

Portland Chapter of the
American Guild of Organists
501 Long Plains Rd
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Portland Chapter Officers 2013-14

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Need a third director!

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THE VOX HUMANA

The Newsletter of the Portland, Maine Chapter of the
American Guild of Organists

website: www.agoportlandmaine.com



September 2014

My slant on the Boston AGO National Convention

--Ann Hartzler, Dean

The Boston AGO National Convention (June 23-28) was the first AGO National Convention I have attended. It was a wonderful celebration of Boston's history and tradition, featuring local organ builders Aeolian Skinner, Hook and Hastings and Charles Fisk, and awesome venues such as the Mother Church of Christian Science, Symphony Hall and Trinity Church at Copley Square.

I enjoyed the concerts and workshops. Highlights for me were listening to inspiring young organists (Quimby competition winners), the veteran stars (James David Christie) and the new stars (Chelsea Chen, Scott Dettra and Christian Lane). Also, I loved hearing beautiful choral music by Blue Heron and the Boston City Singers.

I managed to fit in a "duck tour" of Boston while I was there. The duck tours consist of bus-boat conveyance that takes you through the city with a guide and then on the Charles River. It was fun being a tourist for a day.

Also, I saw a lot of Portland Chapter members there: Ray Cornils as one of the organizers, was everywhere. Also, Elsa Geskus and Clarissa were helping us get to venues and answering questions. Earlier in the spring, Grace Lewis-McLaren had mapped out routes between the hotel and all of the venues. Several Portlanders were involved in presenting workshops: Rebecca and Paul Schnell presented Side Dishes for Worship Services (loved that); David Wallace presented Get to Know Your Instrument (for those who missed it, you have a second chance to hear it in February 2015); Ray Cornils presented Kotzschmar for Kids. Are there others that I missed?

Some of the workshops I attended: Everything you wanted to know about Arvo Part; Voluntaries for Services; and Hammond Organ 101. I learned a lot at the workshops. Paul and Rebecca Schnell's program "Side Dishes for Worship Services" was particularly enjoyable. The Hammond organ workshop for me turned out to be worthwhile, because I recently purchased a Hammond organ (!). The workshop on Voluntaries for Services – was great for me. I heard a lot of short, useful pieces for services, which I have already had a chance to employ in church services.

I exchanged information and 'networked' with teachers of pre-college students at a "birds of a feather" breakfast. There I gathered a lot of information about teaching organ to middle school and high school students. What a blessing it was to be a part of this wonderful celebration. I hope that everyone has a chance to go to a national or regional AGO convention someday.

**The Program Committee is working on the
following chapter meetings. Please mark your
calendars!!**

Annual Convocation

St. Bartholomew's, Yarmouth

September 20, 2014

9:30 AM

Planning Festivals Great and Small

Blue Point Congregational,

Scarborough

October 18, 2014

9:30 AM

FOKO/Community Hymn Sing Festival

Merrill Auditorium

November 15-16, 2014

Potluck Social

Ann Hartzler's home,

22 Center St., Bowdoinham

January 9, 2015

6:00 PM

Get to Know Your

Instrument

February 7, 2015

TBD

9:30 AM

Merrimack Chapter Jubilee

March 7, 2015

Organ Crawl in Portland--

Joint Meeting with Bangor

March 21, 2015

Compose An Anthem or Hymn

State Street Church

April 11, 2015

9:30 AM

**Members Recital and Annual
Meeting**

Phippsburg Congregational

May 3, 2015

Looking for a Substitute Organist?

Clarissa Brown

8 Oak Ridge Rd. f

Brunswick, ME 04011

(207) 725-7826

voxhumana711@gmail.com

David Clark

1242 Westbrook St.

Portland, ME 04102

(207) 774-4651

clarkd@mmc.org

Robert Cordier

(207) 205-0445

Available April through December

Janet O. Davis

jand428@suscom-maine.net

(207) 729-4395

Peter Dickson

(207) 865-3950

Douglas G. Eaton

63 McIntoshe Lane

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Sylvia Infantine

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207-774-8078

Dan Moore

535 North Bridgeton Road

Bridgton, ME 04009

207-583-6040 / 207-807-3672 (cell)

ixnay@roadrunner.com

accompanist/ organ & piano

Mary Elizabeth Nordstrom

1 Huntington Common Drive #234

Kennebunk, ME 04043

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(207) 985-0175

Eun Hee Park (617) 678-2958

162 Alfred Street

South Portland, ME 04106

Eni204@gmail.com

Rich Pitre

rpitre@maine.rr.com

207-807-1859

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Job Opening for Music Director

Islands Community Church (ICC) of Bailey Island has an opening for a Music Director. This part time role requires a candidate with the ability to play both organ and piano, and to direct the church choir on Sunday mornings. Choir practice is held at 8:30 AM and church services are at 9:30 each Sunday. Compensation will be commensurate with the successful candidate's qualifications. ICC is a non-denominational church welcoming people of all faiths. Please submit a resume to capthays@myfairpoint.net.

Organist/Choir Director

Part-time position(s) open at historic South Congregational UCC, Kennebunkport, Maine
Noack 2004 installed pipe organ
Supportive choir/church community.

Accepting resumes to: PO Box 414, Kennebunkport, ME 04046
Attn: P. Berger -Or- information@southchurchucc.org
Email to: information@southchurchucc.org>

Compensation in keeping with AGO Portland area guidelines.

Website: www.southchurchucc.org

***Please send any VOX
articles to Ye Ed by
the 15th of the month.***

***For information
about positions
contact***

John Sullivan
282-0271 jtsul@earthlink.net.



The AGO Portland Chapter recommends the following fees for Substitute Organists:

One service (Organist or Organist/Choir Director) \$150.00 - \$300.00

A second service essentially the same as the first service 50% of first service fee

Rehearsal (1 ½ hours maximum) \$60.00 - \$100.00

Additional rehearsals with soloists, choir or instrumentalists \$30.00 - \$100.00/hour, depending on the difficulty of music

Mileage- 55 cents/mile if visits to church for practice, rehearsal, service exceed 25 miles/round trip.

Oct. 18th UPCOMING FESTIVAL WORKSHOP

Plan to be part of/and share in this 'festive' occasion by participating in our mini FESTIVAL WORKSHOP at the Blue Point Congregational UCC meeting in Scarborough. A couple suggested ideas follow.

Pick a festival theme ; perhaps a church season or holiday(Lent, Pentecost, Thanksgiving, Advent) and:

1. Choose an existing hymn tune(or create an original)and write verses according to your chosen theme. Think of it as an opening message to your festival audience.
2. Create an original theme and several variations of an existing hymn tune that could be used as a festival Prelude, Postlude or Offertory.
3. Create a vocal Call to Worship/ or Call and Response based on your festival's scripture and theme.

Other ideas are welcome. We're hoping to fill the final hour with YOUR original works!! You'll have a chance to rehearse your pieces with us (your festival choir) and we'll enjoy the festival "spirit" together. Keep me posted at nannys-note@gmail.com or call me with your questions at (207)934-7158. Thanks and I look forward to hearing from you or connecting with you at our upcoming Convocation.

Nancy Landsman, Music Director ,Blue Point Congregational

COMING EVENT!! START REHEARSING NOW!!!

Don't miss out on the excitement of the Kotschmar Hymn Festival! If you were at the last one in 2011 you know how thrilling it is to hear 1000 voices singing favorite (and new) hymns. This year we join with the Salvation Army Band for a truly glorious afternoon. The schedule follows:

Optional Sectional Rehearsal at Woodfords Congregational Church

Saturday, October 25 10:00 AM—Noon

For directions, please consult the church's web site:
www.woodfordschurch.org.

Rehearsal—Saturday, Nov. 15, 10:00 AM—Noon,
Merrill Auditorium

Performance—Sunday, Nov. 16, 3:00 PM; Call, 1:00 PM

If you need more information, contact John Sullivan at
jtsul@earthlink.net (207-282-0271)

**IF YOUR CHOIR BUDGET DOES NOT ALLOW
THE PURCHASE OF THE ANTHEMS, DO NOT
BE LEFT OUT. THERE ARE EXTRA COPIES
AVAILABLE. WE WANT EVERYONE TO BE
INVOLVED IN THIS EVENT.**

Thanks! See you in October or November.

RAY CORNILS IN CONCERT

Gladitude, a community spirit outreach of Saco United Baptist Church, is proud to present
Ray Cornils in concert

Sunday, September 14, at 3PM.

Well known for his work as
Portland's Municipal Organist on the Merrill Auditorium's Kotschmar Organ, Mr. Cornils will be playing Saco's own Shannon Memorial Organ.

Please save the date, and plan to experience Ray Cornils' talent, flair and showmanship. Tickets \$10.

Advent and Christmas Keyboard Literature for the Diverse Musician

Dr. Peter Stickney, Commissioned Minister of Music
I am a church musician who needs to provide music for a small church of 9 people with a piano or reed organ, and a larger church with 2 services, (one paperless and under 50 people and one which generally has 200 in attendance)-with a Boston grand piano and Faucher 46 rank organ. The service music for these liturgies are as different as the instruments that are to be played. It is my hope and desire that you will glean some new and interesting literature for your worship services from a few of these "tried and true" selections.

Piano Arrangements for Worship Sara Glick Advent, Christmas, Epiphany Augsburg Fortress 11-11117

These are piano arrangements that are accessible and interesting. In addition, "Away in the Manger" has an instrumental descant that is optional, and "People, Look East" has a hand-bell part for 5 bells, and is delightful for the musicians and listeners. The other selections are purely piano and are accessible and well crafted.

Advent Piano Variations - Lee Dengler Concordia 97-6749

Dengler has set three titles "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel", "Prepare the Royal Highway", and Comfort, Comfort Now My People", in worshipful -almost mystical unique style for the piano. Each melody is clearly given a treatment in three settings. It is my opinion that the piano accompaniment to the melody is not difficult, nor is it boring, trite or dumbed down. I have used these very successfully and plan on enjoying these arrangements for many years to come.

Snow Falling on Ivory Seasonal piano Solos with Optional Instruments Glory Sound HE5143

There are 15 songs in this collection with varied optional instruments that include-C Instruments, hand-chimes, violin, flue, bass, hand-bells, cymbals, hand drum, b-flat clarinet, penny whistle, recorder and cello. If you have musicians in your church or choir that play one of these instruments, I strongly recommend that you plan ahead, rehearse your music and prepare to have fun! Perhaps my favorite in this collection is the Wexford Carol, with the addition of the penny whistle. There is not a poorly crafted piece in this collection.