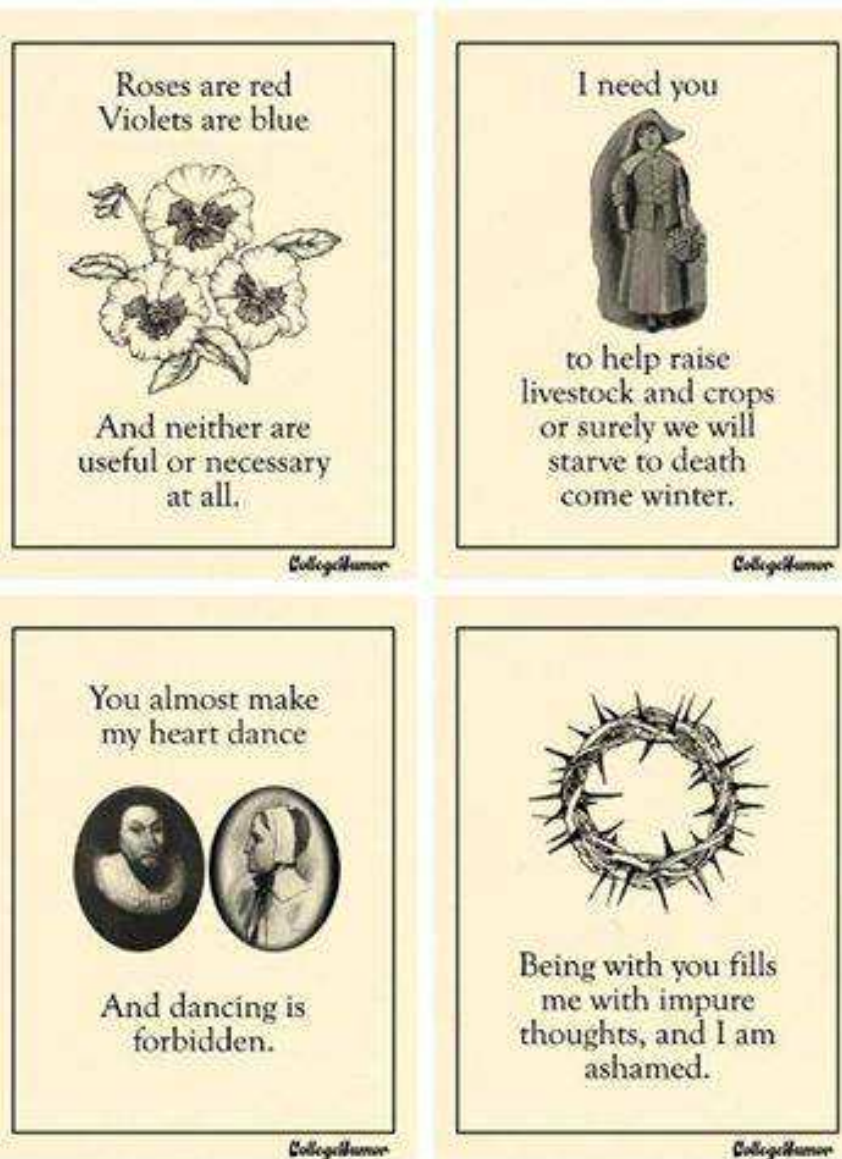


The Brooklyn Bombard

The Newsletter of the Brooklyn Chapter
of the American Guild of Organists

February 2021

Puritan Valentine's Day Cards



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Dean’s letter

Dear Brooklyn AGO Chapter Members:

Greetings! In a reversal of the seasonal trends at the time of my previous Dean’s Letter, the days are now getting longer, the nights shorter, and, at least on some days, temperatures slightly warmer. As before, I wish I could report positive news (besides the scholarship competition, which is still on track to take place — and I can report that we have had a healthy amount of interest from organ students this year). It is often said that “no news is good news,” but that cliché isn’t true at all when “no news” means that not only is very little happening in the way of events, but when, from many quarters, we are still being actively discouraged from doing things that give life value, all for fear of someone unknowingly spreading a viral disease. Extreme fear, pressure to conform to “social distancing” (which is inherently contrary to the way humans were created to live, and thus an affront to our Creator), the vilification of those who would choose to take some level of increased risk in order to make meaningful music (or do anything else to give life meaning) — these all have very damaging psychological effects, and it is my observation that many musicians have suffered greatly from them. It’s difficult to say this, but I know that my own musicianship over the past year has not been up to my own standard, and I know I am FAR from the only one. The dystopia that has led to this is an atrocity, and if I were to go along with the narrative that demands no concerts, no choirs, and no orchestras, all in the name of “public health,” I would consider myself to be a traitor to the arts. Yet here we still are, after nearly a year.

Board and Officers

Dean	Thomas Hobson Williams
Sub-Dean	Gary Di Franco
Treasurer	Eric Birk, FAGO
Secretary	Ellen Wright
Registrar	Nick Martellacci

Executive Board

Class of 2021

Robert Frisby
Kurleigh Lowe
Angelina Ngo

Class of 2022

Henry Brooks
Alan Stenzler
Alex Violette

Class of 2023

Davian Alleyne
Kell Julliard
Doris Schultz

Theodore Roosevelt said, “The only man who never makes a mistake is the man who never does anything.” This quote implies another point: to do nothing is the greatest mistake of all. If I get in a car to drive to an event, there is always a chance that I might be involved in a crash; but if I perpetually avoid travel for fear of accidents, the events and destinations lose all value in my life. The same thing is true of the situation in which events and ensembles are indefinitely canceled for fear that someone present might have the novel coronavirus. Lest anyone think I am living in an alternate universe, I am not an exception to this paranoia: I’ve experienced it as well, and have reacted in extreme ways at times — for example, by completely avoiding the subways for six months straight at one point (although taking up cycling last spring as an alternative did have its own benefits). However, I realize life can and must go on, come hell or

high water, and even if we as individuals choose to avoid some activities, there are some that make life worth living, and no one should be judged for choosing to partake in these things. All of us know people who have had COVID-19 (if not had it ourselves), and no doubt we all have known people who have died of it. A death of disease is a tragedy (even if it is a result of underlying conditions), but the human mortality rate has always been 100%, and living in a state of paralyzing fear will not reduce this figure, and will only diminish the existing quality of life for all.

Beyond the scholarship competition, I will continue to push for chapter events to happen, including, I strongly hope, the Members’ Recital in May (stay tuned for info on this), and with a bit of luck, a June banquet or potluck of some sort for the occasion of the installation of next year’s board and officers. No one who is uncomfortable is obligated to sign up to perform in the recital, or to attend, but I believe many would do so if given the opportunity (myself obviously included), and pushing through with such things is the only way forward. We’re musicians, and we have a calling to our art.

Musically yours,

Thomas Hobson Williams
Dean, American Guild of Organists Brooklyn Chapter

In Memoriam

Sorry to be the bearer of sad tidings but I just learned that Amanda Husberg died on Monday February 15. She had been a member of the Brooklyn AGO for some years. She was the musician for St. John the Evangelist church in Williamsburg and hosted the Brooklyn Chapter there on one of their outings. She was a prolific composer of hymns, as well as other sacred music. She had set several of my texts with her compositions and was a valued colleague. As of today, there is no plan for a service, though the church has promised to keep me informed.

Jacque Jones

Substitute list

Robert Agis	(347) 429-0088
Don Barnum	(917) 689-2953
Samantha Bassler	(570) 594-1066
Henry Brooks	(718) 916-6730
John Collis *	(718) 797-5473
John Conner	(201) 945-8579
Gary Di Franco	(917) 626-7760
Henry Lee *	(626) 709-7635
Nick Martellacci *	(718) 624-5665
Maria Rayzwasser *	(347) 598-4571
Doris Schultz	(718)-730-0084
Alex Violette	(718) 873-5912
Thomas Hobson Williams *	(404) 403-7492
John A. Wolfe *	(717) 253-2886
Ellen Wright	(917) 693-7158

* = No Sunday AM



From Concordia House Publishing's Web Site:

Amanda Husberg earned her B.S. in Education in 1962, from Concordia Teachers College, in Seward, Nebraska where she majored in Organ. She then received her M.S. in Early Childhood Education from Hunter College in New York City. In June 2000, she was awarded the Servant of Christ award for her contributions to music, specifically in hymns and congregational singing.

Husberg worked for 36 years as Director in a New York City public day care and has been Director of Music at St. John the Evangelist Lutheran Church for 50 years. She is a member of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada and gives them credit for her congregational-singing-hymn writing. She believes that we sing with one voice, people of all walks of life. She is also a member of the American Composers Forum, the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, and ASCAP.

Calendar

Board Meeting

3/9/2021 - 07:30 PM

Scholarship Competition

3/13/2021

Plymouth Church, Brooklyn Heights

Board Meeting

4/13/2021 - 07:30 PM

Board Meeting

5/11/2021 - 07:30 PM

Board Meeting

6/8/2021 - 07:30 PM

Kell Julliard honors

John Wolfe, PhD

*For his extraordinary talent
as a teacher of the organ
Providing inspiration, encouragement,
erudition, and challenge
In just the right doses*