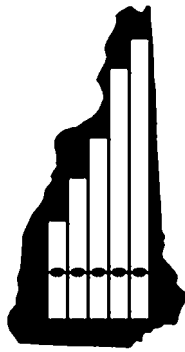


The Cypher



THE NEW HAMPSHIRE
CHAPTER
OF THE
AMERICAN GUILD OF
ORGANISTS

Summer 2008

A Message From Dean Black

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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.

Several members of NHAGO (Nick Girgus, Lois Thurston, Emery Freethey, Elizabeth Cataldo, and Liz Black) attended "Roots and Branches" the UCCMA conference at Woodfords UCC Church in Portland, Maine, July 14 - 17. We had a wonderful time meeting Gene Faxon from the Monadnock Chapter!

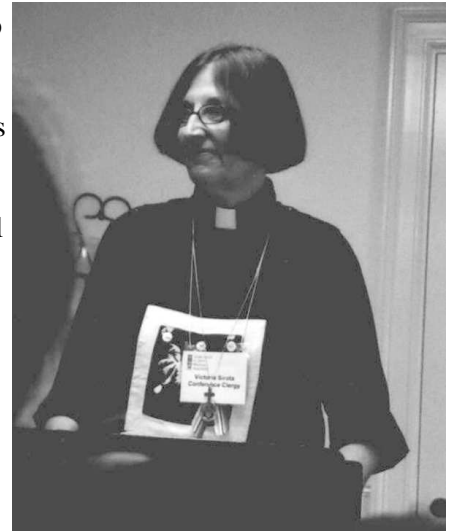
Monday afternoon began with a plenary session, facilitated by the Rev. Dr. Victoria Sirota, Rev. Dr. Bernard Wilson and Michael Kemp, covering such topics as our call to music ministry, relationships with our clergy and our relationship to the congregation. This was followed by a spread of delicious food choices, an opportunity to "shop at the store" and an inspiring worship service which included Dr. Patricia Snyder at the organ, and Ray Cornils and the Parish Ringers, and Dr. Victoria Sirota as the service Preacher.

Tuesday, I chose to attend Dr. Patricia Snyder's workshop on organ repertoire as well as her masterclass, during which 4 men played. After lunch, I attended Dr. Sirota's

workshop entitled "Worship Wars and Conflict". Free for dinner, a group of us enjoyed seafood on Gilbert's deck before heading to Merrill Auditorium to hear Frederick Hohmann's recital on the Kotzschmar organ.

Wednesday my workshops included "Bridging the Ethnic cultural music Divide" facilitated by Dr. Wilson, "Finding the Voice of Your Congregation" by Dr. Sirota, and "Hymns Plus" by Peter Krasinski. I must say that there were 6 sessions in all with 4 choices each time covering composing, vocal and choir problems and solutions, choral music reading, handbells, and drumming in addition to the workshops I attended! After dinner, we were taken by bus to the historic Tory Hill Church in Buxton, for strawberry shortcake on the green before an evening worship and communion service.

Thursday began with a wrap-up plenary session, and a wonderful closing worship which included the conference choir and handbell choir, Peter Krasinski on the Wicks organ, and Dr. Bernard Wilson preaching. There were 160 participants who



The Rev. Dr. Victoria Sirota leading a workshop

came from as far as San Diego, Texas, etc. And covered a wide range of ministry: organists, choir directors, bell choir directors, clergy, and divinity students. A wonderful and nourishing time!

- Liz Black



Peter Krasinski making a point in his class "Hymns Plus".

From our Chaplain, Celeste Hemingson

Organists: Past and Present—a story of hospitality

Dear friends, I thought I'd share this little story with you, because, in a way, you're in it.

In May I took a trip with friends, driving the "Great River Road" along the upper Mississippi. On the way, I wanted to make a pilgrimage to the tiny Czechoslovakian community of Spillville Iowa, where Antonin Dvorak sojourned during the summer of 1893, a refugee from the alien urban environment of New York City, where he had been living for a year as director of the National Conservatory of Music in America.

Homesick for his native Czechoslovakia, and for country life, Spillville was a refreshing haven. While there he composed the *American String Quartet* and his *String Quintet*, both of which incorporate Native American and African American tunes, as well as the call of the scarlet

tanager, a bird he first heard along the river there.

There was a roadblock at the entrance to town. Some very distressed looking young women told us sadly that the town was flooded (as much of Iowa would be in the next week). I told them how sad I was because I had wanted to make this pilgrimage for thirty years, and had come all the way from New Hampshire. The young women said, "Oh! If you want to go to the Dvorak exhibit, that neighborhood's not flooded, and there's a back way into town."

At the house where the maestro had lived, we learned that his morning routine had been to rise at 4:00am, write music, and take a long walk around town, ending up at St. Wenceslas Church in time to play the organ for 7:00am Mass. The organ was still there, and the church would be open for another fifteen minutes.

We hurried over to the church. Inside, we heard beautiful piano music. The young woman playing told us she was

from Maryland, and that she was practicing for a piano and organ concert she would give that weekend for the 150th anniversary of the church. "Would you like to hear the organ?" she asked. Up in the loft, she turned on the old instrument and began playing the Largo from the New World Symphony.

She was Joan DeVee Dixon, a professor of music in Maryland, and an AGO member. When I told her of my connection with the New Hampshire chapter, Joan added that she had also composed a Polka Mass for the church anniversary. Would we like a copy of the Mass, she asked. "I've got to show this to Mark Pace," I thought.

Back at our hotel we found an article about Joan in the local paper. Dr. Dixon is internationally known, and has produced ten CDs of organ and piano music. The Polka Mass, "A Mass for Spillville", will be celebrated at St. Paul's Church in Concord on St. Wenceslas Day, September 27th.

Worcester POE Report From Participant Eryn Battey

Words can not explain the gratitude I feel for the NHAGO, which gave me the opportunity to attend the Pipe Organ Encounter in Worcester. The POE was the highlight of my summer- I was able to learn, have fun, and make new friends with people who share my interests. One of the most valuable things that my experience from the week at POE gave me was not the many things I learned about the organ, though they were great. Instead, it was the how it showed me how much I still need to learn, for that has now inspired me to practice

more and take organ lessons, which I will be starting in the fall. I know that my week at the Pipe Organ Encounter has changed my future, certainly for the better. I thank the NHAGO and Darlene Poole for introducing me to this wonderful instrument that I hope will stay with me throughout my life.

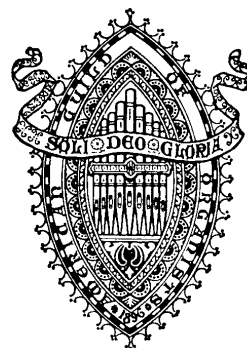
-Eryn Battey

PLACE YOUR AD IN THE NHAGO DIRECTORY

Chapter members interested in placing an ad in the 2008-09 NHAGO Membership directory can do so through August 15th. Rates are only \$25 per quarter page ad. Send your original ad along with your check payable to NHAGO to:

Nicholas Girgus
6 Small Lane
Merrimack, NH 03054

Please direct any questions to Nick at (603)424-4743



St. Paul's School Organ Renovation



Aeolian-Skinner Console at St. Paul's School

St. Paul's School in Concord has updated the school's Aeolian-Skinner by going "back in time". Colin Lynch, our treasurer/registrar, just oversaw the reinstallation of the original Aeolian-Skinner console, replacing the 1996 Copeman-Hart console which was proving to be too large for the needs of the musician who, because of its size, was unable to see beyond it, much less be able to conduct a choir from the console. In addition, the action had become unresponsive so that rapidly repeated notes sounded as one long held note.

The original console was built in 1953, and has been sitting in a storage unit on Loudon Road here in Concord since it was replaced in 1996. The keyboards have been replaced with E.M. Skinner keyboards from an organ in Flint, Michigan, with brand new ivory on the keys. The stop knobs include some original E. M. Skinner ivory knobs alongside brand new ivory knobs designed to replicate the original.

The organ has been updated with Walker electronics replacing some of the pipework that would not hold its tuning in a building in which large numbers of students come in and out of at one time causing drastic temperature changes.

The console has a stop sequencer which can be programmed so that any piston can be pressed to cause the next programmed registration to appear, greatly reducing the possibility of piston errors.

This restoration is part of a much larger project in which each division of the organ is being redone over time. The Swell division has been redone, and work will eventually include the Great and Pedal divisions. Currently, some stops have been temporarily assigned to stop knobs with totally different names, so one needs to know that the Spitzflöte on the choir is actually a Cromorne!

The money for this project was donated in memory of Channing Lefevre, Chapel organist in the 50's and 60's.

Rededication of Bedient Organ in Gorham, NH

On July 13th, Gwen and Gene Bedient attended the re-dedication of Bedient Opus 37 which has been moved from the Charles Lang/Susan Ferré residence in Oklahoma to a new home in Gorham, New Hampshire. The organ along with several other keyboard instruments are on loan to Chapel Arts, a private performance space/art gallery in Gorham.

Ferré played a spectacular and moving program comprised of works of D. Scarlatti, Cabezon, Correa de Arauxo, De Lande, Bach, Dubois, Ahrens, Langlais, Vierne and Alain. The pieces were built around an original story written by Susan Ferré describing the life journey of a young Basque girl. A sizable and attentive audience was on hand and those living in or traveling to Gorham will be able to enjoy many other fine future performances on Bedient Opus 37 at Chapel Arts.

www.chapelartsnewengland.com

Bedient Opus 37 Specifications

Manual I

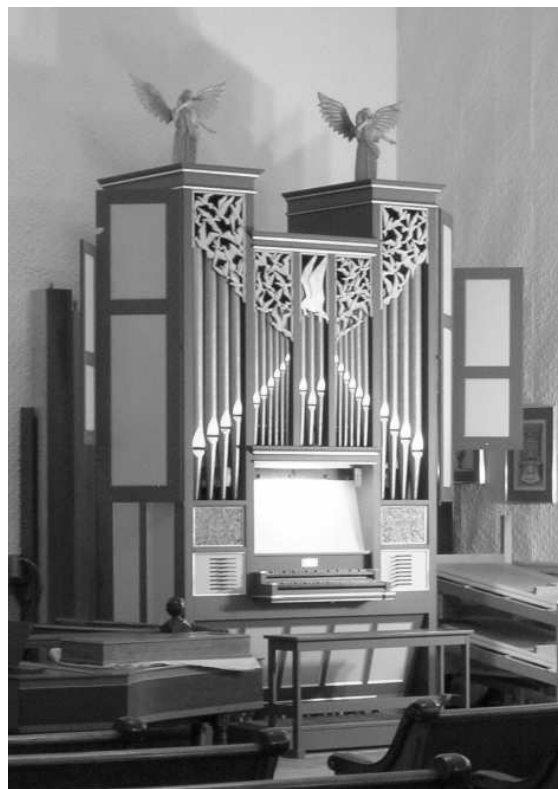
Rohrflute 8
Praestant 4
Quinte 2 2/3 treble
Octave 2
Terz 1 3/5 treble
Cymbln I

Manual II

Gedackt 8
Spitzflute 4
Fluit 1
Dulzainas 8

Pedal

Subbass 16
I/Pedal
II/Pedal
II/I
Tremulant
Rossignol





Jan Bordeleau turning over the treasurer/registrar material over to Colin Lynch, July Board Meeting



2008 - 2009 NHAGO Board Members from Left to Right: Front Row: Jan Bordeleau and Cecile Dupuis. Back Row: Nick Gergus, David Wold, Lois Thurston, Barbara Flocco, Charles Blood, Emery Freethey, Shirley Boucher, Liz Black and Colin Lynch, July Board Meeting

*** Substitute Available ***

Maureen Sheehan
PO Box 5621
Portsmouth NH 03802
(603) 431-1891

Substitute Organist for Wedding's & Funerals & Special Services.

Executive Committee Meeting

Saturday, October 11
10:00 AM

St. Paul's Church
Centre Street
Concord, NH 03301
RSVP: 603-224-1535

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.

2008 - 2009 Officers

Dean

Elizabeth L. Black
dmbblackmd@comcast.net
603-224-1535

Sub-Dean

Nicolas Girgus
ngx2@webtv.net
(603) 424-4743

Secretary

Lois Thurston
l_thurston@conknet.com
(603) 746-4082

Treasurer/Registrar

Colin Lynch
Clynch@sps.edu
603-229-4600

Auditor

Darlene Poole
agopoolenh@yahoo.com
603-424-6360

Placement Director

Kevin G. Lindsay
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(603) 332-4522

Chaplain

Celeste Hemingson
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603-746-3968

Newsletter Editor

Mark W. Frazier
frazma@verizon.net
(603) 224-1428

Executive Committee

To 2009:

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

To 2010:

George Bozeman (603) 463-7427
Barbara Flocco (603) 778-7286

To 2011:

Shirley Boucher (603) 934-2035
David Wold (603) 749-9649

NH AGO July 2008 newsletter
New Job Listings

Church of our Savior (Episcopal)
10 Amhurst St. (PO Box 237)
Milford, NH 03055
(603) 673-3309 – Church Office

Organist/Music Director for 1 Sunday service 10:00 AM with Sunday morning Choir warm-up. Wednesday Night Choir rehearsal with Adult Choir; Also responsible for Children's choir.

Extra services organist would be responsible for: *Advent Lessons and Carols, Pageant, Christmas Eve, Christmas day, Epiphany, Candlemas, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, All Easter services, Ascension and Thanksgiving services.*

\$14,500-15,000.00 Annual salary for approximately 10-12 hour week with up to 10 weddings & funerals as extra income potential.

4 weeks paid vacation, and other benefits to be negotiated with successful candidate.

2 Manual and Pedal, Fritz Noak Pipe Organ, approximately 34 years old. Excellent condition.

Vacancy to be filled by August 31, 2008

Inquires made to above address OR

Rolf Goodwin (Search Committee Convener)

3 Belfast St. ,

Nashua NH 03063

(603) 881-3028

rolf.goodwin@mclane.com

Main Street United Methodist Church

154 Main Street

Nashua NH 03060

(603) 882-3361 Office

mainstumc@verizon.net

Organist for 2 Services (1 service during July/August) with Sunday morning warm-up. Thursday night Choir rehearsals. Successful candidate will also possess strong Piano skills as well.

Maundy Thursday, and Christmas Eve currently the only extra services, with a Cantata during Christmas and Eastertide.

\$10,046 – 10,096.00 Annual Salary with 4 weeks paid vacation included. Approx. 8 weddings or funerals for extra remuneration.

2 Manual and Pedal Cassavant Pipe Organ, approx. 59 years old. 33 stops, 28 Ranks.

Vacancy to be filled by August 24, 2008 or sooner.

Inquiries made to above address OR

Sherry Wheeler

6 Ridgewood Drive

Amherst NH 03031

(603) 673-1743

srrcwheeler@masn.com



Liz Black, Debbie Carley, and Mark Frazier enjoyed chatting with organist Felix Hell after a concert on the Kotschmar organ in Portland, Maine on June 24.

International Year of the Organ Pipe Organ Events, New Hampshire! October 19, 2008

Pipes Spectacular – Year of the Organ

Joseph R. Olefirowicz, CAGO

Concert at First Church, Nashua, NH 4:00 PM

Colin Lynch

Concert at St. Paul's School, Concord, NH 7:30 PM

Pipes of Portsmouth – Sponsored by Strawberry Banke

2 PM – St. John's Church

Abbey Hallberg Siegfried and Jennifer MacPherson

3 PM – North Church – Larry Yerdon, President of Strawberry Banke

Michael Bradley – Rector of St. George's Church, Durham, NH

Kaitlyn Emerson

4 PM – South Church – Terrie Harmon and Rick Gremlitz

John Bishop will serve as MC for all concerts. A reception will follow the 4 PM concert at South Church.

Anyone wishing to be a community sponsor may contribute by check to POP/ Strawberry Banke and send to POBox
471, New Castle, NH 03854

Any questions – call Terrie Harmon: 603-431-0666

“Above the Notches”

Tour of organs in the North Country

Participants: Susan Ferre, George Bozeman,

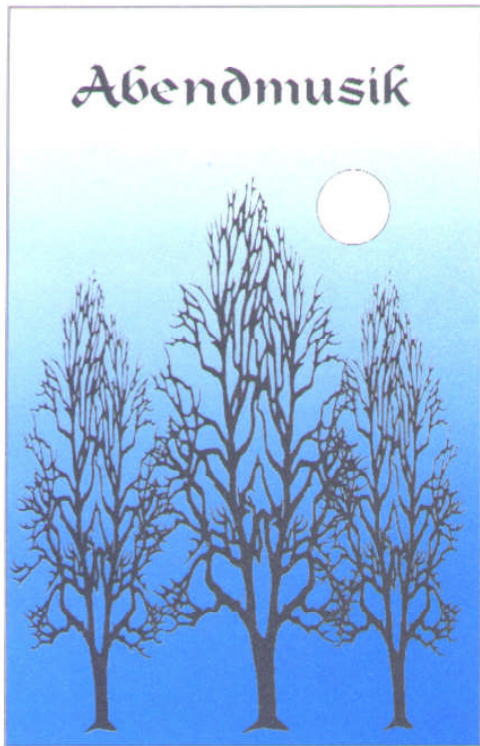
Patti Dunn, Heywood Alexander

A look at five tracker organs - 2 Hooks, Wissinger, Ruggles, and Bedient

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Food to Follow

Contact: Susan Ferre
susanferre@earthlink.net



Fine Arts Music Series

Saturday, July 12th • 7:30 pm
Lt. Col. T. Shane Tomko, Pianist

Saturday, July 19th • 7:30 pm
Randy Armstrong,
World Fusion Music Master

Saturday, August 2nd • 7:30 pm
Christopher Kies, Pianist

Saturday, August 16th • 7:30 pm
Jung Mi Lee & Jon Sakata
Duo Pianists

Advance Tickets

Adults - \$10
 Seniors - \$8

Tickets at the Door

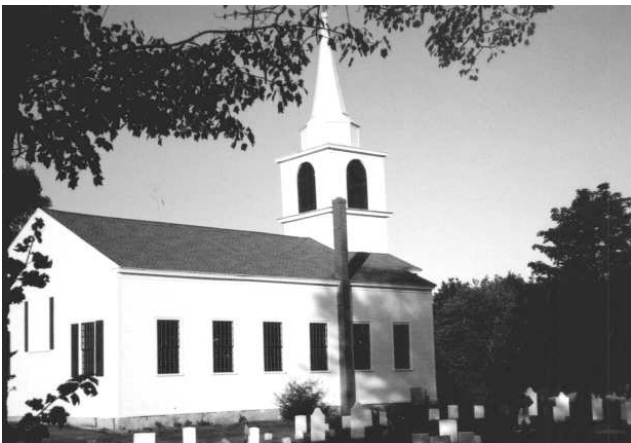
Adults - \$12
 Seniors - \$10
 Children u/ 15 - Free

Concerts begin at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary

For more information call (603) 964-4061

Rye Congregational Church • 580 Washington Road • Rye, NH

Other Pictures from “Roots and Branches” - UCCMA Conference in July, 2008



To the Left: The Tory Church, Buxton Maine where strawberry shortcake was served before the worship and communion service.



To the Right: The Rev. Dr. Bernard Wilson



To the Left: The Conference Bell Choir playing for the final worship service.



To the Right: Clinicians Dr. Patricia Snyder and Michael Kemp in session.

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

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



The
Cypher