



The Greater Bridgeport, New Haven & Fairfield-West
Chapters of the American Guild of Organists

proudly presents

Christopher Houlihan,
organist

Organ Recital

*The First Presbyterian Church,
Stamford (Fish Church)*

1101 Bedford Street, Stamford

7:30 PM—June 29, 2010

PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER
JUNE 27 – JULY 2 2010

Program

Toccata	Leo Sowerby (1895 – 1968)
Trio Sonata in C Major, BWV 529	Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750)
I. Allegro	
II. Largo	
III. Allegro	
Fantasia and Fugue in G Minor, BWV 542	Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750)
Piece in the form of a Habañera	Maurice Ravel (1875 – 1937) arr. Christopher Houlihan
Romance and Final, from Symphony No. 4, opus 32	Louis Vierne (1870 - 1937)

"Clearly a talented young player, and one admires his controlled tempi allowing the music to speak clearly....flair and polish...some fine playing with stylish touches of registration and rubato." *Choir & Organ, London, 2009*

"Enormous talent...an amazing musician and performer....the audience should be prepared to be mesmerized." *The Republican, Springfield MA, 2009*

"Organist's star rises high, quickly...rising star of the organ world who already has his own fan club" *Cincinnati Enquirer, 2009*

"An exciting young international organist...he travels across America and into Europe thrilling audiences with his skill and vivacity." *Chicopee Register, MA, 2009*

"A world-renowned organist." *Hartford Magazine, 2009*

About Our Artist

Christopher Houlihan is one of the brightest stars in the new generation of American organists and was booked to perform from coast to coast during his debut season under professional representation.



During his senior year of college he made his orchestral debut with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra sharing the soloist spotlight with violinist Joshua Bell (Houlihan has "the charisma and energy of a major soloist" and "strong international potential" wrote the critic of The Hartford Courant). His debut compact disc on the Towerhill label was released in 2007 and the second in autumn 2009.

He earned the "Prix de Perfectionnement" (equivalent to a university artist's diploma in the US) from the French National Regional Conservatory in Versailles while still an undergraduate. During his studies in Versailles under Jean-Baptiste Robin, he also won "Le Prix des Amis de l'orgue de Versailles." He performed a benefit concert in Auxerre for research into Lou Gehrig's disease at the invitation of the Auxerre Rotary Club, among other recitals while in France as a student.

During his full year of studies in France, Christopher also served as Assistant Musician at the American Cathedral in Paris. On a Sunday he was scheduled both to play the organ and conduct both choirs for the services, the cathedral received a few hours advance notice that the President and First Lady of the United States, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Bush, would attend. The Dean of the cathedral later wrote that he considered Christopher "one of the great heroes" of that challenging morning.

Christopher is a graduate of Trinity College in Connecticut where he studied with John Rose, his organ teacher from the age of 12. While at Trinity College, where he won the Helen Loveland Morris Prize in Music and graduated with honors, Christopher served for a year as Assistant Organist at the Cathedral of St. Joseph (Roman Catholic) and another year in the same role at Christ Church Cathedral (Episcopal), both in Hartford. For three years he was Assistant Organist at the Trinity College Chapel.

Christopher is currently a graduate student of Paul Jacobs at The Juilliard School in New York. He was awarded two of the school's major scholarships, The Irene Diamond Graduate Fellowship, and The Chairman's Grant which was awarded by the president to "support students who have demonstrated exceptional potential for success at Juilliard."

Prior to attending Trinity College, Christopher won the high school division First Prize of the Albert Schweitzer Organ National Competition at age 15. He has also twice won the Charlotte Hoyt Bagnall Scholarship for Church Musicians, and at Trinity was the first recipient of the John Rose Organ Scholarship. After the organ, his major passion is musical theater and he has many singing performance roles to his credit.

The Fish Church

Church Building Design

The very first First Presbyterian Church of Stamford, a wooden structure located at 90 Broad Street, was dedicated in 1854. One hundred years later, in 1954, the congregation voted to relocate to the present location on 10 acres of land at 1101 Bedford Street. Always considered a leader in the community, the First Presbyterian Church furthered its historical distinction when the new structure, with its modern facade and towering Carillon, earned the Church landmark status.

Designed by Wallace K. Harrison, the new sanctuary was dedicated in March 1958. Its shape has been likened to that of a fish- a symbol used in early Christianity. The fish shape is apparent both in the profile and in the floor plan of the structure. Enhancing the unique shape of the church are the outstanding stained glass windows in the sanctuary, containing more than 20,000 pieces of faceted glass and depicting the story of the Crucifixion and of the resurrection; and the 32 foot high cross faced with wood from the Canterbury Cathedral in England, which dominates the Chancel.

The Organ

The Visser-Rowland (Opus 87) organ is a 4-manual, 51-stop, 74-rank tracker organ made by Visser-Rowland Associates of Houston, Texas. The console, or keydesk, is detached from the organ case, allowing greater flexibility and ease of choral conducting.

The design was conceived by Pieter Visser. The tonal scheme of the organ is adapted from Dutch organs of the mid-eighteenth century. Such a design calls for firm, bright principal tone, flutes which sound clear and deep, harmonious reed stops, and an abundance of incisive high-pitched stops which reinforce, rather than obscure the foundation tone. An organ of this type is versatile in the types of literature it can perform. It blends well with voices and other instruments, and, most importantly, it excels in leading congregational singing.

Many different woods were used in constructing the organ. Most obvious are the mahogany case and white oak console. The four manual keyboards have ebony naturals and maple sharps, woods selected for their durability as well as appearance. The Zimblestern, which rotates at the top of the case, is basswood. The facade pipes (the largest of which is twenty feet tall) are flamed copper and polished tin and the Trumpet En Chemade is polished copper.

Welcome to the Pipe Organ Encounter Week

Welcome to the 3rd concert of the 2010 Pipe Organ Encounter for the American Guild of Organists New England state regions, June 27—July 2, 2010. During this special week 34 students, ages 13-18, studying the pipe organ, will have as their instructors 20+ of the area's finest church musicians and concert artists. They will practice at 18 area churches, tour and play some outstanding and priceless organs from the historic churches of New Haven to the many pipe organs of Yale University. ***Please join us for the other public concerts throughout this Pipe Organ Encounter Week.***

You're Invited

There will be 2 more public concerts in this jammed-pack Pipe Organ Encounter week. Each concert has notable artists and pipe organ venues from New Haven to Stamford. Please visit the POE website www.aqoevents.org/2010/poe/region-1 to see the bios of the performers, the venues, and directions for each event. Free-will offering. A brief summary follows:

Thursday, July 1, 7:30 PM—the Faculty of the 2010 POE, Cathedral of Saint Augustine, Bridgeport



The students will want to see if their faculty can really perform—and *they sure can*. Some of the faculty and performers include Jeffrey Wood, Jay Lindsay, Dr. Joe Utterback, Dr. John Michniewicz, Bill Degan, Stephen Roberts, Leslie Smith, Galen Tate, Cheryl Duerr, Josiah Amres, Frank Martignetti and others. We will be using the rebuilt Moeller/Peragallo in the beautiful refurbished cathedral.

Friday, July 2, 1:30 PM—our Rising Star Students, Chapel of the Holy Spirit, Sacred Heart University, Fairfield



Many of our students are already accomplished pianists and intermediate-level trained organists. They will perform on the new Chapel Casavant pipe organ and a Steinway B Grand piano donated for use for this special week's event by Steinway Gallery of Westport, CT.

Come join us cheer on our students in this very special

concert!

Making This All Possible

This program is made possible by the donation of time, talents and resources of so many. We are very grateful to every faculty member, concert artist, church and venue, that we will be using throughout the week. The mission of this program in building future church musicians starts by exposing students to this type of educational and fun program as designed by the Committee on the New Organist (CONO) of the American Guild of Organists.

Meet Our Faculty

Abdenour, John - St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Fairfield, CT
Armes, Josiah- Noroton Presbyterian Church, Darien, CT
Campbell, Dr. Neal- St. Luke's Parish, Darien, CT
Degan, Bill - The Bristol Baptist Church, Bristol, CT
DiGiovanna, Mary Rose- Trinity Episcopal Church, Tarrifville, CT
Duerr, Cheryl - The Church of Our Redeemer, Lexington, MA
Frohrip, Elizabeth - Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, CT
Hamilton, Alma- Parish of St. Leo the Great, Stamford / Dean, Fairfield West AGO
Hunt, Dr. Eileen - Congregational Church of Green Farms, Westport, CT
Jordan, Dr. Paul - St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Madison, CT
Lantowski, Michael - St. Pius X Church, Fairfield, CT
Lindsay, Jay- St. Augustine's Church, Seymour, CT
Martignetti, Frank - St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, CT / University of Bridgeport
Michniewicz, Dr. John - United Congregational Church, Bridgeport/Sacred Heart University
Rapp, Dr. Stephen - St. John's Lutheran Church, Stamford, CT
Roberts, Stephen - St. Peter's RC Church, Danbury, CT / Western Connecticut State University
Smith, Leslie - United Methodist Church of Westport and Weston, CT
Thomas, David- St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Greenwich, CT
Wood, Jeffrey - St. Mary RC Church, Milford, CT

Recitalists & Faculty

Houlihan, Christopher - Phillip Truckenbord Artists, Hartford, CT
Teardo, Frederick - St. Thomas Church Fifth Avenue, New York City, NY

Other Wonderful Presenters

Cardona Jr, Juan - Thomaston Opera House, Thomaston, CT
Degan, Jean- St. Joseph RC Church, Bristol, CT
Harris, David - St. Thomas Aquinas, Fairfield, CT / Steinway Gallery of Westport, CT
Jean, Dr. Martin- Yale University, New Haven, CT / Phillip Truckenbord Artists
Kowal, Adam - Western Connecticut State University, Danbury, CT
Murray, Thomas - Yale University, / Christ Church, New Haven, CT / Karen McFarlane Artists
Odell, Edward - J.H. & C.S. Odell Pipe Organ Builders, East Hampton, CT
Tate, Galen - Saint Thomas More RC Church, Darien, CT / Sacred Heart University, CT
Utterback, Dr. Joe - First Church Congregational Stratford, CT / JazzMuze

Recital Venues

Cathedral of St. Augustine, Bridgeport, Moller/Peragallo III/43ranks
Chapel of the Holy Spirit, Sacred Heart, Fairfield, Casavant Tracker III/23 ranks
First Church Presbyterian, Stamford, Visser-Rowland IV/74 ranks
United Congregational Church, Bridgeport, Austin IV/81, Roche II/11, Delhumeau II/11

Special Venues/Open Benches

Historic Churches in New Haven - **Trinity Episcopal on the Green**, Skinner IV/79 ranks, **Christ Church Episcopal**, Lively-Fulcher III/69 ranks
The Pipe Organs of Yale University - **Woolsey Hall**, Newberry Skinner IV/197, **Dwight Chapel**, Beckerath III/54, **Marquand Chapel**, Taylor-Boody III, **Battell Chapel, Holkamp** III/54
Thomaston Opera House Thomaston, CT – Marr & Colton Theatre III/15 ranks

Area Practice Venues

We are very grateful for the support of so many local churches. Although we will not use them all, we acknowledge the generosity to be used if needed. (Assigned Faculty)

Calvary St. George's Episcopal, Bridgeport, Casavant II/26 ranks (Josiah Armes)
Cathedral of Saint Augustine, Bridgeport, Moller/Peragallo III/47 ranks (Alma Hamilton)
Christ Episcopal Church, Stratford, Austin II (Cheryl Duerr)
Chapel of the Holy Spirit, Sacred Heart University, Casavant III/26 (Frederick Teardo)
First Church Congregational Stratford, Austin III/43 ranks (Stephen Rapp)
First Presbyterian Church, Fairfield, Austin III/45 ranks
First Congregational Church, Norwalk, Austin III/48 ranks (Backup)
Golden Hill Methodist Church, Bridgeport, Moller III/43 ranks
Green's Farm Congregational, Westport, (Eileen Hunt)
Greenfield Hill Congregational Church, Fairfield, Angell/Russell II/25 ranks (Jay Lindsay, W)
Holy Name of Jesus, Stratford, Casavant II (Backup)
Holy Trinity Lutheran, Trumbull, Moller II/9 ranks
Jesse Lee Methodist, Easton (Backup)
Nichols United Methodist Church, Trumbull, Austin/Ellis III/59 ranks (David Thomas)
Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, Austin II/22 ranks (Elizabeth Frohrip)
Saugatuck Congregational Church, Westport, Austin III
St. John's Episcopal Church, Bridgeport, Austin IV/78 ranks (Christopher Houlihan)
St. Mary RC Church, Milford, Casavant II/27 ranks (Jeffrey Wood)
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Fairfield, Austin III (John Abdenour)
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, Hook & Hastings II/12 ranks (Backup)
St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Milford, William Baker II/23 ranks (Stephen Roberts)
St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Monroe, Moller II/9 ranks
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Wilton, Reuter III/52
St. Theresa Church, Trumbull, Peragallo III/39 ranks (Jay Lindsay, M,T,Th)
Trinity Episcopal Church, Southport, Wilhem III/Moller III (Neal Campbell)
United Congregational Church, Bridgeport, Austin IV/81 ranks (John Michniewicz)
Unity Hill United Church of Christ, Trumbull, Hall/Roche/Austin II (Mary Rose DiGiovanna)
United Methodist Church, Westport, Odell II (Leslie Smith)

Funding Sponsors & More

Institutions/Churches

United Congregational Church, Bridgeport - Extensive use of the facility throughout the week
Yale Institute of Sacred Music, Yale University, New Haven – Sponsor Yale Institute of Sacred Music Campus Day—June 30, 2010 / Frederick Teardo Organ Recital - June 27, 2010
Strategic Directives, New York, NY - John Polo and Company Stels Design - POE website

Organ/Piano Builders

A. Thompson-Allen, New Haven, CT - Funding, Woolsey Hall Newberry Organ Tour
Casavant Freres, Quebec, Canada - Funding, Chapel of the Holy Spirit, Sacred Heart
Fry's Westport-Fairfield Piano/Organ, Fairfield, CT - Funding
Foley-Baker Quality Pipe Organ Services, Tolland, CT - Funding
J.H. & C.S. Odell Organ Builders, East Hampton, CT – Funding & United Church Recital Tunings
Peragallo Organ Builders, Paterson, NJ - Cathedral of Saint Augustine Tuning
Steinway Piano Gallery, Westport, CT – Funding and use of a 7' Steinway Grand for the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, Sacred Heart University recital and week's activities

AGO New England Chapters

AGO National Organization - Funding, Scholarships, POE Program Guidance
Boston, MA - Funding, Scholarship
Bangor, ME - Funding
Cape Cod and the Islands, MA - Funding
Fairfield West, CT – Co-Participation Chapter, Funding, Teaching Staff
Greater Bridgeport, CT – Host Chapter, Funding, Teaching Staff, Leadership Team
Greater Hartford, CT - Funding
Harrisburg, PA - Scholarship
New Haven, CT – Co-Participation Chapter, Funding, Teaching Staff
New Hampshire - Funding, Scholarship
Merrimack Valley, MA - Funding
Rhode Island - Funding
Springfield, MA - Funding
Waterbury, CT - Funding
Westchester, NY - Funding
Worcester, MA - Funding

Our Leadership Team

Stephen Roberts—Co-Director, Faculty Director, New Haven Tour Day
Dr. John Michniewicz—Co-Director, Faculty Recital
John Polo—Funding, Communications, Web Site, Event Coordinator, Media
RoseAnne Homola— Services Coordinator, Campus Mom
Paul Thoma, Jeffrey Wood—Co-Facilities Directors
Juan Cardona Sr—Treasurer, Security
Michael Lantowski—Registrar
Frank Martignetti—Publicity
Flora Major—Student Transportation