



# BOSTON PIPINGS

news and notes for members of Boston Chapter AGO

## October 2019 Pippings - The Newsletter of the Boston Chapter AGO

**AUGUST 20-23**  
*Summer 2020*

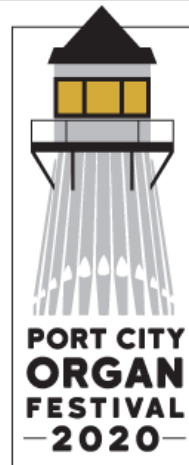
**Experience the brilliance of the Kotzschmar  
Organ and the beauty of Maine**

Portland Municipal Organist James Kennerley

Guest Artists: Katelyn Emerson, Peter Krasinski and  
Olivier Latry, Organiste Titulaire Notre-Dame de Paris

*Family Concert, Windchest Tours, Fun Group Events  
along with Portland's thriving restaurant scene.*

**KOTZSCHMAR** *Organ* [www.foko.org](http://www.foko.org)



**SAVE THE DATE**

Sponsored Content

Greetings!

Welcome to our new newsletter! We've revamped the format to improve communication and keep our members up to date with Chapter events, upcoming concerts, ongoing programs and much more. Claire DeCusati and David Baker have been working all summer to get the changes made. Many thanks to them for their careful work and many hours.



On our website you can read the history of the Boston chapter, which has been meeting since December 1905. While you're on the website you can find job listings, substitute organists, and a way to apply for funding for special projects involving the pipe organ and news about the ongoing efforts of BAGO and the OHS to preserve the legacy of the one of our most famous members, E. Power Biggs.

Since we're heading into organ tuning season, organ builder and BAGO member Jonathan Ambrosino has written a best practice guide. Jonathan has supplied an easy way for organists to give accurate information to the organ tuner on tuning day. A maintenance log is invaluable for tuners. There are times when an organ problem heals itself, but even knowing that is helpful to organ technicians.

Check out the events that Jeremy and the Program committee have come up with. It is an exciting season! The opening service at Trinity was heard by many, followed by an outstanding reception at Old South. Thank you to BAGO members Richard Webster and Colin Lynch of Trinity and Mitchell Crawford of Old South for hosting us. Daryl Bichel and Persimmon Catering provided delicious food.

### ***Pipe Dreams* Documentary Screening**

BAGO joins Boston Organ Studio in providing a one-time opportunity to view the documentary *Pipe Dreams*. Join your colleagues for a night out in Somerville, and spread the word!

Monday, October 28 at 7:00 PM  
AMC ASSEMBLY ROW 12  
395 Artisan Way, Somerville MA

- General Admission: \$14.99
- Additional booking fee of \$1.95 per ticket.
- (Includes all applicable taxes)

*Pipe Dreams* (2019) follows five young organists as they compete in Canada's prestigious International Organ Competition (CIOC). Who will master the 'king of instruments' and come out victorious in Montreal? *Pipe Dreams* gives you an inside look into the wonderful world of competitive organ playing.



***This event is pending, and will only be confirmed if the event threshold of 50 tickets are reserved.*** The link for reserving tickets is below; your credit card will not be charged unless the event is confirmed.

We are hopeful that the event will move forward, and look forward to seeing you there!

[Click here to reserve your ticket](#)

Welcome members new to both the AGO and the Boston Chapter: **Demetri Sampas**, **Edvard Lee** and **Jooхва Park**. These three new members have joined since June! We're glad to have you with us and hope to see you at future events

### ***2019 - 2020 Program Schedule***

ORGAN RECITAL: CAROLINE  
ROBINSON  
Doctoral Candidate, Eastman School of  
Music  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22 at 7:30 PM

FIRST NIGHT ORGAN RECITAL  
Organists Steven Loher, Douglas Major  
and George Sargeant  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31 at 4 PM

BAGO PPOTLUCK DINNER  
Sunday, JANUARY 5

WORKSHOP: Organbuilding 101  
SATURDAY, MARCH 7 from 10 AM to 3  
PM  
Registration required

Bach Birthday 335  
SATURDAY, MARCH 21 from 8 AM to 6  
PM

ORGAN RECITAL: DAVID ENLOW  
FRIDAY, APRIL 24 at 7 PM

BAGO Annual Meeting  
TUESDAY, MAY 19 from 5:30 to 9 PM

## In tune with.....

.....Jonathan Ambrosino



An organ maintenance log is one of the most useful tools for both musician and technician. It develops a habit of recording any tuning or mechanical faults, and it gives a solid paper record — right at the instrument in question — of these faults, especially handy for tracking down repeat offenders.

Vagueness is the great sin of the maintenance log, where clarity is golden. These tips may help develop solid log

protocols:

1 . Always leave a complete day, month, year. If the issue in question is tuning-related, noting the temperature never hurts.

2 . If the problem relates to a specific pipe or a specific key, be as clear as possible to avoid guessing.

- For example:
- “shutters squeak” is only mildly helpful, but “Echo shutters squeak on close” is better.
- “Mixtures out of tune” could honestly be read not as a complaint at all, merely a fact of pipe organs. Therefore: “Great V Mixture, C25 tuning” s more helpful.

3 . On that score, use a system of key notation that is clear to everybody involved.

Middle C could be:

- C1 (in a system where low C is C, tenor C is C0, middle C is C1, and so forth)
- C25 (where keys are numbered sequentially)
- C3 (where each octave is numbered bass to treble)
- The system you pick is less important than applying it consistently in any given log.

4. Therefore, the log should have an instruction sheet on the cover indicating exactly how bloggers should make entries.

5. Sometimes you hear something terribly wrong but just can't figure out what it is. That's fine! If you can't, there's a good chance the technician can.

Therefore, leave solid breadcrumbs so the technician can duplicate the problem. Noting, for example, Memory Level, General piston, and the note in question or even a chord, goes a great distance to aiding technicians in their sleuthing and solutions.

On the other hand, “Manual Transfer causes ciphers” — when it in fact does not, and the organ in question has more than 100 ranks — is liable to have a technician respond “organists play wrong notes.”

These and many other fine points of good pipe organ care will be covered by Jonathan Ortloff and Jonathan Ambrosino in their March 2020 shop tour at the Ortloff headquarters in Needham Heights. See our [Program Page](#) for more details



The Boston Organ library is now in partnership with the Organ Historical Society (OHS) to preserve some of the E. Power Biggs recordings (the ones that were not made into records). The OHS has applied for a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to fund this effort; we should know in March 2020 if this grant is approved. In addition, AGO National Headquarters has pledged \$50K to digitize the E. Power Biggs tapes that we have at the library.

A spreadsheet database of the Chapter Broadcast tapes is now halfway complete (though not available on our site yet). A few of these broadcasts have been digitized and can be accessed [here](#)

As always, remember that music and other organ resources are available for purchase from the library. For further information, [click here](#)

## Cha-Cha-Cha-Changes

The Operating Procedures are the governance document for our Chapter.

The Executive Committee recommends 3 changes to our procedures:

1. Wording changes to ensure that EC members are *Chapter* members in good standing
2. Addition of position description for the Substitute List Coordinator
3. Addition of position description for the Job Posting Coordinator

These changes must be posted to the BAGO membership for a 30 day comment period.

Comments? [Click here](#)

[View the Changes](#)

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"Music is a safe kind of high"

~ Jimi Hendrix

## SPAC

### Special Project Advisory Committee

The application deadlines for the Special Projects Advisory Committee Funds have been set:

- Fall submission Deadline, November 30, 2019
- Spring submission deadline March 15, 2020

View application requirements, [click here](#)

Also, we thank Dan McKinley for his service to the Committee as his term completes, and we welcome Robert Barney as our newest Committee member



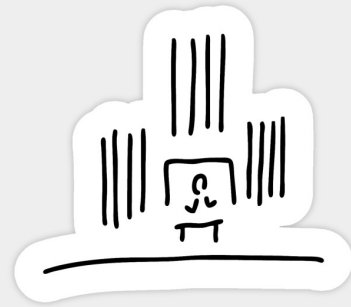
## Young Organist Initiative Scholars Named

Seven Organ Scholars have been selected this year for our Young Organist Initiative Program. They are:

Lucas Carvalho

Justin Lee  
Benedikt Ehrhardt  
Aaron Steward  
Lucas Jindra  
Isabelle Zhao  
Gavin Klein

Each student will each receive private lessons with BAGO instructors approved by the YOI Committee, Boston Chapter AGO memberships as well as \$100 to use towards organ shoes, music and other organ-related necessities.



[Read more about our YOI Program](#)

### And I want to be a Paperback Writer....

Or just a contributor to Pipings? We welcome short articles that will be of interest to our general membership. To submit an article, please [click here](#)

### Fall Directory Available

The new members' Directory for Fall 2019 is available on our website in the "Members" Area. You'll need the password to access the directory. Access it [here](#)



Click the image to link to our website



Click the image to link to AGO HQ website

Boston Chapter, American Guild of Organists | [bostonago@verizon.net](mailto:bostonago@verizon.net)

See what's happening on our Facebook Page:

