

Swell2Great

The Monthly Newsletter of the AGO Merrimack Valley Chapter April 2018

Next Event: Annual MVAGO Members' Recital: April 22, 2018 – 3pm

Please join your colleagues and friends from the MVAGO for the MVAGO Annual Members' recital on Sunday April 22 at 3:00pm at the **Bethesda Missionary Church (formerly St George's Primitive Methodist Church) located 10 Phillips Street Methuen** on its historical organ, as described in the OHS database:

"Organ built by James E. Treat & Co., in 1889, financed by E. F. Searles, and from 1890 until 1904, the exhibition organ of James E. Treat & Co. and the Methuen Organ Co., in their building next to the present Music Hall. In 1904, Mr. Searles gave the organ and edifice to the congregation. Electrified by E. M. Skinner in 1948 (utilizing an ugly Aeolian console), the organ lost several fine stops and the action became so unreliable that it was "retrackerized" by the Andover Organ Company in 1962. The original console was rebuilt, the Pedal and stop action is electric, and tonal changes were accomplished with the funds available.

"A recital booklet for December and January 1890 indicates that the case was designed in pure Corinthian by Henry Vaughan, the console was six feet detached, and that the "pneumatic motor" was applied to the lowest octave of the Swell. The pedals were flat, the couplers were over the Swell manual with the combination pedal labels, and the swell pedal and Tremolo pedal were at the far right." (Boston Organ Club Newsletter, May 1966) (Steven E. Lawson. November 28, 2017)

Seven MVAGO members have volunteered to play an exciting program including works by João W. Faustini, Bermudo de Olagué, Frescobaldi, Scheidt, Vierne and others.

Please invite your friends and colleagues to attend this free concert.

Proceeds from the free-will offering will go to help maintain this wonderful instrument.

March 10 workshop report: Helping Aging Voices



On March 10, our Merrimack Valley Chapter was privileged to host a vocal workshop conducted by our very own Jay Lane. A certified McClosky Voice Institute instructor, Jay focused his discussion on helping the *aging* voice. Although extremely common in church choirs, many times, choir directors feel uneasy to approach the problems prevalent with aged singers out of hesitation to offend. Also, there may not be enough expert information or advice available to church musicians on this sensitive issue. The workshop began with physiological examples of the how the throat, vocal chords, and chest work together to create sound and how muscle atrophy, hearing loss, and posture can lead to wobble, poor tone, and pitch

problems. Luckily, Mr. Lane broke down the physical reasons why the voice changes with age, and gave many practical, easy techniques for improving tonal quality and cohesiveness in the choir. Jay also included valuable suggestions for conducting effective choir rehearsals, stressing the utmost importance on strict rehearsal discipline, and maintaining a steady and predictable pace. Most assuredly, all those in attendance left the workshop feeling more informed, encouraged and inspired to tackle the challenges in their work as choir directors. (*Silke Marie Maravelis, photo credit: Peter Dabos*)

May 19, 2018 from 10am to 2pm: Open House at Methuen Memorial Music Hall

On Saturday, May 19, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the MVAGO and the Methuen Memorial Music Hall are sponsoring an “Open Console” at the Music Hall. This is an opportunity for all organists and organ students to play the Great Organ. Also, ALL are invited to come and listen! Admission is free and photos are permitted. **You may sign up in advance for a playing time by contacting Joyce Painter Rice, at <joyceorganist@aol.com> or 978-697-1358.**

Plans for organizing this event include:

- Sign-up times will be 15 minutes each, with the final 15 minutes each hour designated as open, unreserved time.
- If you want to play for less than 15 minutes, that’s fine. Other organists will use the time.
- Two or more players may sign up together for a time slot. Please let Joyce know of any special requests for a group. (As needed, we may schedule two consecutive times.)
- The schedule is for everyone’s convenience, and we will stay on schedule as closely as possible. Yet we will have to be somewhat flexible because our intention is that everyone who is present and wants to play will have the opportunity.
- As it’s both a challenge and thrill to register the 4-manual Great Organ, with its 6,000 pipes, Joyce and also John Skelton (both MMMH trustees) will be available to help.

Sign-up procedures:

- **When you contact Joyce to schedule a time, please give at least an hour’s time frame during which you would like to play, for example, 10:30, 11, or 11:15. (Remember the last 15 minutes each hour will be “open” time.)**
- **Joyce will send confirmation of reserved time to each registrant and periodically will email the schedule to our MVAGO Googlegroup.**

We are fortunate to have the world-renowned Music Hall and its Great Organ in our vicinity. Yet often area residents do not know about this treasured place! Please invite others to attend our Open Console and the MMMH concerts. Much information about the Hall, Great Organ and upcoming concerts is available at mmmh.org. The stop-list for the organ is here:

<http://mmmh.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Stop-list.pdf>

June 6, 2018: MVAGO Dinner at 5:30 pm, Concert at 8:00pm:

Abbey Siegfried (MVAGO Dean) will play a recital at the Methuen Memorial Music Hall as part of the Wednesday evening summer series. **To encourage as many MVAGO members as possible to attend, we will meet for dinner at a local restaurant prior to the recital, and the chapter is offering one complimentary ticket to MVAGO members.** More information will be available before the recital date.

Summer Organ Recitals at Methuen Memorial Music Hall

On the Wednesday following our Open Console—May 23, at 8:00 p.m.—the Summer Organ Recital Series begins. Here’s a quick look at the opening concerts.

- May 23: **Greg Zelek** - Audience Prize winner of the 2016 Longwood Gardens International Organ Competition; named by *The Diapason* magazine in 2016 as one of the top “20 Under 30” organists.
- May 30: **John Walker** - recent past President of the AGO.
- June 6: **Abbey Hallberg Siegfried** – our MVAGO Chapter Dean; Phillips Academy, Andover, organist and Fidelio Ensemble conductor . This is also a MVAGO Chapter event (see above)
- June 13: **Bálint Karosi** – Cantor, Saint Peter’s Lutheran, NYC; formerly, Music Director, First Lutheran, Boston.

The Music Hall is located at 190 Broadway (Route 28) in Methuen. Off-street, free parking is available.

Summer Conventions: AGO (July 2 to July 6) and OHS (July 29 – August 3)

2018 NATIONAL CONVENTION



**Kansas
City 2018**
American Guild
of Organists

July 2-6, 2018

2018
ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY • JULY 29–AUGUST 3
ROCHESTER • NEW YORK



HOPE JONES ORGAN COMPANY, OP. 2 (1910) GAULT/YORKOTA (2010) HOOK & HASTINGS COMPANY, OP. 1573 (1873) THE RUDOLPH WURLITZER COMPANY (1921)

OUR FEATURED ARTISTS

DAVID BASKEYFIELD	NATHAN LAUBE	DAVID PECKHAM
EDOARDO BELLOTTI	ANNIE LAVER	ROBERT POOVEY
IVAN BOSNAR	THATCHER LYMAN	WILLIAM PORTER
KEN COWAN	COLIN LYNCH	CAROLINE ROBINSON
PETER DUBOIS	COLIN McKNIGHT	DARYL ROBINSON
KATELYN EMBERSON	CHRISTOPHER MARKS	JONATHAN RYAN
DAVID HIGGS	MALCOLM MATTHEWS	NICOLE SMENTAL
RICHARD HILLS	AMANDA MOLE	JOEL SPEERSTRA
FRED HOHMAN	ALAN MORRISON	BRUCE STEVENS
WILMA JENSEN	JONATHAN MOYER	MICHAEL UNGER
PETER KRASINSKI	SEAN O'DONNELL	JORIS VERDIN
CHRISTIAN LANE	JONATHAN ORTLOFF	BRADLEY HUNTER WELCH



PAUL FRETS & COMPANY, OP. 26 (2000) PHOTOS: LEO LEONOVICH ADOLPH COMPANY, NO. 947 AND NO. 1345

JOIN THE OHS IN ROCHESTER
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE EASTMAN ROCHESTER ORGAN INITIATIVE FESTIVAL IN OCTOBER

THE 2018 CONVENTION of the Organ Historical Society will celebrate the rich array of instruments in Rochester, New York. Home to an expansive collection of organs representing diverse musical styles and performance practices, Rochester is a hub for organ performance and education. Convention attendees will experience an eighteenth-century Italian Baroque organ housed in the beautiful Memorial Art Gallery, a tour of the George Eastman Museum—home of the world's largest residence organ—and everything in between. Visit the website below for the latest updates!

WWW.ORGANHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG/2018

AGO Announces Affiliation with Vox Humana

The American Guild of Organists is pleased to announce their affiliation with Vox Humana, a new online journal that presents current ideas, trends, and research about the organ. Articles are published every two weeks by leading organists and scholars from around the globe. Visit Vox Humana www.voxhumanajournal.com to subscribe.

Open Positions

In addition to the open positions listed in the March 2018 newsletter, a new position has opened at Grace Church 385 Essex Street Salem, Massachusetts 01970.

The position is a year round job with the following:

- Sunday morning service at 10:30 am with 5 non-choir Sundays off
- Wednesday evening choir rehearsal from 7:30-9:00 pm from the first Wednesday in September through the second Wednesday in June.
- Sunday morning choir rehearsal from 9:30 - 10:10 from the second Sunday in September through the third Sunday in June (except for the last Sunday in the year, which the choir has off).
- Ash Wednesday service with choir in the evening.
- Holy Week services of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday evenings, as well as a Saturday night Easter Vigil: all with choir.

- Thanksgiving Eve service with choir.
- Christmas Eve at 4:00 (no choir) and 10:30 pm (Choral Eucharist), and Christmas Day at 10:00 am (no choir).

For information and application, please contact the Reverend Deborah Phillips, Rector, at dphillips54@verizon.net

The MVAGO Officers

- Abbey Siegfried *Dean*
- Silke Maravelis *Sub-Dean/Program Chair*
- Jodi Templer *Secretary*
- Craig Seaman *Treasurer*
- *Members-at-Large:*
 - open (2018) – following the resignation of Duncan Vinson (moved away)
 - Linda Paulet (2019)
 - Jay Lane (2020)
- Barbara Owen *Librarian/Historian*
- Robert Reich *Organ Restoration/History Chair*
- Norma Reich *Placement Coordinator*
- Alain Bojarski *Past Dean, Newsletter Editor and PR*
- Shirley MacKenzie *Auditor*
- Hugh Hinton *Scholarships*
- Rev. Dr. Richard A. Hughes *Chaplain*
- David G. Baker *Webmaster*