



The Brooklyn Bombarde

**The Brooklyn Chapter of the
American Guild of Organists
September, 2003**



A word from the Dean:

Welcome to a new season of the Brooklyn Chapter of the AGO! We have some changes. Welcome to Jonathan Hall, our new editor of the Bombarde. He has had lots of experience in producing newsletters, having done one for the New York AGO. He has new ideas, and I'm sure this is one area in which we will see growth.

Welcome to Gregory Jack, replacing George Williams, and Steve LaPlante, who is replacing me, as I move up to Dean. Mr. Jack is liturgist and principal organist for St. Gregory the Great R. C. Church, Crown Heights, and engineer/project manager for the LIRR. Mr. LaPlante is director of music/organist for St. Athanasius Church, Bensonhurst, as well as being a fine concert organist and countertenor. He is also starting a chapter of the National Pastoral Musicians in Brooklyn.

Another area that I want to see improvement is in the number of Brooklyn organists who belong to our chapter. If any of you know of organists (or anyone else who is interested, for that matter), do offer them an invitation to join. We have many interesting projects planned for the year, as well as the usual parties, etc. Please save Sunday afternoon, October 19, 3:00 pm, for the installation of our new officers at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 21 Sidney Place, Brooklyn Heights, and Tuesday, November 11 (Veteran's Day), for a lecture and recital on Russian Organ Music, given by Iain Quinn, who has just made a compact disc of Russian organ music, at St. Ann & the Holy Trinity, Clinton and Montague in the Heights. The lecture will be at 5 pm, and the recital at 8 pm. Gregory Eaton has also scheduled Thomas Murray, with whom Iain studies, for a recital there earlier this fall. Both are not to be missed. Come enjoy two great performers on a wonderful 1924 E. M. Skinner organ, which has just had its solo division restored. Let's pray for a great and successful season!

—Donald Barnum
Dean, Brooklyn Chapter
American Guild of Organists

A reminder to the board:

There will be a board meeting at the St. Charles School Auditorium, 23 Sidney Place in the Heights, on Wednesday, September 10.

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Chapter Picnic!

The annual chapter kick-off picnic will take place on Sunday afternoon, September 14th, from 2 to 5 PM. The location is Saint John's Episcopal Church, 139 St. John's Place near Flatbush Avenue and 7th Avenue in Park Slope. Our gracious Host is Brian McAnuff; you may contact him at 718-638-3249 (h) or 718-783-8689/3928 (c). As in recent years, this year's picnic will be a pot-luck. See you there!

Have You Renewed Your Membership?

Our Chapter officers report that, though we have eleven new members, we have only had renewals from a little more than half of our regular membership!

Dues were due July 1st. If you have not yet renewed, please take a moment and do so. Otherwise, your subscription to *The American Organist* will end with the November issue, and this will most likely be your final copy of the *Bombarde*!

Checks should be sent to George Mathison, Registrar, 525-R Tenth Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215-4301.

Chapter Service

The annual service of installation of new officers will be on October 19, 3:00 pm, at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 21 Sidney Place, Brooklyn Heights.

Substitute List...

...will be a continuing feature of this newsletter. Please contact the editor to be listed.

Some Upcoming Concerts and Chapter Programs

—Please let me know (well in advance!) of concerts you'd like to see included in this listing, which is offered as a service and courtesy to you.

Tuesday, September 16, 7 PM. Otto Krämer (Germany). Improvisation recital. Brooklyn Baptist Temple, 3rd and Schermerhorn, downtown Bklyn. Free. 917-596-4002.

Wednesday, September 17, Otto Krämer, The Church of the Epiphany, 74th and York, NYC. 212-737-2720.

September 28, 8 PM. Thomas Murray, Church of St. Ann and the Holy Trinity, 157 Montague, Bklyn Hgts. (718) 875-6960.

Chapter Program! Tuesday, November 11 (Veteran's Day), 5 and 8 PM. Lecture and recital on Russian Organ Music. Iain Quinn. St. Ann & the Holy Trinity, Clinton and Montague in the Heights.

A Greeting from Your New Editor

Hello! I'm delighted to be starting up as editor of the *Bombarde* not two full months after concluding a term with the *AGO Times* just across the river. Although I'm a native of NYC, Brooklyn is actually the fourth borough in which I have lived: I was born and raised in Manhattan, went to college in Queens, and upon returning from grad school in 2000, lived for a time in the Parkchester section of the Bronx. (My apologies to Staten Island! I may yet have the pleasure one day...)

I look forward to getting to know you, and I hope you'll be in touch with your ideas and thoughts about our chapter newsletter. And many thanks to Tom Sarff for a job well done, and for all his help getting me started!

All the very best—



Authentic Brooklyn

Keith Bigger, curator of the J. W. Steere Organ in the Brooklyn Baptist Temple, shares his vision of the perfect Egg Cream

Keith Bigger is known far and wide for his incredible work at the Baptist Temple. He has been a tireless advocate for the J. W. Steere organ and organs of that vintage and tonal philosophy. He's dedicated thousands of hours to the cause of the organ and of his church.

He's also lifelong New Yorker, longtime resident of Cambria Heights, Queens, and deeply immersed in the culture and lore of Brooklyn. And there is so much to know about Brooklyn, musically and otherwise!

So for this first installment of "Authentic Brooklyn," I'd like to let Keith share his formula for what he considers to be the perfect Egg Cream. *What's an Egg Cream?*—goes the chorus of millions who've never tasted one. Essentially, it's chocolate milk with seltzer water; which falls short of the true glory of the beverage—like calling the Pope a good Catholic with a white hat.

The Borough President of Brooklyn, Marty Markowitz, recently hosted a contest—an "Egg Cream Extravaganza"—to celebrate this distinctive drink. Here's the recipe favored by one of our profession's greatest treasures:

"...Gotta have a tall, chilled glass...I keep one in the freezer. First thing in the glass is whole milk, one inch. Then you take the seltzer from the soda siphon. You can't go out and buy club soda in a bottle, you have to have a soda siphon. I got one from Sweden. Same distributor sells the CO₂ cartridges. Each cartridge lasts four glasses. (*ed note: KB uses chilled, filtered tap water in the siphon. For those lesser mortals who don't want to carbonate their own seltzer water, go ahead and buy club soda!*)

"Now you fill the glass with the seltzer up to one inch before the top. And finally you take your chocolate syrup and pour it in until it comes up to the top of the glass. I use Hershey's. But everybody else recommends Fox's U-Bet for a true Brooklyn Egg Cream. Then take a tall spoon and stir it up gently. And what's left is white foam on the top with a brown dot in the middle. Now, it's neither Egg nor Cream...I don't know why they ever called it that..."

Editor's note: I use bottled club soda, and Bosco syrup. So sue me.

Chapter Board and Officers, 2003-2004

(nb: all chapter positions will be fully listed starting with the October issue. Please send all corrections to the Editor.)

Donald C. Barnum, Dean (212-799-6944, h)
George B. Williams, Sub-Dean (718-230-9087, h)
Roland Blackburn, Treasurer (212-982-9287, h)
Hope Engelsen, Secretary (718-836-1751, h)
Joe Carson, Professional Concerns (718-857-3309, h; 917-876-2224, pgr)

Class of 2004: Keith Bigger (718-875-1858, x160, ch)
Sylvester Nichols (718-493-0445, h)
Steve LaPlante

Class of 2005: Stephen J. Danziger (718-398-3980, h)
J. David Williams (718-838-0763, cell)
Gregory Jack

Class of 2006: John Cuniffe
Gregory Eaton
Joseph Extejt (718-381-8728, h)

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