

MIXTURES

THE ORGAN OF THE BINGHAMTON CHAPTER, AGO

FEBRUARY 2009



THE DEAN'S LETTER . . .

The very delayed "January thaw" seems to be over if today is any indication. There is a dusting of snow, the temperature has again dipped, but the sun is shining with great brilliance. 'Tis a beautiful day.

Congratulations must be sent to Sean Rudd: he has passed the first section of the "Colleague" exam. Perhaps this will inspire others to consider preparing for and taking the exams for certification -- be it Service Playing, Colleague, or some other. We must also congratulate Sean on his new job. He has not yet left the area, but when he does, he will be sorely missed. We hope that he will maintain a connection with us because his interest and help have been considerable over the past few years.

Jonathan Biggers continues his Bach Series on the new Wolff organ at BU -- FA 21. The Feb. 22 concert is sold out, but there are two additional ones on Tuesday, Feb. 24 and Friday, Feb. 27 at 8 p.m. On Saturday March 21, *Bach's Birthday*, another of the series, is being given at First Presbyterian, Binghamton, at 8 p.m. See you all there to celebrate!

Coming up before we know it is the Binghamton Organ Crawl. Be sure to let Richard Sheasley know if you plan to attend so that he may make lunch reservations at the REGENCY. The Latin American Grill is no more, as well as another restaurant that was under consideration.

Lent is almost upon us, and that often means Lenten concerts. Roberta Rowland-Raybold has a series at Christ Episcopal Church, Cooperstown, on Wednesdays--March 4, 11, 18, and 25 from 12:15-12:45 p.m. Mark Laubach at St. Stephen's Episcopal, Wilkes-Barre, has also coordinated a series of organ recitals on the Wednesdays during Lent at 11:30 am followed by the service and a soup and sandwich lunch. Those having the time for the trip would find these to be a lovely musical outing.

We are a busy and productive chapter, and there is lots to look forward to in the upcoming programs. There are many opportunities to renew, refresh, learn or re-learn, and congregate in professional mode and in friendship. I hope to see a big turnout at our various activities.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Laura

DEAN

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, **Feb. 21** - Organ Crawl beginning 10 a.m., includes St. John, St. Cyril, and Holy Trinity. Bring music and organ shoes. Lunch at Maro's in the Regency at One Sarbro Square. RSVP Richard Sheasley 724-6062 or Sheasleyr@aol.com. (See flier for more details.).

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Sunday, **Feb. 22 - 4 pm** Dedication of Wolff organ with all-Bach concert by Jonathan Biggers, Binghamton University, FA 21. This concert is sold out; repeat performances will be held:

Tuesday, **Feb. 24 - 8 pm** and

Friday, **Feb. 27 - 8 pm**

Saturday, **Mar. 21 - 8 pm** Jonathan Biggers at First Presbyterian, Binghamton; this fourth concert in the all-Bach series will celebrate Bach's birthday.

Sunday, **Mar. 22, 4 pm** - *Romantic and Sacred Choral Works* by the Madrigal Choir at First Presbyterian, Binghamton; Jean Henssler and Margaret Reitz, pianists

Saturday, **Mar. 28 - 7:30 pm** Theater organ concert by Stephen Ball including Buster Keaton's silent film, *Seven Chances*

Sunday, **April 19 - 4 - 6 pm** Workshop on *Building Your Church Choir* led by Michael Luby; at Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, 314 E. Main St.

Sunday, **May 17 - 4 - 6 pm** *Handbells in Worship* at First Congregational Church, Greene NY; reception to follow

JOB OPENINGS

Organist - for United Methodist Church. Call 724-4836 for information.

Organist/Pianist - Spencer Federated Church; service 11 am; choir rehearsal Wed 6:30-7:30 pm and Sun 10:30 am; Contact Anthony Paasch (607)589-7559 or rapaasch@frontier.net.

SPECIAL WORKSHOP . . .

HOW TO GROW YOUR CHOIR!

You won't want to miss Binghamton AGO's April event on Sunday the 19th at a new time: **4:00 p.m.** This will allow you to get home a little earlier. We have been invited to have our workshop at Holy Nativity Lutheran Church . . . and hope to see you and members of your choirs there full force.

Our guest clinician is MICHAEL LUBY. Michael is a music educator and vocalist native to New York's Capital District. He is a graduate of the Crane School of Music, Potsdam, and has just retired from the music department of the Troy City Schools. Michael is personable and dynamic and will share with you his secrets of good vocal technique, as well as tips on how to grow and hold the interest of your choirs.

Michael was a founding member of Opera Excelsior of Albany and Albany Pro Musica and was in the Chorus of Lake George Opera. He has sung with the New York City Choral Artists as well as with the New York Philharmonic. Currently he is part of the well-known "Voices of Cooperstown" and last summer celebrated his 250th performance with Glimmerglass Opera. Michael leads the tenor section of the choir at Christ Episcopal Church, Cooperstown, NY, where Roberta Rowland-Raybold now serves as Organist/Choirmaster. Let's welcome Michael with our whole-hearted support!

Submitted by Roberta Rowland-Raybold