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Dean's Message
Dear Colleagues,
We have just concluded a fantastic recital by Daniel Roth including the presentation of the 2015 International Performer of the Year Award. Why the delay? Bringing an international performer over for a concert is a big undertaking, and the chapter is not always able to meet all of the expenses associated with it. M. Roth had just been presented in our area twice at the time of the award, and so we felt a slight pause before bringing him back would be wise. Meanwhile, John Peragallo IV graciously stepped in and became the sponsor of the recital. The whole chapter is so grateful to him and the Peragallo company for this wonderful and generous sponsorship.

If brevity is the soul of wit, it also should be the living, beating heart of AGO chapter communications, so this month, with no activities scheduled to avoid conflicts with Easter, Passover, and spring concerts, it is left to me only to wish you a happy observance of any holidays you may be celebrating, and to say that we hope to see you at our cruise of New York Harbor when the great efforts of April are past.

Yours truly,
David Enlow
Dean
Program News

At the time of reading this, we will have enjoyed a superb concert by celebrated organist **Daniel Roth**, winner of the 2015 International Performer of the Year Award. Many thanks to John Peragallo IV, the Peragallo Organ Company, John Uehlein, Director of Music at St. Francis Xavier Church, and the Pastor, Father Robert VerEecke, SJ. Thank you also to our masterclass participants, Ryan Kennedy, Henry Lee, and Matthew Smith, and to my colleagues on the International Performer of the Year committee, Renée Louprette, Stephen Tharp, and Jared Lamenzo. Particular thanks is due to John Peragallo IV, who sponsored Daniel Roth’s performance. As many of you know, we are not always in a position to produce our award winners in concert, particularly considering the international nature of the award. We are so grateful to be able to do so for the 2015 award.
Additionally, the vote for the 2017 International Performer of the Year Award is due to take place this year. Look out for information on that.

The grand finale to the season will take the form of a New York Harbor dinner cruise on Monday June 5. See below for complete information.

As always, please see our website for complete information. All events are free to current NYC AGO members, and some are also open to the public.

With my very best wishes, on behalf of the Program Committee,

James Kennerley
Sub-Dean & Chair of the Program Committee

GRAND FINALE MANHATTAN BOAT CRUISE

Our signature year-end event is approaching, the celebrated New York Harbor dinner cruise, on Monday, June 5 from 6:30-9:30 PM. We are delighted to return to the yacht, Affinity, for the first time in a number of years.

Embarkation commences at 6 PM. We will set sail from Pier 60 at Chelsea Piers on the West Side of Manhattan at 6:30 PM sharp, sail around lower Manhattan and up the East River, taking in splendid sunset views of the Statue of Liberty, the Freedom Tower, and Manhattan's iconic skyline. An open bar will accompany a splendid catered dinner. We will return to Pier 60 at 9:30 PM. It will be a superb evening!

Tickets are heavily subsidized by the NYC AGO Chapter and are available for current Chapter members at $75 and non-Chapter members at $95. CLICK HERE
to purchase tickets. **We are limited to 60 guests so make sure to book early and invite your friends.** We look forward to welcoming you on board!

Click here to buy boat cruise tickets now!

The pre-concert line outside Marble Collegiate Church in anticipation of the final event of the Presidents' Day Conference. Have you ever seen so many people waiting to attend an organ concert?!

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**Quote of the Month**

"I should be sorry if I only entertained them. I wished to make them better."

-Georg Frideric Händel

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**Won't you be my neighbor?**

Wendy and I live in a co-op building called Randall House, on the northwest corner of Broadway and East 9th Street. A street sign on the corner announces
that 9th Street between Broadway and Lafayette bears the additional name, Wanamaker Place.

In 1862, department store tycoon A.T. Stewart built a large building that filled the block between Broadway and Lafayette, and 9th and 10th Streets. John Wanamaker of Philadelphia purchased the building in 1896 and established the first location of the Wanamaker Department Store. Between 1903 and 1907, Wanamaker built an annex to the store that still fills the adjacent block south of 9th Street. The two buildings were connected by a bridge at the fourth floor and an underground tunnel.

In 1904, five organs were ordered from the Austin Organ Company of Hartford, Connecticut and installed in the Annex Building. Four were placed in a showroom, and the fifth, a large four manual instrument, was installed in the auditorium. The auditorium Austin was damaged by fire, and rebuilt and enlarged in 1920 by the Wanamaker Organ Shop. You can read about all those instruments in the NYC AGO Organ Project.

As many department stores began locating farther uptown, the Wanamaker Store was sold in 1954. The original Stewart building burned in 1956, and was replaced by a white brick residential building in 1960. That building, across Broadway from us, includes the former home of Leon Klinghoffer, the victim of the Palestine Liberation Front during the hijacking of the cruise ship, Achille Lauro in 1985.

The Wanamaker Annex is now known as 770 Broadway and is home to a few retail stores including K-Mart and Bank of America, and corporate offices of Facebook, the Huffington Post, and AOL, along with many film production studios. We often see crowds of autograph hunters waiting eagerly at the loading dock on East 8th Street.

The article in the NYC AGO Organ Project includes a 1927 photo of Louis Vierne at the console of the rebuilt auditorium organ - it's fun to think that Vierne trod the sidewalks of our neighborhood. I wonder if he visited Grace Church at Broadway and East 10th Street, where Lynnwood Farnam hung out with Ernest Mitchell. That would have been exactly the time that those two were planning the new Skinner organ (1928) for Grace Church. It would have been a blast to be a fly on the wall that night!

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**Joke of the Month**
Roman Totenberg (1911-2012) was a virtuoso violinist and music educator, who served as director of the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, Massachusetts, near Harvard Square, from 1978 to 1985.

In 1943, Totenberg famously purchased the "Ames" Stradivarius violin, built in 1743, for $15,000, the equivalent of well over $200,000 in today's money. After a concert in May of 1980, he left the instrument in his office at the school. As he was greeting audience members, the instrument was stolen. Totenberg immediately suspected aspiring violinist named Phillip Johnson, who had been seen in the hallways of the Longy School on the day of the robbery, but there wasn't enough evidence to support a search warrant.

Johnson died of cancer in California in 2011 at the age of 58. In 2015, his ex-wife discovered a locked violin case in the house, broke it open, and suspected what it was. She was referred to an appraiser who studied photographs of the instrument,
and asked for an opportunity to meet her to inspect the instrument in person. The ex-wife traveled to New York to meet the appraiser who studied it in silence for an hour, and famously said, "I have good news, and I have bad news. The good news is that it is a Stradivarius. The bad news is that it was stolen 35 years ago from Roman Totenberg."


News reports surrounding the recovery and debut of the "Ames" do not suggest the instrument's value, but the most that has been paid for a "Strad" is around $16,000,000. These stories got me thinking about the value of a Stradivarius as compared the cost and value of a pipe organ.

A good violin weighs between 400 and 500 grams. A pound is a little under 454 grams, so let's assume the "Ames" weighs one pound. And let's assume it's worth $15,000,000. That's roughly $33,040 per gram.

A free standing, three manual pipe organ with a steel frame and hardwood case weighs about 850 pounds per stop. Let's compare an organ with 50 stops - 42,500 pounds (21.25 tons), or 19,295,000 grams. What's the price? Let's say $2,000,000. That's $.10 per gram. Ten cents. Take good care of it.