



worcester
chapter
american guild of organists 75
1949-2024



Worcester Chapter American Guild of Organists 75th Anniversary Celebration

Celebrating All That We Are: Past, Present and Future

October 13, 2024 • 3:00 P.M. • Pakachoag Church • Auburn, MA

Handbell Call to Order and Group Picture

O Waly Waly

Emma Lou Diemer
Abbey Kelley-Lanser, Director of Music, St. Mary's Parish, Holliston

Opening Words

Ave Verum

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Michelle Graveline, Professor Emerita of Music, Assumption University
Stan Hanson, Music Minister, St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Marlborough

Celebrating the Past

"Little" Prelude and Fugue in G Major

Johann Sebastian Bach
Brenda Salvi, Music Director, Pakachoag Church, Auburn

Celebrating the Present

Prelude in D Major, Op. 23, No. 4

Sergei Rachmaninoff
Kristjon Imperio, Interim Executive Director, Pakachoag Music School of Greater Worcester
Assistant Director of Music & Organist, Village Church in Wellesley & Weston

Installation of Officers

It Is Well With My Soul

arr. John Kraus
Ronna Davis, Organist, Wesley United Methodist Church, Worcester
Randy Steere, Resident Organist, Groton Hill Music Center

Celebrating the Future

Climb Every Mountain (from *The Sound of Music*)

Rodgers & Hammerstein
Peter Krasinski, International Sonic Artist
Mechanics Hall, Worcester, Principal Organist
Providence Performing Arts Center, House Organist

Ave verum corpus, KV 618

für gemischten Chor, Orchester und Orgel

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

SOPRANO *sotto voce*
A - ve, a - ve ve - rum Cor - pus

ALTO *sotto voce*
A - ve, a - ve ve - rum Cor - pus

TENORE *sotto voce*
A - ve, a - ve ve - rum Cor - pus

BASSO *sotto voce*
A - ve, a - ve ve - rum Cor - pus

7
na - tum de Ma - ri - a Vir - gi - ne: Ve - re pas - sum,

na - tum de Ma - ri - a Vir - gi - ne: Ve - re pas - sum,

na - tum de Ma - ri - a Vir - gi - ne: Ve - re pas - sum,

na - tum de Ma - ri - a Vir - gi - ne: Ve - re pas - sum,

13
im - mo - la - tum in cru - ce pro ho - mi - ne: **3**

im - mo - la - tum in cru - ce pro ho - mi - ne: **3**

im - mo - la - tum in cru - ce pro ho - mi - ne: **3**

im - mo - la - tum in cru - ce pro ho - mi - ne: **3**

22

Cu - jus la - tus per - fo - ra - tum un - da flu - xit et san - gui - ne:
 Cu - jus la - tus per - fo - ra - tum un - da flu - xit et san - gui - ne:
 Cu - jus la - tus per - fo - ra - tum un - da flu - xit et san - gui - ne:
 Cu - jus la - tus per - fo - ra - tum un - da flu - xit et san - gui - ne:

30

Es - to no - bis prae - gus - ta - tum in mor - tis e - xa - mi -
 Es - to no - bis prae - gus - ta - tum in mor - tis e - xa - mi -
 Es - to no - bis prae - gus - ta - tum in mor - tis e - xa - mi -
 Es - to no - bis prae - gus - ta - tum in mor - tis e - xa - mi -

37

ne, in mor - tis e - xa - mi - mi - ne.
 ne, in mor - tis e - xa - mi - ne.
 ne, in mor - tis e - xa - mi - ne.
 ne, in mor - tis e - xa - mi - ne.

Worcester

AMERICAN GUILD
OF ORGANISTS



We want to acknowledge and thank Dennis Knight, Carolyn Kreft and the Pakachoag Church for hosting this celebration and for their immense help in setup and planning.

Thanks to Will Sherwood for designing this Anniversary Booklet and taking pictures of the celebration.

Thanks to all of our performers for their willingness to share music with us.

Thanks to Becky Noone for compiling archival material for display.

Text for **Climb Every Mountain**

Climb every mountain
Search high and low
Follow every byway
Every path you know

Climb every mountain
Ford every stream
Follow every rainbow
Till you find your dream

A dream that will need
All the love you can give
Every day of your life
For as long as you live

Climb every mountain
Ford every stream
Follow every rainbow
Till you find your dream

A dream that will need
All the love you can give
Every day of your life
For as long as you live

Climb every mountain
Ford every stream
Follow every rainbow
Till you find your dream



DEANS OF WORCESTER CHAPTER AGO

1949-1952 Frederick Kinsley
1952-1955 Clifford F. Green
1955-1956 Richard Taylor
1956-1957 Henry Hokans MM
1957-1958 Luke Richard
1958-1960 Irene Burnham
1960-1962 Stanley E. Walker
1962-1964 Norman J. Roy
1964-1966 Barclay Wood MM
1966-1968 LeRoy K. Hanson
1968-1970 Douglas S. Risner
1970-1972 William E. Nierintz ChM
1972-1974 Judith Jepson
1974-1975 Robert C. Dickinson
1975-1977 Rev. Donat Lamothe A.A.
1977-1979 Stephen E. Long
1979-1980 Joyce Hokans
1980-1982 Gilbert H. Lay
1982-1984 Joseph R. Policelli ChM/MM
1984-1986 Richard F. Jones BA/MDiv
1986-1988 Lucia Clemente-Falco CAGO
1988-1989 Stephen E. Long
1989-1990 Michelle Graveline AAGO/DMA
1990-1991 Richard F. Jones BA/MDiv
1991-1994 John Da Silva AAS/BBA
1994-1996 Joseph R. Policelli ChM/MM
1996-1998 Patricia Snyder DMA
1998-2000 Malcolm Halliday FAGO
2000-2002 Sean Redrow DMA
2002-2004 Marjorie Ness DMA
2004-2008 Frank Corbin DMA
2008-2010 Ronna (Archbold) Davis M.Ed.
2010-2018 Will Sherwood ChM/AAGO
2018-2020 Mark Mummert MMus
2020-2022 Jonathan Bezdegian DMA
2022-2024 Ronna (Archbold) Davis M.Ed.
2024- Randy Steere MM/MDiv

WORCESTER CHAPTER HISTORY

Worcester AGO is proud of its 75 years of programming excellence in celebrating the organ and bringing live music into the forefront of the community, and are eager to explore new frontiers in music performance.

The (National) American Guild of Organists ratified a petition and granted the formation of the Worcester Chapter in 1949 at the initiative of eight Worcester organists.

Worcester AGO is known for hallmark programming such as Regional Conventions, Competitions, Encounters, Crawls, Young Artists Showcase concerts, Monday night "Open Loft" tours, meet & greet lunches, Worcester Members Composers' Showcases, skills workshops, and many more creative & educational endeavors.

The following are some of the additional highlights throughout the years

1955 Virgil Fox recital at Worcester Memorial Auditorium
E. Power Biggs illustrated talk: 'European Organs, Old and New'

1956 George Faxon recital at All Saints

1957 Virgil Fox recital at Worcester Memorial Auditorium
Pierre Cochereau, at All Saints

There were 60 WorcAGO members.

1958 Claire Coci recital at Worcester Memorial Auditorium

1960 42 members were added when the Worcester Association of Church Musicians voted to disband and join Worc Chapter.

Membership dues were \$5.

1962 David Craighead, at First Baptist

1965 Alexander Shreiner, organist, at First Baptist

Gertrude Neidlinger on 'Musical Mishaps'

All Saints Boys' Choir. World prem. of *Ps. II & III* by Jean Langlais

1967 Pierre Cochereau, recital and organ workshop

1968 Daniel Pinkham on contemporary musical composition

1969 Nat'l Organ Competition; Jean Langlais, recital & workshop

1974 Sixth Annual Organ Competition

1975 Mechanics Hall Organ (Restoration) Committee formed
Thomas Murray at Worc. Mem. Aud. in "Celebration of Pipes" for fundraising to restore the Mechanics Hall Hook
Worcester Great Organs Week

1977 Mechanics Hall 'Come and See Tour' with Julie Chase Fuller

1978 Peter Planyavsky at Trinity Lutheran

1980 "The Art of the Organ" weekly 2- hour FM live broadcast

hosted by Henry Hokans & Joyce Hokans

Robert Glasgow Masterclass at All Saints

1981 First "Fall Crawl" org. by Stephen Long and Wm Wallace

1982 Twelfth Night at Higgins: 'The Sacred and The Profane'

Andre De La Varre, Jr., pianist and filmmaker at Mechanics Hall
Rededication of 1864 E.&G.G. Hock organ at Mechanics Hall

1983 AGO Region I/OHS National Convention. 625 registrants.

1984 Worcester Chapter 35th anniversary celebration
WorcAGO Membership at 200.

Gillian Weir at Memorial Auditorium Kimball

1985 "it's An AGO Spring! Patriot's Day Organ Crawl

Fuller International Organ Festival

Simon Preston with the Worcester Orchestra at Mechanics Hall

1989 'Pipe Organ Encounter '89', a summer organ institute

1990 "Jehan Alain Festival"

1991 Tenth Anniversary "Fall Crawl"

William Self's autobiography *Mine Eyes Have Seen* published
Scholarship Fund established

1992 Mini-Convention at Assumption College

1993 Mme. Duruflé at Assumption College

Fire at Assumption College housing the Chapter music library

1984 Gillian Weir at Worcester Memorial Auditorium

1996 Sowerby Festival

1998 Worcester Chapter Music Collection is dedicated and permanently housed at Holy Cross Music Library;
later named Jean M. Davis Memorial Collection

1998 Olivier Latry, Concert + Master Class at First Baptist

1999 Region I Convention Held in Worcester – Special investment fund began with \$35K surplus from convention

190 Members in WorcAGO

Hymn Tune Composition Competition (Nierintz, chair)

2004 POE Pipe Organ Encounter

2008 POE Pipe Organ Encounter

2010 Joined www.Musi-Cal.us Northeast AGO online concert

calendar used by Boston, Hartford, and other chapters

Approved co-sponsoring concerts to help promote events

Strengthened ties with Mechanics Hall's Organ Concert Series

2011 David Higgs, Organ Recital at All Saints Church

Joan Lippincott Master Class in Hymn Playing at St. John's Lutheran Church, Sudbury, shared event with Boston AGO

Mechanics Hall Holiday Concert (co sponsored)

Initiated "Dean's Awards" to recognize significant contributions by AGO members

2012 Carol Williams, Organist, Wesley United Methodist Church

20 Fingers Concert, Duets Concert at Pakachoag Church

Vierne Day in Worcester co-spons by Holy Cross and WorcAGO

"What You Never Knew about Vierne", Brigitte De Leesnyder

French Connection Concert, Organists Jean Galard and Brett

Maguire at St. Joseph's Church, 1928 Casavant, III/29, Op 1239

Brass Extravaganza, Organist William Ness at First Baptist Church with WPI Brass: Shostakovich 5th

2013 Worcester Chapter wins National Creative Programming Award (\$500 award)

2014 150th Anniversary of the Mech Hall Hook

The Holly and the Ivories celebrating Twelfth Night

The Peacemakers, Karl Jenkins, Choral/Orchestra at Mechanics Hall (Worcester Year of the Organ)

Hector Olivera, at Mechanics Hall

Hook Organ Re-dedication – Mech Hall: Dinda, Ness, Waligora
Chapter appr'v'd \$15K from Special Projects for public concerts

2015 *Pedals Pipes and Pizza* at Pakachoag

2016 *Rare Gems of the 19th Century*: William Ness at Mech Hall

Hooked on Brass: WPI Brass + Hook at Mechanics Hall

Organ Festival at AUD Kimball– Ness, Krasinski, Conte

All that (Holiday) Jazz – Hook + WPI Stage Band at Mech Hall

2017 *A Symphonic Merger* – Hook & Worc Youth Symph Orch

Court Hill Music Festival: Katelyn Emerson at First Unitarian;

40 Fingers (two-piano with organ) at First Unitarian

2018 New ByLaws ("*Operating Procedures*") adopted

Chapter Membership: 118

Cosmic Dualities at Mech Hall Music Fest: Hook+Instruments

2019 January Jubilee; *WPI Robotics + Hook Organ Concert*

Bach-a-thon, Trinity Lutheran Church

2021 *Worcester Organ Book* released

2022 National Certification Exam Site, First Unitarian

2023 Max Reger Festival 150

2024 75th Chapter Anniversary Celebration

2025 POE(A) Pipe Organ Encounters