

BIOGRAPHIES

A Maine native, **CLARISSA BROWN** began studying the organ with John Fay, who was then Municipal Organist of Portland, Maine. She has since studied with two other Municipal Organists, Douglas Rafter and Ray Cornils. She holds the Colleague and Associate degree certificates from the American Guild of Organists, and completed a Master's degree in Pipe Organ Performance at Boston Conservatory, studying with James David Christie, Sean Redrow, and Heinrich Christensen. Ms. Brown has been the music director at various churches from New Hampshire to the Midcoast area and is currently a freelance musician living in Brunswick, Maine.

BRUCE FITHIAN studied organ with Roy Johnson at the University of Arizona and has degrees in composition from the New England Conservatory and Brandeis University. He is choirmaster/organist at the Church of Saint Mary, Falmouth, where he leads the early music ensemble, St Mary Schola. His latest composition is an oratorio based on the poems of William Blake, *The Songs of Innocence and Experience*. His most recent song *Sailing to Byzantium* was recently presented at the Back Cove Contemporary Music Festival.

SEAMUS GETHICKER, 19, of Bath, Maine began his interest in pipe organs at age 8, when he attended a Magic of Christmas concert at Merrill Auditorium in Portland and first witnessed the mighty Kotschmar Organ played by Ray Cornils. He then discovered the theatre organ soon after through the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS). He later began studying organ with Ray Cornils for several years. His recent accomplishments include being the winner of the ATOS Young Theatre Organist Competition held in Cleveland, Ohio in 2016. Seamus has performed in venues across the country. Some notable appearances include being a featured artist in Tampa, Florida for an ATOS convention as well as twice performing for the "Rising Stars" concert at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion in San Diego, California.

DR. JANE HAGNESS joined the staff in 2017 of First Parish Church, UCC in Brunswick, ME as Minister of Music. Jane conducts seven ensembles at First Parish Church and serves as the organist. As a lyric soprano, she has earned a Master of Music from the University of Kentucky and a Doctor of Musical Arts from Shenandoah Conservatory. Additionally, she earned a second Master of Church Music/Organ degree from Shenandoah Conservatory. An active recitalist in both voice and organ, Jane has presented at the National Association of Teachers of Singing National Conference and at the International Congress of Voice Teachers. She is author of a two-part article in the Journal of Singing and has composed several sacred solo and choral vocal pieces with varying instrumental accompaniment and especially enjoys hymn composition.

TERRIE HARMAN is a student of Harold Stover and Ray Cornils, and she is a contributing member of the American Guild of Organists and holds the credential of Associate of that organization (AAGO). She founded The Portsmouth Men's Chorus, has volunteered on numerous art and music boards and has been a member of the Board of the Friends of the Kotzschmar Organ in Portland, ME. She is Director of Music and organist at Trinity Church in York Harbor, ME. Recently, on a trip to Cape Town, South Africa, she performed an organ concert attended by Desmond Tutu. In addition to her music endeavors, Terrie maintains an active practice of law in Exeter, NH, specializing in estate planning and probate law.

Retired from music responsibilities, **GRACE LEWIS-MCLAREN** now enjoys playing the music she loves for any who wish to listen. She is a graduate of Eastman School of Music. David Craighead was her teacher. Following that she studied at Union Theological Seminary School of Sacred Music in New York, studying with Vernon DeTar. Since retiring Grace has had the opportunity to play instruments wherever she can wrangle an invitation. This includes the Basilica of Ste-Clotilde in Paris, where Caesar Franck once played, and churches of southern Germany on organs played by J. S. Bach.

RANDALL MULLIN, a native of Columbus, Georgia, received both Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in Organ from the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, where he studied with Arthur Howes and Cherry Rhodes. From 1975 until 2003, he was Organist and Choirmaster at St. David's Church in Baltimore where he worked with a professional mixed choir, boys' choir and girls' choir and established a monthly concert series.

Mr. Mullin has performed throughout the country with more recent recitals at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco and Methuen Memorial Music Hall in Methuen, Massachusetts. He also performed in "Grand Opera meets the Mighty Kotzschmar" with ChoralArt of Portland, Maine in 2016.

Randall has also extended his recognition by his presence on YouTube where he has produced over seventy high definition videos, some recorded by request of contemporary composers from North America and Europe, and his website www.randallmullin.com, which contains over one hundred of his recordings.

JOSHUA SINGER received both Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in Organ from the Juilliard School in New York City and was fortunate to study with Vernon deTar and John Weaver. Mr. Singer was the organist at Grace Lutheran Church in Forest Hills, New York for 32 years. He often played at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City and gave recitals throughout New York, in Washington, DC and abroad. Mr. Singer

recently moved to mid-coast Maine and is looking forward to getting involved with the organ community there.

HAROLD STOVER is a native of Latrobe PA and a graduate of the Juilliard School in New York. His performing career spans half a century and includes concerts on most major organ recital series in New York, at the National Cathedral in Washington, Westminster Abbey in London, Harvard and Princeton universities, and many other distinguished venues. His compositions are published by the Augsburg-Fortress, ECS, MorningStar, and Paraclete presses and are recorded on the Albany, ACA Digital, and Gloriam Dei Cantores labels. He has made ten appearances as composer and organist on *Pipedreams*, the radio program of organ music from American Public Media, and has been featured as performer, composer, and lecturer at regional and national conventions of the American Guild of Organists. His scholarly articles on organ and choral music, with an emphasis on American works, have been published in *The American Organist*, *The Diapason*, and other professional journals. Now retired from full time church music work after serving churches in New York and Portland, he presently directs the Portland-based chorus Renaissance Voices, teaches at the Portland Conservatory of Music, and pursues an active career as a free-lance organist and composer. Active in FOKO since 1993, he served as president from 2003 until 2006 and presently sits on the board of directors.

JOHN SULLIVAN, FAGO. From 1992 until his alleged retirement in 2007, John taught elementary and middle school classroom music, served as musical director for many productions, and taught private lessons in piano, organ and music theory. He is an active member of the American Guild of Organists. In addition to several interim positions in the Portland and Bangor areas, he served for several years as organist/choirmaster at St. George's Episcopal Church, York Harbor, and is currently Director of Music at Second Congregational Church, Biddeford. John holds an MA in Music Education from NYU, and the Fellowship Certificate from the American Guild of Organists (FAGO).

PHIL THIBAUT has been the organist of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Yarmouth, Maine for the last thirty-four years. He began his study of the organ with former Portland municipal organist John Fay, being his last student. Other teachers include Gerald McGee, Warren Johnson and Harold Stover. He has retired as a Latin and French teacher at Portland High School and currently teaches French at St. Joseph's College of Maine. He resides in Cumberland with his wife, Pat.

NANCY WINES-DEWAN graduated from Syracuse University with a degree in Fine Arts, and from the University of Southern Maine with a degree in Organ Performance. She served as Music Director, Handbell