



The Brooklyn Bombarde

SPRING 2013

NEWSLETTER OF THE BROOKLYN CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

FROM OUR DEAN

Greetings, Colleagues and Friends!

First let me begin by apologizing for the delayed publication of the *Bombarde*. We are now back on track! I hope this publication finds you well rested and in a spirit of satisfaction.

I am pleased to see the continued growth of our chapter. We were recently listed in the May edition of the *THE AMERICAN ORGANIST* as one of 76 chapters that have increased their membership by at least 5%. Since that publication, we have gained 2 new members. You will also note that more of our members are attaining AGO certification. Should you decide to pursue this objective please note that the chapter is here to support you as best we can. There are many resources available through National and our members who have attained certification can always offer advice.

Our recent "Choir & Organ Festival" proved to be a great success. The evening consisted of choral music, organ music and original compositions. Attendance was up and the program offered our annual opportunity to share our gifts with each other.

I hope that you will do your best to attend the upcoming end-of-year banquet. This year we will honor Ric Parsons for his work on the 1901 Pilcher organ discovered by our very own Keith Bigger in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn as part of one of our Bach to Brooklyn tours. This organ was recently fully restored and now sits in the Sanitarium Chapel at the Spa Apartments in Clifton Springs. The dedication recital was given by our Past Dean Jonathan Hall.

Remember to visit our website and to send us your fliers and publications for your upcoming events in order that we may post them on the chapter's website. In this publication you will find information pertaining to Bach to Brooklyn 2013. This year's tour will focus on the Crown Heights area. At present we are scheduled to see a II/14 J.H. & C.S. Odell, Op. 524 (1919) and a III/36 Berkshire Organ Company, Op. 143 (1986) with more to come. The registration form for Bach to Brooklyn 2013 is available online. Please register early, as seating is limited.

In a separate mailing you will receive your ballot for our 2013-2014 elections. Please take time to return this to us, as we would like to present the officers at the banquet. Lastly, as you know our membership year begins in July. It is not too early to renew your membership.

Let me avail myself of this opportunity to thank each of you for being a part of this chapter. The success of our chapter speaks well for its membership and I am thankful for each and every one of you.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Raymond Trapp, Dean

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS, IN PARTICULAR SEYMOUR CURTACH. ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CHAPTER ARE FULLY TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.

KUDOS TO NEIL WALKER, M.MUS., CAGO

Neil Walker, a member of the Chapter, recently passed his Colleague exam. A native of Barbados, Mr Walker holds a Master's degree in Piano Performance from Brooklyn College and a Licentiate (LRSM) in Piano Performance from the Associated Board of the Royal School of Music, London. He is currently Organist and Choir Director at St. Simon the Cyrenian Episcopal Church in New Rochelle and is currently pursuing a second Master's Degree in Music Education at The City University of New York at Lehman College, Bronx New York. Bravo! ❖

FROM THE TREASURER

Dear Fellow Members,

The Brooklyn Chapter of the AGO has been selected, among a few other chapters, to participate in a pilot program to collect dues and member information on line.

You might imagine that a program of this magnitude that will take the AGO out of the world of paper and manual bank operations, and into the cyber world, is a great undertaking. When this program is realized, the labor-intensive job of collecting membership forms and payments and forwarding them to National headquarters, making bank deposits and keeping careful records of transactions, will infinitely streamline the process.

We hope to report back to you with further progress that might allow us to do all of this by our July 1 renewal date. There could be some delay, so please bear with us.

Special thanks are extended to Eric Birk, whose tireless efforts as a member of our Board and at National, have been invaluable. ❖ -- Stephen Danziger, Treasurer

FROM THE WILDS OF THE MEADOWLANDS...an editorial incursion

Greetings again, friends and colleagues. It's been one heck of a 2013 so far! The old year went out with memories of a massive hurricane. Now we're looking at Holy Week and Easter—in the rear-view mirror! My teaching schedule *tripled* at the last moment in January, pushing everything to the side.

Things just west of Giants Stadium are otherwise fine. When I miss Long Island, which is often, I reflect that I'm really just on the other end of an aquatic ecosystem that also includes Little Neck Bay. On either side of Manhattan stretch marshlands. I'm kind of still drifting among the familiar *Phragmites australis*. Life has its continuities.

As far as the *Bombarde* is concerned, hopefully we are now back on our old regular footing

That's about it for now. Just wanted to give a shout, and let you hear from an old friend and long-distant chapter member. Best wishes to you all. ❖ **JBH**

**BROOKLYN CHAPTER WISHES A HAPPY EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY TO JULIAN GOODWIN,
AAGO. By Ellen Wright, Sub-Dean**

Several Board members and friends gathered on Thursday, September 22nd, 2012, at Teresa's on Montague Street to celebrate Julian Goodwin's eightieth birthday. Nancy Wright, who hosted the occasion, was successful in keeping it a surprise for the honoree.

In addition to many years of service to the profession and the Chapter, Julian was Dean from 2001 through 2003. His continued creative output gives true meaning to the oft-abused concept of "golden years." Employed as organist at St. John's Episcopal Church in Fort Hamilton for the past four years, he has since been hard at work preparing the music for its holiday celebrations.

Julian is a prolific composer of organ music, and has written numerous chamber, choral and vocal pieces as well. He says he is currently writing an oratorio, "a long-term project," which addresses the subject of "Jesus teaching women."

The chapter extends its congratulations to this Past Dean and proffers its best wishes for many blessed years to come. ❖

KUDOS TO JOHN WOLFE

The Brooklyn Chapter would like to congratulate chapter member John A. Wolfe as one of 3 recipients on the college level of the Queens/Nassau 2013 A.G.O. organ scholarship competition. Mr. Wolfe is a New York City-based organist, choral conductor, and music educator. His

performance credits span all five boroughs of New York City and include 134 public performances in 2012, with such highlights as a series of recitals celebrating the organ music of J.S. Bach, the 75th anniversary ceremony of Queens College, and the Queens College ceremony honoring Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. 2013 performances have included an appearance in the film *Fugue* by Dorian Carli-Jones for Boxed Wine Productions and the premiere of new works for organ by the Queens College Composers Workshop. Mr. Wolfe has been a featured performer in the Prism Concert Series at Central Synagogue in Manhattan and in T.S. Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral* at St. Joseph's Church of Our Lord in Brooklyn, earning favorable reviews in the *New York Times* and *Time Out New York*.

He is currently studying for the Master's Degree in Organ Performance at the Aaron Copland School of Music under the tutelage of Walter Klauss. He lives in Sunnyside, Queens. ❖

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

We organists excel at the art of *Procrastinating On Our Dues*. I've done it myself, more often than I care to admit. But start thinking seriously about next year's dues. ❖

APPOINTMENT

Our newsletter editor, Jonathan Hall, has been appointed to the Professional Certification Committee, a national committee under the aegis of the Councillor for Education. It is a two-year term, renewable. In lieu of flowers, please register for a Guild exam! ❖

MUSICAL ANNIVERSARIES

2013 marks the 300th birthday of Johann Ludwig Krebs, who studied (as had his father, Johann Tobias Krebs) with J. S. Bach. J. L. Krebs spent nearly a decade under Bach's mentorship. His preludes and fugues for organ, and other works, are remarkable and not played nearly as often as they should be.

Richard Wagner just turned 200 earlier this year. I was lucky enough to get to *Die Walküre* and *Götterdämmerung* last year, and *Parsifal* earlier this season.

The hundred-year mark holds the names of very familiar modernists. Norman Dello Joio would be 100 in 2013, as would Witold Lutoslawski and Benjamin Britten. Among organists, Richard Purvis' centennial is this year. This is also the Schweitzer Year, in which we celebrate the centennial of the founding of the great physician-organist's hospital in Lambaréné, Gabon. German composer Robert M. Helmschrott has composed a piece in Schweitzer's honor, with a French title, *Réflexion et Lumière*. It's quite interesting, starting with a tritone on A-Eb, or in German "A-S," the initials of Albert Schweitzer. ❖

---compiled by JBH from classical-composers.org and other sources

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

Spring Banquet: Sunday, June 23, 2013 at 5:30 PM for our Spring Banquet. Pacificana Restaurant, 513-55 St, between 8th and 9th avenues, corner of 55 St, 2nd floor. Elevator available. Richard Parsons, our 2013 Person of the Year, will attend, along with his wife Ellen. Make reservations now: deadline is JUNE 20. \$30 for members, \$35 for non-members. Send your money to

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