lots of hassles existed. I had to make sure that the console was kept untouched but at the same time not discouraging interest. Our director and assistant director (Joe Gori and Ben Hellman) provided much assistance with their feedback regarding balance and the organ's feasibility for each number. Lighting needed to be provided in an unobtrusive way – a problem that made the Choir keyboard on the console unusable because of the lack of light. Of the problems we had in using the organ for accompanying the show, I think these three were the biggest:

1. The Placement of the console. In the

end, it had to be placed way behind and sideways right under the pipes behind the stage set out of sight of the performers.

2. The age of the children and the size of the voices. With the mammoth size of this organ it took plenty of care not to overwhelm them.

3. The sheer size of the organ itself. With the quick pace of Gilbert and Sullivan's music and lyrics, sometimes the delayed sound became too much of an obstacle for both the organist and the performers. In many ways, playing this organ is like steering the Titanic; and much of Gilbert and Sullivan's music requires a small motorboat! Therefore the larger choral pieces (Behold the Lord High Executioner for instance) still needed to be done with the piano. The faster songs (Three Little Maids from School being the most famous example) also needed to be done with the piano. Other musical numbers needed to be excluded because they directly followed or preceded a large choral number or patter song and there just wasn't enough time for the accompanist to move from the piano to the organ console and keep the continuity and the flow of the show going. (It was indeed adventurous enough moving back and

forth between piano and organ during the show. Trying to avoid MYPT participants, props, wires and cables while getting to one instrument or the other can be quite out of the ordinary!)

I was still able to accompany 8 of the 24 musical numbers on the instrument. A couple used the "string chorus" with simple flute stops that I used the previous year. But this time around, I was able to use different combinations to accompany with different colors and sounds providing an actual organ experience along with The Mikado, something clearly very unique to the Methuen Memorial Music Hall. The reception was quite good from both audience and directors, and I hope to be able to do it again next year!.

Submitted by:

R. Scott White, CAGO, member of the New Hampshire chapter of the AGO.

Scott is the Music Director at Union Congregational Church at North Reading, MA and Music Director at Methuen Young People's Theater (<http://www.mmmh.org/Vsm/templates/temp.asp?articleid=236&zoneid=47>)

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

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



The
Cypher

**DIRECTIONS to Bedford Presbyterian Church
4 Church Rd. (at Meetinghouse Rd.), Bedford, NH.**

FROM EAST-SEACOAST AREA

- Take 101 West toward Manchester.
- Bear left at fork onto 101/West/Manchester/Bedford
- Merge right immediately to bear right at the next fork onto 293N/101W toward airport
- Continue in left lane (past Mall of NH) on 101 West/Bedford/Milford
- **Turn left at traffic light onto 101 West/Milford/Keene
- At 2nd traffic light, turn right at Meetinghouse Rd.
- Proceed up hill past the meetinghouse on your right. Church is straight ahead.

FROM SOUTH-NASHUA AREA

- Take Everett Tpke North
- After Toll, take the 2nd exit & travel on 101 West/Bedford/Milford
- **Continue as above

FROM NORTH-CONCORD AREA

- Take 293 South into Manchester
- After passing exit 5, bear right toward airport
- Immediately bear right again onto 101 West/Bedford/Milford
- Proceed on 101 West
- **Continue as above