

Boston Chapter, American Guild of Organists

NEWSLETTER

Volume XVIII, Number 4 www.bostonago.com December 2008

December Chapter Program

The AGO "First Night" Organ Recital

December 31, Wednesday, 10:00 p.m.

Brink Bush, G. Fredrick Guzasky and Lois Toepfner

Arlington Street Church

Arlington & Boylston Sts., Boston

(across from the Public Garden)

Admission by First Night button (\$18.00)

T Green Line to Arlington Street stop

Join the Happy New Year chorus at our annual BAGO organ recital on New Year's Eve. Three AGO members will share in this program, playing 20 minutes each. Here is a brief bio for each of our fine recitalists.

Brink Bush is Organist and Director of Music of the Cathedral of St. John, Providence, RI, and is a leading interpreter of German Romantic organ music in the world today. He has performed throughout the United States and Germany, having made his German debut at the Berlin Cathedral in August 2001. He was featured in a National Public Radio *Pipedreams* program entitled "Bach, Bush and Middelschulte" aired September 2005. [You will enjoy listening to this fascinating program on the *PIPEDREAMS* website.] In October 2005, Brink presented a concert at Trinity Church, Wall St., NYC, for the "Virgil Fox Legacy, Twenty-fifth Anniversary Concert Weekend."

G. Fredrick Guzasky has performed recitals in New England and the Midwest, as well as Russia, Latvia, and England, receiving the Boston University Outstanding Performance Award and the EMACT Award in conducting. He has played at the Cathedral of Riga, the Kapella Concert Hall in St. Petersburg, Russia, and has taught master classes at the St. Petersburg Conservatory. He is an authority on Gregorian Chant and is director of the Slava Chorale, a Boston based professional choir that performs Russian and Greek music. He also has done extensive research on the organ works of Josef Rheinberger. Recently Fred published his first mystery novel.

Lois Toepfner has served in numerous AGO offices for the Boston and Worcester chapters and for Region I. Last summer she was elected Secretary of the National Council.

Lois is Minister of Music at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sudbury, where she serves as organist and directs the vocal and handbell choirs. She has played recitals at Methuen Memorial Music Hall, Worcester's Mechanics Hall, Boston's Old South Church and area churches throughout the New England states. Her recital pieces for First Night are:

Organ Sonata No. 4 in B flat major, Op. 65 - Felix Mendelssohn

New Era (a march for Manchester Town Hall) - Nigel Ogden

The Arlington St. Church organ is a 1957 Aeolian-Skinner, housed in a magnificent case original to the E. and G.G. Hook organ of 1861. The Hook case pipes still provide the organ's foundation sound. The organ's specifications and history can be read at www.ascboston.org/music.

This will be the 33rd First Night Boston. Founded in 1976, First Night was started by artists who sought an alternative to traditional New Year's Eve revelry. First Night has gone from attracting about 25,000 people to drawing crowds over one million. Our Chapter program is an organ recital that will be well attended!

First Night buttons are \$18 (children under 4 admitted free) and will be available beginning Nov. 28 at Boston-area Shaw's and Star Markets, Store 24, Au Bon Pain, and dozens of other locations. For a complete list of advance sale locations or to buy buttons online, visit www.firstnight.org. Buttons are available at a special web price of \$15 at www.firstnight.org through Dec. 26. Information about the 200 performances and exhibits at First Night Boston 2009 will be announced in the coming weeks.

Thank you, Rodger Vine, Artist in Residence at ASC, for annually making arrangements for this New Year's Eve recital.

Globe Calendar Changes

The Boston Globe has discontinued publishing their Sidekick/Calendar. Events may still be submitted electronically, but will only appear on their website boston.com. The old *Calendar* was a frequently-used advertising outlet for our membership, and we regret its loss.

Dean's Message

Dare we hope?

Here we are in Advent: that time of expectation and hopefulness. A time when our meditations should be preparing us for the coming of Jesus. For we who are church musicians, however, Advent and its meaning probably get short shrift.

For us, the run-up to Christmas can be several weeks of intense and sometimes frantic preparation and rehearsals. Plus the anxiety over whether or not the music for those lessons and carols, candlelight services, music Sundays, concerts, pageants, whatever else, and finally Christmas Eve itself, will actually come off as we would hope. This, on top of the other things we probably need to do, such as shop for gifts, decorate the house, go to parties or concerts or *The Nutcracker* or other "holiday" events, cook, and otherwise "get into the spirit"! Nevermind the commercialization, secularization, and Muzak. Our hope is only to survive it all.

How tempting to just say "Bah! Humbug!"

But then, as Advent becomes Christmas...

A lone, small voice intones "Once in David's royal city..."

A congregation, glowing in candlelight, softly sings "Silent night, holy night..."

A children's choir sings perfectly "Jesus, Jesus rest your head..."

Often, it is the simplest of musical gestures which will focus our minds on why we are bothering with this thing called Advent and Christmas at all: the humble birth of a child whose premise is that of hope for the whole world.

During this hectic month, set aside a few quiet moments each day to contemplate the hopefulness of Advent, which becomes fulfilled in the Christmas message. Dare to hope:

- that we will have it in our hearts and deeds to help the poor, the homeless, the hungry, and those in desperate circumstances beyond their control;
- that we may comfort the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the children;
- that we can bring relief to the unemployed, the oppressed, and the downtrodden;
- that compassion, fairness, equity, and justice will be in the hearts and minds of those who govern;
- that there will, indeed, be peace, health, and safety for all people of the earth.

(continued on next page)

Executive Committee Meetings

7-9 pm, Church of the Advent, 30 Brimmer St, Boston. Charles MBTA
Mon Jan 12, Tues Mar 10, Mon Jun 1

Executive committee meetings are open to all Chapter members.

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Mary Beekman, Mark Dwyer,
Glenn Goda, Mark Nelson,
Laura Jensen, Craig Benner

Dean's Message *(continued from previous page)*

May all of your music this month – from the grand and glorious to the simple and quiet – be a carrier of the this season's hopefulness. May it comfort, uplift, and inspire not only others but also yourself.

And a Blessed and Merry Christmas to you all!

-- Lee Ridgway

Advance Tickets for Our February 3rd Mendelssohn 200th Birthday Recital

Tuesday, February 3, 2009, is Felix Mendelssohn's 200th birthday. We are celebrating this important day with a recital of Mendelssohn's Six Organ Sonatas, played by Dr. Ezequiel Menendez, at Busch Hall, Harvard University. Tickets for this recital will be \$15, and in early January they will be available at the Harvard Box Office. (The First Night recital and the Mendelssohn recital are our only two programs in 2008-09 with an admission charge.)

During December if you would like to reserve tickets in advance for the Mendelssohn recital, please contact me. You will find my contact information on page 2 in this newsletter. Thank you.

-- J P Rice, SubDean

An Enlightening Evening

Larry Palmer's Distler Presentation Our Chapter Program on Nov. 3

Dr. Larry Palmer's illustrated lecture on Hugo Distler, his life and music, was a mind and heart opening experience. More than 40 people gathered in Appleton Chapel (the Choir/Organ area) of Memorial Church, Harvard Univ., a fitting place for our quest to know more about this talented composer organist who lived a life of triumph and tragedy. Dr. Palmer gave us extraordinary information about Distler and his contemporaries and spoke from a point of deep understanding of his subject. We listened to a rapturous and elegant performance of Distler's partita on "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland", played on the great Fisk organ by Christa Rakich. Also we listened to performances of Distler's beautiful choral music, harpsichord concerto, and even a recording of Distler himself playing a Pachelbel toccata. We all felt renewed by the wish to know more about Hugo Distler.

Thank you, Catherine Chaisson, who assisted with the reception. Thank you, former BAGO dean and Memorial Church staff member, Nancy Granert, who hosted us.

The study of Distler's life involved looking at the politics and war that so affected his life. In some ways the evening was a prelude to our electing a new president the next day.

--J P Rice

CHAPTER PROGRAMS January - May

February 3, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

Felix Mendelssohn's Bicentenary Organ Recital
Ezequiel Menendez, Organist
Adolphus Busch Hall, Harvard University
Admission \$15; contact Sub-Dean Rice to reserve tickets in advance of January 1

March 2, Monday, 7:30 p.m.

The Registration of J.S. Bach's Organ Works
Dr. Quentin Faulkner, AAGO, Lecturer/Presenter
Sponsored by the BAGO Organ Library Committee
Boston University School of Theology

March 21, Saturday, 10:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Bach Organ Recitals on his 324th Birthday
Co-sponsored by the First Lutheran Church
The First Lutheran Church of Boston

May 11, Monday, 6:00 p.m.

BAGO Annual Meeting, Dinner, Members' Recital
Holy Name Parish, West Roxbury

Summer Volunteers Needed

The Landmark Convention (Regions I and II) will take place early in July 2009. It promises to be an outstanding event and, as hosts, the Boston Chapter will need many hands to make the work light. Volunteers will be crucial for success, so be ready to say "Yes!" in the coming months when you are asked to volunteer some time and effort for the AGO.

John Ferris Memorial

A memorial service for John Ferris will be held at Harvard University's Memorial Church on Saturday, December 13, at 2:00 p.m. Ferris, organist and choir master at Memorial Church from 1958 to 1990, died on August 1, 2008, at the age of 82. The memorial tribute will be led by The Rev. Peter Gomes, Pusey Minister of Memorial Church, with the participation of choir alumni, former assistant organists, colleagues, and friends.

Review: Bálint Karosi's Recital of Hungarian Organ Music

The newest rising star on the Boston organ scene, Hungarian Bálint Karosi, played an insightful and inspiring concert at St. Cecilia Church in Boston's Back Bay on Friday evening, October 17. There was a good sized audience from the Guild and parishioners from both St. Cecilia and Bálint's church, First Lutheran at the corner of Berkeley and Marlborough Streets. Just this summer, Bálint was the 1st Prize winner of the XVI International Johann Sebastian Bach Competition in Leipzig, Germany. He has studied organ, clarinet and improvisation at the Liszt Academy in Budapest, at the Conservatoire Supérieure de Genève and at the Oberlin Conservatory, earning two Master's Degrees, two "*Prix de Virtuosité*" and both an Artist Diploma and a Master of Music in Historical Performance. Prior to this summer, he also won first prize in several other international organ competitions.

On this Friday in October, Bálint chose a program of all Hungarian organ music from his homeland in observance of the 52nd Anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution. He opened with the Liszt *Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen*. He expertly set the stage for a fascinating evening with this piece of great gravity, which ends so triumphantly with the Lutheran Chorale *Was Gott tut ist wohlgetan*. This was followed by a rather esoteric piece, *Evocation à la Chapelle Sixtine*. This fantasia in two sections, the second based on Mozart's *Ave Verum*, ended in a sort of suspended aura with the audience a bit unsure if that was really the end. The next piece for the evening was an organ transcription by Lionel Rogg of Liszt's *Funérailles* for piano. The program notes mention that it was inspired by the death of Chopin in 1849 and there are distinct references to Chopinesque themes from the heroic polonaises. The playing here had an appropriate dramatic flair, but always with the utmost refinement and control.

The *Scherzo "Sportive Fauns"* was composed by the Hungarian organist and composer, Dezső Antalffy-Zsiross, who actually worked as theatre organist at the Radio City Music Hall and as organist for the New York Philharmonic during the first half of the 20th century. With this fun and playful piece, the organist elicited beautiful colors from the large Smith & Gilbert/Nobscot organ at St. Cecilia's. The closing piece treated us to a sample of Bálint Karosi's compositional prowess in addition to his formidable technical abilities. He notes that his *Trumpet Toccata* was started in 2006 in Oberlin, but not finished until he was in Boston in 2007. He goes on to say that this piece is "an amalgam of different styles, a French-sounding theme mixed up with some *Minimal Music* elements. Just another

virtuosic piece with a lot of pedal work." This is certainly a modest description from a modest composer/performer, who has actually done an incredible amount for someone not even yet 30 years old! This listener expected to hear a bit more in the way of trumpet solos in this toccata, but found the piece exciting nonetheless.

What was most impressive on this evening was the way in which Bálint demonstrated his impeccable taste in registrations. He always made this organ sound beautiful and refined, which is not always the case with the several other times I've heard it. The sound never once became harsh or rough sounding, yet still produced plenty of excitement. Perhaps the weather helped that, too. All-in-all I came away with quite a satisfied feeling as I went on my way from this fine performance. Now based on what I heard, I am really looking forward to hearing him play some of those Bach pieces he played to win the prestigious Leipzig competition.

-- Eric Huenneke.

Organ Library News

"Preserving the Musical Heritage of the Pipe Organ"

This phrase, developed in the course of preparing the Organ Library's new website www.organlibrary.org, aptly describes the goal of the Library, founded by Boston Chapter members George Faxon, Max Miller, and Lois Toepfner. The Web Catalog of the Library's holdings (now about 37,000 titles) is searchable from anywhere in the world, an opportunity that has brought this unique resource to the notice of organists on many continents. During the last two weeks of October, inquiries were received from England (2), New Zealand, and several states (South Dakota, Florida, Missouri, New York, and Michigan). It is anticipated that even more interest will be generated by an article scheduled to appear in the December issue of *The American Organist* and an advertisement that will run during 2009 in *The Tracker*.

While the Organ Library purchases important new publications (editions of music, facsimiles, books) in order to fill in gaps and expand its collection, it still depends very much on donations of material. "Preserving the musical heritage of the pipe organ" means that the Organ Library intends to make available to coming generations tens of thousands of works composed or transcribed for the organ. Boston Chapter members can take a vital lead, not only by donating items of music but also by informing colleagues across the country about the resources available to them here in Boston.

Musings on EROI 2008

Did You Know:

That a “iula” is a clear and bright flue stop that speaks like a principal, but has some stringy and flutey character too?

That previously unknown works by J.S. Bach and his circle are still being discovered by a systematic search process in central Europe?

That mixtures of Bach’s time often had a non-breaking major third rank (1 3/5’) so as to cover up the breaks in the octave and fifth ranks, thus making the mixture more capable of polyphony?

That variety and changes of registrational color were highly prized in baroque organ playing?

That German congregation hymn singing in Bach’s time was not necessarily accompanied; often very loud and very flat; and most likely ponderously slow?

These and many other discoveries were part of this year’s Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative (EROI), which was a tour-de-force of the latest and greatest happenings in the organ world. The conference opened with reminiscences about David Craighead and Russell Saunders, given by Jurgen Thym, Martha Sobaje, Larry Smith, Tandy Reussner, Kerala Snyder, and Mr. Craighead himself. It was especially nice to see at least 4 generations of Eastman Students return to hear the organ that we’ve been waiting for for about 30 years. We then moved to Christ Church for the inauguration of the Craighead-Saunders Organ. To catch you up, this long-awaited organ is an international collaboration and research project which has replicated (reconstructed using historical methods, materials, and tools) a 1776 organ in the Holy Spirit Church in Vilnius, Lithuania, which is one of the very few surviving central European instruments from this period. The original was built by Adam Casparini (1715-1788) and it is very well suited to the music of J.S. Bach and his circle, and works well with most organ literature through Mendelssohn. (Mendelssohn will be the center of next year’s EROI.)

You can see the program for the whole weekend, as well as some pictures at www.esm.rochester.edu/news/?id=482#gallery

I shall not attempt to review all the lectures and recitals, but shall give you, gentle reader, a few of the highlights which stand out in my mind.

The concerts were fabulous:

- All the 8’ stops together - simply gorgeous – I thought Bill Porter could have launched into a Franck Chorale.

- Hans Davidsson & 6 dancers from the Rochester Ballet performing the Bach *Tocatta, Adagio, & Fugue* (twice).

- David Higgs: Mendelssohn – a splendid performance proving yet again that he deserves to be the head of the most important organ department in the country.

- The Sinfonia of BWV 29 *Wir danken dir, Gott* by Paul O’Dette and the Boston Early Music Festival Chamber Ensemble, showing how this piece was intended to be played by a large organ rather than some little portable box.

- Bill Porter’s improvisations – especially the luscious French ones at Compline.

- A lecture by Niclas Fredriksson, Organ Curator for the National Heritage Board, Sweden, showing the relationships among various central European organbuilders in the 17th & 18th century.

- The final concert, especially the playing of Ludger Lohmann, professor of organ at the Conservatory of Music and Performing Arts in Stuttgart, Germany, whose truly elegant and refined touch and musicality were a joy to hear.

And . . . they even fed us well. The various dinners were held at a couple of private clubs very close to the school or at the convention hotel and were well executed. We had one night of dinner on our own, so I decided to do a restaurant review.

Below the Sibley Music Library there are a bunch of shops and so forth, and a small restaurant called Max. On Saturday night I splurged and ate there. The wine list by the bottle is extensive, and their selection of house wines by the glass very good (though it is not listed in the menu as they rotate it frequently). I started with a seared scallop covered in pork bellies, with a glass of the house Pinot Noir – both were tremendous, the pork bellies were done just right, and the scallop was topped with hair-thin french fried potato.

The chef then sent an appetizer of shrimp and poblano peppers, which was acceptable, though the shrimp had been somewhat overcooked. I switched to the house chardonnay (French, quite nice) for the main course: Sole with cabbage, bacon, and a wine glaze. This was light, very flavorful, and truly enjoyable. It’s just amazing what bacon, butter, and the right kind of cooking can do for a rather drab vegetable and a bit of fish. Though I did not have any of them, the beef dishes looked fabulous as well: a tenderloin tartar appetizer and a lovely filet mignon which I saw come to the neighboring table.

I had to wait rather a long time for the dessert menu, but it

(continued on page 9)


BOSTON/AGO CONCERT CALENDAR

Sunday, November 30

3:00 pm

Handbells of Unity Church & St Mark Church:
Ringing the Holiday Season.
St Mark Congregational Church,
Humboldt Ave & Townsend St,
Roxbury MA.


3:00 pm

St Paul Parish Adult Choir
(Perazza, *dir*; Swist, *org*):
Lessons & Carols for Advent.
St Paul Church,
Bow & Arrow Sts, Cambridge.
617-491-8400 Donation 


4:30 pm

Bálint Karosi, organ:
Reger, Franck.

5:00 pm Choir of the Church of
the Advent (Dwyer, *cond*; Wood, *org*):
Advent Lessons & Carols:


Lehman, Bax, Rheinberger,
Guerrero, Haas, Britten, Victoria;
arrangements by Sandström, Carter.
Church of the Advent,
30 Brimmer St, Boston.
617-523-2377 x41 Donation 

5:00 pm

Joe Dan Harper, tenor;
Aaron Engebret, baritone
(Florestan Recital Project);
Heinrich Christensen, organ:
Songs for Voice and Organ
by Daniel Pinkham.
King's Chapel,
58 Tremont St, Boston.
617-227-2155 Donation \$12/8 


Tuesday, December 2

12:15 pm

Colette Camp, handbells;
Russell Camp, guitar/keyboard:
"Ring Out, Wild Bells!"
Seasonal music.
King's Chapel, 58 Tremont St, Boston.
617-227-2155 Donation \$3 

Wednesday, December 3

12:15 pm

Kyle Spraker, trumpet.
Cathedral Church of St Paul,
38 Tremont St, Boston.
508-277-6022 \$5 


8:00 pm

(Short concert following Advent
worship service at 7:00 pm)
Andrus Madsen, organ.

First Lutheran Church,
299 Berkeley St, Boston.
617-536-8851 Free 

Friday, December 5

12:15


Ed Broms, organ:
Maneri, Broms; improvisations.
Trinity Church, Copley Sq, Boston.
617-536-0944 x389 Donation 

8:00 pm

Harvard Chamber Singers
(Schachter, *cond*):
"Missa Compilationem":
Machaut, Ockeghem, Josquin,
Palestrina, others.
First Church Congregational,
11 Garden St, Cambridge.
617-496-2222 \$10/5 st in advance
\$14/7 st at the door.

Saturday, December 6

9:30 am

An Advent Noisy Day with Ana
Hernandez: 9:30-noon "Especially
for Children" (adults welcome) \$5.
1-4 pm "Especially for Adults" \$10.
St John's Church,
48 Middle St, Gloucester MA.
978-283-1708 

7:00 pm

A Cappella Singers Holiday Concert.
St Andrew's Episcopal Church,
79 Denton Rd, Wellesley MA.
508-877-9109 \$15/12

7:00 pm

Organs, Choirs, Vocalists,
Instrumentalists: Holiday Concert.
Unity Church, 13 Main St,
North Easton MA.
508-238-6081 Free

Sunday, December 7

2:00 pm


Unity Church Handbells:
Ringing in the Season.
Borderland State Park Mansion
Library, Massapoag Ave,
North Easton MA.

2:30 pm


Merrimack Valley Philharmonic
(Monseur, *cond*); Andover Choral
Society (Combs, *dir*):
Family Holiday Concert.
Pre-concert silent auction in foyer.
Rogers Center for the Arts,
Merrimack College,
315 Turnpike St, Andover MA.

978-372-8237 \$18/12, <5 yrs \$5
subscriptions \$60/42


4:00 pm

Evensong Choir (Forster, *dir/org*):
Choral Evensong: Dandrieu,
Lehman, Gibbons, Purcell, Reger.
Reception follows.
Christ Church,
Zero Garden St, Cambridge.
617-876-0200 Donation 

4:00 pm

Lessons & Carols (Cirella, *dir*);
Lois Hearn, Susan Smith,
Vanessa Schukis, Gregory Livingston,
James Egede-nissen, soloists;
orchestra: Handel *Messiah* Part I;
Carols & Carol Sing.
St Paul Church,
502 Washington St, Wellesley MA.
Free 

5:00 pm


Trinity Parish Choir (Barney, *dir*);
Brass & Organ:
Prelude Recital & Choral Evensong.
Trinity Episcopal Church,
81 Elm St, Concord MA.
978-369-3715 Donation 

5:30 pm

Exsultemus; period instruments;
Brenna Wells, soprano;
Catherine Hedberg, mezzo-soprano;
Zachary Wilder, tenor;
Brian Church, baritone:
Excerpts from Bach Advent
& Christmas cantatas.
First Lutheran Church,
299 Berkeley St, Boston.
857-998-0219 \$25/20


Tuesday, December 9

12:15 pm

Lynnfield Middle School
Pioneer Singers (Bloom, *dir*):
Music for the Holidays.
King's Chapel, 58 Tremont St, Boston.
617-227-2155 Donation \$3 

Wednesday, December 10

12:15 pm

Shira Legmann, piano.
Cathedral Church of St Paul,
38 Tremont St, Boston.
508-277-6022 \$5 


8:00 pm

(Short concert following Advent
worship service at 7:00 pm)
Daniel Sanez, organ.

First Lutheran Church,
299 Berkeley St, Boston.
617-536-8851 Free 

Friday, December 12

12:15

Mark Dwyer, organ:
Trinity Church, Copley Sq, Boston.
617-536-0944 x389 Donation 

Saturday, December 13


9:30 am

Recorders/Early Music MetroWest:
Festive Holiday Music.
Coached consorts at 3 levels,
Grande Bande for all.
Trinity Episcopal Church,
81 Elm St, Concord MA.
978-264-0584 Consort Visitors \$12

2:00 pm

Memorial service for John R Ferris,
University Organist & Choirmaster
of Harvard 1958-1990.
Memorial Church,
Harvard University, Cambridge.

6:30 pm


St Peter's Parish Choir (Budwey, *dir*):
Advent Service of Lessons & Carols.
St Peter's Episcopal Church,
838 Mass Ave, Cambridge.
617-547-7788 Donation \$5 

8:00 pm

Halalisa Singers (Neumann, *dir*);
Alla Vishnevetsky, piano;
Berit Strong, guitar;
Virginia Crumb, harp;
Robert Schulz, marimba:
Conrad Susa *Carols & Lullabies
of the Southwest*; holiday music
from Africa, England, Israel, US.
First Parish Church,
7 Harrington Rd, Lexington MA.
781-862-6353 \$15/12

Sunday, December 14

3:00 pm

Boston Boy Choir
(Lester, *dir*; Perazza, *org*);
Charlene Dalrymple, soprano;
Mary Jane Rupert, harp;
St Paul Men's Schola;
BACS Handbell Choir (Perazza, *dir*);
BACS Recorder Ensemble
(Beardslee, *dir*):
Britten *Ceremony of Carols*;
Biery, Marier, Rutter, Victoria.
St Paul Church,
Bow & Arrow Sts, Cambridge.
617-868-8658 \$25, 20, 15 


3:00 pm

35th Annual Messiah Sing
with soloists & full orchestra.
Memorial Congregational Church,
26 Concord Rd, Sudbury MA.
978-443-3885 Donation

3:00 pm

Halalisa Singers.
See Saturday, Dec 13 at 8:00 pm.
First Parish in Sudbury,
327 Concord Rd, Sudbury MA.
781-862-6353 \$15/12


3:00 pm

Warren Hutchison, tenor;
Catherine Hutchison, harp;
Lois Regestein, organ;
Benefit for 1854 Hook organ:
Advent & Marian music.
St Thomas Aquinas Church,
97 South St, Jamaica Plain MA.
617-739-1340 Donation 

3:30 pm

Assabet Valley Mastersingers
(Eaton, *dir*; Toepfner, *org*);
Patrice Tiedemann, soprano;
Angeliki Theoharis, mezzo-soprano;
Arthur Rishi, tenor;
Graham Wright, bass:
"Messiah Sing" Christmas portion.
Scores available to share.
Evangelical Congregational Church,
West Main St (Rte 30)
at Orchard St, Westboro MA.
978-562-9838 Donation \$5 


4:00 pm

Christmas concert: Haydn "Great
Organ Solo Mass," Anthems, Carols.
Reception follows.
Congregational Church,
1154 Great Plain Ave, Needham MA.
781-444-2510 Donation 


4:00 pm

Prolatio Singers & Players
(Ferguson, *cond*):
Advent, Marian & Christmas music,
including motets & plainchants.
St Mary's Church,
1 Church Sq, Franklin MA.
508-528-6292 Donation \$5

5:00 pm

Trinity Haverhill Choir
(Rice *cond/org*; Chaisson, *org*):
Choral Evensong:
Goldschmidt, Willcocks,
Vaughan Williams.
Trinity Episcopal Church,
26 White St, Haverhill MA.
978-372-4244 Free 


5:00 pm

Christ Church Choirs
(Forster, *dir/org*):
Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols:
Daquin, Daley, Ord, Lauridsen,
Handel, Carter, Britten, Gardner,
Hunt, Pilkington, Warlock, Vierne.
Reception follows. Christ Church,
Zero Garden St, Cambridge.
617-876-0200 Donation 


5:00 pm

Parish Choir (Mannix, *dir*):
Advent Service of Lessons & Carols:
Gibbons, Poston, motets, carols.
Candlelight reception follows.
St Andrew's Episcopal Church,
79 Denton Rd, Wellesley MA.
508-877-9109 \$15/12

Tuesday, December 16**12:15 pm**

A-No-Ne Trio (Honshuku, *dir*):
Jazzy Christmas Carols.
King's Chapel, 58 Tremont St, Boston.
617-227-2155 Donation \$3 


Wednesday, December 17**12:15 pm**

Annual *Messiah* Sing-a-long.
Cathedral Church of St Paul,
38 Tremont St, Boston.
508-277-6022 \$5 

12:15 pm

Richard Hill, Organ:
A Musical Christmas Gift.
Unity Church, 13 Main St,
North Easton MA.
508-238-6081 Free


8:00 pm

(Short concert following Advent
worship service at 7:00 pm)
Bálint Karosi, organ: Bach
Canonic Variations on
Vom Himmel hoch, BWV 769.
First Lutheran Church,
299 Berkeley St, Boston.
617-536-8851 Free 


Thursday, December 18**8:00 pm**

Annual Easton Chamber Orchestra
Messiah Sing.
Immaculate Conception Church,
Main St, North Easton MA. Free

Friday, December 19**12:15**

Gregory Abrahams, organ:
Trinity Church, Copley Sq, Boston.
617-536-0944 x389 Donation 

7:30 pm

Messiah Sing
(Part I & Hallelujah Chorus)
with orchestra & soloists.
First Parish Congregational Church,
1 Church St,
Wakefield MA.
781-245-1539 Donation 

7:30 pm

Renaissomics & Friends (Tyson, *dir*);
Ken Pierce, dancer/historian:
Teaching dances from the 15th,
16th & 17th centuries.
Refreshments. No partner required.
Jewett Hall, First Church Cong,
11 Garden St, Cambridge.
617-661-3353 \$8


8:00 pm

Boston Boy Choir
See Sunday, Dec 14 at 3:00 pm.

8:00 pm

Masterworks Chorale
Messiah Sing.
Cary Hall, 1605 Mass Ave,
Lexington MA.
781-235-6210 Donation \$10

8:00 pm

Musicians of the Old Post Road:
Christmas in Baroque Europe:
Duron, Telemann, Corrette,
Gloria attr. to Handel.
Emmanuel Church,
15 Newbury St, Boston.
781-466-6694 \$25/20 

Saturday, December 20**8:00 pm**

Masterworks Chorale *Messiah* Sing.
See Friday, Dec 19 at 8:00 pm.

8:00 pm

Musicians of the Old Post Road.
See Friday, Dec 19 at 8:00 pm.
Trinity Lutheran Church,
73 Lancaster St,
Worcester MA.


Sunday, December 21**3:00 pm**

Boston Boy Choir.
See Sunday, Dec 14 at 3:00 pm.

3:30 pm

Blue Heron (Metcalfe, *dir*):
Christmas motets by Desprez
& contemporaries; Perotin.
Grace Church,
175 Mathewson St,
Providence RI.
401-621-6123 \$20/18/10


Tuesday, December 23**12:15 pm**

Denise Konicek, soprano;
Thomas Gregg, tenor;
Heinrich Christensen, organ:
Monteverdi, Sweelinck, others.
King's Chapel,
58 Tremont St, Boston.
617-227-2155 Donation \$3 


7:30 pm

Ray Cornils, organ;
Parish Ringers handbell choir;
Musica de Filia girls chorus;
Kotzschmar Festival Brass:
Christmas with Cornils.
Merrill Auditorium at City Hall,
389 Congress St,
Portland ME.
207-842-0800 


Wednesday, December 24**12:15 pm**

Tomina Paranova, harp.
Cathedral Church of St Paul,
38 Tremont St, Boston.
508-277-6022 \$5 


10:30 pm

King's Chapel Choir (Christensen, *dir*):
Lessons & Carols:
Byrd, Distler, Poulenc, Betinis,
Gubanov. King's Chapel,
58 Tremont St, Boston.
617-227-2155 Donation 


Wednesday, December 31**5:00 pm**

Choir of the Church of the Advent
(Dwyer, *cond*; Wood, *org*):
Christmas Lessons & Carols:
Mendelssohn, Ledger, Scheidt,
Whitacre, Lister, Bennett,
Villette, Bassano;
arrangements by Cleobury, Preston.
Church of the Advent,
30 Brimmer St, Boston.
617-523-2377 x 41 Donation 


9:00 pm

Heinrich Christensen, organ:
Bach. King's Chapel,
58 Tremont St, Boston.
617-227-2155 1st Night Button 

10:00 pm

Brink Bush, G Fredrick Guzasky,
Lois Toepfner, organ:
AGO "First Night" Organ Recital.
Arlington St Church,
Arlington & Boylston Sts, Boston.
www.firstnight.com
1st Night Button 


Friday, January 2, 2009**12:15**

Amanda Mole, organ:
Trinity Church, Copley Sq, Boston.
617-536-0944 x389 Donation 


Saturday, January 3**9:30 am**

Recorders/Early Music MetroWest:
Handel Tribute,
250th anniversary of his death.
Coached consorts at 4 levels,
Trinity Episcopal Church,
81 Elm St, Concord MA.
978-264-0584 Consort Visitors \$12


Tuesday, January 6**6:30 pm**

Advent Parish Choir
(Dwyer, *cond*; Wood, *org*):
Solemn Mass of the Epiphany:
Lassus, Edwards, Bennett, Monk.
Church of the Advent,
30 Brimmer St, Boston.
617-523-2377 x 41 Donation 

Friday, January 9**12:15**

Marc Paoe, organ:
Trinity Church, Copley Sq, Boston.
617-536-0944 x389 Donation 


Friday, January 16**12:15**

Stuart Forster, organ:
Trinity Church, Copley Sq, Boston.
617-536-0944 x389 Donation 

7:30 pm

Renaissomics & Friends.
See Friday, December 19 at 7:30 pm.

Sunday, January 18**3:00 pm**

Joan Lippincott, organ.
St Joseph Memorial Chapel,
College of the Holy Cross,
Worcester MA.
508-793-2296 Free 


3:30 pm

Lipzodes: Juan Carlos Arango, shawms;
Yonit Kosovske, organ;
Sung Lee, shawms;
Anna Marsh, dulcian & shawms;
Wolodymyr Smishkewych,
voice & percussion.
Music from 16-century Guatemala.
St Martin's Church,
Orchard Ave at Wayland Sq,
Providence RI.
401-621-6123 \$20/18/10

4:00 pm

Seraphim Singers (Lester, *cond*):
"Distinctly English: Choral
Masterworks from the British Isles"
featuring Vaughan Williams
Mass in g minor.
Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church,
16 Highland Ave, Cohasset MA.
617-926-0126 Free

Friday, January 23**12:15**

Peter Stoltzfus Berton, organ:
Trinity Church, Copley Sq, Boston.
617-536-0944 x389 Donation 


8:00 pm

El Dorado Ensemble:
Britannia Triumphans:
English Music from the Courts
of Charles I & Charles II:
Jenkins, Lawes, Lanier, Purcell,
Corbetta, others. Lindsay Chapel,
First Church Congregational,
Mason & Garden Sts, Cambridge.
617-776-0692 \$22/17

Sunday, January 25**3:00 pm**

El Dorado Ensemble
See Friday, January 23 at 8:00 pm.
Somerville Museum,
Central St at Westwood Rd,
Somerville MA.
617-666-9810 \$17/12


3:00 pm

Seraphim Singers.
See Sunday, January 11 at 4:00 pm.
St Paul Church,
Bow & Arrow Sts, Cambridge.
617-926-0126 Don \$20/10 


5:00 pm

King's Chapel Choir & Soloists
(Christensen, *dir*):
"A Night of Snow":
Poulenc. King's Chapel,
58 Tremont St, Boston.
617-227-2155 Donation \$12/8

Friday, January 30**12:15**

Woo-sug Kang, organ:
Trinity Church, Copley Sq, Boston.
617-536-0944 x389 Donation 

Saturday, January 31**7:00 pm**

Peter Krasinski, organ:
Silent Movie Night. St John's Church,
48 Middle St, Gloucester MA.
978-283-1708 

NEXT DEADLINE:**December 5 for January, 2009 Issue**

Please send all notices, news, and articles to:

Jim Swist, 34 Jason Street #2, Arlington MA 02476

Or send via e-mail to swist@comcast.net

(inline text or WORD .doc file attachment)

Calendar notices must be submitted either by e-mail or IN WRITING (please no phone calls). Include: day, date, time, brief description of program, location, address, phone number, price (or donation/free), and whether handicap-accessible.

Listings for each month are due by the first Friday of the prior month. We will include all listings for the month of issue plus as many for the following month as space allows.

WOULD YOU WRITE THE NEXT PARAGRAPH?

We are beginning a newsletter story with hopes that it will be continued in future months by you the members. Please write the next paragraph and send it to the SubDean who will choose the best one. Oh, and try to include some time-worn cliché as I did ("seated one day at the organ").

Thank you. – Joyce Painter Rice

**A Boston Organist Saga****Chapter One**

Seated one day at the organ, I thought about the coming Christmas season. No one has requested to sing *O Holy Night* as a solo. I think about the French Noël's and the reports of D'Aquin playing Noël variations in Notre Dame cathedral packed with thousands (really?) of worshippers on Christmas Eve. Now, how could I do that? Thought by thought, person by person even, I begin to imagine filling the church with people to hear Christmas music. I understand that in movie editing, people can be added or subtracted by computer manipulations. But I want real people. How? Time is short! I've got it: I'll talk to

Musings on EROI 2008 (continued from page 5)

was worth it. Though I was tempted by the molten chocolate cake, as well as by the pumpkin cheesecake, I chose the crème brûlée. It was superb, and the coffee was even better. I found out that they buy their coffee from the coffee shop across Gibbs Street, where one can easily get it every day – which I did from then on. On the whole, the service and food was great, with none of that Boston/Cambridge attitude that is so often served up around here – I'd give Max 94 points out of 100.

Christ Church's dedication ceremony for the instrument took place at their Sunday morning service. The playing was very good, and the volunteer choir did a good job. The only criticisms I have are that the service was overall too long, and that, even though I'll probably be labeled a Cretan for it, I simply cannot abide the practice of singing (German Lutheran) Chorales at such a slow speed (each note of the melody is essentially made into a whole note). Bill Porter is a fabulous player and improviser, but singing anything (in this case *Nun danket alle Gott*) at such a slow speed ruins the singers' ability to make a musical phrase, and is just plain too tiring. (And, imagine me, the lover of musicological studies, saying this: I really don't care if it is historically accurate or not!) No wonder the singing was like a loud braying donkey in 18th century Germany.

In the papers and lectures on Monday, we learned some new terminology for the process of recreation/restoration. "Restorative Conservation" is the idea of achieving a balance between full functionality and full documentation. We heard about both the "explicit" (scholarly/scientific/measurable) knowledge gained in the process of documentation and the "tacit" knowledge that can be gained in the workshop while attempting to recreate a given piece of technology.

There were really no displays (such as one sees at AGO conventions) except for the University of Rochester Press, and Wayne Leupold. I bought three books, which I've just begun reading:

French Organ Music from the Revolution to Franck and Widor by Laurence Archbold & William J. Peterson (University of Rochester Press)

Maurice Duruflé by James Frazier (also U. of R. Press)

An English translation by Lynn Edwards and Ed Pepe of Gustav Fock's *Hamburg's Role in Northern European Organ Building* (Westfield Center for Early Keyboard Studies)

There were also lots of great CD's for sale, but having already exceeded my allotted storage capacity for same, I was the picture of forbearance.

This year's EROI was also much larger than in the past – over 350 registered, compared with less than 100 in previous years. It was a well co-ordinated conference full of first-rate playing and lectures. I can see a future for conference co-ordinator Annie Laver as an organizer of National AGO conventions. Through the whole extended weekend, mixing with lots of organbuilders and musicologists, as well as with other organists, produced a creative atmosphere that (at least for me) was tremendously stimulating to my little gray cells. I can highly recommend this conference as part of any organist's continuing education.

-- Carl Klein

Celebrate the season with a Bach Christmas!



Advent and Christmas Music of Johann Sebastian Bach

A quartet from acclaimed vocal ensemble Exsultemus is joined by some of Boston's most talented Baroque string players for a program of beautiful arias and impressive organ preludes featuring prize-winning organist Bálint Karosi.

Sunday, December 7 at 5:30pm
First Lutheran Church of Boston

299 Berkeley Street; discounted parking at the Boston Common Garage
Tickets: \$25; \$20 students & seniors



857-998-0219
www.exsultemus.org

PLACEMENT DECEMBER, 2008

The date in brackets following a church's name shows when the church first requested a listing. Salary is income paid by the church. Services such as funerals (fn) and weddings (wd) with additional fees are estimated as shown.

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

Denomination	Hours	Location	Name of Church	Organ	Salary	Est. Add'l Comp
Episcopal	10	Newton, MA	Trinity Parish [06/08]	Hook & Hastings	16,900	2-4 fn/0-2 wd
Episcopal	20	Weston, MA	St Peter's Episcopal Church [08/08]	Aeolian-Skinner	30,000-35,000	5 fn/5 wd
Episcopal	16	Cambridge, MA	St Peter's Episcopal Church [06/08]	Kimball	18,500	4 fn/2 wd
Episcopal	4	Roxbury Crossing, MA	St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church [10/08]	Rodgers	\$14,000	8 fn/2 wd
UU	10	Mendon & Uxbridge, MA	Unitarian Congregation of Mendon and Uxbridge [05/08]	(1) Lawes (2) Hook/Hastings	\$7,000-10,000	4 fn/wd
UCC/American Baptist	15	Northborough, MA	Trinity Church of Northborough [07/08]	Skinner	14,000-17,000	2 fn/2 wd
UCC	10-15	Sudbury, MA	Memorial Congregational Church [10/08]	Rodgers/Ruffatti	\$17,500-21,000 (Sept-June)	4 fn/ 1 wd

ORGANIST ONLY

RC	variable	Cambridge, MA	St Paul's Parish, Cambridge, MA [10/08]	Casavant, Woodberry & Harris	\$150/svc; \$75 rehearsal	N/A
UU	8	Lynn, MA	Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn, MA [06/08]	Aeolian-Skinner	7,000-9,000 (3 wks/mo)	2 fn/3 wd
Episcopal	8	Brookline, MA	Church of our Saviour [07/08]	Allen	7,800-8,400	4 fn/4 wd

DIRECTOR ONLY

UCC	30	Lexington, MA	Hancock United Church of Christ [07/08]	Aeolian-Skinner	45,000-50,000	N/A
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Please also see postings at www.bostonago.com for contact information regarding these openings. Some churches here may no longer be receiving names but have not notified placement.

The following positions have been filled: St Mary's, Dedham, MA; First Church of Christ Scientist, Marshfield, MA.

LISTING YOUR CHURCH ON THIS PAGE Contact Janet Hunt, Placement Coordinator, at janet.hunt@sjs.edu.

Broadcast Schedule - Sundays 7:00am –7:25am WCRB (99.5 fm) and streaming on internet www.wcrb.com CELEBRATING 50th YEAR OF BROADCASTING ON WCRB

Martin Steinmetz, Executive Producer and Technical Director
Rob Stuart-Vail Announcer

Date	Performer	Location	Music
Dec 7	Frederick Hohman	Methuen Music Hall	Prelude & Fugue in Gm, Brahms; Variations on Noel, Dupre
Dec 14	Peter Stolfus Berton	Holy Cross College	Polish Carol arr. Chapman; Sonata No. 4, Rheinberger
Dec 21	Peter Stolfus Berton	Holy Cross College	"Lo, How a Rose 'Ere Blooming", Brahms & Heiller; 3 settings "In Dulci Jubilo", Bach
Dec 28	Frederick Hohman	Methuen Music Hall	Fantasy in Fm, Mozart; Canon #4, Schumann; Hornpipe, Handel

An Advent Service of
Lessons and Carols
Sunday Evening, December 14, 5 o'clock
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
79 Denton Road, Wellesley MA

The parish choir singing under the direction of
Helen Ward Mannix

Music by
Orlando Gibbons, Elizabeth Poston,
14th century motets, and Advent carols

All are invited to a candlelight Reception
In the Parish Hall

Substitute List Updates

Additions:

LENFIELD, Spencer • 269-808-2008 •
spencer.lenfield@gmail.com • MBTA from Cambridge •
L, P • Avail Sundays, Interim Work Possible

BUDWEY, Stephanie • (m)508-245-2758 •
sbudwey@hotmail.com • Boston + 50 mi. • All but
T(emple) • Not avail Sundays, No interim work

Deletions:

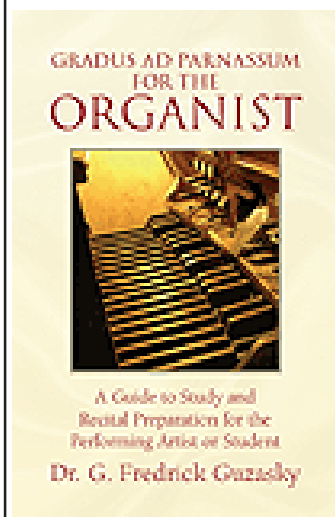
ARMSTRONG, Susan
BROWN, Anthony
BURMEISTER, Frances
CARUSO, Jessica
REMEK, Philip
SCOLASTICO, Joseph
SHAUD, Dan
TEMPLE, Candace

For Sale: Beautiful Steinway "M" grand piano,
built in 1967, rubbed satin ebony finish, original owner,
tuned yearly. Asking \$16,500.

Contact Donald at 203-421-4984 for more information.

Now Available from Amazon.com and
Xlibris.com

GRADUS AD PARNASSUM FOR THE ORGANIST



by G. Fredrick
Guzasky

A Guide to Study
and Recital
Preparation

for the Performing
Artist or Student

Advertising 2009

At the moment, only the April 2009 Newsletter back half page ad space is available for \$85. Reserve now if you want this space – it will sell out and I regularly turn down many requests. Back page ads are limited to two per season for any one organization.

You can also reserve back page space up to a year in advance, and September 2009 through December 2009 are available.

Note that inside ads (1/4 page at \$25) are accepted anytime before deadline without reservation.

And finally, we do run, at no charge for members, small (couple of lines) ads to buy, sell, or donate useful items.

-- The Editor

Organ Music Available

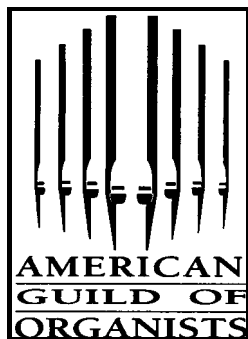
Retiring organist wishes to donate her entire collection of organ music to an AGO member. Please call Rose Mary Gabler at 781-862-6322 or rmgabler@aol.com if you are interested.

American Guild of Organists
Boston Chapter
Timothy Hughes, Membership Secretary
247 Washington Street #24
Winchester MA 01890

December 2008

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newsletter when finished.*

BOSTON BOY CHOIR
Boston Archdiocesan Choir School
Jennifer Lester, Director

Ceremony of Carols

by
Benjamin Britten
and works by Biery, Manier, Kutter, Vittoria



with special guests
Charlotte Dalrymple, soprano Mary Jane Rupert, harp

and
The Saint Paul Men's Schola
The BACS Handbell Choir, Louis Perazza, Director
The BACS Recorder Ensemble, Sheila Beardslee, Director
Louis Perazza, Organist

Sunday, December 14, 2008, 3:00 p.m.
Friday, December 19, 2008, 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 21, 2008, 3:00 p.m.

*Ticket prices are \$25.00, \$20.00 & \$15.00. All seats are reserved
Call 617-868-8658 to order tickets or purchase them on line at
www.bostonboychoir.org*

*Saint Paul Church, Bow & Arrow Street, Harvard Square, Cambridge, MA.
Free Parking at the Broadway Garage—Handicapped accessible*

NEW CD – "The Holly & The Ivy"
will be available at the concerts