



The Cypher

The New Hampshire Chapter of the
American Guild of Organists

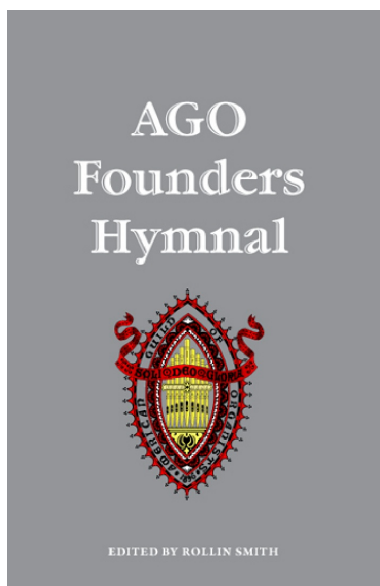
February 2012

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February 12, 2012 Meeting

John Sullivan of the Portland, Maine, AGO Chapter will lead a presentation on the Founder's Hymnal at the First United Methodist Church in Rochester, New Hampshire on Sunday, February 12, at 3:00 pm. Refreshments will be provided after. Some of our chapter members will assist Mr. Sullivan by playing some of the hymns.

John Sullivan holds a BA in English from Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY, an MA in Music Education from NYU, and the Fellowship Certificate from the American Guild of Organists. From 1992 until his alleged retirement in 2007, John was the "music man" at Poughkeepsie Day School, where he taught elementary and middle school classroom music, served as musical director for many productions, and taught private lessons in piano, organ and music theory. He is currently the District Convener for Northern New England for the American Guild of Organists and serves as organist/choirmaster at St. George's Episcopal Church in York Harbor.



The AGO Founders Hymnal was edited by Rollin Smith and includes 83 hymns by 79 of the founders of the American Guild of Organists. American composers include Dudley Buck, George Chadwick, Arthur Foote, John Knowles Paine, Horatio Parker, and Harry Rowe Shelley. Representing prominent organists of the day are Samuel

Baldwin, Gaston Dethier, Clarence Dickinson, Clarence Eddy, Samuel P. Warren, and Gerrit Smith. Copies of the Hymnal can be purchased from the AGO online store for \$19.95. (www.agohq.org/store/index1.html)

The church address is 34 South Main Street, Rochester, New Hampshire 03867.

Epiphany Lessons and Carols a Huge Success

The choirs of the First United Methodist Church of Rochester and Saint Paul's Church of Concord came together with NHAGO chapter organists to present beautifully performed Lessons and Carols of the Epiphany Season Sunday afternoon, January 8, 2012. Kevin Lindsay and Mark Pace chose the choral pieces and Kevin Lindsay, Mark Pace, Ken Grinnell, George Bozeman, David Wold performed organ solos.

Readers included the Reverend Kate Atkinson, Rector of St. Paul's Church, Kevin Lindsay, Jon Pyrich, Mark Searle, Jean Gillespie, and the Reverend Herb Sprouse of St. Paul's Church.

Gifts to benefit the St. Paul's Food Pantry were brought by many of the large and appreciative audience nearly filling St. Paul's Church. A number of attendees stated that the event should become an annual affair.



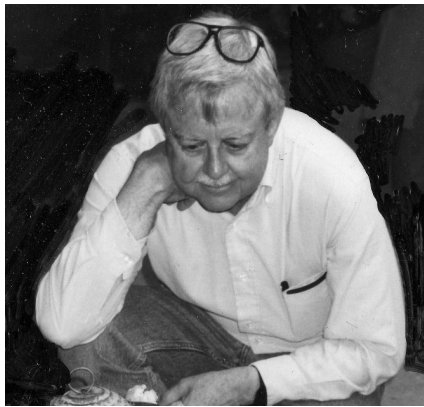
March 11, 2012 Meeting

Gerry Weale will host us at Saint Thomas Episcopal Church in Hanover, New Hampshire, at 4:00 pm. He will be speaking about Accompanying from the Bench. More information in the March CYPHER.

June 10, 2012 Meeting

Our annual meeting will begin at 3:00 pm at Christ Church Episcopal in Exeter with a recital by former chapter member, Colin Lynch. After the recital we will convene at a restaurant in the vicinity for dinner and the annual meeting. More details in later editions of the CYPHER.

The Cypher has a new Editor



I have agreed to take on the duties of Editor of the Cypher beginning with this February 2012 edition. I hope to produce a monthly newsletter for the months of September through June, the latter edition also

serving for the summer months. In order to be able to put copies of the Cypher in the mail by the first of each month it will be necessary to have submissions for inclusion no later than a week before the first of the month. I prefer to have submissions by e-mail in a digital form (i.e. not photocopies of text) because this form is easy to transfer to my software for preparing the final copy. I can, of course, accept typed material, but not hand written material. No material can be accepted by phone; there is simply too much opportunity for error or omission. (Your editor's age is showing in his memory lapses!).

Please consider sending news items, articles, and pictures. It is fun to read member's reports on their travels and activities. Also please submit dates, times, locations, and phone numbers for concerts, meetings, and other calendar items.

The CYPHER will continue to be available on-line but for the present we will be mailing each member a printed copy.

I look forward to working with the chapter to produce the CYPHER. But I'll need all the help you can give me!
George Bozeman

Calendar of Coming Events

Tuesday, February 22, Ash Wednesday, Lent begins

Tuesday, February 28, 10 am, NHAGO Planning Committee meets at FUMC, Rochester

Sunday, March 11, Saint Thomas Episcopal Church, Hanover NH, 4 pm, Gerry Weale on Accompanying from the Bench.

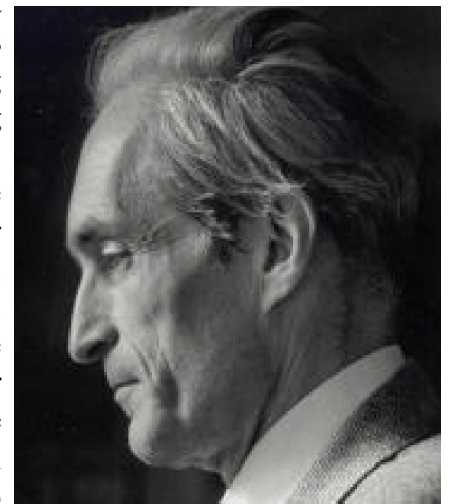
Sunday, April 8, Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 15, NHAGO Executive Committee meets at Liz Black's home

Sunday, June 10, Christ Church Episcopal, Exeter NH, 3 pm, Annual Meeting and recital by Colin Lynch.

Gustav Leonhardt dies at 83

World renown harpsichord and organ performer Gustav Leonhardt (1928-2012) died at his home in Amsterdam January 16th. Only a month earlier he announced after a concert in Paris that he was retiring from performing due to poor health. A consummate keyboard player (harpsichord, organ, clavichord, forte-piano), he was also a scholar and conductor. He studied in Basel before moving to Vienna where he



made a name for himself as a harpsichordist and taught that instrument at the Vienna Academy of Music. He returned to his native Amsterdam to take up a similar position at the Amsterdam Conservatory. He began a distinguished career of recordings in the 1950's with complete performances of Bach's *Goldberg Variations* and *The Art of Fugue*. He collaborated with other early music pioneers such as Alfred Deller and Nicholas Harnoncourt. A list of his students reads like a Who's Who of the early music field..

Gerre Hancock dies at 78

The gifted and beloved organist Gerre Edward Hancock died January 21, 2013. He was born

February 21, 1934 in Lubbock, Texas. Hancock received degrees from the University of Texas and Union Theological Seminary and studied at the Sorbonne in Paris. He had positions at Saint Bartholomew's Church in New York City, Christ Church in Cincinnati, and Saint Thomas Church in New York from 1971 to 2004. At the time of his death he was Professor of Organ and Sacred Music at the University of Texas.



Hancock was to have given a recital in the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis, Missouri, on Sunday, January 22, but cancelled on January 19 due to "unforeseen medical issues" according to the Saint Louis Post Dispatch. Cause of death was

cardiac arrest after a short illness. He was in a hospital in Austin, Texas, and died in the arms of his wife, Judith.

Hancock was especially renowned for his marvelous ability to improvise. He often conducted master classes to share his knowledge of the subject and was the author of *Improvising; How to Master the Art*.

A large number of postings on FaceBook testify to the genial, unassuming personality of this gentle man. He will be sorely missed.

Volunteers Needed to Play Hymns at February Meeting

John Sullivan will need several volunteers to play the hymns in his presentation. If you would like to help out please contact Kevin Lindsey at 603 332 4522 (home) or 603 332 4170 (church) or fumcorganist@myfairpoint.net.

The Merrimack Valley AGO Chapter holds their 14th Mini-convention.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, February 25 for the 14th Merrimack Valley AGO Mini-convention. It begins at 8:30 am and is over at 3:30 pm, and will be located again at First Calvary Baptist Church, at the intersection of Route 125 and Massachusetts Ave. in North Andover. Presenters include Cheryl Duerr, John and Carolyn Skelton, Richard Bunberry, and Joan Lippincott. For more information contact Barbara Owen (978-465-2068); owenbar@juno.com) or contact Ruth Bowers (978-922-8137); Ruth.Bowers@comcast.net).

A Message from our Dean



How wonderful it is to be back in print! Many, many thanks to George for taking over the Cypher! And I also want to thank Mark Frazier for keeping our e-news alive and well.

Our hearts were so saddened this week when we heard about the passing of Gerre Hancock. I was lucky to have heard him several years ago in Exeter.

Many thanks to Mark Pace and the St. Paul's Church Choir and Kevin Linsay his choir from First United Methodist Church in Rochester for the wonderful Epiphany service, presided over by our chaplain, the Reverend Herbert Sprouse.

Our spring calendar many interesting programs. I look forward to seeing you there.

Liz Black

New Hampshire Chapter
of the
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156 Little Pond Road
Concord NH 03301



Directions to First United Methodist Church, Rochester 34 South Main Street Rochester NH 03867

From the Manchester area go east on Route 101, take Exit 7/Route 125. Go left at the end of the ramp. Follow Route 125 North all the way to Rochester. At the intersection of Route 125 and South Main Street, go left, and about 2/10's of a mile on your right is the church. Pull into the parking lot just before the church.

From Concord NH, follow Route 202 East. This route shares with Routes 4 and 9 part of the way. Just pay attention to turn left at the traffic light in Northwood to stay on Route 202. Once in Rochester don't follow signs for 202; instead merge with the Spaulding Turnpike, staying straight. Bear right and yield to traffic on North Main St. About 1/2 mile on your left is the church. (When traffic is one way, stay in the right lane) Pull into the parking lot just slightly beyond the church.

From points north, follow the Spaulding Turnpike South and take Exit 15 (There is no longer an exit 14 with road construction going on, no matter what GPS directions may say). Bear left onto North Main Street and follow directions as listed above.