

# The Clarion



Newsletter of the Fairfield West Chapter AGO

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## 2019 PROGRAMS

### Saturday, February 16 at Noon

Alma Hamilton and musicians from St. Leo's Church will present a program on blended worship at St Leo RC Church, 24 Roxbury Rd, Stamford, (**snow date February 23rd**, same time, same location). Participants will be Joseph Esposito (guitar) and Father Robert Balan. Details on Page 2

### Sunday, March 17, 2019.

Road Trip! We will take a trip to the Cadet Chapel at West Point for a recital by Craig Williams. We will be joined by members of the West Chester Chapter. For details, see the article from Board Member Oyeniran Oyedeji on Page 2.

### Sunday, June 9, 2019 at 4 PM

Annual Business Meeting/Social at Bertucci's in Darien.  
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## ***ROAD TRIP TO WEST POINT – Oyeniran Oyedeji***

I write on behalf of the Board about a chapter event coming up in March. We will be joined by the West Chester Chapter on March 17th at West Point Academy for an organ recital by the one and only Craig Williams, who is their organist and choirmaster.

We expect to arrive around 2 pm, at which time Craig will explain to us the history of the chapel and the organ. The recital will begin at 2:30. After the recital, Craig says he would be open to showing us some of the downstairs organ shop and organ controls. That would be followed by dinner at a local restaurant.

It promises to be a fun and exciting time of music and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you there!

## **PUTTING THE CASE FOR “BLENDED WORSHIP” – Alma Hamilton**

In the churches and synagogues which we serve, the upheaval in worship which shook the Christian world beginning in the early part of the 20th century (and even the 19th if we consider the Oxford Movement) is continuing to send aftershocks through the musical community. Organists who have dedicated countless practice hours and study years to mastery of the organ are being faced with requests (or dare I say “demands”) to devote valuable planning and practice time to developing new skills and building new working relationships. Moreover these skills and relationships are required in the service of musical styles and sounds which may not be to their tastes. So, what to do?

This was the situation in which I found myself almost 20 years ago when I accepted the position which I currently hold, at St Leo RC Church in Stamford. During this tenure, I came to realize that what I had initially viewed as part of my job which I would “tolerate” was actually the element which would stretch, challenge and transform me. This situation can do the same for you, if you open your mind and allow it to....

There are very few churches which do not employ blended or, more accurately, convergence worship; I use the term “worship” deliberately, as it affects the spoken as well as the sung word. Take a look at the musical content in your next service..... you will probably be playing hymns from different periods of the hymnody in general use, perhaps an anthem from yet another or service music of the very recent past if not the present. The use of instruments beyond the organ is commonplace, and in the current TAO you will find an excellent article explaining how to play from a lead sheet. Convergence worship has been with us all for much longer than we realize, and it’s time to make it our friend!

A good way to begin the process would be to come to the next Chapter meeting on February 16th, at St Leo Church, 24 Roxbury Rd, Stamford, 12:00 noon. I will be joined by my working partner of 20 years, Joseph Esposito, and by Father Robert Balan, priest and musician in one person. I look forward to sharing ideas with you.

## **CALENDAR –February 2019**

### **Saturday, February 2 at 5 PM**

**Whiffenpoofs of Yale** – The world's oldest and best known collegiate a cappella group, comprised of Yale's most talented senior students, celebrates over a century of musical excellence. Tickets at [www.chtwestport.org/tickets](http://www.chtwestport.org/tickets). Reception follows in the Great Hall. Christ & Holy Trinity Church, 75 Church Lane, Westport, (203) 227-0827.

### **Friday, February 8 at 7PM**

**Organ Recital** - Lukas Hasler, young organist from Graz, Austria (free will offering)  
St. John's Lutheran, 884 Newfield Ave, Stamford.

### **Saturday, February 16 at Noon**

#### **Fairfield West Chapter Event – Blended Worship**

St Leo RC Church, 24 Roxbury Rd, Stamford. (snow date February 23rd)

### **Sunday, February 17 at 4 PM**

**Sunday Afternoons Live - Rimantas Vingras, piano** -Lithuanian born, London based pianist Rimantas Vingras presents a solo piano recital on the Victor Borge Steinway. Refreshments are included in your \$25 admission. School-age children are free. First Congregational Church of Greenwich, 108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, CT

### **Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30PM,**

**CHORAL CHAMELEON Concert**- Choral Chameleon is a professional choir from New York led by award-winning conductor Vince Peterson. ([www.choralchameleon.com](http://www.choralchameleon.com)). They will sing a program of great variety of styles, textures and genres. Unitarian Church in Westport (10 Lyons Plains Road). Tickets at the door (\$20) or call Ed Thompson at 203-227-7205.

### **Sunday, February 24 at 4 PM**

**Sunday Afternoons Live - Tod Hedrick, viol da gamba** -This small ensemble will perform mixed repertoire for voice and period instruments, with a narrative that guides the audience from the sounds of the Middle Ages to the time of J.S. Bach. Refreshments are included in your \$25 admission. School-age children are free. First Congregational Church of Greenwich, 108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, CT

### **Sunday, February 24 at 5 PM**

**Choral Evensong** - Christ Church Schola Cantorum, featuring music of Jamie Hitel, Philip Moore and William Walton. Christ Church, 254 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830

### **Sunday, March 3 at 4 PM**

**Sunday Afternoons Live - 'Scape Trio** - Versatile and dynamic, 'Scape Trio engages the senses on the concert stage, NYC's finest art galleries, and adds musical flair to private events. Enjoy the variety of their performances with music from Baroque to Contemporary! Refreshments are included in your \$25 admission. School-age children are free. First Congregational Church of Greenwich, 108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, CT

### **Sunday, March 3 at 5 PM**

**Choral Evensong and Mardi Gras Celebration** – The choirs of Trinity, Southport, St. Paul's, Fairfield, and Christ & Holy Trinity, Westport combine to present choral music of Helvey, Lehman, Kelly, and Wood. Evensong is free; tickets for the Mardi Gras party at: [www.chtwestport.org/tickets](http://www.chtwestport.org/tickets). Christ & Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 75 Church Lane, Westport. (203) 227-0827.

### **Sunday, March 10 at 4 PM**

**Sunday Afternoons Live - Off Sounders with special guests The Grace Notes** -The Off Sounders is a men's a cappella singing group that has been performing in the Greenwich area and beyond since 1956. The group's repertoire includes traditional, contemporary, spiritual, classical, jazz, pop, show tunes, good old rock and roll, country western and seasonal music. Refreshments are included in your \$25 admission. School-age children are free. First Congregational Church of Greenwich, 108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, CT

### **Other Events**

#### **Fourth annual George Mathison Memorial Scholarship Competition - Saturday, March 2nd, 2019 at 1:00PM.**

The 2019 competition will take place at Grace Church Brooklyn Heights, where competitors will play the church's 69-rank 2001 Austin pipe organ. The competition is open to both high school and college organists, with no age or locational requirements. College applicants must be taking organ lessons for credit through their schools and high school applicants must be taking organ lessons with a private teacher. The application deadline is February 2nd, 2019. The application and more information, including eligibility and repertoire requirements, is available at <https://www.brooklynago.org/2019-scholarship-competition/>. The size of awards made to winning competitors will total \$2,000, with awards of \$1,000 for first place, \$650 for second place and \$350 for third place. For more information contact: [dean@brooklynago.org](mailto:dean@brooklynago.org).

#### **Building Bach: His Foundations and Futures**

**September 29-October 1, 2019, Deadline for proposals: March 1, 2019**

The University of Michigan invites proposals for Conference events exploring Bach and his artistic context in the disciplines of organ, harpsichord, carillon and sacred music. Proposals for presentations in diverse formats are encouraged, including performances, lectures and lecture-recitals. Some possible topics include:

Composers

Performers

Instruments

Performance practices

Reception history of Bach works

Music and culture

Innovative analytical techniques (for example, big data research)

Proposed events should be 50 minutes in length. A stipend of \$700 is available for each presentation selected, which may be shared by collaborating presenters. Presenters will be responsible for their

own travel and lodging arrangements. Available performance instruments include the Fisk organ in the style of Gottfried Silbermann in Blanche Anderson Moore Hall, the E.M. Skinner/Aeolian-Skinner organ in Hill Auditorium, the carillons in Burton Tower and Lurie Tower, and a variety of harpsichords.

To submit a proposal, please email the following by March 1, 2019 to James Kibbie

at [jkibbie@umich.edu](mailto:jkibbie@umich.edu):

## **AGO 2019**



Registration is now open for AGO Buffalo Niagara 2019, the Northeast Regional Convention of the American Guild of Organists! Please join us for an amazing week of world-class organs, organists, architecture and natural beauty.

Featured artists include **Nathan Laube** performing on the Hook & Hastings/Andover Centennial Organ at St. Joseph Cathedral, **Chelsea Chen** on the 151 Rank Möller/Parsons Organ at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, **Katelyn Emerson** on the C.B. Fisk Organ at the University at Buffalo and **David Higgs** on the 81 Rank Aeolian-Skinner Organ at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Additional performances include outstanding artists **Michael Hey**, **Bruce Neswick**, **Judy Congdon**, **Abigail Rockwood**, **Stephen Price**, **Roland Martin** and **Joshua Stafford** and the choral groups **Vocalis** and the **Harmonia Chamber Singers**. Convention-goers will also be able to hear the Wurlitzer Theater Organ at historic Shea's Theater in a performance by world-renowned theater organist, **Richard Hills**. A commissioned anthem for choir and organ by **Carson Cooman** will be also premiered at the opening service.

The very affordable early regular registration fee of just \$350 includes the transportation package for the entire week and three lunches. The AGOYO (young organists under 30 years of age) registration fee is only \$50 to encourage as many of our young organists to attend as possible!

You will not want to miss this convention in Buffalo, a city in the midst of an amazing cultural re-birth. Please come join us!

More information and a link to register are available at [www.Buffalo2019.org](http://www.Buffalo2019.org). We look forward to seeing you in Buffalo from July 1-4, 2019.

### **PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTERS - 2019**

The 2019 Pipe Organ Encounters are open for registration! Enrollment is starting to fill up, with one event already half full. Early registration deadlines range from March 1 to March 31 across six POE sites. Scholarships are available for all POEs offered in 2019.

This year, for the first time, one of the traditional POEs is taking place in Europe, hosted by the Finland Chapter in Helsinki. Three other POEs are in the Northeast, North Central, and West Regions of the USA: Cape Cod, Mass.; St. Louis, Mo.; and Seattle, Wash.

Go to: <https://www.agohq.org/education/poe/> for more information and to apply.

### **FOR SALE**

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