

ST. JOHN'S ORGAN SOCIETY

Annual Newsletter

JUNE 2021

ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH | 207 YORK STREET, BANGOR, MAINE 04401 | WWW.HOOKOPUS288.ORG

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Kevin Birch,
Executive Director

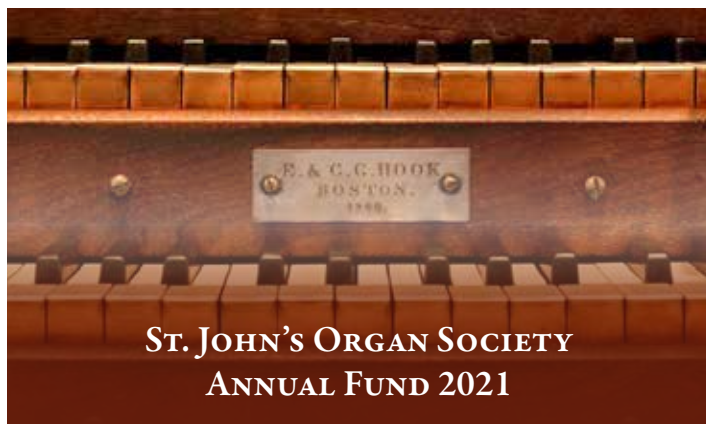
A year ago, for the first time since our founding nearly thirty years ago, St. John's Organ Society suspended our usual concert programming in the face of the COVID-19 Pandemic. And how strange it was, alongside so much loss and disruption, to miss the privilege of welcoming you to enjoy the exquisite sounds of E. & G. G. Hook's Opus 288 at our Summer Organ Concerts. It was certainly a year like no other.

Thanks to all who have worked so hard to navigate this public health crisis, we are in a position to step forward with a sense of measured optimism as we resume our public offerings which include Summer Organ Concerts (Thursday evenings - August 5 through September 2), International Organ Concerts (Tuesday evenings - November 9 and May 24) and continued community outreach.

Our 2021 Annual Newsletter is full of interesting information: profiles of the wonderful musicians who will perform for in the coming year; a Memorial Tribute to Tricia McGarry Clark - long-time friend of Opus 288; a look back into the SJOS archives including items marking the extraordinary success of restoration efforts in 1981; and an opportunity to support SJOS through our 2021 Annual Giving Program.

My deep thanks to St. John's Organ Society's Board of Directors for another year of dedicated service, to Monsignor Andrew Dubois, Pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Parish, for his encouragement and support, and to all who support St. John's Organ Society by your concert attendance and generous financial contributions.

Since its arrival in Bangor in 1860, and particularly in the past year, E. & G. G. Hook's magnificent Opus 288 has been a voice of constancy, beauty, inspiration and comfort. May our work ensure that this treasured instrument continue this legacy for many generations to come.



ST. JOHN'S ORGAN SOCIETY ANNUAL FUND 2021

It is through the generous support of our donors that we are able to share the beauties of E. & G. G. Hook's Opus 288 through public concerts, education, and community outreach.

Your tax-deductible donation will enable us to continue and expand our efforts. Donors will be listed by category in all concert programs.

GIVING LEVELS ARE:

Benefactor (\$500+)	Patron (\$250-\$499)
Sponsor (\$150-\$249)	Contributor (\$100-\$149)
Friend (\$50-\$99)	Supporter (\$20-\$49)

Gifts may be made online at hookopus288.org or sent to:
St. John's Organ Society, 207 York Street, Bangor, ME 04401.

A form is enclosed for your convenience. On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for considering a donation to St. John's Organ Society!

ST. JOHN'S ORGAN SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kevin Birch - Executive Director
Catherine Bruno - Secretary Jason Gould - Treasurer
Ruth Nelligan Carlton Russell
Sarah Johnson Abraham Ross

YOU CAN FIND THE ST. JOHN'S ORGAN SOCIETY ON FACEBOOK!
Stay on top of all that's going on with the Hook Opus 288, concerts, and more by searching and liking HOOKOPUS288 or ST. JOHN'S ORGAN SOCIETY.

ST. JOHN'S
ORGAN SOCIETY
WWW.HOOKOPUS288.ORG

St. John's Organ Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and appreciation of E. & G. G. Hook's Opus 288 (1860) built for St. John's Roman Catholic Church in Bangor, Maine.

2021-2022 CONCERT PROGRAMS

Our 28th Summer Recital Series begins on August 5. Hour-long summer recitals take place on Thursday evenings at 7:30. Admission is free for all our concerts, but donations are appreciated.



Jennifer McPherson

Our opening summer concert on **August 5** features **Jennifer McPherson** (Portsmouth, NH) performing works of J.S. Bach, Alexandre Guilmant, and Charles Tournemire. McPherson serves as Director of Music and Liturgy at St. John's Episcopal Church in Portsmouth, NH, and holds degrees from College of the Holy

Cross in Worcester, MA, and Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Oberlin, OH. She has performed throughout the United States and Canada and has been awarded prizes in multiple competitions, including the International Organ Competition Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck in Amsterdam. A committed teacher of young musicians, Ms. McPherson is co-director of The Choir School at St. John's, an after-school tuition-free music program for children grades 3-8. She also serves on the faculty and the board of the Young Organist Collaborative, an outreach program of St. John's Portsmouth.

On **August 12** **Jeremy Thompson** (Charlottesville, VA) performs music of J.S. Bach, Eugène Gigout, and Franz Liszt. Thompson was born in Dipper Harbour, a small fishing village in New Brunswick, Canada, and studied piano with Marina Mdivani (a student of Emil Gilels) and organ with Dr. John Grew. He earned a Doctorate of Music in performance from McGill University holding two of Canada's most prestigious doctoral fellowships. He has performed extensively throughout North America appearing with orchestras and in solo and chamber music settings, and has completed three tours to the former Soviet Union. Thompson enjoys performing music from all eras, and specializes in highly virtuosic repertoire. He has recorded a 2 CD set of the organ music of Karl Höller on the Raven CD label and several CDs of piano music.



Jeremy Thompson



Erica Johnson

The **August 19** concert features **Erica Johnson** (Walpole, MA) celebrating music of female composers for the organ, including Cécile Chaminade, Florence Price and Ethel Smyth. Johnson is the College Organist and Instructor of Organ and Harpsichord at Wellesley College and Director of Liturgy and Music at Sacred Heart Parish in Newton Center, MA. Erica is a graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory, Oberlin College, New England Conservatory, and the Eastman School of Music (DMA), studying with Haskell Thomson, William Porter and Hans Davidsson. As a grant recipient of the Beebe Fund for Musicians she studied an additional two years at the Hochschule für Künste in Bremen, Germany, with Harald Vogel. Her years in Germany yielded two honors: the 2004 International Arp Schnitger Prize awarded by the Arp Schnitger Gesellschaft, and the 2002 NDR Musikpreis. More recently she has presented programs for the Westfield Center for Historical Keyboard Studies and the Göteborg International Organ Academy in Gothenburg, Sweden.

George Bozemen (Deerfield, NH) performs music of J.S. Bach on **August 26**. A native of Texas, Bozeman studied with Dr. Helen Hewitt at the University of North Texas. He apprenticed as an organbuilder with Otto Hofmann in Austin, Texas, and later worked with Robert L. Sipe in Dallas. In



George Bozemen

1967 he received a Fulbright Grant to Austria where he studied with Anton Heiller and Isolde Ahlgrimm. He worked with Fritz Noack in Andover, Massachusetts before starting his own firm in Lowell. With partner David Gibson and later as sole owner his firm completed projects in some 20 states across the nation - including the 1981 restoration of E. & G. G. Hook's Opus 288 at St. John's in Bangor. He has maintained a church music career throughout and is director of music at the First Congregational Church in Pembroke, New Hampshire. He has played recitals across the United States and in Mexico, Canada, the Caribbean, Germany, and France.



*Kevin Birch &
Anatole Wieck*

Our Season Finale features **Kevin Birch** with **Anatole Wieck**, violin (Bangor, ME), performing works of J.S. Bach, Heinrich Biber and Girolamo Frescobaldi on **September 2**.

Birch began organ studies with Yuko Hayashi on the C. B. Fisk organ at Old West Church in 1979 and earned the Bachelor

of Music Degree at New England Conservatory (with Distinction in Performance) in 1987. He continued studies with Klaas Bolt at the Sweelinck Conservatory in Amsterdam and later with Delores Bruch at the University of Iowa where he earned the Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees. Since 1992 he has served as Director of Music at St. John's Catholic Church in Bangor, Maine where he also serves as Executive Director of St. John's Organ Society - a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and stewardship of E. & G. G. Hook's Opus 288 built for St. John's Church in 1860. Kevin is a member of the music faculty at the University of Maine's School of the Performing Arts in Orono and serves on the Liturgical Commission for the Diocese of Portland. He has performed solo recitals in the US, Canada, Europe, and in South America, and for several national conventions of the Organ Historical Society. He is especially devoted to the many fine historic organs in Maine on which he enjoys frequent opportunities to study and perform.

Born in Latvia, Anatole Wieck received his first musical education in Riga and Moscow. In the United States since 1973, he studied violin and viola at the Juilliard School of Music in New York City, where he completed his Doctorate in Musical Arts working closely with Ivan Galamian, Lillian Fuchs, and Paul Doktor. He also studied baroque interpretation with Carol Lieberman at Boston University. He plays baroque viola, viola d'amore and baroque violin. Since 1986 Dr. Wieck has taught upper strings at the University of Maine and conducted the University of Maine Orchestra. He has performed and conducted in Europe, North and South America, and has participated in chamber music festivals such as Chamber Music/West (San Francisco), White Nights (St. Petersburg, Russia) and festivals in Montepulciano, Italy and Newport, Rhode Island. He was a Fulbright Senior Specialist in 2006 in Guatemala.



Christa Rakich

St. John's Organ Society will present two international concerts this season. The fall concert on Tuesday, **November 9** features concert and recording artist **Christa Rakich** (Bloomfield, CT). Rakich has performed widely throughout North America, Europe, and Japan. She currently serves as Visiting Professor of

Organ at Oberlin Conservatory in Ohio. Near her home in Connecticut, she maintains two Artist-in-Residencies: St. John's Episcopal Church in West Hartford and the Congregational Church of Somers. Past Artist-in-Residencies have included the University of Pennsylvania and First Lutheran Church in Boston. As a Fulbright Scholar, Christa Rakich studied with renowned Bach interpreter Anton Heiller at the Hochschule für Musik in Vienna, Austria. She holds Bachelor's degrees in Organ and German from Oberlin College (Phi Beta Kappa). After receipt of her Master's degree with honors from New England Conservatory, she joined the faculty there, where she taught for many years, serving ultimately as department co-chair. She has also served on the faculties at Westminster Choir College, Brandeis University, and the University of Connecticut, and as Assistant University Organist at Harvard.

Dr. Gregory Crowell (Grand Rapids, MI) performs on Tuesday, **May 24, 2022**. Gregory Crowell is a Senior Affiliate Professor of Music at Grand Valley State University and the Director of Music at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He has performed widely in Europe, Japan, and the



Dr. Gregory Crowell

United States as organist, harpsichordist, clavichordist, and conductor. He has been heard in live performance on WCRB in Boston, WGUC in Cincinnati, WFMT Chicago, Northwest German Radio, Belgian Public Radio, and NPM's Pipedreams, and has recorded for the OHS and OgeeOgress labels. Crowell has lectured and published extensively on matters concerning organology and performance practice, and is the editor of *Clavichord International*. Dr. Crowell performs under the aegis of Independent Concert Artists.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA MCGARRY CLARK

by Ruth Nelligan

It is with a deep sense of sorrow, yet an honor to dedicate this issue of the St. John's Organ Society Newsletter to the memory and legacy of Tricia McGarry Clark.

With shock, we were told of the death of Tricia on November 4, 2020 from a sudden aneurysm.

Tricia was born in New Jersey, but as a child lived in Delaware as well as Connecticut. When a teenager, she moved with her family to Bangor where she attended Bangor High School. The University of Maine in Orono is where she received a B.S. in music with a concentration in organ. A Master of Education led to a position in the Bangor School System as a classroom music teacher.

In addition to her position as a teacher, the expanse of years playing the organ and directing choirs ranges from the 1970's at St. John's Catholic Church to her final days



at Hampden United Methodist Church as organist, choir director and director of the Bell Choir.

Since 1982, Tricia and her husband, Robert A. Clark have worked as a team, living in Vermont, Indianapolis and Florida as well as Oslo, Norway. In each of these

locations, her organ and directing skills were put to immediate use. Her gift and talent for music were of prime importance to her in enhancing the sacred life of church music.

As the wife of the Husson University president, she quietly, yet professionally and skillfully supported the students and faculty, the athletic teams and the Women's Philanthropy Group, as well as being the hostess at many social events.

In the words of Tricia's sister, Louise, "A light has gone out, but she deposited a thousand lights in the many places and people she encountered throughout her life".

It is a light that will continue to shed its glow when we, the St. John's Organ Society, remember a very talented, loving and precious lady, our friend Tricia.

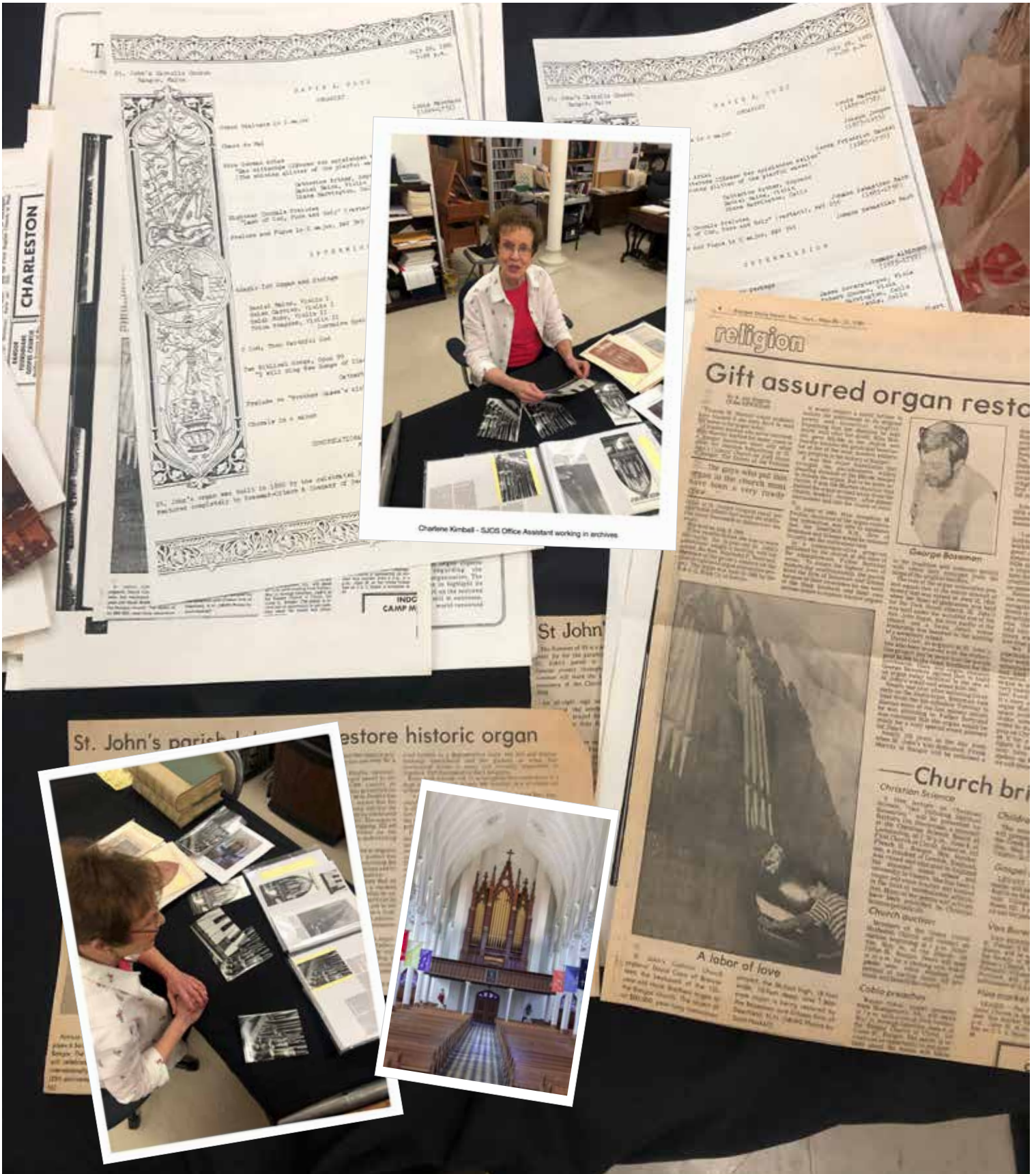


This Bangor Daily News article (summer 1980) features a photo of Tricia cheerfully cleaning one of the pipes of the Hook Opus 288 during its restoration.

OPUS 288 THROUGH THE YEARS: 1981-2021 - FORTY YEARS AGO

Archival work continues... Meet Charlene Kimball, SJOS volunteer and office assistant. Charlene has been at work organizing SJOS archives including these programs and newspaper clippings from 1981.

We are indebted to those who worked so hard to "save" this organ in the later 1970's - particularly David Coco and Tricia McGarry Clark. We trust that they would be pleased with what St. John's Organ Society has accomplished in the intervening years!



Charlene Kimball - SJOS Office Assistant working in archives

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The gift will put this organ in the church most have been a very trouble



George Rossmen



A labor of love

St. John's parish... restore historic organ

Church bri

Christian Science



EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH: *Fifth Grade music students of All Saints Catholic School visited Opus 288 to celebrate the birthday of Johann Sebastian Bach. During the March visit, Dr. Birch performed favorite works of Bach and presented a short talk on Neo-Gothic architectural style as reflected in the building (designed by Patrick Keely and completed in 1856) and organ case (1860).*