

MIXTURES



APRIL 2016

DEAN'S MESSAGE:

I hope you have all recovered from the rigors of preparing for Easter services, and that all your efforts were rewarded.

There are two really terrific organ recitals coming this month. On Sunday, April 10 at 4:00pm, internationally acclaimed artist Diane Meredith Belcher will be performing a concert at United Presbyterian Church. The concert is part of Binghamton University's Artist Series, and is co-sponsored by our chapter. I don't know what program she will be playing, but I have received glowing reports from our chapter members who have heard her play at AGO and OHS conventions, so please clear your calendar so that you won't miss this special artist. NOTE: BTOS is sponsoring a Charlie Chaplin Fest at 2:00 on April 10 at the Forum, featuring Jim Ford. I think you will be able to make both if you are so inclined because the venues are so close to each other.

The second recital will be a Master's Recital by Denise Bassen, a student of Jonathan Biggers. It will be held at United Presbyterian Church on April 17 at 4:00pm. Those of us in Jonathan Biggers' Organ Literature Class have had the pleasure of hearing a run-through of her program, which includes Bach, Vierne, and Durufle. It is an excellent program which I know you will enjoy. I hope you will be able to come.

Also this month, on April 9 at 3:00 pm, the Madrigal Choir is presenting an unusual program at the Endicott Performing Arts Center on Washington Street in Endicott. The program, entitled Tanzen und Singen – Music in Motion, includes music from the Renaissance to Britten and dance collaboration for Menotti's The Unicorn the Gorgon and the Manticore.

Happy Spring. It really is coming. Honest.

John

PHOTO GALLERY...

Lunch after the Workshop Presented by Jean Henssler and Richard Hedgebeth



FROM the REGISTRAR...

AGO National has informed me that they will send out the invoices (either via email or postal mail) during April for those members whose renewal is due by June 30, 2016. As an additional option, the Binghamton Chapter will also be sending out the traditional paper renewal forms.

Last year, over half of our membership renewed using ONCARD - the way preferred by AGO National. It's also much easier for me. For those who want to use a credit card, ONCARD is the only option.

Richard

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Saturday, April 9, at 3pm: Madrigal Choir Concert at EPAC on Washington St. in Endicott.

Sunday, April 10, at 4pm: Renowned Organist, Diane Belcher will perform in Concert at United Presbyterian in Binghamton.

Sunday, April 10, 2 - 4:15 PM, Forum Theater \$\$
BTOS presents: A World Premiere of scenes recently discovered!
JIM FORD, our Master Theater Organist, expounds
The Floorwalker: The Tramp
The Cure: A Night at the Show
From long-lost film originals. Chaplin's Slapstick Humor!

Sunday, April 17, at 4pm: BU Masters Candidate, Denise Bassen, will present an Organ Recital at United Presbyterian Church in Binghamton.

PARSONS

PIPE ORGAN BUILDERS

Invites you to an

OPEN HOUSE

at our workshop in Bristol Center, New York

Sunday, April 10th, 2016
1:00 to 4:00 PM

Five Manual and Pedal
86 Rank Pipe Organ
for Holy Trinity Lutheran Church,
Buffalo, New York



You are invited to bring music
to play the instrument. We look
forward to seeing you.



4820 Bristol Valley Road Canandaigua, NY 14424 parsonsorgans.com

ORGANIST POSITIONS:
No new listings...

Our Services

**New Organs
Relocations
Rebuilds
Restorations
Tonal Changes
Tuning & Maintenance
Consulting**



**Stuart Organ Company
9 Deyo Hill Road
Johnson City, New York 13790
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*

DEAN

John Holt
770-9865

NEWSLETTER

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