



# The Pipeline

## Rossina Vrionides de Gómez concert



Rossina Vrionides de Gomez with Waterbury Chapter members

**O**n the 7th of October, Rossina Vrionides de Gomez played a recital at First Congregational Church in Waterbury, co-sponsored by the Waterbury Chapter of AGO. The fascinating program included works by Bach, Franck, Widor and several Mexican composers.

This is the second year that Rossina has played at First Congregational. The popularity of her concert last October resulted in an invitation for a repeat performance this year! Her warm, gracious personality and wonderful artistic technique have delighted audiences wherever she has played, and the Waterbury audience, which included many chapter members, was no exception.

Rossina also played a series of concerts for

public school students in Waterbury during the previous week. Ron Ebrecht has, for a number of years, arranged for virtually the entire 5th grade of the Waterbury school system to attend introductory pipe organ events at First Church. Hundreds of students and their teachers arrived by bus to hear Ron and Rossina play and talk

about the King of Instruments. One of the most popular pieces that Rossina played for the children was a Russian piece that had a lively, hectic pace. She played this as some of the children were leaving for their buses, leading yours truly to remark that it would make a great postlude for a congregation that couldn't wait to leave after the *Ite Missa Est!!* After the concert, the Rossina joined the gang at Bertucci's for pizza and merriment! As always at Waterbury, a great time was had by all!

## Hartford Organ Crawl

Our planned November organ crawl in Hartford has been merged with Ron Ebrecht's organ class trip. We will join the organ class of Wesleyan University on a journey to the Austin Organ Factory in Hartford on a Friday afternoon to be determined soon. After a tour of the works, courtesy of sub-dean Mike Fazio, president of Austin Organs, we will head over to the Cathedral of St. Joseph for an organ

crawl and presentation on the organs of Buenos Aires Argentina by Cathedral organist Dr. Ezequiel Menendez. As always, we will dine in style at an establishment in Hartford that meets our high standards. Those unable to join the tour in the early afternoon may arrive whenever. See [www.waterburyago.com](http://www.waterburyago.com) for the latest details!

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### Coming Attractions:

- Yale—Woolsey Hall 6 Dec  
Jared Johnson -Organ
- *See the Organ Music at Yale brochure for times*

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## Dean's Message

*This message was to have been included in the Oct-Nov hard copy newsletter, but was omitted!*

Welcome to the second edition of the 2007-2008 newsletter! Those of you with email have already been hearing from me over the summer, but for those of you who missed those messages let me say once again thank you for the great honor of having been elected your Dean! Although my enthusiasm for our instrument exceeds my musical abilities by a considerable margin, I will do my best to fill the giant shoes I step into! And a great big Thank You to Ron Ebrecht and his predecessors for their years of outstanding leadership.

Most of you already know that we have postponed the annual Member's recital, which I playfully re-named the MEMBERS HAVING FUN PLAYING MUSIC FOR EACH OTHER AND THE OCCASIONAL INTERESTED BYSTANDER event! This was a difficult choice, and I offer my sincere apologies to those whose arms I figuratively twisted a few weeks ago, as we sought to build a quorum of players on a date that turned out to be unworkable for most of us. Rather than present a very short program, we decided to reschedule the event to a time

### Choir Tour to England

Dear AGO chapter contacts, I am the director of a small choir called Musica Sacra and we are taking our 5th annual choir tour to the UK next summer, July 16-30, to sing in England, Scotland and Wales. The high points will be singing Choral Eucharists in St. Paul's Cathedral, London and Chester Cathedral. Because of the size of the buildings involved we will be looking for a few extra sing-

ers to boost the ranks, and so if you would be willing to post a notice in your chapter newsletter to see if anyone might have a singer or two interested, that would be much appreciated!

that was more convenient for all, and also offered additional preparation time. During some inspired brainstorming at yesterday's board meeting (and let's not have any jokes about the autumn drizzle being the best "storm" my brain can generate!) Ron Ebrecht came up with an idea that would have the effect of making the member's recital a preview of the festivities for the "International Year of the Organ". (As you may know, AGO has designated the period July 08 - Jun 09 to focus public attention upon the instrument and its music.) So we have come up with the idea of a progressive recital that will take place in three venues in downtown Waterbury. We are in the process of making arrangements with the three churches. The format of the event will be to have two members play at each church, in a program that will be tailored to the organ in each venue. The audience will perambulate from one segment of the concert to another, not unlike "Pictures at an Exhibition"!

The concert will take place in April 2008, which will give us all plenty of time to plan and prepare. It should also be an excellent opportunity to promote the organ in Waterbury, and we will spare no effort to get as much publicity as we can!

Best wishes,  
James NM Reed

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James NM Reed

[jamesreed@googlemail.com](mailto:jamesreed@googlemail.com)

### PIPEDREAMS Update

It is sad that we report that PIPEDREAMS will no longer be carried on CT Public Radio, possibly ending in October, and no later than January 2008. CT Public Radio claims lack of listenership for PIPEDREAMS, and will now come very close to accomplishing the reformation of their programming to "all-talk." We wish to thank all of you again who have generously contributed to PIPEDREAMS to keep it on the air at CT Public Radio.

We are currently exploring the possibilities for

relocating the program to another station, preferably one that has the broadest reach throughout the state. Your support for PIPEDREAMS is important at this time, and we ask you to keep PIPEDREAMS alive by recommending your friends and colleagues continue to listen to the show online at [www.pipedreams.org](http://www.pipedreams.org).

John Nisbet, Pipedreams Coordinator

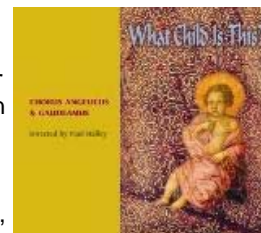


**ALLREGRETTO:**  
*When you're  
16 measures  
into the piece  
and realize  
you took too  
fast a tempo*

## CD Review—"What Child Is This"

Just the other day, I received an email from Pelagos Music. It seems that, apparently, one of the "perks" of being Dean of this great chapter is being asked to review the occasional new CD release! At least that is what Pelagos, which is the music company representing Paul Halley, requested that I do for the Pipeline. And so, when the CD arrived, I quickly arranged a listening session in the theater of the Palazzo Vallillo, and settled in for a listen.

The names of Paul Halley, Chorus Angelicus, and Gaudeamus should be familiar to any music lover in Connecticut. Halley, one of America's pre-eminent organists, was himself a member of this chapter for some years. One of the best improvisers around, his musical reputation extends beyond the organ world. The Choral groups he founded and leads, Chorus Angelicus and Gaudeamus, are famous for the marvelous quality of their harmonies. This, their latest album, certainly lives up to this well-deserved reputation. Beautiful choral music is to the ear what fine chocolate is to the palate: a delight to sense and soul! When you add in some wonderful organ accompaniments from a master musician, the effect is sublime!



There is a lot of music on this album, 21 pieces in all. For me, some of the selections, although old in a chronological sense, are new. There are also old favorites, many with intriguing new harmonies and, occasionally, melodies, just to keep things interesting! The technical quality of the recording is excellent, and the engineers have done a superb job of capturing the dynamic range from a whisper to a roar. There is an excellent sense of three dimensional depth in the recording, even without "surround" processing on playback. The organ is superbly registered and recorded, balancing exactly with the choral voices – never overpowering or being overpowered.

The vocals are sublime – ranging from the hauntingly ethereal to the "joyful noise" for which these groups are known! It is easy to imagine oneself in heaven, or at least in the musician's suburb of it, when listening to the a-capella selections, particularly in "A Nativity" (track 14).

I cannot give you a favorite selection, I liked them all! If you want to hear some really great organ accompaniment, try "What Child is This?" and "Good King Wenceslaus" in particular and enjoy the perfect balance of the voices with the King of Instruments. There are a few pieces in which I literally could not be sure if the singing was a-capella or organ accompanied – I suspect the latter, but the registration and blending is so good that the organ, if present, becomes literally another voice in the chorus. Now that's Voix Humaine!

This is an album you could give as a Christmas present to just about any music lover, especially yourself! And the bonus is that the King of Instruments is showcased perfectly in one of its' major roles – the accompaniment of singers. Thus this album can help to broaden the appeal of our instrument, particularly in the upcoming "Year of the Pipe Organ". A perfectly timed release indeed! I highly recommend it. You can order it directly from:

Pelagos Incorporated 877-735-2467 [www.pelagosmusic.com](http://www.pelagosmusic.com)

**"Sublime...superbly  
registered and  
recorded...a  
perfectly timed  
release"**

## WWW. Pipes

WWW. Pipes will be a regular feature devoted to bringing you the best pipe organ and music sites on the web. If you have any favorites bookmarked, please share them with us by sending an email to Tony Vallillo.

Our first offering will be none other than the official website for the organ of St. Sulpice—[www.stsulpice.com](http://www.stsulpice.com)

Here you will find the history of the instrument, specifications, discography, the schedule of music for concerts, auditions and masses, and an audio/video section featuring video taken by yours truly!



The Organ of St. Sulpice  
Les Chantiers Organs de Saint-Sulpice



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We're on the Web!  
[www.waterburyago.org](http://www.waterburyago.org)

## David and Koko!

I am discovering interesting perks that accrue to the deanship every day! In addition to the copies of other chapter newsletters, I am receiving correspondence from concert organists seeking to play recitals in this area.

Perhaps the most unusual is a recent brochure from "David and Koko", a duet act consisting, apparently, of a man and a gorilla! The gorilla, from all appearances, plays the organ! They originate from Providence Rhode Island, an area not previously known for a large, indigenous, musically inclined gorilla population! Rumor has it that Koko studied organ with Jane Goodall (who was herself a student of Widor's old pal Albert Schweitzer), and took first prizes in harmony and counterpoint at the Conservatoire du Gombe, where his teachers in-

cluded Cheetah — who, when not pursuing his motion picture acting career was principal organist with the Tanganyika Philharmonic.

All kidding aside, the pair, the human half of which is David Clyde-Morse, offer concerts, master classes, special children's events and even choral workshops! (The thought of the St. Matthew Passion performed by a chorus of chimps boggles the mind!)

I thought I would run this one by all of the membership, just in case anyone simply cannot pass on the opportunity to see a simian play the Bach Passacaglia! They will be available in the summer of 2008.

And you thought you had a hard time finding students!!!!!!



"David and Koko" in performance!