

AGO Member Concert:
A Tribute to Dr. Paul Knox



Sunday, June 5, 2011 — 4:00 p.m.
First Church Congregational , Fairfield

Proceeds will benefit the Louise Miller Scholarship Fund and the
Norma F. Pfriem Urban Outreach Initiatives

Wine and cheese reception to follow the concert

DR. PAUL KNOX



"Paul Knox has always been the go-to church musician in the roles as educator, mentor, artist, and choral scholar for students, peers, and clergy," says John Polo, Professional Concerns Chair for the Greater Bridgeport Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. "He has been a tireless champion of helping both the chapter's full-time and part-time musicians, for all faiths, and therefore has become beloved by so many."

Knox, who began piano lessons at the age of five, says he remembers well how he became "intrigued" by the sound of the organ as a seven-year-old attending services at his parents' Methodist church. "Sitting there hearing the organ ... the sound just grabbed me." And it has never let him go, he says. He "began bugging the church organist for lessons, but she said my legs were too short to reach the pedals." By age nine, "she relented," and Knox began his life-long adventure with the instrument.

Knox received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Organ Performance from the University of North Texas and a Master of Arts degree in Music from Manhattan's Union Theological Seminary. (Its sacred music department later affiliated with Yale University to become the Institute of Sacred Music.) He also did post-graduate work at Columbia University. He moved to Connecticut in the mid-1960s to teach part-time at the University of Bridgeport and to become the full-time director of music at United Congregational Church in Bridgeport. There, Knox led as many as seven choirs of singers, bells and recorders, in addition to directing the church's music concert series. He also hosted numerous concerts and programs for interfaith and community groups and for the ACO's local chapter. In addition, Knox organized and led several choral concert tours of Europe over the years.

In 1996, at age 65, following 31 years of service at the UCC, Knox retired from full-time work. But the desire to keep busy resurfaced quickly, and for the past 15 years, Knox has worked in various part-time positions as director of music for Trumbull Congregational Church, Golden Hill United Methodist Church in Bridgeport, and finally, First Church Congregational in Fairfield where he remained until the new pipe organ was installed and dedicated late last year. Now at 80 years old, Knox says he wanted "to retire from playing every Sunday morning while he could still smell the roses" ~ although he says he'll be happy to substitute when needed. "The organ picked me; I didn't pick it," he says, laughing, adding: "There's not a lot of money in what we do" as church music directors, "but the rewards are tremendous." "It's been a real joy," he says of his long career.

This concert to salute Paul is also a celebration of the new 36-stop, 41-rank, 3-manual, tracker pipe organ at First Church Fairfield. This is the final of five concerts that have taken place throughout the year for the new organ with more than 2,000 pipes. As is a tradition, the American Guild of Organists present a members recital for new instruments. "Every organist has his or her own unique style," said Peggy Gettig, one of new pipe organ celebration committee members at First Church Congregational Fairfield. "We have enjoyed each of the inaugural concert organists and are excited that for this final concert the AGO has chosen six different noted area local and international recitalists to demonstrate our new pipe organ. For this program, the players at the keyboard will be projected on a large screen so the audience can appreciate what it takes to play the instrument."



PROGRAM

Welcome — *Jennifer Habetz, Acting Senior Pastor, First Church Congregational and John Polo, Professional Concerns Chair for the Greater Bridgeport Chapter of the American Guild of Organists*

Jeffrey Wood

Praeludium in G Minor
Bux WV 149

Dietrich Buxtehude

Jeffrey Wood and Galen Tate

Variations on an Easter Theme

John Rutter

Galen Tate

Coronation March from Le Prophète

Giacomo Meyerbeer

Dr. Joe Utterback and Galen Tate

Visions (piano/organ duet)

Dr. Joe Utterback

Dr. Joe Utterback

Improvisation

Dr. Joe Utterback

Michael Lantowski

Nun Danket Alle Gott - Marche Triomphale
Op. 65

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

David Harris

Razzle Dazzle

Richard Gere

Stephen Roberts

E-flat ("St. Anne") Fugue
BWV 552

Johann Sebastian Bach

David Harris

St. Thomas Aquinas RC Church, Fairfield, CT / Steinway Piano Gallery, Westport, CT

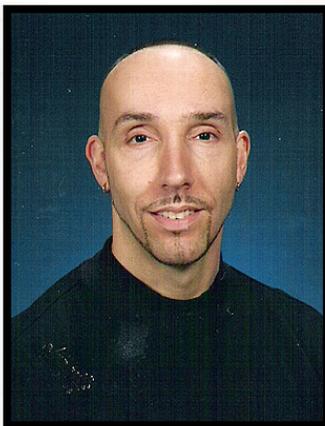
David Harris is noted piano recording artist, entertainer, vocalist, and church musician. David has wowed local audiences for the past eight years accompanying Silent Films at the mighty United Congregational Church 4/81 Austin pipe organ, and with his masterful piano and singing skills for the very successful Annual Greater Bridgeport AGO Pipe Screams concerts.



David is Director of Music at St. Thomas Aquinas RC Church, Fairfield. He is a consummate musician with a highly varied and diverse background. David demonstrated an interest in music at a very young age. By the age of two, he began playing the piano and took up lessons shortly thereafter. At the age of 18, David moved to Wichita, Kansas where he received degrees in Piano Performance and Piano Pedagogy from Wichita State University.

While in Wichita, David quickly established himself as a society pianist and served as the resident music director and house pianist for many respected establishments, including the Crown Uptown Professional Dinner Theatre, and the Empire House Restaurant and Theater, where he served as music director for numerous musicals. Upon moving to the East Coast he served as music director and pianist for Unity Church of Sussex County in Lafayette, New Jersey, organist and choirmaster at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Fairfield, Connecticut, and most recently Director of Music at St. Thomas Aquinas Church. David has also served as pianist for three Off-Broadway musical productions at the York Theatre Company in New York City, including *Taking A Chance On Love*, *Postcards On Parade*, and *The Grass Harp*. Moreover, David has worked as arranger and orchestrator for many organizations, including the prestigious Rodgers & Hammerstein Foundation in New York City.

In addition to local theatre projects David is often seen performing at private parties, restaurants, piano bars and cabarets in the greater New York City and Connecticut area. David performs and records albums regularly as the Pianist of the Piano / Theatre Organ "Dynamic Duo" of David Harris and Jelani Eddington.



Michael Lantowski

Saint Pius X Church, Fairfield, CT / Temple Israel, Westport, CT

Michael is the Organist and Director of Music at Saint Pius X RC Church in Fairfield, and Organist at Temple Israel in Westport, CT.

At Saint Pius, he leads the Parish Choir of over 30 voices, a mixed ensemble of dedicated volunteers and professionals, the Scholar Choir, a graded choir for boy and girls 4th grade and up, and a Youth Cantor Program. In 2009 he founded the St. Pius Sarto Chamber Consort consisting of professional singers and musicians that specializes in early music and chant.

Michael is a graduate of the Housatonic Community College with an Associate degree in Fine Arts and the Manhattan School of Music where he was awarded an annual Merit Scholarship achieving a Bachelor in Music in Organ Performance degree where he studied with McNeil Robinson and Choral Conducting with Dennis Keene. He has also studied organ with Paul Knox, Keith Toth, Mark Brombaugh, and currently with Dr. Stephen Rapp. Michael has served in many churches in the area both, Protestant and Catholic.

Stephen Roberts

St. Peter's RC Church, Danbury, CT / Western Connecticut State University, Danbury, CT

Stephen is Director of Music at St. Peter Church in Danbury, Adjunct Professor of Organ at Western Connecticut State University and Organ and Harpsichord Recitalist and Lecturer represented by the Concert Artist Cooperative. Stephen is so dedicated to the AGO and educating students he is a member of seven Connecticut AGO chapters and serves as the District Convener for the New England states of the National AGO organization.



Stephen Roberts received his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Oklahoma, where he studied with Mildred Andrews. He was the recipient of a Fulbright grant to Vienna, Austria, where he studied organ with Anton Heiller, improvisation with Peter Planyavsky, and harpsichord with Isolde Ahlgrim. He was the first student admitted to the then newly formed Institute of Sacred Music at Yale University, where he studied organ with Robert Baker, Gerre Hancock, and Michael Schneider, and harpsichord with Ralph Kirkpatrick.

At Yale, Stephen Roberts was the recipient of several prizes and awards, including the Bozyan Prize in organ. Since that time he has taught at several universities and was Director of Music at the Berkeley Divinity School at Yale for twelve years. He has performed in recital in fifteen countries on four continents in venues such as the Konzerthaus and St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, the Great Hall of the Philharmonic in St. Petersburg, St. Mark's Basilica in Venice, St-Sulpice in Paris, Methuen Memorial Music Hall, and the Basilica of the Most Holy Sacrament in Buenos Aires.

Roberts is a successful teacher with an international class; his students have won many prizes and competitions, both here in the U.S. and abroad. He has had a number of articles published in professional journals in the U.S. and in Europe, and his performances have been featured in radio and television broadcasts as well. Roberts has been a featured lecturer and performer at conventions of the American Guild of Organists and the Organ Historical Society, and has given master classes at a number of universities and conservatories in a variety of countries.



Galen Tate

Saint Thomas More RC Church, Darien, CT / Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT

Galen is Director of Music for Saint Thomas More Church in Darien, Adjunct Professor of Music and Accompanist at Sacred Heart University. In addition he serves on the accompanying staff for the United Congregational Church Bridgeport and New Haven Chorales.

Galen received his Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance degree from the University of Arkansas and Master of Music in Organ Performance degree from the University of Tennessee. A frequent guest in organ concert series, he recently performed with the United Chorale and Orchestra (Bridgeport) as soloist in Poulenc's Organ Concerto and in solo recitals at the Cathedral of Saint Mary (San Francisco), St. Mary Church (Newport) and most recently in the More Music Concert Series (Darien) which he directs. He has enjoyed accompanying numerous ensembles, including the Mendelssohn Choir of Connecticut,

Stamford Chorale, Rockland County New York Choral Society, Lumina String Quartet and Sax In The City. The diversity of his keyboard talents has also led him to work with popular artists Joe Utterback, José Feliciano, Frank Patterson, Metropolitan Opera soprano Betty Jones, and with Broadway tenors David Gaschen and Frank Mastrone. For the past 12 years he was Choral Accompanist for Fairfield University, performing with the university Glee Club and Chamber Singers in churches and concert halls in New York City, Philadelphia, Boston and Washington D.C., and abroad to Italy, England, Germany, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Austria.

Galen has several times been a featured artist for National Pastoral Musicians Conventions, served as musical director for concerts benefitting the New Covenant House of Hospitality (Stamford) and as musical director for the annual memorial events of Voices of September 11th (New York).



Dr. Joe Utterback

First Congregational Church, Stratford, CT / Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT

Dr. Joe is a celebrated American Jazz Pianist, Director of Music for First Congregational Church, Stratford and Adjunct Professor at Sacred Heart University.

Much involved in the New York City music scene, Dr. Joe performs annually for the Tony Awards gala reception, in the lobby of The Empire State Building during the December holiday season, and a weekly gig. In addition to his numerous appearances in Fairfield County, Connecticut, the artist gives frequent solo concerts throughout the United States, at times participating in radio interviews before these concerts. Dr. Joe often presents improvisation workshops at regional and national conventions of such groups as the American Guild of Organists and the National Federation of Music Clubs.

Joe's career in the recording industry dates from 1960's vinyl. The pianist, already recognized for his improvisations, recorded Christmas Eve at the Wurlitzer on the soon-to-be demolished theater organ in Wichita's doomed Miller Theater. Nearly thirty years later in 1996, Connoisseur Society, Inc. released Joe's first solo jazz piano CD, *Gershwin: Porgy and Bess Jazz Suite*. Five additional Connoisseur CDs followed: *Blues and Ballads at the Movies*, *Night & Day*, *Christmas on the Mountain*, *Night Train* and *Stardust*. In 2004, Joe recorded *Dr. Joe's JAZZ GOSPEL and Jazz Dreamz* under his own publishing label *Jazzmuze, Inc.* In June 2005, Connoisseur released *Stardust*, recorded right after 9/11. With wonderful ballads, the CD is late night listening par excellence! Joe is also actively involved in local studio work, recording with New York City cabaret singers.

An internationally recognized composer, Joe has created jazz-influenced works for piano, organ, harpsichord, voice, and instrumental combinations, which have won him ASCAP awards annually since 1991. His more than 225 compositions have been performed in concert venues and in church services worldwide. Recordings of his compositions include *Skyscape (Arktos)* by the Canadian *Duo Majoya*; *Spirituals and Rags: Jazz Harpsichord (AFKA)* by Australian-born harpsichordist Audley Green; *utterbackanalia* (Jazzmuze, Inc.) by English organist Andrew Shenton; *Concert Fantasy on Gershwin's Porgy & Bess* (Connoisseur Society, Inc.) by pianist David Allen Wehr. Individual selections have been recorded on issues by the Organ Historical Society, Pro Organo, Ethereal, and Raven, among others.

A Kansas native, Dr. Joe holds degrees in piano from Wichita State University, and a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Kansas.



Jeffrey Wood

St. Mary RC Church, Milford, CT

Jeffrey is Director of Music at St. Mary Church in Milford, accompanist for the Connecticut Chamber Choir, and performs continuo with Fanfare Consort, an early music ensemble based in Trumbull, CT.

Jeffrey received a Master of Music in Performance degree on Historical Keyboard Instruments at Oberlin Conservatory, where he studied organ with James David Christie and harpsichord with Webb Wiggins. Previously, he served as Organ Scholar for Professor Christie at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA, graduating Summa Cum Laude with a B.A. in Music. His previous organ teachers were Elizabeth Cataldo of Pepperell, Massachusetts, and Bruce Adami of Manchester, New Hampshire.

Before his freshman year at Holy Cross, Jeffrey spent a year studying jazz piano at Berklee College of Music in Boston. Jeffrey was the first-prize winner of the 2004 Augustana Arts National Undergraduate Organ Competition, and the 2005 AGO/Quimby Region I Young Artists Competition. As a result of the latter, he was featured as one of the “Rising Stars” at the 2006 National Convention of the American Guild of Organists in Chicago.

In October of 2004, Jeffrey made his premiere with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, performing harmonium in Mahler's Eighth Symphony under conductor James Levine. He returned in December of 2005 to perform organ for the series of “Holiday at Pops” concerts under conductor Keith Lockheart. Jeffrey has performed in master classes for such noted organists as John Grew, David Boe, Jean Ferrard, Jean-Pierre Leguay, Lionel Rogg, Olivier Latry, Marie-Louise Langlais, and Marie-Claire Alain. He has had the opportunity to play and study on many of the great organs of Europe, in France, Belgium, Switzerland, and Italy, and has also accompanied the Boston College Chorale on concert tours of Rome, Prague, and Vienna.

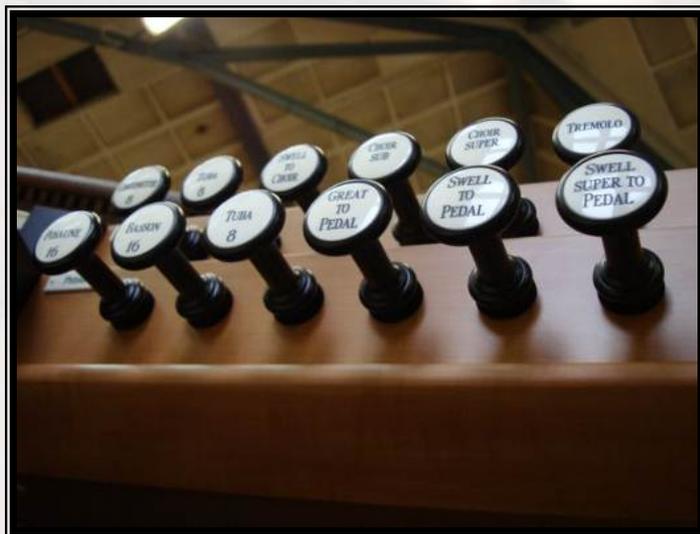


Net proceeds from today's concert will benefit the **Dr. M. Louise Miller Scholarship Fund** and the **Norma Pfriem Urban Outreach Initiatives, Inc.** Dr. Miller was a long-time member of First Church Congregational Fairfield and the beloved Director of Music for First Congregational Church Stratford for almost 40 years. The fund was established in 1998 to honor her life and work and as a founding member (1948) of The Greater Bridgeport AGO, and much like her peer professional Paul Knox, was a leader in choral leadership and organ performance. A \$2,000 scholarship is awarded each July to an undergraduate student pursuing study in an American college, conservatory or university, leading toward a career in organ performance and church music.

The Norma Pfriem Urban Outreach Initiatives is an exciting new set of programs that is bringing hope to the Bridgeport inner city community. Programs include Project Learn After School Tutoring, Children's Cultural Center, Parent Resource Center, Parish Nurse Healthcare, Weekly Community Support, Thanksgiving Feast, Senior Care, Cancer Support, Addiction Recovery, Urban Work camps, Community Gardens, and English Education. For more information about these initiatives and ways that you can help contact Rev. Sara D. Smith, Esq., 203.335.3107 or visit www.normapfriemurbanoutreach.org.

Orgelbau Klais is a German firm that designs, builds and restores pipe organs. It is a family run company, founded in 1882 by Johannes Klais senior and is now run by his great-grandson Philipp Klais.

The firm is based in Bonn, Germany, and has completed many large-scale building and restoration projects around the globe in more than a century of organ building



Johannes Klais studied organ building in Alsace, Switzerland and Southern Germany. He founded his own organ building workshop in Bonn in 1882. His way of building organs was closely bound up with traditional construction methods using slider wind chests. But as early as before the turn of the century he built high pressure stops with two mouths on pneumatic cone valve chests.

In 1906, together with his son Hans, he introduced electric action. Hans Klais took over in 1925. In his time facade design began to come under the influence of the modern age and ergonomic console designs were also being developed. Hans Gerd Klais, the founder's grandson, took charge in 1965. Philipp Klais, the great-grandson of the founder, studied organ building in Alsace, France; in Germany and overseas. He now runs the company.



Klais 36-stop, 41-rank, 3-manual, tracker pipe organ at First Church Congregational Fairfield, Built 2010