Correction

With apologies from the editor, this version of the March Newsletter brings corrections to the Report of the Nominating Committee, and the list of Contributors.

Visit the website of the NYC AGO Chapter

Don't miss events presented by your friends and colleagues. Visit the Concert Calendar of the NYC Chapter, and attend some concerts!

Table of contents:

- Dean's Message
- Report from the Nominating Committee
- Program News
- A Report from the Treasurer
- Quote of the Month
- Won't you be my neighbor?
- Joke of the Month
- From the Editor
Dean's Message

Dear Colleagues,

At the time of writing, we have just had a wonderful conference at St. Paul’s Chapel downtown. It is really remarkable what we can accomplish together, combining the resources of New York's cardinal parish and the participation of the AGO community of our region. I know many of our members are happy to see Trinity’s resources at work in full commitment to the pipe organ.

The other February event, a silent film at St. John the Divine, has yet to take place. Nonetheless, we are heartily grateful to everyone involved in presenting two of the gems of our program year, from our gracious hosts at Trinity Church and St. John the Divine, to our Sub-Dean and program committee, to your chapter board, who support everything the chapter does behind the scenes.

You will see later in the newsletter the report of the nominating committee, which was accepted by the executive board at its Presidents’ Day meeting. We are so grateful to Dr. Andrew Henderson, and his committee members Mollie Nichols and Alistair Reid, as trying to get our very capable and busy members to donate their volunteer hours is a feat!

You will see an election ballot sometime in April; please participate in the election as you are able (only members in good standing may vote; write to registrar@nycago.org if you are in doubt).

If Facebook is to be believed, many of us are tired of winter. While it is my second-favorite season, even I am looking forward to spring concerts, spring sunshine, and a new season of leadership for NYC AGO.

With my best wishes for your endeavors this season and always,

Yours truly,

David Enlow,
Dean
Report from the Nominating Committee

Proposed Slate for 2018 Election
Submitted on behalf of the Nominating Committee
Andrew Henderson, Chair
   Mollie Nichols
   Alistair Reid

*Incumbents in italics.*
Click here to read incumbents’ biographies.
Click here to read biographies of new candidates.

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Have you ever had to sub as an organist but thought to yourself “I really don’t know how this thing works?”
Want to find out what combinations of sounds work best, or how to set things up on combination pistons?
Just curious to know more about the organ and how it all works?

We have the perfect event for you!

The Organ Day for Pianists is designed to answer all of these questions and more in a fun-filled morning of education, music, and exploration. See below for more details.

Program News

By the time you read this, two fantastic events will have taken place - the Presidents' Day Conference celebrating the Noack installation at Saint Paul's Chapel, and the King of Kings silent movie performance with David Briggs at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine. My eternal thanks, as always, to the plethora of wonderful people who allowed for all of that to take - it really does take a village! See below for pictures and links to the video archive from Presidents' Day for those of you unable to be with us.

Our next event is the Organ Day for Pianists on Saturday, April 7 from 10:30 AM to 1 PM. This event is intended to serve those who have an interest in playing the organ but who
might not have any formal training, as well as for pianists who are frequently called to perform on the organ for religious services. We'll be based at Marble Collegiate Church (Ken Dake, host) and the Church of the Transfiguration (Claudia Dumschat, host) with access to some superb pipe organs. A host of brilliant colleagues will share their experience and expertise in guiding us through the many (and daunting!) steps to mastering the art of organ playing. It'll be fun and informative in equal measure! The day begins at 10:30 AM the Church of the Transfiguration. Click here for directions.

Many thanks to the newly formed Outreach Committee, Mark Pacoe, Ryan Jackson, James Wetzel, chair. They are working to increase awareness of the AGO and to invite as many people as possible to this event. Please click here to email them with any questions you may have. This event is free and open to all - please encourage friends and colleagues to attend this event by forwarding this message.

Our final event of the year is the Concert by James David Christie, 2017 International Performer of the Year winner, at Saint Thomas Church on Monday, June 18 at 6 PM. The concert, performed on the 1996/2015 Taylor and Boody gallery instrument, will be followed by the award presentation and a festive dinner, catered by renowned Executive Chef, Heidi Thomas. Many of us will remember Heidi's incredible food from our dinner there a few years ago - it's quite something. Tickets for the concert are free and open to all. Tickets for the dinner are $75 per person, available here. Please note that there is a 60-person limit for the dinner so be sure to purchase yours now! Guests are always welcome.

We look forward to welcoming you to many of these wonderful events!

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

James Kennerley
Sub-Dean & Chair of the Program Committee
Some fun photos from the Presidents' Day Conference:
James David Christie, winner of the 2017 International Performer of the Year Award, will play a concert on Monday, June 18 at 6 PM. See above for more details.

Watch it again!

Follow the links below to see and hear some of the Presidents' Day Conference performances:

- Ben Sheen at Saint Thomas Church
- Trinity Choir, Baroque Orchestra, Avi Stein, soloist, Julian Wachner, conductor
- Peter Sykes solo concert at Saint Paul's Chapel
A Report from the Treasurer

Gifts Received toward Chapter Activities

The Executive Board wishes to express thanks to those who contributed generously to the Chapter, Pipedreams and Pipe Organ Encounters. A total of $2,439 was given as these members renewed.

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher Babcock, Treasurer

$250 and above
Bishop John O'Hara
Lawrence Trupiano

$100-249
Louise Basbas
John Byrne
Thomas Cowan
James McGregor
William Trafka
James Wetzel
Craig Whitney

$25-49
Justin Bischof
Nancy Cliff
Marianne Decker
David Klepper
Steven Lawson
James Litton
Jason Nong
Victoria Sirota

$50-99
Alan Barthel
John Brooks
David Hurd
James Kennerley
George Nowak
Andy Sarnoff
George Stauffer
Quote of the Month

The Composer
-- W. H. Auden (1938)

All the others translate: the painter sketches
A visible world to love or reject;
Rummaging into his living, the poet fetches
The images out that hurt and connect.

From Life to Art by painstaking adaption,
Relying on us to cover the rift;
Only your notes are pure contraption,
Only your song is an absolute gift.

Pour out your presence, a delight cascading
The falls of the knee and weirs of the spine,
Our climate of silence and doubt invading;

You alone, alone, imaginary song,
Are unable to say existence is wrong,
And pour out your forgiveness like a wine.
Won't you be my neighbor?

Muse on the Mews.

When Wendy and I moved to New York City five years ago, an old friend who grew up in Queens and lived in Greenwich Village gave us a copy of Here is New York, the timeless essay about the city written in 1949 by E. B. White. White was something of an anomaly for that era, writing regularly for The New Yorker magazine, but refusing to work in the mid-town offices. He married Katherine Angell, the editor who encouraged the magazine to hire him. Their son Joel was a prolific boat builder in Brooklin, Maine, on the north shore of Eggemoggin Reach. Katherine's son by a previous marriage is Roger Angell, himself a prolific and beloved editor and writer. Katherine's grandson, Jonathan Stableford, was my English teacher in high school.

E.B. White may be best known for his classic children's books, Charlotte's Web and Stuart Little, both inspired by his farming life in Brooklin, Maine, where he wrote most of his books and essays, while tending a small productive salt-water farm. Before they retreated from New York to Brooklin (with an "I"), E.B. and Katherine lived in a small house on Washington Mews, which runs between University Place and Fifth Avenue, half a block south of East 8th Street. Goldendoodle Farley and I walk past the Mews on our way to the dog run at Washington Square Park.

Here is New York was commissioned by Roger Angell, coaxing White to leave the tranquility of Brooklin, take the train to New York, set up camp in the Algonquin Hotel, and tramp the streets and old haunts, notebook always at hand. It describes our teeming city as a string of small neighborhoods, in which the usual necessary shops - laundry, grocery, liquor, stationery, etc. - repeat every few blocks, and in which residents stay loyal to their local vendors. It's a small book, about four by six inches, and fifty-six pages long. It's a great thirty-minute read. Our friend Lois inscribed our copy, "To Wendy and John, the new wave of immigrants."
Joke of the Month

David Lloyd ben Yaacov Yehuda Klepper
Cantor/Hazan-in-training, synagogue caretaker, author, architectural acoustician.
Co-author, Worship Space Acoustics
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Mount of Olives, Jerusalem 97400, ISRAEL
Email: daveklepper@yahoo.com
From the Editor
A life well lived.
The other day, Wendy and I attended the memorial service of an old friend. Bill Ryden was a prolific composer, terrific pianist, and mentor to generations of young singers and actors. (His twin brother John was Wendy’s colleague at the University of Chicago Press and director of the Yale University Press for many years.)

Bill worked for 35 years as classical music publisher and editorial director at Bourne Company and the International Music Company. He wrote more than 500 piano rags, dozens of songs, full-scale orchestral works, and chamber music, and was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. His music was performed in Weill Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall, and New York’s Town Hall. He wrote songs for Public Television’s Electric Company, and one of his holiday rags was used as a theme on the CBS Radio Network. Click Bill’s photo to see the obituary published in the New York Times.

During his service, we heard lovely statements from family members, several of his rags played by Éric Trudel, and we were deeply moved by performances and testimonials from a procession of young people who had blossomed as members of the Gingerbread Players at St. Luke’s Church in Forest Hills. Bill wrote five musicals for the Gingerbread Players, and spent countless hours coaching and encouraging the young actors. Their emotional statements of the musical gifts he gave them made the afternoon special for us.

Bill kept a Commonplace Book, into which he wrote by hand passages that had special meaning to him. Auden’s The Composer, published here, was read at his service from his book.

500 piano rags is a lot of notes, but instilling the love of music in the next generation is a real and tangible legacy. Well done, good and faithful servant.

Visit our amazing website!