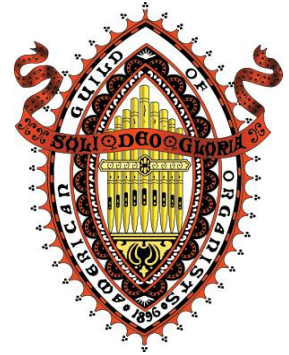


Mixtures

The Organ of the Binghamton Chapter, AGO



APRIL 2013

DEAN'S MESSAGE

Before the Easter "Alleluias" have receded, many of you have been preparing for spring concerts, student competitions, scholarship fundraisers, etc., etc. So that our AGO Chapter events do not get overlooked, I've lifted 4 dates from the Calendar which could easily be missed among the plethora of other musical activities taking place. Please circle these dates in red and plan to attend - April 26, May 4-5, and June 9.

APRIL 26, Clergy/Musician Dinner (rescheduled from Feb. 8)

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 728 River Road, Chenango Bridge

6:00 pm - "Meet and Greet," raw veggies, cheese & crackers, fruit punch

6:30 pm - Lasagna, salad, dinner rolls, dessert & coffee

Program - A virtual organ tour to Bath, Oxford, Cambridge, Eaton, & London
with Ed Pettengill as our tour guide

If you are making a new reservation or changing your previous one, please let Judy Peterson know by April 16 (648-4667). Although clergy and clergy spouses are guests of the Chapter, we need to have an accurate count. \$10.00 for AGO members and non-member guests (Write check to Binghamton AGO Chapter and mail to Judy Peterson, 8 Poplar Hill Rd., Chenango Bridge 13901.

MAY 4, 10:00 am-Noon, The Chorale Preludes of Johannes Brahms: Enigmatic, Exquisite, and Approachable, a 2-hour Workshop by Thom Bohlert at Main Street Baptist Church, 117 Main Street, Binghamton (Read more on page 5.)

MAY 5, 4:00 pm Organ Concert by Thom Bohlert at Main Street Baptist Church. Currently the Director of Music at First Presbyterian church of East Hampton, NY, Thom had previously served for 19 years as Director of Music at The Park Church in Elmira. While there Searle Wright was commissioned to write *Variations on Hyfrydol*, which Thom subsequently premiered in a concert at The Park Church. Some of Thomas Bohlert's own compositions are published by Belwin-Mills, Hope, and Selah.

Thomas Bohlert Recital (continued) Thom received his Masters degree in organ performance from the Manhattan School of Music, where he studied with Fred Swann. He is a Fellow of the American Guild of Organists (FAGO), the highest award the AGO can bestow for competence in music history, theory and performance. Thom has many friends in the Chemung Chapter, for which he was its first dean. He is guaranteed a warm welcome whenever he returns to the area.

JUNE 9, 4:00 pm Members Recital - We have been invited back to Grace Lutheran Church, Vestal to help celebrate the 5th anniversary of the installation of a new 3-manual Walker organ. Keep practicing and contact Jean Henssler 748-7285 to let her know what you will be playing.



Oneonta Chapter sponsors ***"SHARE BECAUSE YOU CARE....."***
Saturday, April 20, 1:00 - 3:00
at First United Methodist Church
66 Chestnut St., Oneonta

You are cordially invited to attend and share your favorite organ music with other organists. Choose a couple of favorite pieces from your repertoire--a new find that you have fallen in love with or an old chestnut that you have revived--to play on the 3-manual pipe organ at 1st U.M. You will also have an opportunity to share the challenges you face in learning your piece of music, and how you overcome them. This informal time of sharing will be held in the organ loft with a few organists who are really interested in your music and open to new methods of practice.

If you would like to come early to try the organ, you can show up at 12:30 to look over the organ's registration.....or John Jurgensen, Oneonta's new Dean and organist at the church will help you choose registration. A couple of Binghamton AGO members are already scheduled to play their favorites. Why don't you join them, too? We would love to have you be a part of our program.

ON THE CALENDAR

- Tuesday, **April 9** - 7:30 pm The Basically Bach Ensemble concert, St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church, Washington Avenue, Endicott. The Program: Bach's Easter Oratorio BWV 249 and Handel's Messiah (Passion & Easter portions)
- Saturday, **April 13** - 9:30 am AGO Board Meeting at Main Street Baptist
- Saturday, **April 13** - 7:30 pm BTOS "Chaplin Festival" at the Forum, Binghamton. Organist Jim Ford will interpret four of Chaplin's greatest shorts. Come early (7 pm) for pre-show presentation about Chaplin's life and genius.
- Sunday, **April 14** - 4:30 pm Agnes Armstrong, Region II Councillor, will present an illustrated talk on: *Alexandre Guilmant: Wizard of the Organ. (The Man, His Works, His Tours and His Influence in America)* at the First United Methodist Church of Horseheads, NY (1034 W. Broad St.) Followed by dish-to-pass dinner.
- Saturday, **April 20 (new date)** - 1:00 pm-3:00 pm "Share Because You Care" at First United Methodist, Oneonta (See details on p 2)
- Sunday, **April 21** - 3 pm The Madrigal Choir of Binghamton presents *YIN AND YAN*, a program of dualities. Featured work is Benjamin Britten's masterpiece, *Rejoice in the Lamb* for choir and organ. Peter Browne, organist.
- Friday, **April 26** - 6 pm Clergy/Musician Dinner at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Chenango Bridge. Reservations to Judy Peterson by April 16 (648-4667).
- Saturday, **April 27** - 7:30 pm The Ithaca Community Chorus and Chamber Singers, under the direction of Gerald Wolfe, perform J.S. Bach's *St. John Passion* with orchestra and soloists Thom Baker, Geoffrey Royall, Janine Willis, Ivy Walz and Ian Woolford. St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 402 N. Aurora St., Ithaca, NY. Tickets are \$20 at the door and \$15 in advance at <http://www.ithacacommunitychoruses.org>. Students \$5, children free.
- Sunday, **April 28** - 3 pm *An Artistic Impression of Psalm 139* at United Presbyterian Church, Cortland A multi-media presentation of contributions by local artists, photographers, the church choir, and Paulette Fry, organist
- Saturday, **May 4** - 10 am to Noon Workshop on the Brahms Prelude Chorales by Thom Bohlert at Main St. Baptist Church, 117 Main St., Binghamton
- Sunday, **May 5** - 4 pm Recital by Thom Bohlert at Main Street Baptist Church
- Sunday, **June 9** - 4 pm Members Recital at Grace Lutheran, Vestal, NY
- June 30-July 3** Regions I and II AGO Convention in Hartford, Conn.

PEDALS, PIPES, AND PIZZA

A total of 30 students, parents, and AGO members attended the chapter's first Pedals, Pipes and Pizza event on March 16. Many thanks to all who were involved in what turned out to be a successful first-time venture.

--to **John Holt**, whose determination to host a PPP is what set the whole project in motion. John was the logical one to coordinate the event which he began by locating a venue and canvassing piano teachers in the area.

--to **Joe Kotylo**, who kicked off the session by presenting an overview of the pipe organ to those in attendance.

--to **Bill Lawson**, the chapter's liaison with United Presbyterian, who handled the logistics, and was the organ half of the organ demo/rap narration, *Rex, the King of Instruments*.

--to **Jonathan Biggers**, who dazzled his listeners by pulling out all the stops to play the Toccata from Widor's Symphonie V.

--to **Paul Stapel**, who described how the theater organ differs from the classical pipe organ and gifted each student with a free ticket for 6 to BTOS's showing of 4 Charlie Chaplin films on April 13.

--to **Joan Kellam** for coordinating the pizza lunch and to **Marion Adams** for stepping in to replace Ellie Rugg at the last minute.



More photos at binghamtonago.org (click on Galleries)

The Chorale Preludes of Johannes Brahms

Submitted by Thomas Bohlert

The Chorale Preludes of Johannes Brahms are miniature masterpieces written during the last summer of his life. They are deep and enigmatic, but approachable; they are not difficult technically, but offer challenges for musical growth; they are suitable for a service or concert. Though some are related to Lent, they also touch on Christmas, communion, and spring! Vernon Gotwals said, "One is never tired of these pieces, and never sure how to perform them." And Lorene Banta said, "A strange impression that many people have of this set of eleven preludes is that it is preoccupied with grief. This is certainly not at all the case." They are "an expression of the quiet joy at the lot of the Christian." The workshop provides biographical, musical, and analytical background, and offers suggestions for performance and interpretation, along with the playing or hearing of the eleven preludes. (And, by the way, Brahms's birthday is May 7!)

A FOND FAREWELL to Ellie Rugg, whose move to Canandaigua took place on March 29. Ellie's new address is 6261 Cedar Creek Way, Farmingham, NY 14425. We will miss Ellie and the summer fun days she planned for us. Ellie has served on the AGO Board for several years, mostly recently in the capacity of Hospitality person. Thank you, Ellie, for coordinating the lovely reception following Katie Pardee's recital on March 9.



SUMMER FUN DAY - The gang at the Lake Front Restaurant, in Cooperstown, NY, Aug. 13, 2011. Ellie, our trip organizer, sits in the foreground, left side of table. Plans are underway for a chapter road trip which will take us in a southerly direction this summer. Hold open the first week in August on your calendars.

Our Services

New Organs
Relocations
Rebuilds
Restorations
Tonal Changes
Tuning & Maintenance
Consulting



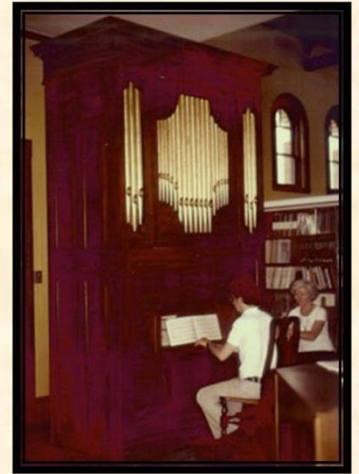
Stuart Organ Company
44 Saint John Avenue
Binghamton, New York 13905
607 237-0125

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*



OUR HEARTFELT SYMPATHY to **Jean Henssler**, whose mother passed away on March 13.

Job postings are deleted in the online version of Mixtures

DEAN

Polly Wendling
754-0378

NEWSLETTER

Polly Wendling
pro tem 754-0378

PLACEMENT

Jean Henssler
748-7285

WEBSITE

Richard Hedgebeth
www.binghamtonago.org