

Mixtures

The Organ of the Binghamton Chapter, AGO



APRIL 2011

DEAN'S MESSAGE

Change is in the air. Harbingers of spring--crocuses and robins—have been spotted. Very soon lawn mowers and garden rakes will replace the shovels and snow blowers. The Binghamton AGO Chapter will be announcing the 2011-12 slate of officers in May's newsletter. Unlike past years when we voted by ballot, the vote will be taken at our annual meeting in June.

One *change* we were being prepared for will unfortunately not take place. The National Dues Collection Project is not ready to go into effect. Membership renewals will take place as usual. A renewal application form will be included in May's newsletter.

The next chapter event on the calendar is a *change* from what is listed in the Yearbook. Instead of a choral-technique workshop, there will be an open house at Redeemer Lutheran Church, giving you an opportunity to hear and play the 2004 James Louder mechanical-action organ. Jonathan Biggers, consultant for the project, and Mary Helen Chapman, the house organist, will be our hosts. Take out your calendars now and circle May 6, 7 pm, at 72 Main St., Binghamton.

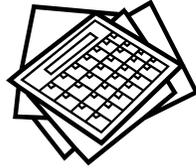
There have been no changes in the final event for 2010-11, the long-awaited Members Recital on June 12. Please remember to contact Claudia Kachmarik (607-242-1338) to schedule practice time and Ellie Rugg (607-692-3204) to let her know what you are playing.

Finally, let me remind you that *Mixtures* can now be received electronically. To make the change simply go to <http://www.binghamtonago.org/> and click on the appropriate link. Seventeen members have already switched to email, which translates into a savings of \$75 a year for the postage alone. This is money that can be reallocated for scholarships and programs.

On this wet, snowy day, I am not ready to *ex-change* my warm winter coat for a light-weight jacket. I do, however, take comfort in the words of a popular hymn: *In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, a song in every silence, seeking word and melody--something God alone can see.*

Polly Wendling, Co-dean

CO-DEANS	NEWSLETTER	PLACEMENT	WEBSITE
Lee Roseboom 797-7947	Polly Wendling,	Jean Henssler	Richard Hedgebeth
Polly Wendling 754-0378	pro tem 754-0378	748-7285	www.binghamtonago.org



THE CALENDAR

Saturday, **April 2 – 3 pm** Junior Recital by Mark Rossnagel, a talented student of Jonathan Biggers, at First Presbyterian Church, Binghamton. Admission free. The program includes: Mendelssohn - Sonata III, Sweelinck - *Mein Junges Leben* variations, Bach - Dorian Toccata and Fugue, Durufle - Variations on *Veni Creator*.

Sunday, **April 3 – 4 pm** Jonathan Biggers will be presenting the 7th concert in the COMPLETE ORGAN WORKS OF BACH series. At First Presbyterian Church, Binghamton. He plans on performing 1/2 of the *Clavierübung III*, framed by the Prelude and Fugue in E-flat ("St. Anne"). Admission is half-price for all AGO members. Jonathan writes that this is "a BIG program, well-suited to the First Pres organ. . . Please come and be sure to bring a friend."

Saturday, **April 9 – 9:30 am** Board Meeting at Dunkin' Donuts

Sunday, **April 10 – 4 pm** Organist David Yearsley at Grace Episcopal, Elmira

Thursday, **May 5 – 8 pm** Recital on the new French organ at Church of the Ascension, NYC. Read all about this organ in April's TAO. John Holt is arranging a carpool and has reserved a group of seats (\$35 each). Let him know right away if you wish to go, 770-9865.

Friday, **May 6 – 7 pm** Open House at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Binghamton, to see and hear the James Louder tracker organ built in 2004. Jonathan Biggers and Mary Helen Chapman, hosts

Sunday, **May 22 – 4 pm** *All's Fair: Songs of Love & War*, the Madrigal Choir of Binghamton, led by James Niblock, a candidate for Artistic Director. First Presbyterian Church, 42 Chenango Street, Binghamton

Sunday, **June 12 – 4 pm** Members Recital at First Congregational in Greene, NY
" " **6 pm** Annual dinner & meeting at the 1810 Juliand House

July 3-6 - Region I and II AGO Convention in Morristown, NJ . Read all about it online at <http://www.AGO2011NJ.com>.



Have You Begun Yet?!

-to practice a special piece you plan to play in the Member's Recital
on June 12th?

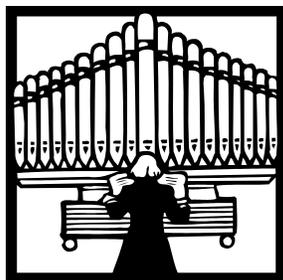
The organ we will be using is a Wick's Classic two manual pipe organ designed for the First Congregational Church in Greene, NY after the church burned in 1985. If you have already signed up to play or plan to, Ellie Rugg will e-mail the specifications for the organ to you.

IMPORTANT: Please contact Ellie Rugg with information about the piece you will be playing—(we have set a limit of 3-7 minutes) at Jrugg001*at*stny.rr.com ASAP! We would like to have a completed roster by April 1st.

To arrange practice time at the organ, please contact Claudia Kachmarik, host organist, at 607-242-1338 or ckach14*at*stny.rr.com.

It has been decided to dedicate the recital to Armand Harding and Caroline Stone and to invite their spouses to attend. This will be an added remembrance and celebration of the ongoing observance of the 200th Birthday of the First Congregational Church of Greene. Our Recital has been designated a part of this observance.

Claudia and Steve Kachmarik will host our annual dinner/meeting at the 1810 Juliand House just a few minutes from the church. A catered dinner featuring either grilled chicken or pulled pork will cost \$10 per person.





Soli Deo Gloria! On Saturday, March 26, twenty-six chapter members and friends enjoyed *Bach at Leipzig* at the Cider Mill Playhouse. Bach never appears on the stage. Rather six other organists try every trick in the book to win the coveted position of Kappellmeister at the Thomaskirche in Leipzig, 1722. Evidently Bach was returning home after learning that the renowned Georg Telemann had applied for the position. Telemann, the Council's first choice, had used the opportunity to negotiate for a pay increase at the church in Hamburg where he was employed.

It has occurred to me that Bach was not only physically removed from the spiteful competitiveness of his colleagues, but he also stood emotionally and spiritually above the fray. His music was a means to praise God, not an opportunity for self-glorification.

Be sure to read a compelling essay about Bach in April's TAO, page 18. The writer thinks it is no coincidence that the world's greatest composer was first and foremost a church organist!

Polly Wendling, Co-dean

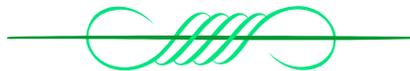


Congratulations to Andrew Kotylo, who played magnificently to a packed house on March 27. We were richly entertained by music ranging from Bach to the blues. To hear 300+ voices singing "O Zion, Haste" prior to the W. Bolcom's piece on the tune was a thrilling experience.

Congratulations again to Andrew Kotylo on his upcoming nuptials. On July 22, he and his fiancé will "tie the knot" in Baltimore, MD.

Greetings from Sean Rudd via Jean Henssler and John Holt, who talked with Sean in Syracuse last Sunday. Everything is looking up for the Rudds who report only good things about their new home, church, job and school.

Good wishes for a smooth recovery to Judy Peterson, who has finally returned home after several weeks at John Hopkins. Continue to pray for Judy. After she is able to walk 100 steps with her prosthesis, she will return to Baltimore for a hip replacement.



Job postings are deleted in the online version of *Mixtures*.

Our Services

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Consulting



Stuart Organ Company
44 Saint John Avenue
Binghamton, New York 13905
607 237-0125
<http://www.stuartorgan.com>

The Henry Pratt Organ

Henry Pratt as a young man is said to have had the occasion to examine a chamber organ of English make, inspiring a desire to build one himself. A joiner by trade, and of a musical bent, he had already built several instruments, including fifes and violins. He was encouraged in his organ building quest by a wealthy resident of Winchester, Capt. Samuel Smith. Capt. Smith offered Pratt a bushel of rye per day, plus a bonus of three hundred dollars if the resulting instrument actually worked! The results speak for themselves. Pratt went on to build over forty more instruments, of which at least six survive.

The organ was used until 1878 in the Universalist Church, still at its original pitch of A425 and quarter comma meantone temperament. It was moved to the Conant Library in 1903, narrowly averting being lost to the fire which consumed the church building. It sat unused at the library until restored in 1976 by the Stuart Organ Company as a bicentennial project of the town.

Richard S. Hedgebeth, proprietor of the Stuart Organ Company, is a descendant of the original builder.



Conant Public Library
Winchester, New Hampshire

*Henry Pratt
Opus 1, 1799*

*Oldest extant New England
built organ*

SPRING CONCERT SERIES

*Christ Episcopal Church
46 River St., Cooperstown, NY*

FRIDAYS 12:15 pm TO 12:45 pm

April 29

Roberta Raybold-Rowland, organ

May 6

Oneonta Sweet Adelines
(women's ensemble)

May 16

Dr. Bruce Harris & Dr. David Gibson
piano & cello

May 20

Hannah Lamont, concert harp