

Mixtures

The Organ of the Binghamton Chapter, AGO



OCTOBER 2011

DEAN'S MESSAGE

Many, many thanks are due. It's hard to know where to begin. Lest I forget anyone, let me begin by thanking everyone for your continued interest and support. The number attending the kickoff was amazing, especially since so many of you were involved directly or indirectly in the flood dislocation and cleanup. Holy Nativity had nearly two feet of water in the basement with no heat and electricity when Richard Sheasley came to the rescue with an invitation to relocate the kickoff to St. Mary of the Assumption. St. Mary's location in downtown Binghamton with its large parking lot was a perfect venue for our kickoff. Thanks to Fr. Ward, Irene Martin (church organist), and Richard Sheasley for their hospitality. Be sure to read John Holt's article on page 2 for more information about the event.

The 2011-12 Yearbook was distributed at the Kickoff and lists the chapter's activities for the coming year. Additional events are listed on the calendar in *Mixtures* and on the website, binghamtonago.org, which Richard Hedgebeth conscientiously keeps up-to-date. Most likely the organ crawl with the Chemung Chapter will be history when you receive this *Mixtures*, as well as the two outstanding concerts scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 2. The Events Calendar on page 3 lists additional concerts you may wish to mark on your calendar.

An item which was not on *Mixtures* calendar last month is lunch with John Novak at Little Venice at noon on Saturday, Oct. 22. John was a member of our chapter while studying for his masters degree at B.U. with Jonathan Biggers. Luncheon reservations should be made by Oct. 20, bwending@stny.rr.com or 754-0378.

The reception following John's recital on Sunday, Oct. 23 will be provided by the Binghamton Chapter. If you can bring something for the refreshment table, please let me know.

Polly Wendling

DEAN	NEWSLETTER	PLACEMENT	WEBSITE
Polly Wendling 754-0378	Polly Wendling pro tem 754-0378	Jean Henssler 748-7285	Richard Hedgebeth www.binghamtonago.org

SEPTEMBER CHAPTER EVENT

On Sept. 23 Binghamton Chapter members gathered at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Binghamton for our annual potluck kickoff dinner at the invitation of Pastor Fr. Thomas Ward, and organist, Irene Martin. Members were encouraged to play and inspect the 3-manual Beman/Carey organ, situated in the rear gallery of the church's wonderfully reverberant sanctuary.

After dinner Polly and Bruce Wendling, who had attended the AGO Region III Convention in Harrisburg, gave a PowerPoint presentation of the convention events and described the many events and notable instruments they experienced during the convention.

AGO Regions I & II Convention in Morristown, N.J. was attended in July by five of our members: Polly and Bruce Wendling, Jean Henssler, Roberta Rowland-Raybold, and Richard Sheasley. A PowerPoint presentation of the various venues and instruments was accompanied by their impressions of the memorable performances and workshops that they attended during the convention. Jean brought her collection of the informative and colorful convention brochures for us to inspect.

We welcomed new member Ruth Scian and her husband Aaron, who is pastor of Zion Lutheran church in Owego, NY.

The dinner was the first of many interesting Chapter events scheduled for the coming year.

John Holt



Announcing Two Fall Recitals by Roberta Rowland-Raybold

Friday, October 7, 7:00 P.M. -- St. Thomas Church, Rt. 79, Slaterville Springs, NY (just outside Ithaca on Rt. 79). This doll-house of a little church houses an "ice cream cone" organ. The credentials on the instrument read, "Rebuilt by Adam Stein, Baltimore, 1898." On relocating the organ from its location in Virginia, the current priest, Fr. Culver Mower and his congregation restored and reassembled the organ. It is one manual, 9 ranks, with 17 pedal notes! If you often wonder what you can play on your little organ, you will be amazed at the music on this program. The recital benefits the church's food bank, which serves over 800 families! Come early for a good seat . . . but there isn't a bad seat in the house. Donations at your discretion.

Friday, November 13, 5:00 P.M. -- Annual fall organ recital at Christ Episcopal Church, River Street, Cooperstown, NY. The theme of the program is "Autumn Reflections" and will include music of Clarke, Sowerby, Karg-Elert, Bach, Vivaldi and the organist's contemporary setting of "Ein feste Burg." The organ, by Chase Organ Company of Worcester, NY, was the instrument originally at Grace Episcopal Church, Utica. It contains 54 ranks and a temperamental enchamade! No admission charge.



EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday, **Oct. 2** – 2 pm Flood-Relief Benefit Concert, First Presbyterian Church, 29 Grant Ave., Endicott
A free-will offering will be taken to help the church's on-going flood-relief funds.

Sunday, **Oct. 2** – 4 pm Jonathan Biggers organ recital at Grace Church, Elmira; works by Bach, Franck, Alain, Guilain, and Phillips

Friday, **Oct. 7** - 7 pm (Note change in date, time & venue) Recital by Roberta R-R on a one-manual organ (circa 1800's) at St. Thomas Episcopal, Slaterville Springs, NY (east of Ithaca on Rt 79)

Saturday, **Oct. 15** – 10 am–2 pm *Pedals, Pipes, & Pizza* at St. James Episcopal, Oneonta. Agnes Armstrong, clinician. Call Polly (754-0378) if interested in carpooling.

Sunday, **Oct. 16** – 4 pm The Madrigal Choir presents *Back to Our Roots* at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 9 Leroy St., Binghamton

Saturday, **Oct. 22** – 12 noon Lunch with John Novak at Little Venice, 111 Chenango St., Binghamton. Reservations by Oct. 20 to bwendling@stny.rrdt.com or 754-0378.

Sunday, **Oct. 23** - 4 pm John Novak organ concert (B.U. organ alumni series), First Presbyterian, Binghamton

Sunday, **Nov. 13** – 5 pm Annual fall organ recital by Roberta Rowland-Raybold at Christ Episcopal Church, Cooperstown, NY.

Sunday, **Nov. 20** - 4 pm Wilma Jensen organ recital at Grace Episcopal, Elmira

Monday, **Nov. 21** – 7-9 pm Wilma Jensen Masterclass/Workshop at First Presbyterian, Binghamton. After hearing a few BU students, Ms. Jensen will discuss "Rhythmic Hymn Performance".

Saturday, **Nov. 26** (7:30 pm) & Sunday, **Nov. 27** (4 pm) - *Lessons and Carols for Christmas* at Church of the Holy Trinity, 346 Prospect St, Binghamton

Message from the Registrar

Thanks to each of our members for renewing for the 2011-2012 Membership. We currently have 56 members. If you were able to attend the Kickoff Potluck Dinner, you already have the current yearbook. If you receive *Mixtures* via US Mail, your yearbook is included with this mailing. For those who receive the email *Mixtures*, your yearbook has been mailed to you.

The yearbook already has to be corrected. For those who received the yearbook at the potluck dinner, the *Introduction to Hauptwerk* will be held as scheduled on Feb. 11, 2012 at 413 Karin Ave., Vestal. An inaccurate address appears in your yearbook.

May I remind you that you can sign up for the email *Mixtures* by emailing either Polly or me!

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Stuart Organ Company
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Restoration of the Henry Purcell Organ

It was serendipity.

It had been a few years since I had built a new organ for the "new" (1840's) Saint Paul's Church. We had talked a few times about providing an organ for the Old Narragansett Church, the previous building, built in 1706 and the oldest Anglican Church building in the US north of the Potomac.

When the call came, it happened that I had just heard of the availability of this organ, of which little was known other than it dated from the 17th century.

In appallingly poor condition, we restored it to its c. 1680 state. My research has established that it was built by a member of the Dallam family, utilizing pipes from the earliest years of the century, for John Playford. Playford is best known for his dance music, but was also Henry Purcell's publisher. Evidence strongly suggests that the organ passed to Purcell when rebuilt, also by the Dallam's, c. 1685. It was probably used at the coronation of James II.



Old Narragansett Church
Wickford, Rhode Island

George(?) Dallam
c. 1660 and 1685

*Oldest organ in use for church
services in the US*

Thank You

- to David Lenington for organizing the Oct. 1 organ crawl for the Chemung and Binghamton Chapters
- to Registrar, Richard Sheasley, for another attractive 2011-12 Yearbook

Bulletin Bloopers . . . the following seemed relevant in view of the recent sumptuous smorgasbord at the covered-dish kickoff.

- Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.*
- A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.*