

Portland Chapter of the  
American Guild of Organists  
501 Long Plains Rd  
Buxton, ME 04093

## ***Portland Chapter Officers 2013-14***

### ***Dean:***

***Terrie Harman*** (603) 743-7456 th@tharman.net

### ***Sub-Dean:***

***Ann Hartzler*** 837-3416 ann.hartzler@gmail.com

### ***Secretary***

***Peter Stickney*** peterstickney@rsu57.org

### ***Treasurer:***

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### ***Directors:***

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***Shirley Curry*** 883-2320, shirleycurry6@gmail.com

***Registrar: Paul Schnell*** 727-6562 prschnell@securespeed.us

***Placement: John Sullivan*** 282-0271, jtcsul@earthlink.net

***Professional Concerns: Ray Cornils*** 522-1276

***Newsletter Editor: Clarissa Brown*** 725-7826, voxhumana711@gmail.com

***Hospitality : Nancy Landsman*** 934-7158

***Chaplain: David Bellville, PhD***

***Past Dean: Ed Larson*** 685-9023, larson4662@roadrunner.com

# THE VOX HUMANA

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

website: [www.agoportlandmaine.com](http://www.agoportlandmaine.com)

blog: [www.agonewengland.blogspot.com](http://www.agonewengland.blogspot.com)



## November 2013

### **OLIVERA ROCKS METHUEN**

If you've never seen The Great Organ at Memorial Hall in Methuen except in pictures, that's the first "wow." A massive black walnut case forms the entire front of a hall built especially to house this instrument. Barbara Owen's book, "The Great Organ at Methuen" tells the roller-coaster adventure of this 150-year-old organ. It is an understatement to call the case ornate. Then there is the sound: rich, sonorous, brilliant, delicious, delicate, bone-shaking. As part of the audience, you are approaching organ-lover's heaven. When the musician at the console is Hector Olivera, you've arrived.

Olivera, who hails from Argentina, began playing the pipe organ at the age of three (!). He clearly loves what he does. He takes the time to tell stories about his selections. He introduces the audience to his toy stuffed frog, a companion who sits on the console wherever he is concertizing. He is contagiously enthusiastic. During his performance he nearly dances with the music, conveying his joy and respect for the composer's work and for the resources of the

instrument.

On Friday, Oct. 18, a dozen folks from the Portland Chapter AGO drove to hear Hector Olivera play The Great Organ at Methuen. He opened the program with Bach's "Schmücke Dich" followed immediately by the great St. Anne Prelude and Fugue. Next we heard Franck's Prelude, Fugue and Variation in b-minor. We enjoyed Daquin, Boëllman, and the entire Sixth Symphony of Widor. As promised, he took a theme from a member of the audience: "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing". We all knew what we were listening for. But what we heard was a very gradually building bolero pedal ostinato, frosted with Messiaen-like birds and pentatonic riffs, the subject appearing as a shaft of sunlight through an ever-moving turbulence, then a fugue, then a toccata, and a finale which brought the audience to its feet.

Barbara Owen, author of "The Great Organ at Methuen" was in the audience. Her book is the one to get. Thoroughly researched and beautifully written, she unfolds the nearly unbelievable sequence of close calls and miracles leading to the current treasure in Serlo Hall in Methuen, Mass. "This treasure..." was how Olivera referred to the

organ. He certainly made the most of the treasure of Methuen and rocked the house.

Grace Lewis-McClaren

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

**November 9, 2013**

**How to Plan Worship Services  
and Repertoire Ideas**

**First Parish Church, Saco**

A panel of our members will lead a discussion. Bring your favorite worship repertoire pieces. See article by our esteemed Petah at the end of this newsletter

**Gather at 9:30**

**After the meeting, there will be  
a potluck lunch at the home of  
Elsa Geskus, who lives near the  
church. Please email Clarissa at  
[voxhumana711@gmail.com](mailto:voxhumana711@gmail.com) to  
confirm whether you will attend  
and what food you will bring to  
share.**

**Elsa Geskus**

**43 Shadagee Rd. #4**

**Saco, ME 04072**

**207.571.9859**

**207.518.3617 (cell)**

# COMING SOON

**February 1, 2014**  
**Music Biz - Choosing an Entity**  
**for your Music Business and Tax**  
**Q & A**

St. Luke's, Portland, ME 9:30

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**March 8, 2014**  
**Joint Meeting with Bangor**  
**Chapter**  
St. John's, Bangor ME 10 AM  
AM: Workshop on Dudley Buck  
PM: Anthem sharing, opportunity  
to play the organ

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**April 5, 2014**  
**Organ Crawl in Portland**  
Locations TBD

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**May 4, 2014**  
**Concert and Annual Meeting**  
First Parish Church, Saco 4 PM

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**November 15-16, 2014**  
Merrill Auditorium  
**FOKO Hymn Sing Festival**



**Newsletter Deadline**  
**Nov. 15, 2013**  
**Please send photos,**  
**articles, news**  
**of upcoming events to**  
**Clarissa Brown**  
**voxhumana711@gmail.**  
**com**



## **Calendar Events From** **Mark Thallander**

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**Tuesday November 26**  
**Ecumenical Thanksgiving**  
**Service**

**Wendell Scott Purrington,**  
**Mark Thallander, organists**  
First Parish Church, 180 York  
Street, York, ME, 7 PM  
(207) 363-3758

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**Sunday December 8**  
**Morning Worship**  
**Mark Thallander, organist**  
Glendale Presbyterian Church, 125  
South Louise Street,  
Glendale, CA, 10:30 AM  
(818) 242-8873

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**Sunday December 15**  
**CD Celebration Concert**  
**Timothy Durkovic, pianist;**  
**Mark Thallander, organist**  
Church of the Good Shepherd,  
400 West Duarte Road,  
Arcadia, CA, 3 PM  
(626)447-2181

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**Sunday, December 22**  
**Evening Worship**  
**Timothy Durkovic, pianist;**  
**Mark Thallander, organist**  
Shepherd's Grove of Crystal  
Cathedral Ministries, 12921 South  
Lewis Street at Garden Grove  
Blvd., Garden Grove, CA, 6 PM  
(714)971-4000

**Tuesday, December 10 and**  
**17, 2013, 7:30pm**  
**Christmas with Cornils**

A Kotzschmar Christmas will be  
held in two locations this year.  
While the Kotzschmar Organ is  
out for renovation, the ever-pop-  
ular Christmas with Cornils will  
continue its holiday tradition on

**December 10 at the**  
**Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul**  
**122 Ash Street**  
**Lewiston, ME 04240**

**and again**

**December 17 at the**  
**Cathedral of St. Luke**  
**143 State Street**  
**Portland, ME 04101**

Ray Cornils and featured guests  
including the Kotzschmar Festi-  
val Brass, the Parish Ringers and  
St. Mary Schola, Bruce Fithian,  
director.

**Purchase tickets for the Portland**  
**Christmas with Cornils concert**  
**using the**  
**following link:**  
**[http://www.brownpapertickets.](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/462634)**  
**com/event/462634**

**Students \$10. with valid ID, \$15**  
**at the door. Ages 12 and under**  
**free.**

**Adults \$20., \$25. at the door.**  
**For more information, please call**  
**207.553.4363**

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

### IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PORTLAND AGO MEMBERS:

On February 14, 2011 an AGO Member filed a formal complaint against the Unitarian Universalist Church of Portsmouth, aka "South Church," for wrongful termination of employment. Below is the notice of the outcome of this case:

South Church UU, Portsmouth, NH, wrongfully terminated a member of the American Guild of Organists on January 19, 2011, for which no resolution has been reached." Until a resolution is reached, no AGO member may serve this institution as an employee or independent contractor or in an interim, substitute, regular or permanent capacity beyond September 5, 2011

**St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Northfield, Vermont** seeks permanent organist. Small loving congregation with a rich liturgical tradition seeks musician to play our beautiful circa 1830 Hook Tracker Organ to lead and support our worship. For more information, contact: The Rev. Emory Schneider, Rector- 802-485-8221, revempy@cox.net or Mr. Brett Murphy, Worship Committee- 802-223-2486, brettwmurphy@hotmail.com.

**Organist/Choir Director, First Congregational Church** of Wiscasset. Please respond with resume to PO Box 350, Wiscasset, ME 04578 207-882-7544 fccw@myfairpoint.net

**Christ Episcopal Church, Norway, Maine** is seeking a 1/5 time organist/choir director starting in October 2013. Competency in choir direction, church organ and piano is necessary. Experience and/or familiarity with liturgical music is desired, but is not a requirement. 3-rank Wicks Forward 3 Model,

two-manual, full pedal-board. Sunday morning 11:00 worship, choir rehearsal each week (currently Wednesdays). Salary is negotiable depending on qualifications and experience. Four (4) weeks of paid vacation are permitted each year. More detailed job description available from John Sullivan, jtsul@earthlink.net/207-282-0271.

**Wanted - Parish Musician.** A part time position leading Sunday worship music at The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Rangeley, Maine. Opportunity for piano, Allen organ and chorus leadership. If interested contact The Rev. Jud Pealer at 864-3381.



### 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.

### Looking for a Substitute Organist?

*The organists listed below are members of the Portland Chapter of the AGO and have indicated a desire to do substitute work. We have provided their contact information, but we encourage you to speak to them directly regarding the suitability of their qualifications for your particular need.*

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  
Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064 1603  
(207) 934-3151  
dljacoby42@yahoo.com

Sylvia Infantine  
tinfanti@maine.rr.com  
207-774-8078

Leela Koilpillai  
Lkoilpillai@kw.com  
Home: 207-899-2905  
Cell: (207) 329-4107

Mary Elizabeth Nordstrom  
1 Huntington Common Drive #234  
Kennebunk, ME 04043  
enordstrom@roadrunner.com  
(207) 985-0175

Eun Hee Park (617) 678-2958  
162 Alfred Street  
South Portland, ME 04106  
Eni204@gmail.com

## ***SUBSTITUTE ORGANISTS***

*continued....*

Rich Pitre  
rpitre@maine.rr.com  
207-807-1859

Peter Plumb  
pplumb@mpmlaw.com  
207-772-2680

Harold Stover  
207-929-3176  
haroldliz@securespeed.us

John Sullivan, FAGO  
weddings/funerals, weekday services  
jtsul@earthlink.net  
207-282-0271

Jim Swist  
781-799-0286  
jimswist@gmail.com  
Westport Island ME

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***Newsletter Deadline***  
***November 15***  
***Please send submissions to***  
***Clarissa Brown***  
***voxhumana711@gmail.com***

Please note that I am attempting to  
change my email address.

AAAAAAAUUGGGGGHHH!!!

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**Music and Worship Planning**  
**Peter Stickney D.S.M.**

Long range planning for the church year is crucial for most of our programs, especially when preparing high quality music literature for our congregations. Whether you are responsible for multiple services with a large choir of 40 singers, or one service at a tiny but mighty church with a choir of 8

singers, best results are achieved with careful planning. Many of us are responsible for choosing all or some of the hymns used in each service. In addition, many of us follow the lectionary for the church year, and do our best to honor the sermon theme of the day. This musician plans the entire year in advance in regards to anthems, opening hymns and postludes. Although the wonderful pastor that I have worked with for the last 8 years was a bit shocked at the long range planning that works for me, he has nonetheless acquiesced to the task and is able to plan for about 6 months of sermon titles.

For over 30 years I have used the "Desk Calendar and Plan Book" distributed by the United Church of Christ. They are only \$16 and can be ordered online. This is a fine resource that encompasses a cycle of 18 months, July into the following year of December. I have been grateful for the lectionary readings put on the calendar, the liturgical seasons being indicated, and the resources for the United Church of Christ listed in the back. Especially helpful in the UCC publication are important non-liturgical Sundays that can be observed with a theme, such as American Indian Sunday, Laity Sunday, Ecumenical Sunday, and others.

I have finally discovered a wonderful tool that covers a multitude of concerns for all of us involved with music ministry, and I am enjoying it in tandem with the aforementioned resource. I am inviting you all to look at a publication called "Prepare! An Ecumenical Music and Worship Planner", by David Bone and Mary Scifres. It is published by Abington Press and available through Cokesbury

Music. The church year represented for practical purposes is September through August. I cannot say enough about this wonderful tool.

First of all, the lectionary readings for each Sunday are printed out so I am not using my lectionary book, online resource or foraging through the Bible and attempting to organize all the stories, text and themes in my mind. Having the scripture ready and available has saved me lots of time, energy and more than a smidgen of frustration.

Second, each week has a plethora of hymn suggestions, both ancient and contemporary. The creators have infused a great amount of energy in regards to hymn resources by including several hymnbooks and contemporary hymn resources for each week.

Third, each specific week, with date, place in the liturgy and color is listed in BIG print at the top of each page. Somehow I find this part of the organization amazingly comforting that I did not make a giant boo-boo and put the incorrect date with an anthem or opening hymn, or chosen the incorrect scripture for the sung psalm.

Although this musician generally does not use every single anthem or solo suggestion, they are well selected and many music programs will certainly benefit from the information. Let's face it; we all have unique ministries with different musical tastes, abilities, traditions and resources. Further, we all have different situations in choosing the music for our liturgies. At this point of my ministry there is a wonderful trust by my



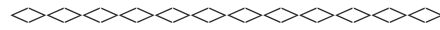
colleagues that the Spirit will inhabit the music prepared for worship. Naturally, I always give the Pastor and Worship and Arts committee the musical selections to peek at. All music selections are subject to change as the Spirit moves. That being said, I believe the Spirit moves in beautiful unction, and if we are tuned in, there will generally be peace in decisions for music selection, and the music rendered will be infused with divine energy.

I need to mention one tiny gem that I have enjoyed. It is the last column on the right hand side of each page called Other Suggestions. This is a handy dandy little box with suggestions for many visuals related to the scriptures such as a dove or flames for the Holy Spirit. There is a wealth of ideas to foster color, powerful symbols that can be added to worship and/or the children's tactile experience. This musician has embraced the flower and altar committee and the director of Christian education on more than one occasion with the purpose of inspiring creativity in the sanctuary. After all, worship is a team effort, and we musicians are usually good at playing in the sandbox and having fun! Further, there are additional suggestions for service music, prayers, alternative lessons to the lectionary scriptures and useful meaningful guidance within the context of the liturgy.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that even when using the UCC "Desk Calendar and Plan Book" and "Prepare! An Ecumenical Music and Worship Planner", this musician relies on the most powerful tool, prayer. It's free and it works. Use liberally in your planning, together with the two resources mentioned, and you have

a tried and true recipe for success. By the way, frequent practice helps too.

Peter Stickney



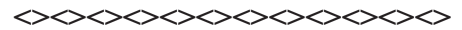
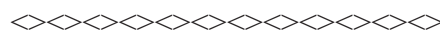
## **FOKO Hymnsing Extravaganza**

There has already been a meeting of the minds to start coordinating the next fabulous Hymnsing Festival at Merrill Auditorium. Stay tuned for much more information coming your way.

Steve Ditmer, a representative for the Salvation Army Band, was in attendance. The band will be part of the festival to help celebrate the 125th anniversary of this charitable organization. Mr. Ditmer is most enthusiastic about collaborating with us. The Festival will be held November 15-16, 2014. We will need a lot of hands to make this work!

The previous event was an eye-opener for many people who had never heard the Kotzschmar Organ. Some attendees did not even know the organ existed. This next Festival will not only welcome the Mighty K back in all its renovated glory, but will be an uplifting time for all!

Thank you in advance for all your help in making this festival a memorable event for our community!



### ***Reminder:***

***All newsletter submissions  
are to be submitted by the  
15th of the month.***



### ***THE CONFESSIONAL PRAYER OF THE CHORISTER***

***Almighty and most merciful  
Conductor;***

***We have erred, and strayed from  
thy beat like lost sheep;  
We have followed too much the  
devices and tempos of our own  
parts;***

***We have offended against thy  
pronunciation laws;***

***We have left unsung those notes  
which we ought to have sung;  
And we have sung those notes  
which we ought not to have sung;***

***And there is no intonation in us.***

***But thou, O Conductor, have  
mercy upon us, miserable singers.***

***Spare thou them that have lost  
their music;  
Restore thou them that have for-  
gotten the signature;***

***And grant, O most merciful  
maestro, that we may hereafter  
live an allegro moderato, un poco  
andante life;***

***To the glory of thy choir's Name.  
Amen.***