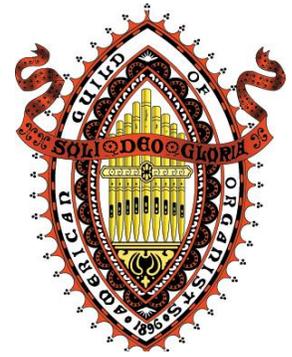


Mixtures

The Organ of the Binghamton Chapter, AGO



JANUARY 2011

DEAN'S MESSAGE

One of our newest and most enthusiastic members is John Holt. John is a pipe-organ aficionado, who has enjoyed our AGO people and activities. I have his permission to quote some words he emailed to me following our trip to Cornell on Nov. 21 for the Celebratory Concert of the new baroque organ.

"Looking through the directory, there are several names of people I don't think I have ever met. I don't know exactly what to do about it, but having been to many, probably most, of the chapter events, I can certainly tell them that they are missing excellent opportunities to see, hear, and play many different instruments in our area. Also, and perhaps more importantly, they are missing the company of some wonderful people that our chapter is fortunate to have in its ranks."

Let's begin by inviting a friend to our program on Friday, Jan. 28, at 7:00 pm--not necessarily a prospective member—simply someone who might enjoy viewing a delightful documentary about the restoration of the organ in the Atlantic City Convention Hall. That someone could be a neighbor, a church member, a choir member, a student, etc. etc. We'd like to meet them and perhaps they'd like to meet us. And if you happen to be one of the "wonderful people" in the directory whom John hasn't met, come and introduce yourself. He'd like to meet you!

Co-deans

Lee Roseboom & Polly Wendling



January Chapter Event – Experience the sights, sounds, and stories of the world's largest pipe organ on **Friday, Jan. 28 at 7 p.m.** The restoration of the 449-rank, 33,000-pipe organ in the Atlantic City Convention Hall is documented in a DVD, which includes over 15 classical and Broadway tunes. Refreshments will follow. The venue for this event is Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, 312 Main Street, Endicott. Parking is available in Coleman & Daniels lot between the apartment building and computer store or on Mersereu Avenue. **BRING A FRIEND!!**

CO-DEANS

Lee Roseboom 797-7947
Polly Wendling 754-0378

NEWSLETTER

Polly Wendling,
pro tem 754-0378

PLACEMENT

Jean Henssler
748-7285

WEBSITE

Richard Hedgebeth
www.binghamtonago.org

CORRECTIONS TO 2010-2011 YEARBOOK

By the time you receive this *Mixtures* in the mail, you may have already toasted the New Year and put your new year resolutions into practice. A commonly made resolution of the ancient Babylonians was to return borrowed farm equipment. I don't believe any of us fall into that category, but perhaps that broom or rake you borrowed from your neighbor is still in your garage -- or your library contains some music that was borrowed and never returned.

One of my resolutions is to have fewer errors in the 2011-12 Yearbook! Please note that the date of our January event is not the 23rd, but **Friday, January 28**. The members recital and annual meeting will be held on **Sunday, June 12**. And **Jean Henssler** has replaced Pam Talerico as Placement Chairperson. Please make these corrections in your Yearbook (if you can find it!), and we will do our best to publicize the correct information in *Mixtures*.

Mary Jo Granger has a new telephone number, which is **765-6231**. Note that **Joan Kellam's** zip code is simply **13827** and her name is misspelled.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, **Jan. 2** – 5 pm Post-holiday Gathering at Cortese Restaurant, 117 Robinson St., Binghamton; reservations to Janet Hammond at 772-4848 or online at binghamtonago.org

Saturday, **Jan. 8** - 9:30 am Board Meeting at Dunkin Donuts, Reynolds Rd.

Friday, **Jan. 28** – 7 pm DVD of the Atlantic City Convention Hall Organ, Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, 312 E. Main St., Endicott

Thursday, **Feb. 17**, 8 pm - Jonathan Biggers: Bach Celebration Series, Fine Arts 21 \$\$

Friday, **Feb. 25** – Sing-along at Hilltop Retirement Home

March 10-13 – Dedication of new Goart organ at Cornell's Anabel Taylor Chapel.
Details TBA.

Sunday, **March 20** – 4 pm *Choral Journeys* sung by the Madrigal Choir of Binghamton under the direction of Bruce Borton, a candidate for Artistic Director. First Presbyterian Church, 42 Chenango Street, Binghamton

Saturday, **Mar. 26** – 4 pm Cider Mill Playhouse performance of *Bach at Leipzig*. Discussion afterwards at a local eatery. More details TBA.

Sunday, **April 3** – 4 pm Organist Jonathan Biggers continues the Bach Celebration Series, FA 21



FEBRUARY CHAPTER EVENT – Joan Kellam is coordinating a sing-along at Hilltop Retirement Home on Friday, **Feb. 25 at 7 p.m.** AGO members are encouraged to attend and add their voices to those of the residents. As we have in the past, we will meet afterwards at Friendly’s for ice cream and conviviality.



RECALLING THE PAST Esther Wilcox has offered to share some of the unique experiences she has had through the years at organ workshops and conferences. The following excerpt is from the first installment of her memoirs.

In 1972 I went to a “Midwinter Conclave” in Phoenix, Arizona, held during the week after Christmas. One exhibit was the “Jug Orgel,” built by a representative from the Reuter Company. The “pipes” were bottles – beer bottles, soft drink bottles, gallon jugs, etc. – “tuned” with various amounts of water. He had rigged up a blower mechanism so that the bottles were played by air blowing across their tops. This apparatus was connected to a spinet organ console so that it could be played automatically. Because of the holidays, his wife had decorated each bottle with a Christmas bow. It was the hit of the convention.

One of the AGO members owned a Pizza Parlor with a theater organ. We had an evening concert there. The pipes were displayed around the walls of the room, behind glass, and with multi-colored lights so as the various pipes played, they also lit up. It was a light show as well as sound. Quite an attraction! Afterwards we went to his house where there was another theater organ. The house had a rectangular room in the middle, maybe 20x40 feet, two stories high, with a tile floor. The living quarters were around the perimeter behind curtains. After seeing and hearing this organ, we sat on his outdoor covered patio where a palm tree was growing through a hole in the roof. Interesting!

Whoever was commissioned to write an organ piece for this event chose to relate the legend of the phoenix bird to Jesus’ resurrection and the bombing and rebuilding of Coventry Cathedral in England. The title was “Phoenix, Coventry, Resurrection.” I remember that in the middle of the piece the music got very loud, like bombs falling. This was followed by a moment of total silence. Everything was gone—the bird, the cathedral and Jesus. Then the music began with a soft note and gradually built up to represent Jesus rising from the tomb, while the bird and cathedral rose up from the ashes. Very dramatic! If the music is available, it would be nice to hear one of our Binghamton organists play it.

Esther Wilcox

*Best wishes for a
Happy and Prosperous New Year*



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Horizontal Trumpets

St. James Episcopal Church, Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles

Richard S. Hedgebeth voiced and installed the horizontal trumpets at St. James Wilshire Boulevard while a contract voicer for Austin Organs. These pipes have been seen (if not heard) in many film and television productions.



ORGANLIVE MAKES IT EASY TO EXPERIENCE THE MUSIC OF THE ORGAN

Organlive is a website which currently holds over 10,000 tracks from more than 850 albums of music recorded by organists all over the world. Listeners may browse the entire library, searching by work, composer, organist, album or organ and request tracks to be played. On Sundays the station features hymns, choral anthems, and sacred music. Monday's playlist consists of 19th- and 20th-century music. Wednesdays feature baroque music and Fridays, the best music (as rated by listeners) from our library.

The broadcast is completely free to anyone with a broadband Internet connection and is now easier than ever to tune in. Listeners simply need one click at www.organlive.com to hear the broadcast through Windows Media Player, WinAmp, iTunes, Quicktime, RealPlayer, or any streaming MP3 player. Additionally the stream may be heard on most mobile devices such as the iPhone or Android based phones. The station is also listed in the classical radio stations on iTunes. Check our chapter website (www.binghamtonago.org) for links to other organ related sources.