

Northern New Jersey Chapter

American Guild of Organists

Reverberations

The Newsletter of the Northern NJ Chapter American Guild of Organists
MARCH 2021

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THREE LETTERS FROM YOUR LEADERSHIP...

This edition of Reverberations is going to be slightly different. We hope you will read this and take to heart what we are trying to say!

FROM YOUR PROGRAM CHAIR

Dear Colleagues,

After discussion with members of our Chapter's Program Committee and Executive Board, we are canceling the March 15 meeting at which we were to have featured Jason Roberts. Our pasts two Zoom meetings featuring "live" performances/discussions with David Enlow in January and Michael Caraher in February were poorly attended -- embarrassingly so. There are probably numerous reasons for it, but we are chalking it up to Zoom fatigue.

We are hopeful that the increasing availability of the Covid-19 vaccines and the number of people receiving them will allow us to gather in-person and in masks sooner than we originally thought. We want to be sure that everyone remains safe. We will continue to monitor the state of affairs and any change in directives from the CDC and the State of New Jersey. We will need to stay flexible and ask that you watch for notices of our upcoming programs.

We hope the "breather" in March will allow us all to return, refreshed, to enjoy the wonderful virtual programs in April (Mormon Tabernacle at Tabernacle Square) and May (Vivaldi Organ/Mandolin). We have several possible programming ideas for June. Stay tuned.

Claudia Smith
Sub-Dean and Program Chair

FROM YOUR DEAN:

Dear Colleagues;

I'm starting to feel optimistic. I received one Covid vaccine and am awaiting the second. Every day I hear of more and more friends and colleagues who have received one or two doses. More things are starting to open up which is encouraging and uplifting.

Second Reformed Church in Hackensack plans to open for Easter, and I am hearing of other churches, currently closed, that are going to be having live services within the next month. (Continued...)

Reverberations Editor and Webmaster: Stewart Holmes - northernnjago@yahoo.com

In addition to this, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Tenafly, NJ (which has been open for months) is now continuing with its lunchtime concert series. On Tuesday, March 16 at 1:00 pm, there will be an organ recital performed by Preston Dibble. Preston is currently organist/Choir Director at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in South Orange and also serves as Diocesan Director of Music for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Paterson, NJ. His program will include works of JS Bach, Frank Bridge, Craig Phillips, Samuel Barber, and Alexandre Guilmant and will be played on the Schantz pipe organ. The concert is free to the public and will also be livestreamed. Visit www.olmc.us for more information.

It will be a wonderful opportunity to hear a live, organ recital again, and I hope many of us will take the opportunity to attend. In the meantime, I wish all of you good health and increasing "fun times" ahead. Music is the food of life!
Sincerely,

*June Marano-Murray,
Dean*

FROM YOUR REVERBERATIONS EDITOR:

Dear Friends,

As has been stated above, I too feel the stress of this Pandemic, of the lack of personal contact, of being "zoomed" out. For me, personally, the very much-extended practice times have provided me much solace each and every day. I wonder if you have something to feed their souls in a like manner.

Your leadership team has discussed the apparent drop-off in attendance at our virtual meetings with each other, with other leadership of other chapters, as well as with Elizabeth George at National headquarters. We have also extended our reach by adding new social-media platforms, and have advertised our programs fairly well.

Here are the stats of how many people have been reading our newsletters. We have approximately 86 members. We send out 124 newsletters. That means that 30% of the newsletters are going to non-members, i.e. friends, former members, other chapters, etc. We can assume that most of those may not open our newsletter each month. But, in my opinion, if we are able to gain one member from that 30% it's worth the effort. Here are the readership percentages:

September 52%
October 57%
November 46%
December - no newsletter
January 49%
February 32%

I have talked with our web host (Bandzoogie) to get their input on why so many members appear to have not received our newsletter recently. They say that the most likely problem is that YAHOO and AOL have stepped up their filtering of emails recently. Their recommendation is below.

Finally, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, we are sending out this March issue today and Claudia will send a short email using the list of "current" members culled from the national database, not from our webhost. IF YOU DID NOT GET BOTH EMAILS DO TWO THINGS:

First: add the address 'noreply@bandzoogie.com' to your list of safe addresses / contacts. If you also have a google account as do I, you can ask me to change your email address on our mailing list to your gmail account. Of course you should double check your "trash" and "spam" folders, too.

Second: Notify me at 'stewholmes2018@gmail.com' and I will double check your email address in our database.

All this being said, I know that we, as your leadership team, need to be open to suggestions from our membership. Please have patience, and above all else feel free to communicate with any of us on the leadership team.

Stewart Holmes,
Editor