

# MIXTURES

THE ORGAN OF THE BINGHAMTON CHAPTER, AGO

DECEMBER 2008



## THE DEAN'S LETTER . . .

Please forgive me, for I feel that I have sadly neglected you. In truth, almost every waking hour of the past weeks has been devoted to thinking about, worrying about, and practicing for my performance of the Beethoven *Choral Fantasy* when I wasn't teaching or otherwise musically engaged.

Since I have already been tooting my own horn, please indulge me while I give some particulars. It is the Fall concert by the BCC choir, conducted by Gerald Grahme with orchestra from the Binghamton Philharmonic and vocal soloists from Tri-Cities Opera. The numbers on the program are works that Gerry has performed in various parts of the country as tenor soloist. The other large item is the *Mass in C*. Yes, an all-Beethoven program.

Other particulars --

Performance - Sunday, Dec. 14 at 3 pm

Venue - St. Anthony of Padua, corner of Odell and Jenkins, Endicott

Tickets - at the door - or better yet, reduced price if you call 778-5326 (no later than 12 noon, Thursday, Dec. 11).

I hope to see you there.

Now, there has been more than ample tooting of my own horn.

Jonathan, what a wonderful experience your Nov. 9 concert was! We all look forward to the rest of the series. What a

gargantuan undertaking! Loved the Craig Phillips encore.

Don't forget the BTOS Christmas extravaganza on Dec. 13 at the Forum. Richard VanAuken will once again tie things together from the mighty Robert Morton. Claudia Kachmarik is the general director of the event, and many more AGO locals are involved. There are so many wonderful things to support.

What would we do without Carolyn Blake? Many thanks to her for all of her planning and being the M.C. and pianist for the annual Hilltop sing-along. I think moving it to November was a wise step. Theoretically, we beat both the snow and the flu seasons.

Advent, Christmas, New Year -- we are all exceedingly busy with church matters, family concerns, and many other things, but soon will be the time to gather for some much-needed fellowship. See details on page 3. Let's have a good turnout!

The Organ Crawl, originally scheduled for Feb. 14, has been rescheduled for Feb. 21. Valentine's Day is a very popular day for weddings. Richard Sheasly will give us all the information in the next newsletter.

In the meantime, have a blessed Advent and a Happy Christmas.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Laura

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## HOUGHTON COLLEGE CONFERENCE

Three of our members, Janet Hammond, Gloria Larson and Roberta Rowland-Raybold travelled to Houghton College recently to attend the opening evening of the Houghton Conference on Christian Worship. They arrived early, allowing time to hear the large Holtkamp organ in the main auditorium as an organ student prepared for her lesson, visited the college bookstore, investigated the new facilities for the graduate school of music and music library and had a wonderful dinner in the college dining hall. According to Gloria, "Much, much better than when I was a student here!"

In the evening they attended the opening Evensong Service held in the Houghton Church, which was accompanied by Dr. Judy Congdon on the newly installed-James Louder tracker organ. The Plenary Lecture was given by keynote speaker, John Witvliet, director of the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship and Professor of Music and Worship at Calvin College and Theological Seminary. His areas of interest include the history of Christian worship, worship practices in various denominations, biblical and systematic theology of worship, the role of music and the arts in worship, choral music and consulting with churches on worship renewal. The subject for the evening dealt with how pastors and musicians can work together effectively and how congregations can be energized in worship through song.

*Submitted by Roberta Rowland-Raybold*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Dec. 13 - 7:30 pm** BTOS 2008 Christmas Show at the Forum, Richard Van Auken, accompanist.

Sunday, **Dec. 14 - 3 pm** Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy* for orchestra, piano, and chorus; Laura Kennedy, piano soloist, and BCC Chorus at St. Anthony's, Endicott.

Sunday, **Dec. 29 - 5 pm** Post-Christmas gathering at Jonathan's in Endwell; dessert following at 600 Lowell Dr.

Saturday, **Jan. 10 - 9:30 am** Board Meeting at Dunkin Donuts (Snow date 1/24)

Saturday, **Feb. 21** - Organ Crawl -- Note change in date.

Sunday, **Feb. 22 - 4 pm** Dedication of Wolff organ with all-Bach concert by Jonathan Biggers, Binghamton University, FA 21

Saturday, **Mar. 21 - 8 pm** Jonathan Biggers at First Presbyterian, Binghamton; this fourth concert in the all-Bach series will celebrate Bach's birthday.

Sunday, **Mar. 22, 4 pm** - *Romantic and Sacred Choral Works* by the Madrigal Choir at First Presbyterian, Binghamton; Jean Henssler and Margaret Reitz, pianists

Saturday, **Mar. 28 - 7:30 pm** Theater organ concert by Stephen Ball including Buster Keaton's silent film, *Seven Chances*.



**Chaplain Father John**

The Rev. John Martinichio became chaplain of the Binghamton AGO Chapter when Laura Kennedy took office as dean in June 2007. Father John has been the full-time rector at Christ Episcopal Church, Binghamton since 2003. A native of this area, he entered seminary after graduating from Chenango Forks H.S. He served as a Roman Catholic priest in Utica and Cortland before leaving the priesthood to study funeral directing. Although not a musician himself, Father John likes music and said he has been listening to and enjoying the recording of our members recital which was held at Christ Church on Oct. 19. Do read Father John's message on page 4 dealing with the relationship between clergy and church musicians.

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**FREE** - Lowrey Symphonic Theatre Console Organ, Model H25-3, free for the taking; you move from Apalachin. Purchased in 1977; electronics need work; 2-octave pedal board. Call Eileen (607-625-5309) or Ellis (607-222-7098) for additional information.

**AGO BOARD MEETING**  
Saturday, January 10, 9:30 am  
Dunkin Donuts  
216 Reynolds Rd,  
Johnson City  
(Snow date is 1/24)

**Corrections:**

- ♪ BCC performance of Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy* on Sunday, 12/14, is at 3 pm (not 4 pm)
- ♪ Post-Christmas gathering is Sunday, Dec. 28 (not 12/29)

**POST-CHRISTMAS GATHERING**  
at Jonathan's  
(Pruyne & Hooper Rds., Endwell)  
**Sunday, December 28 at 5 p.m.**  
Dessert follows at 600 Lowell Dr., Endwell  
Call Polly (754-0378) for reservations by Dec. 21. We need a minimum of 20 for the buffet, which costs \$12.95 plus tax and gratuity; otherwise we will order from the menu.

A hand-drawn map showing the location of Jonathan's restaurant. The map is oriented with a vertical road on the left labeled 'HOOPER RD'. A horizontal road crossing it is labeled 'PRUYNE' with a dot indicating the location of 'Jonathan's'. Other streets shown include 'LACEY', 'LOWELL', 'ROYAL', 'COUNTRY CLUB RD', 'WATSON BLVD', and 'MAIN ST'. A location '600' is marked on 'LOWELL' with an 'X' and the word 'HEADLINS' above it. 'RT 17' is shown at the bottom right.



### **The Chaplain's Message:**

The relationship between clergy and musicians can be filled with joy or filled with grief and aggravation. At times, it can be a satisfying and fulfilling relationship. But there are those times that are very difficult and frustrating. As an individual who has experienced both situations, I offer you these thoughts.

In most cases the clergy is the boss, with the final word when it comes to Worship and the administration of the Sacraments. I believe that to enjoy a good working relationship there needs to be a firm and complete contract between the employer and employee. This creates clear and fair boundaries as well as setting standards. But let's take it from a different view. What is the liturgy all about? Who is it geared towards? What is the philosophy of the parties involved? If we truly believe that liturgy is the work of the people, then that is who and where the focus should lie. You begin wondering what is more important—the people, the choir or the clergy. In order to create an atmosphere of respect and create good liturgies there has to be an understanding of hearts and minds, a sharing of philosophies. In a sense there has to be chemistry between the parties involved. I feel that our liturgies should be the best that we can offer in every aspect and avenue. People come to worship with all of their senses attuned. Music should move them closer to God, it should enhance what the spoken Word can not create. It takes all involved to do accomplish this.

So how do we relieve the stress and strain when it exists? We use dialogue, communication, sharing, and working together, knowing what we are about and how we want to accomplish it. I know with limited space I can not touch on all aspects, but hopefully in the future there will be a workshop that both you and the clergy could attend to improve not just a working relationship but to create an atmosphere of prayer and praise to almighty God.

Father John

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**Note:** *Father John is willing to continue exploring this topic and welcomes your questions and ideas. Your comments are invited for inclusion in future newsletters.*

