

THE BROOKLYN BOMBARDE

The Newsletter of the Brooklyn Chapter of the American Guild of Organists May 2018



Dean's Letter

Dear Brooklyn AGO Members and Friends,

Greetings! The publication of this Bombarde will roughly correspond with the end of our Chapter's program year, as well as the winding down of the choir seasons and school years for many of us. As I conclude my first year as Dean of the Brooklyn Chapter, I'm reflecting on the interlocking community of musicians and music lovers who make our endeavors possible, and feeling a deep sense of gratitude for the many people who've contributed their time, energy and talent.

Although I won't thank every deserving person in this letter, I want to draw attention to a few in particular, starting with our outgoing Executive Board members: Treasurer John Collis, Paul Olson and Sophie Williams-Johnson. John has served admirably for the past year in one of the Chapter's most intricate and demanding offices, facilitating the opening of our new bank account and generally keeping the fiduciary ship running smoothly. Paul has been an invaluable asset to our chapter and to the profession as a whole, having twice opened the doors of Grace Church Brooklyn Heights to us for our George Mathison Memorial Scholarship Competition, as well as performing a fine recital this past March to raise money for the competition. Sophie's legacy of distinguished service to the Brooklyn Chapter may exceed my entire lifespan, and was most recently on display for a delightful youth-friendly organ demonstration with narration for our "Pedals, Pipes and Pizza" event. Although John, Paul and Sophie will indubitably remain active in our chapter, it seems fitting to give them special thanks on the conclusion of their terms as Executive Board members.

I also want to express the chapter's gratitude to the many houses of worship who've hosted our events, including every member of the staffs and congregations at those institutions. The 2018 list alone includes All Saints Episcopal Church, Grace Church Brooklyn Heights, Plymouth Church, St. Paul's Episcopal Church and the Union Church of Bay Ridge. We can add to this list the churches we visited on our 2017 "Bach to Brooklyn" tour, including St. Finbar's Church in Bath Beach, the Shrine Church of St. Bernadette in Dyker Heights, St. Efrem's Church in Dyker Heights and Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Sunset Park. Clearly our delight in the organ and its music would be impossible without the willing and generous participation of the churches housing these magnificent instruments.

Finally, I'll take a moment to thank our new chapter Chaplain, Steven Paulikas, and our 2018 Person of the Year, Ed Odell. Both of these gentlemen will be in attendance at our June Banquet, so we hope you'll have the opportunity to meet them in person at that event, and we're including mini-profiles of them in this Bombarde. Please enjoy perusing this issue, and please pay special attention to the notifications regarding our upcoming election and our upcoming events. Thank you very much for your ongoing support of the American Guild of Organists Brooklyn Chapter.

Very truly yours,

Dr. John A. Wolfe
Dean, American Guild of Organists Brooklyn Chapter

In Memoriam

On Saturday, April 14th at 10:00am, the ashes of **Julian Goodwin** were interred in the niche wall of Arlington National Cemetery, in his home state of Virginia. Mary Williams has a large burial flag measuring from the event measuring five feet by nine and a half feet. If someone in the chapter has an appropriate use for the flag she would be willing to donate it.



Former longtime AGO Brooklyn chapter member, **Bruce K. Lockhart**, died on March 6, 2018 at the age of 74 following a brief illness. Bruce was born August 15, 1943 in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. His first "church" assignment was at an air force base on Long Island when he was just 11 years old. Bruce served congregations in the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island for over 40 years in assignments that included Christ Church, Bay Ridge (twice), St. John's, Fort Hamilton, St. Phillip's, Dyker Heights, and Holy Apostles, South Slope. He also consulted for pipe organ installations in various Episcopal and Roman Catholic Churches, most notably, St. Francis, Park Slope. He was an Associate of the American Guild of Organists. His most recent assignment was at Old North Reformed Church in Dumont.

His move to New Jersey in 1993 afforded Bruce the opportunity to indulge his other passion: dressage, a kind of horseback ballet. He tended horses at several locations, most recently at Garrett Mountain Equestrian Center.

Bruce is survived by Tim Wells, his spouse of nearly 34 years.

Early in May we learned of the passing of long-time Brooklyn Chapter member **Seymour Curtach**. Seymour died of natural causes on Feb 3, 2018 at age 86. He was given an Orthodox Jewish burial.

Person of the Year - Ed Odell

I started work in the business as my father's distracted assistant in the 1970's, carrying tools and holding keys. I spent endless weekends driving around New York City, assisting on service calls and doing shop work, but otherwise not engaging very deeply in tradecraft, as my father sought to encourage me (as did most parents of his generation) to seek the surety of employment in the white collar world.



I returned to working with my father in '91 after attending Auburn University in Montgomery. I did well enough in academic life, though there were no disciplines (aside from literature) that truly grabbed me. By this time most of the Odell company had been reduced to a one-man operation with a handful of service clients, and it was around this time (1991-1992) I made the decision to return Odell to a serious full-time concern. I truly had no idea what I was getting myself into, but I also knew I had found my calling. I may have been born into the trade, but the mystery and grandeur of organ building's many disciplines called to me in a way no other vocation ever has, nor ever will.

I spent the next few short years cutting my teeth on small local projects with my father, eventually realizing I needed training and outside experience he simply couldn't provide. Thus began a period that led to my 7 year sojourn in Hartford, which ended with my final project in 2002: designing and reinstalling the main section of the 4 manual Skinner organ at Westminster Presbyterian in Albany, NY.

I spent the next 16 years slowly building the Odell shop, crafting new organs from raw materials for the first time in over 100 years, using slider windchest designs, casting our own pipe metal and making our own pipes, and making tentative steps towards mechanical key action. As owner, my responsibilities included management, design, bid preparation, professional writing, pipe making, cabinet work, wood finishing, voicing, tuning and tonal finishing. After several successful projects, I decided to shut down the shop and focus on consultation and freelancing.

As a volunteer, I held several positions in allied organizations. I chaired the AIO Convention when it was hosted in New York City in 2004. I served as Chair for Exhibits for 3 regional AGO conventions and one AGO National (Boston). I served on the Education and Outreach committees for the AIO for more than 10 years. I served as webmaster for several groups, most notable the Brooklyn AGO from 2009 to the present. Locally I served in town government, and along with my wife Susan volunteered in several capacities for our local Episcopal parish.

Our New Chaplain – Steven D. Paulikas



Rev. Steven D. Paulikas came to All Saints' Episcopal Church in Park Slope in June 2011 and has been Rector since December 2013. He facilitates the process of discernment for holy orders through the Commission on Ministry of the Diocese of Long Island. Steven is a former Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations, member of the Board of Governors of the Episcopal Church at Yale, and serves on the board of Episcopal Relief and Development. He is a graduate of the General Theological Seminary, the University of Cambridge, and Yale University and is a candidate for the DPhil in the Faculty of Theology at the University of Oxford. His opinion writing has recently appeared in The New York Times and The Guardian. Prior to attending seminary, Steven was a journalist based in Vilnius, Lithuania. He is married to Jesse Lazar.

Nominating Committee Results

The 2018 Nominating Committee, consisting of chapter members Jared Lamenzo, Nick Martellacci and Bruce Oelschlager, has nominated the following slate of candidates to run in the upcoming election of chapter board members and officers for the 2018-2019 program year. These nominees have each expressed their willingness to serve in these capacities, and the current Executive Board has voted to approve this slate of nominees.

Dean:	John A. Wolfe
Sub Dean:	Thomas Hobson Williams
Registrar:	Gary Di Franco
Secretary:	Maria Rayzvasser
Treasurer:	Eric Birk
Class of 2019 vacancy:	[not filled]
Class of 2020 vacancy :	Rasaan Bourke
Class of 2021:	Robert Frisby, Samuel Kuffuor, Phillip Lamb

Additional nominations may be made by petition if each petition is signed by five voting members of the Chapter in good standing and submitted to the Chapter Secretary, Maria Rayzvasser, within thirty days of the announcement of the slate to the Chapter membership (June 23, 2018). The election will be conducted via paper ballot, which members will receive in the mail, and will run from the dates of May 24, thru June 23, 2018.



We've heard of Brokelyn and Crooklyn, but recently we've been hearing a lot about Baroquelyn. And it's truly something to hear.

Made up of top-caliber musicians, the baroque-themed ensemble — complete with strings, oboe, trumpet, cello, bassoon, recorder, and even a countertenor - is the brainchild of music director, Aleeza Meir. It marries historic performance practice with a fresh, modern, and personal take on well-loved old music.

Baroquelyn's first concert, in November, was performed in Old First Reformed Church's Upper Hall and drew a full and enthusiastic house. The second, also at Old First, took place on Sunday May 6. The program included a newly arranged Handel sonata, a Telemann concerto for recorder and viola da gamba, some Handel arias, and finished with a flourish, Bach's 5th Brandenburg concerto.

"I find baroque music to be some of the most beautiful music around," Aleeza says. "There are pieces that have been on my radar for ages, and this was a chance for me to pull some of my favorite ones and find the players who matched."

Those matches have been a rousing success. Superb musicians traveled to Old First from all over Manhattan and Brooklyn, and from as far as Boston, to perform for the event. There were moments of improvisation that felt almost like a baroque jazz session, and eccentric and compelling new adaptations of vintage works.

"These players perform all over the world and play at places like Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center," Aleeza says. "They're coming to join me and play in Baroquelyn in our Upper Hall because Brooklyn is in some way home for them and they've made this connection with me — and with us here at Old First in this beautiful space — and they want to make some great music together."

Countertenor Jeffrey Mandelbaum says, "Aleeza did a great job of arranging the first piece. It had a more modern sensibility, which surprised me. Usually, I'm kind of a purist about baroque music - that everything should be period instruments and follow the composer's directions. But actually I think she made it very interesting.

"It really worked well. I just thought [the entire event] was a very compelling program. And I think the architecture of it — with the vocal piece in the middle — was perfect. I look forward to seeing what else she wants to do."

Recorder player Martin Bernstein is a native of Park Slope, but he's currently based in Boston. However, he returned specifically to perform in the Baroquelyn concert.

"Baroque music is meant for small spaces," he says, "and for communication with each other and with the audience. The crowd and the space were perfect for that. I'm just really happy to play here."

The Rev. Daniel Meeter, who introduced the performance, says that the concert was nothing short of a revelation. He says that when we usually think of a concert, we think of a large orchestra with a big sound.



“Here, though, there are not very many instruments,” he says. “It’s kind of intimate, but with such energy and texture, back and forth, talking to each other, one instrument talking to another instrument. So much conversation going on. And far more people than we expected. So this is telling us that people want this.”

The success of the first Baroquelyn concert seems to be paving the way for future events. Aleeza and the group are planning a four-concert season for next year, including a trumpet concerto, a cantata, plenty of Bach, recorders, more Brandenburg concerti, and even a Baroque opera.

A Kickstarter is underway to get the series off the ground. The fund raising project will continue until May 31, 2018. Those interested in participating can visit

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/924702190/118691524?ref=478456&token=53c9645f>

Scholarship Competition



Eric Plutz, Austin Philemon (1st Place), Mark Pacoe, Evan Currie (2nd Place), Bill Randolph, Roshan Chakane (3rd Place)

The 2018 George Mathison Scholarship Competition took place on Saturday, March 17th at Grace Church Brooklyn Heights. Congratulations to our winners: Roshan Chakane (Rutgers University, 3rd place), Evan Currie (Rutgers University, 2nd place) and Austin Philemon (Manhattan School of Music, 1st place). The three winners received total prize winnings of \$2,000, and will be invited to perform in a Scholarship Winners' Recital this Fall. Special thanks to our judges, Mark Pacoe, Eric Plutz and Bill Randolph, and to Paul Olson and the staff at Grace Church Brooklyn Heights.

Job Posting

Trinity Episcopal Church Roslyn – 1579 Northern Blvd., Roslyn, NY 11576

Position: Organist/Choir Director / Salary range beginning at \$12,000

One Sunday service at 10:00 am (with rehearsal beforehand) and weekly rehearsal on Wednesday evenings. Trinity has a fully restored 22-rank, two-manual Hinners tracker organ as well as a Steinway piano and an

exceptional adult choir comprised of professional and amateur musicians. Small children’s choir in need of development. Send letter of application and resume to: trinityroslynjobs@gmail.com

Centered Song – Brooklyn NY

The “Centered in Song” launch tour for The Center for Congregational Song is coming to Brooklyn! Join organist, composer, and master song leader Mark Miller for a day celebrating the importance and power of congregational song. There will be sessions on justice in music-making, introducing The Center for Congregational Song, and a closing hymn festival. Come join in the song!

This event is free, however pre-registrations are required. For more information: <https://congregationalson.org/event/centered-in-song-brooklyn-ny/>

Calendar

6/3/2018 - 5:00 PM June Banquet Enoteca on Court	8/14/2018 - 7:00 PM Hymn Sing Grace Church Brooklyn
6/3/2018 - 4:00 PM Hymn Sing Grace Lutheran Church - Forest Hills	8/21/2018 - 7:00 PM Hymn Sing Grace Church Brooklyn
6/12/2018 - 7:30 PM Board Meeting	8/28/2018 - 7:00 PM Hymn Sing Grace Church Brooklyn
8/7/2018 - 7:00 PM Hymn Sing Grace Church Brooklyn	10/9/2018 - 9:00 a.m. Centered Song Plymouth Church, Brooklyn

Board and Officers	
Dean	Dr. John A. Wolfe
Sub-Dean	Eric Birk, FAGO
Treasurer	John Collis
Secretary	Maria Rayzwasser
Registrar	Gary Di Franco
Executive Board	
Class of 2018:	
Rasaan Bourke	
Paul Olson	
Sophie Williams-Johnson	
Class of 2019:	
Keith Bigger	
Nick Martellacci	

Class of 2020:
Anthony Labella
Kurleigh Lowe, CAGO
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Substitute List
Don Barnum (summer Sunday AM only) 917-689-2953
Samantha Bassler 570-594-1066
Rasaan Bourke (no Sunday AM or Saturday evening) 646-318-6714
John Collis (no Sunday AM) 718-797-5473
Nicholas Martellacci (no Sunday AM) 718-624-5665
Maria Rayzwasser (no Sunday AM) 347-598-4571
Christopher Sahar (no Sunday AM) 347-742-2225
Mark Victor Smith 917-502-5761
Alex Violette 718-873-5912
Thomas Hobson Williams (no Sunday AM) 404-403-7492
John A. Wolfe (no Sunday AM) 717-253-2886
Ellen Wright (no Sunday AM) 917-693-7158

*The American Guild of Organists
Brooklyn Chapter Invites You To Our*
JUNE 2018 BANQUET



Sunday, June 3rd, 2018 at 5:00PM
Enoteca on Court
347 Court Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231
(Take the F or G Trains to Carroll Street Station)

\$55 per person

*Including beer/wine, appetizer, salad, entree, dessert, American coffee and tip.
There will be a vegetarian option and members may bring guests.*

Please make checks payable to AGO Brooklyn Chapter and mail to:

The Brooklyn Chapter AGO
% John Collis
350 Union Street
Brooklyn, NY 11231-4912

For more info please contact
Dean John A. Wolfe at johnwolfe@johnwolfemusic.com