

September 2009

# The Richmond STOPLIST

The Official Newsletter of the Richmond, Virginia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists



## SEPTEMBER 2009 CHAPTER MEETING AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS



**Tuesday September 15, 2009**

### *An Evening in Byrd Park at the World War I Memorial Carillon*

6:00pm Beverages and Refreshments; Short Business Meeting and Installation of Officers

Our host, **Larry Robinson**, a chapter member and past Dean, is the longtime City Carillonist who will play a short demonstration concert for us; and then we will enjoy a Picnic Supper in the nearby Pavilion

Box Lunches will be from Sally Bells Kitchen for \$10.00

**Please make your reservations by Thursday September 10 to Jim Dorn at 254-8810 Ext 114**  
or [jdorn@saintbenedictparish.org](mailto:jdorn@saintbenedictparish.org)

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR CHOICE OF SANDWICH! **Chicken Salad, Smithfield Ham, Roast Beef, Turkey, or Egg Salad**

### **A Brief History of the Carillon**

Between 1924 and 1928, the Virginia General Assembly acted to create a World War Memorial Commission and build a lasting memorial to the heroic efforts of Virginia's World War I servicemen and servicewomen.

The City donated a building site in Byrd Park. The War Memorial Carillon is 240 feet high and The Carillon instrument was built by John Taylor Bell Founders of England.

The Carillon Tower originally carried sixty-six bells, but played fifty-three notes - the top thirteen notes had duplicate bells in an unsuccessful effort to produce a louder sound. When the carillon was renovated in the early 1970's, the thirty-four bells which played the highest twenty-one notes were recast into twenty-one new bells with thicker profiles than the originals, producing a better sound. Now there are fifty-three bells for fifty-three notes.

Carillon concerts are usually played on veteran-related holidays (Memorial Day, Veteran's Day, Flag Day and Labor Day) and a spring series of concerts have been funded in the past by the Civic Associations.

### **Richmond Chapter Executive Committee 2009-2010**

Dean  
Sub-Dean  
Secretary  
Treasurer

Larry Heath  
James Dorn  
Marion Tredway  
Cathy Grant

Auditors Ardyth Lohuis 2008-2010;  
Bill Van Pelt 2009-2011

#### Members-at-Large

Bill Brown 2007-2010  
Judy Fiske 2008 - 2011  
Stan Baker 2009 - 2012

Cheryl Van Ornam 2007-2010  
Neil Kraft 2008 - 2011  
Bill Drake 2009 - 2012

## Thinking Out Loud

The Richmond Chapter AGO boasts an outstanding heritage and it is indeed an honor to serve as the Dean of our chapter. It is also somewhat sobering to assume the task of leadership with the Executive Committee as we face the challenges of this moment in our history, continuing the good work of others who have served before us and preparing for a future which promises many shifts in paradigms, process and professional opportunities. We have much to talk about and often I do my best thinking 'out loud'... that is, in conversation with others. Therefore I call this column Thinking Out Loud in the hope that it will be a catalyst for conversation with each other.

In this issue you will sense the great anticipation of those planning programs and events which will provide opportunities to grow in our own artistry and expertise through training, inspiration and collegial networking. Some things are new or have a different 'twist' as we seek to accommodate the needs and desires of a diverse membership. Some things remain very familiar with the continued strength they bring to our chapter. Some other changes may come with the revised edition of our Procedural Guide as Nancy and Ardyth seek to bring that document up to date.

As we begin this program year I encourage you to: 1) *enter ALL* the AGO program and event dates on your calendars, 2) *check* to be certain your membership is current and accurate, 3) *promote* the events within your congregation, institution and community, 4) *participate* as much as you can and 5) *share your thoughts* with colleagues welcoming new musicians to our area, inviting them to meetings and programs, engaging in conversation with other musicians or submitting articles and information for the Stoplister about everything from conference highlights to wonderful repertoire you have discovered.

Please feel free to contact me at [rrpcmusic@gmail.com](mailto:rrpcmusic@gmail.com) or come join us as we continue the tradition of a monthly 'Dean's Lunch'. The first one will be Thursday, Sept. 10, at Mosaic's restaurant, 6229 River Rd Ste A, Richmond, VA 23229, where we will continue Thinking Out Loud.

Larry Heath  
Dean

## From the Newsletter Editor

Having moved to the Richmond area just a year ago this month, I want to thank the members of the Richmond chapter for the warm welcome they have extended to my family and myself. It was quite a surprise and an honor when I was asked to become your new editor for the 2009-2010 year. I have admired the professionalism and great content that has gone into our chapter newsletters in the past. I have to admit that Cheryl Van Ornam, as editor, is going to be a tough act to follow. Thanks Cheryl for all of your great work and for your help in making this transition almost painless. It is indeed an honor for me to serve in this position, and I will strive to maintain the professionalism and interesting content that has been presented in the past.

John DeMajo

## FROM THE TREASURER

**Please renew promptly!**

All 2009-2010 members have been given or sent the 2009-2010 renewal form. This form is also available at the web site: [www.richmondago.org](http://www.richmondago.org). Please send your renewals to Cathy Grant, 222 Colony Point Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185.

## Twentieth Anniversary for the Handbell Festival



Kathleen "Kath" Wissinger, Clinician

The Handbell Festival will be celebrating its twentieth year when the chapter hosts the 2010 Festival on March 19 - 20. The Festival Committee, chaired by Jennifer Ripley, is happy to announce that the clinician for the event will be Kath Wissinger. Kath, from McGaheysville, Virginia, loves all aspects of handbell ringing. She is a director, clinician, teacher, and composer with more than 50 pieces in print. She directs the teen ensemble "Spectrum" at Massanutten Presbyterian Church and teaches two music classes using bell and chimes for 4th - 8th grades as well as K-3 music at Redeemer Classical School in Harrisonburg. She is a former National Park Service Ranger, commissioned handweaver and Elder Hostel Teacher. She currently teaches piano in her home studio.

**Note: A Festival registration form and repertoire can be found on Page Eight.**

## LISTING OF 2009-2010 CHAPTER PROGRAMS

**Saturday October 10, 2009**

**First Presbyterian Church**

4602 Cary Street Road Richmond, VA 23226-1701

**WORSHIP CONFERENCE Thomas Troeger, presentor**

*Co-Sponsor with the Presbytery of the James*

8:30am Morning Prayer

9:00am Session I *You Are a Woodwind and a Drum*

*Nurturing the image of God through congregational song*

10:45am Session II *Balm in Gilead*

*Nurturing spiritual vitality through congregational song*

12 noon - 1 PM lunch

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Hymn Festival with Tom Troeger providing brief homilies on hymns.

*The Chapter will cover your registration fee IF you make your reservations by October 2 to*

*Jim Dorn, Sub-Dean at 254-8810 Ext. 114 or [jdorn@saintbenedictparish.org](mailto:jdorn@saintbenedictparish.org)*

**Sunday, October 18, 2009 3:00pm**

**Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church**

1627 Monument Avenue Richmond, VA 23220

Organ Repertoire Recital Series

*Christopher Marks, Professor of Organ at the University of Nebraska*

**Friday November 6, 2009**

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

1100 West Grace St Richmond, VA 23220-3613

6:00pm Refreshments/6:30pm Dinner and Short Business Meeting

Organ Repertoire Recital Series 7:30pm Concert

***Balint Karosi***

Winner J.S. Bach International Organ Competition, 2008

*Dinner reservations by November 2 to Jim Dorn, Sub-Dean at 254-8810 Ext. 114 or [jdorn@saintbenedictparish.org](mailto:jdorn@saintbenedictparish.org)*

**NO DECEMBER PROGRAMS**

Continued on next page.....

**Monday January 25, 2010 7:00pm**

**St. James's Episcopal Church**

1205 W Franklin St Richmond, VA 23220-3793

***William Chouinard, Organist,***

From St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi, MN

**Playing *WITH-OUT* the Notes**

A Lecture/Demonstration on Organ Improvisation

At the conclusion of the evening, our Host Organist, Virginia Whitmire will present a theme to Mr. Chouinard to improvise at sight!

**Sunday February 28, 2010 3:00pm Concert**

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

815 East Grace Street Richmond, VA 23219-3409

Organ Repertoire Recital Series

***Christophe Mantoux***

Winner-Chartes International Organ Competition, 1984

**Sunday MARCH 14, 2010 3:00pm**

**Emmanuel Episcopal Church**

1214 Wilmer Ave Richmond, VA 23227-2405

A **Laetare Sunday** Recital in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Virginia Chapter of the AGO featuring Members of the Richmond Chapter of the AGO on the Heissler organ at the historic celebrating 150 years of their Church A Gala Champagne Reception to follow at the near-by home of the Sub-Dean, James A. Dorn. Our host organist is Charlotte Paris.

**Monday, April 19, 2010 7:30pm**

**Westminster Presbyterian Church**

4103 Monument Avenue Richmond, VA 23230-3818

Organ Repertoire Recital Series

***Rachel Laurin***

Holtkamp AGO Composition Award 2008/Associate of the Canadian Music Centre

**Tuesday May 11, 2010**

Finale –venue *TBA*

**6:00 Gathering//6:30pm Dinner and Business meeting**

Guest Speaker ***Jane Errera***, MA, CHM, Regional Councillor

**Concluding with a Recital by the Organ Scholars**

*Dinner reservations by May 5 to Jim Dorn, Sub-Dean at 254-8810 Ext. 114 or [jdorn@saintbenedictparish.org](mailto:jdorn@saintbenedictparish.org)*

## BIRTHDAYS

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Sylvia W. Wall
- 01 Robert W. Mayo
- 05 Jeannine Uzel
- 06 Elizabeth C. Martin
- 06 Theresa K. Moffett
- 22 Elvin C. Nicely
- 23 Christopher C. Martin
- 23 William H. Balz
- 26 J. Warren Mitchell
- 27 Cynthia H. Smithdeal
- 28 Suzanne M. Krauss
- 29 Patricia L. McCall

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 07 Cathy V. Armistead
- 08 Marjie Button
- 14 Judy M. Fiske
- 14 DeLorman Bartel
- 14 John H. Hart
- 15 Suzanne K. Bunting
- 16 Rosa W. Hudson
- 17 Evelyn J. Kerschbaumer
- 17 Adella J. Nowowieski
- 18 Patricia Schrock
- 23 James W. Kosnik
- 24 Frances R. Pitchford
- 24 Anita B. Williams
- 29 Larry Robinson

## AROUND THE TOWN

### GRANT HELLMERS FAIRWELL RECITAL

(The following review of Grant Hellmers' recent recital appeared on a popular Internet Pipe Organ Chat List:)

I am just home from the almost-two-hour farewell concert by Grant Hellmers on the Rosales Opus 22 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Richmond, Virginia.

On a day in the upper nineties, a good crowd turned out to hear Mr. Hellmers play a virtual demonstration tour of the organ and organ music, from a 16th-century work by Sweelinck to a Bruce Neswick toccata from 1995. Stops (pardon the pun) along the way included Bach's Dorian; a wonderfully played Michel Corrette sonata for violin and continuo (the organ was perhaps at its best here, perfectly supporting the talented soloist); Franck's Cantabile; a 17th century Pablo Bruno tiento (the organ speaks Spanish, among its other languages). Vierne's Berceuse; two Howells choral works with choir; and Suite Franglaise, written by Mr. Hellmers

The audience gave Mr. Hellmers strong applause, and a three-bow standing ovation at the conclusion. They will miss him at St. Paul's. He retires with over thirty years' faithful service there.

Cheers,

Frank Fitzgerald, Richmond

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

*Listings in this column appear for a maximum of 90 days and then are removed unless an extension is requested. When a listing is removed, therefore, it does not necessarily mean that the position has been filled. To submit a listing, contact our Referral Service Director, Betty Girardeau*

### **CAMPBELL MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,**

3712 Weems Road, (PO Box 18)  
Weems, Virginia 22576,  
[www.campbellchurch.net](http://www.campbellchurch.net).

Seeking **part-time organist/choir director** for two Sunday services (contemporary and traditional) and one weekly adult choir rehearsal. Rodgers 960 3-manual organ of 69 ranks plus 10 ranks of ancillary pipes and a MIDI sequencer. Allowances for books and music, continuing education and automobile. Salary beginning at \$20,000 with 4 weeks paid vacation. Resumes and references should be mailed to the church at the above address Attention: Music Search Committee or e-mailed to [office@campbellchurch.net](mailto:office@campbellchurch.net). For further information and questions please call Nancy Byrne at 804-435-1131 or e-mail at [byrne@nnwifi.com](mailto:byrne@nnwifi.com).

### **GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH,**

4200 Dover Road,  
Richmond, Virginia 23221.

Seeking **part-time organist/pianist** for one Sunday service and several special services during the church year and to accompany one weekly adult choir rehearsal. 3-manual Allen organ. Salary range \$7,500 - \$9,000 per annum with 2-4 weeks paid vacation, sick leave, continuing education, professional leadership leave and sabbatical of 4 weeks after 5 years of service. Contact the Rev Wanda S. Fennell days and evenings at 540-891-0259 or the Rev. Dr. Betty P. Mills days at 804-353-0134 or evenings at 804-869-6314.

### **TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

9601 Washington Street  
Amelia, Virginia, 23002.

Seeking part time organist/pianist for one Sunday morning service and one weekly choir rehearsal as well as various special services throughout the year. Rogers 770 electronic organ and Kawai baby grand piano. Salary range \$7000 - \$9000 per annum. Resumes and references may be e-mailed to [ameliachargeumc@tds.net](mailto:ameliachargeumc@tds.net) or mailed to Trinity United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 263, Amelia, VA, 23002. For further information, please contact the church office at 804-874-2246.

### **BETHLEHEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)**

2446 Old Church Road  
Mechanicsville, VA, 23111.

Seeking **part-time organist/director** for one Sunday worship service and one adult choir rehearsal weekly plus special services during the church year. Musically diverse congregation and choir with tastes ranging from traditional to gospel and spiritual. Rogers 2 manual electronic organ in good condition. Salary range \$10,000 to \$12,000 per year with two weeks paid vacation. Send resume to the church at the above address or e-mail to [beth.church@att.net](mailto:beth.church@att.net). For further information you may call (804)779-3775 or go to the church website at [www.PraiseB2God.org](http://www.PraiseB2God.org).

**METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF RICHMOND**, 2501 Park Avenue, Richmond, VA 23220. [www.MCCRichmond.org](http://www.MCCRichmond.org) <<http://www.mccrichmond.org/>> Progressive Fan District church seeking part-time pianist to accompany choir, play service music, and provide other piano services on occasion. Weekly midweek rehearsal and Sunday service required (approximately 5 hours per week), with occasional other rehearsals and performances. Church musician experience required, with sight-reading, improvisation, and play-by-ear a plus. Salary \$500-700 per month, depending on experience, with additional compensation as negotiated for special events. Contact Rev-RobinG@MCCRichmond.org <<mailto:RevRobinG@MCCRichmond.org>> with resume. For more information or questions, contact Rev. Dr. Robin H. Gorsline, Pastor, at 804/353-9477.

## SUBSTITUTES

*This is a list of persons who have indicated a desire to be called for substituting at church services. No specific qualifications are implied by their inclusion on this list. The employer is responsible for determining that a substitute will adequately meet the needs of the church. Questions should be addressed to Betty Girardeau by e-mail at [bettyg@redfamiliar.com](mailto:bettyg@redfamiliar.com) or by phone at 804-647-0825.*

**Gullicksen, Rita**

(weddings, funerals and special events)  
804-272-0505

**Nowowieski, Adella**

(Sat./Sun. p.m. services; Funerals and weddings)  
804-288-0917

**Sachs, David**

(weddings, memorial and funeral services and Shabbat services - Synagogue)  
804-222-2494

**Lindsey, Charles**

(weddings, funerals and non-Sunday events)  
804-370-7374

**Schrock, Patricia**

(weddings, funerals and non-Sunday events)  
804-254-2744

**Worsham, Marsha Ann**

804-883-6035

**Schutt, Ed**

(weddings, funerals, concerts, special programs/services)  
804-564-4887

**Hudson, Teresa** 804-245-0827

**Smithdeal, Cynthia** 804-739-3948

**Branch, Ada Andrews** 804-862-4480 (H)

**Candler-White, Laura**

(accompanying, recitals, weddings, funerals, special events) 804-360-5754

**Davis, Debbie** 804-921-8234

**Creager, Alice, AAGO** 804-935-8735

**Freude, Sharon** 804-353-4683

**Frolund, Bodil** 804-330-7689

**Van Ornam, Cheryl**

(weddings, funerals, accompanying, special programs) 804-814-6677

**Gillespie, Joan** 804-270-3569 (H)

**Heath, Margie** 804-730-2196

**Johnson, Betty Lou** 804-323-3970

**Stephens, Dennis** 804-529-9999

**Kerschbaumer, Evelyn** 804-744-3147

**Salmeri, Connie** 804-320-4310

**Neff, Joan L.**

(June-August 2009) 804-855-1398

**Suerken, Ernest A.** 804-272-5545

**Campbell, Mary E.** 804-288-4098

**Mayton, Sally P.**

(Crewe, Va) 434-645-7527 or cell 434-607-6327

**Michael Mercatante** (804) 241-2421

e-mail: [Michael.mercatante@hotmail.com](mailto:Michael.mercatante@hotmail.com)

**Suerken, Ernest A.** 804-272-5545

**Campbell, Mary E.** 804-288-4098

**Mayton, Sally P.**

(Crewe, Va)

434-645-7527 or cell 434-607-6327

**Michael Mercatante** (804) 241-2421

e-mail: [Michael.mercatante@hotmail.com](mailto:Michael.mercatante@hotmail.com)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Small spinet piano needs a new home.** I would like to donate it to a church that could put it to use. It is not sanctuary-worthy, but might serve in a rehearsal room or Sunday school. It is badly in need of tuning, but otherwise in good condition. If interested, please contact Carol Grainger at [grainger.cm@gmail.com](mailto:grainger.cm@gmail.com).

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Sunday, August 30, 3:00 PM**

**Reveille United Methodist Church**  
4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond  
**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS! RALEIGH RINGERS** will give a concert at Reveille UMC, Richmond! If you have heard the Raleigh Ringers then you **KNOW** you need to come; if you've never heard them, then you **DEFINITELY** need to come!! Donations accepted at the concert. **PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD!!** For more information, please call Cathy Armistead at 804-359-6041 x123.

The Richmond Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

Presents

**HANDBELL FESTIVAL 2010**

Kath Wissinger, Clinician

Festival Chairperson:  
Jennifer Ripley

March 19 - 20, 2010  
Mt. Pisgah United Methodist Church  
1100 Mt. Pisgah Drive  
Midlothian, VA, 23113  
REPERTOIRE

Friday Rehearsal  
7 to 9 pm  
Saturday  
8:45 am to 5 pm

**FESTIVAL REGISTRATION FORM**

Deadline: February 15, 2010

Title	Arranger/Composer	Publisher	Publisher's #	Level
<b>Savior of the Nations Come</b>	<b>Wissinger</b>	Lorenz Publishing	20/1399L-2 \$4.95	2+
<i>Truly Amazing</i>	<b>Wissinger</b>	From the Top Publishing	20191-5 \$3.95	2+
<i>Just As I Am</i>	<b>Eithun</b>	AGEHR	AG35232 \$4.50	2
<i>Broken for You</i>	<b>Wissinger</b>	AGEHR	AG35179 \$3.95	3
<i>The Morning Trumpet</i>	<b>Larson</b>	Alfred Publishing	19014 \$3.50	3
<i>Exodus Dance</i>	<b>Hakes</b>	National Music Publishers	NMHB-604 \$3.25	2

**REPERTOIRE**

**FESTIVAL REGISTRATION FORM**

Deadline: February 15, 2010

Fee: \$100 per choir, \$60 for 5 or few ringers, \$20 for single registrant. Make Check or Money Order payable to Richmond Chapter AGO. Refunds will be given up to March 1, minus a \$20 service charge. Nor refunds after March 1.

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ AGO Member? Yes No

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

# of Ringers (include ringing director) \_\_\_\_\_ Friday Rehearsal? Yes No

Number of Octaves: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Table Footage Needed \_\_\_\_\_ Bringing Own Tables? Yes No

\_\_\_\_\_  
No registrations accepted without form and check

Send Registration Forms and Fees to:

Betty Girardeau, Registrar

245 Goldcrest Drive

Vonore, TN, 37885 Questions? E-mail [bettyg@redfamiliar.com](mailto:bettyg@redfamiliar.com) or call 804-647-0825





American Guild of Organists, Richmond Chapter  
John G. DeMajo, Editor  
6001 Statute Street  
Chesterfield, VA 23832

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RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED

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We're on the Web!  
<http://www.richmondago.org>

CHAPTER PHONE  
804-228-6243

## DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the famous Aeolian-Skinner concert organ at the Milton Hershey Theatre in Hershey, Pennsylvania, narrowly escaped being a "Mighty Wurlitzer?" When Mr. Hershey commissioned the instrument and the theatre, for the enjoyment and edification of his chocolate factory workers, he wanted a Wurlitzer instrument. The "Great Depression was well underway, and the Wurlitzer Company was in the middle of production on the dual-console Radio City Music Hall organ at the time. Fearing possible economic problems with attempting to take on both projects, Farney Wurlitzer declined the job. Mr. Hershey, not to be outdone by Radio City designer Roxy Rothafel, went to the Aeolian Company for help. Aeolian was in the process of merging with the Skinner firm at the time, and they gladly accepted the work. To Mr. Hershey's credit, and to the credit of the Aeolian-Skinner firm, the seventy-five year old instrument is still playing reliably on its original leather and relay. Even though the organ is basically a classical instrument on a theatre organ lift, it can still do a splendid job of accompanying silent movies along with its ability to function as a true concert organ.

While Radio City has the distinction of being one of the last great movie palaces to be built, the Hershey Theatre is equally opulent and splendid, and rivals any "golden era" motion picture palace.