



# The Brooklyn Bombarde

**The Brooklyn Chapter of the  
American Guild of Organists  
October, 2003**



A word from the Dean:

Writing does not come easily to me anymore. Getting older, I suppose. I had started a letter to welcome our new members, and especially the ones who had joined through the AGO Pipe Organ Encounters program.

But last Sunday changed everything! Now it's easy to write because of the inspiration of Thomas Murray's recital at St. Ann and the Holy Trinity, Brooklyn Heights. I had been telling people that this was an event not to be missed, and I was not disappointed. Having had lunch earlier with Jonathan Hall, our editor, I had our chapter on my mind as I listened to Tom play his opening number—Bach's Sinfonia from Cantata #29 (*Wir danken dir, Gott*)—which, if possible was even better than the rendition he did on his demonstration disc of the Woolsey Organ. The playing was clean as a whistle, as his always is, and his technique is so solid and his musical intention so thought out, that the piece came through as not a virtuoso show-piece, but as a beautiful musical expression, with the flexibility and nuance—and cleanliness and shimmer—or any Baroque orchestra. Beautiful seamless crescendi and decrescendi of both swell boxes and addition and subtraction of stops—something we read about but seldom obtain. What an inspiration!

And isn't that one of the main purposes of our Guild? Here I was in a church filled (and that in itself is unusual these days for an organ recital!) with people—yes, a lot of them organists and many from our Guild—glad to be there and sharing a great artistic and musical moment. A great artist and a great organ in a great space perfectly matched! And a great gathering of people being inspired. At that moment, Brooklyn had to be the center of the organ world. Yes, Brooklyn. That Skinner may be the closest here to the one that Mr. Murray had made famous through his recordings at Yale—the Woolsey Hall Organ mentioned above, and if you don't have any of these recordings, you should get in touch with Joe Vitacco—yes, a Brooklynite—of JAV Recordings. Those who were there know what I mean. They certainly discussed it with great joy at the reception afterwards. Those who weren't missed a great moment.

They should make a point to hear Iain Quinn on November 11, 2003—both his lecture and recital. Mark your calendars now.

To our new members: Come and meet you other chapter members. The next event is the installation of officers at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 21 Sidney Place, Brooklyn Heights on Sunday afternoon, October 19, at 3 pm. There will be a reception afterwards, and I ask that our members wear name tags, so that new members can identify some of our present members, and every one gets to know everyone else. Those who would like to sing in a choir for the occasion, welcome. There is a rehearsal at St. Charles the Wednesday before at 8 pm, and a warm-up that Sunday at 1:30 pm. People who would like to help in other ways, please let me know. But come. Meet new friends. Share wonderful times. You won't be sorry!!

—Donald Barnum

*Dean, Brooklyn Chapter, American Guild of Organists*

## Have YOU Renewed Your Membership?

**H**ave you renewed yet? If not, please take a moment and do so!

Dues were due July 1st. If you have not yet renewed, your subscription to *The American Organist* will end with the November issue, and this may very well be your final copy of the *Bombarde*!

Checks should be sent to George Mathison, Registrar, 525-R Tenth Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215-4301.

## Substitute List

**P**lease contact Past Dean Julian Goodwin, who is the chapter's current Placement Officer, at 718-875-3542. For permanent positions see the National website, [agohq.org](http://agohq.org).

Bill Eter, Protestant preferred 212-659-3812 (w) or 718-987-7819 (h)  
The Rev. Frederick Brinkman 585-738-7036(pgr)  
Joseph P. Dennen (718)855-3650(h)  
Julian Goodwin 718-875-3542  
Sylvester Nichols 718-493-0445  
Andrew Violette (no Sunday AM) 718-821-6055  
Robert Vogel 718-727-9864  
George Williams 718-230-9087  
Ellen Wright 718-625-3903  
Roy A. Paescod (no Sunday) 718-253-8498

## Call for Singers for Chapter Service

**W**ould you like to sing at our fall service of installation? As the Dean points out on page 1, there is a rehearsal at St. Charles Borromeo, 21 Sidney Place, on Wednesday, October 15, at 8 PM. Please also plan to gather at St. Charles on Sunday at 1 for further rehearsal; and **bring your own robes**, so the great diversity of this Chapter may be seen and celebrated!

## Some Upcoming Concerts and Chapter Programs

Friday, October 17. Open House, St. Thomas Choir School. Reservations required for lunch only. 202 W. 58<sup>th</sup> St. Contact Margo Cantiello, [cantiello@choirschool.org](mailto:cantiello@choirschool.org), or Ruth Cobb, [rcobb@choirschool.org](mailto:rcobb@choirschool.org). 212-247-3311

**Chapter Program!** Oct 19, 3 PM. Fall Service and Installation of Officers. See Dean's letter for full information.

Thursday, October 23, 7:30 PM. James O'Donnell, organ. St. Agnes Cathedral, 29 Quealy Place, Rockville Centre, LI. \$15/10 student and senior suggested donations. 516-764-9578.

Friday and Saturday, November 7 and 8. Workshop with Roberta Gary. St. John's Lutheran Church, 884 Newfield Ave., Stamford, CT. 203-322-0066. [www.stjohnelca.org](http://www.stjohnelca.org). \$10 per class, payable at door; players welcome for classes, and these pay no fee.

**Chapter Program!** Tuesday, November 11 (Veteran's Day), 5 and 8 PM. Lecture and recital on Russian Organ Music. Iain Quinn. St. Ann and the Holy Trinity, Clinton and Montague in the Heights. Lecture free for Brooklyn AGO members.

Oct 25 Gregory Eaton, Church of the Epiphany, York and 74th. Free. Welcome our former Organist/Choirmaster and a mainstay of Brooklyn church music! 212-737-2720

Oct 31 Mark Keane, a student of Gillian Weir, in a Hal-lowe'en program at Epiphany, 74th and York.

## New Members (since July)

Roy Feemenella	Georgia Maldonado
Angelina Ngo	Christine Lai
Edward F. Radonic	Samuel W Roberts
Edward C. Stevenson	G Michael Tucci

—Please let us know if we missed your name!

### The Brooklyn Bombarde

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# Authentic Brooklyn

## A Profile of Don Barnum, New Dean of the Brooklyn Chapter

*(Ed note: One of my bright ideas as Chicago newsletter editor back in 1996 was to feature the chapter leadership in every issue, so as to make them approachable and truly three-dimensional to the membership at large. And what fascinating things I learned! We are a community rich in talent and full of interesting colleagues. Enjoy!)*

Donald Curtis Barnum, Jr., a first cousin several times removed of P. T. Barnum, traces his American roots to Thomas Barnham, who settled in New England in 1630. A native of Bethlehem, PA, Don attended Moravian Preparatory School (now Moravian Academy) and sang three hymns from the Moravian hymnal at daily chapel. Later, an enterprising lad recruited him into the boy's choir at the Episcopal Cathedral of the Nativity in Bethlehem (and was paid one dollar for the successful recruitment!)—and Don's future course as a singer and sacred musician was set.

Don attended Yale and switched from chemistry into music history. He was Fenno Heath's assistant conductor for the Yale Glee Club and then in his senior year conducted the Apollo Glee Club.

A short stint at Curtis followed, where Don studied with Martial Singher and swapped organ for voice lessons with students of Alexander McCurdy (in particular David Spicer). When Singher left Curtis, so did Don, and the two continued to work together for a while on the West Coast.

Barnum returned to the East for the first season of Juilliard's American Opera Center at Lincoln Center in 1970. A master's degree from Juilliard followed, and in 1973 he went to work for the City Opera. In 1978 he went over to the Met, and currently serves as Senior Extra Chorister and union delegate.

Don's organ career has developed alongside his principal career as an opera singer. He has served since 1974 at churches in three boroughs, including Saint Lucy's in the Bronx and Saint Agnes in Brooklyn (hone to not one but two historic organs, now housing an electronic). He has been at Saint Charles Borromeo RC Church in the Heights for about a dozen years now. Don's Guild journey also began in the mid-1970's; he took on Board duties about six years ago, and today is (like your editor) a dual member in the New York City Chapter as well.



### Chapter Board and Officers, 2003-2004

Donald C. Barnum, Dean (212-799-6944, h)  
George B. Williams, Sub-Dean (718-230-9087, h)  
Roland Blackburn, Treasurer (212-982-9287, h)  
Hope Engelsen, Secretary (718-836-1751, h)  
Joe Carson, Professional Concerns (718-857-3309, h; 917-876-2224, pgr)

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Sylvester Nichols (718-493-0445, h)  
Steve LaPlante

Class of 2006: John Cuniffe  
Gregory Eaton  
Joseph Extejt (718-381-8728, h)

Class of 2005: Stephen J. Danziger (718-398-3980, h)  
J. David Williams (718-838-0763, cell)  
Gregory Jack

**RETURN ADDRESS:**

Jonathan Hall  
4916 11th Ave.  
Brooklyn, NY 11219

**MAIL TO:**

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**Put this on your fridge with a magnet!**

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 3 PM,  
St. Charles Borromeo, Brooklyn Heights.

VETERANS DAY PROGRAM: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 5 and 8 PM,  
Iain Quinn, St. Ann and the Holy Trinity, Brooklyn Heights.

chapter website: <http://home.nyc.rr.com/gmnyc/>

