



Boston Chapter, American Guild of Organists

NEWSLETTER

Volume XXI, Number 7 www.bostonago.com March 2012

Chapter Programs

Boston Bach Birthday 327

Saturday, March 24 (3 days after Bach's 327th birthday)

10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

FREE admission throughout the day

Cosponsored with and held at

The First Lutheran Church of Boston

299 Berkeley St. (at Marlborough St.)

Richards, Fowkes & Co. Organ, Opus 10 (2000/2010)

A German Lunch at the church

(reservation required, see below) \$13

CONTACT: admin@flc-boston.org

music@flc-boston.org or joyceorganist@aol.com

Phone: 617-536-8851 (First Lutheran)

Website: www.flc-boston.org

T stop: Arlington (green line)

Parking: Boston Common Garage (flat rate Saturday \$11)

For the fourth consecutive year our AGO chapter and The First Lutheran Church of Boston invite all to attend a day of Bach organ recitals and programs near the date of Bach's birthday (March 21, 1685). There will be six organ recitals, a dramatic narrative about Bach being hired in Leipzig, a gourmet German lunch, and a program for children of all ages, including the Toccata and Fugue in d minor.

Attend for all or part of the day and do bring guests! Please note that the children's event is now scheduled for 1:30 p.m.; children's choirs will enjoy attending *Principal Paul*. The full schedule is as follows.

10:30 am — Jonathan Wessler (St. Paul's RC, Harvard Square)

Concerto in d minor, RV 565 (BWV 596)

From *Clavierübung III*, manualiter chorales:

BWV 685, 672, 673, 674, 687

Pièce d'Orgue, BWV 572 (Kenneth Gilbert, ed.)

11:15 am — The Third Choice, written by Paul A. Blanchard: a historical narrative about the appointment of J S Bach as Cantor in Leipzig.

11:45 am — Colin Lynch (Trinity Church Boston;

1st Prize winner, 2010 Fort Wayne Organ Competition)

Trio No. 4 in e minor, BWV 528

Prelude and Fugue in e minor, BWV 548

12:15-1:15 pm — A German Lunch, in First Lutheran Fellowship Hall (Ticketed event - \$13; reservations required: 617-536-8851, by Thursday, March 22).

1:30 pm — Children's program: *Principal Paul*.

Peter Krasinski (1st Prize winner 2002 AGO National Competition in Improvisation) improvises in a story about the organ by Sietze de Vries. Program concludes with:

Toccata and Fugue in d minor, BWV 565

2:30 pm — Margaret Angelini (St. John's RC, Sharon)

Herzliebster Jesu, BWV 1093 – from the *Neumeister* chorales

O Gott, du frommer Gott, BWV 767 Partita

O Lamm Gottes unschuldig, BWV 1095 – from the *Neumeister* chorales

Prelude and Fugue in C major, BWV 545 – "Weimar"

3:15 pm — Brandon Santini (Holy Trinity Lutheran, No. Easton)

Trio Sonata No. 1 in E-flat major, BWV 525

Vater unser im Himmelreich, BWV 682 – from *Clavierübung III*

Prelude and Fugue in G major, BWV 550

4:00 pm — Agnes Joo-Hee Lee (South Korea and New Jersey)

Trio Sonata No. 5 in C major, BWV 529

Allein Gott in der Höh sei, BWV 662 – from the *Leipzig* chorales

Prelude and Fugue in C major, BWV 547 – (9/8)

4:45 pm — Bálint Karosi (Minister of Music First Lutheran, Boston
1st Prize winner 2008 Leipzig International Bach Competition)

Program to be announced.

Located in the center of historic Back Bay Boston, The First Lutheran Church was designed in 1957 by MIT Dean of Architecture, Pietro Belluschi. At that time, a Wicks organ was installed in the back gallery. In 1995, under the direction of organ advisor William Porter, and church organist Mark Meyer, discussions began for a new tracker organ to replace the previous instrument.

Organ builders Richards, Fowkes & Co. installed their Opus 10 in 2000 and completed the instrument with the remaining four stops in 2010. The handsome, slightly austere North German case of white oak blends well with the simple linear characteristics of the church interior. The Rückpositive has the distinction of having the intra-manual coupler connect the Werk (Great) to the Positive in the Dutch tradition rather than the more normal Positive to Werk.

(continued on page 3)

Dean's Message

We've all been there. You're being introduced to someone new who eventually asks the big question: "So, what do you do for work?" Hearing "I'm a musician", his eyes light up as he asks eagerly what instrument you play. The words "I'm an organist" suddenly bring a blank expression to his face and the conversation rapidly changes direction. Or perhaps he continues with something like, "Cool. Ever play at Fenway or Boston Garden?" Sometimes I've decided to stretch the truth say I play organ and harpsichord (which, in reality, I only dust). Then, looking at me like an exotic orchid, the listener often says something like "Ahh...very interesting" before changing the subject. Perhaps he's remembering an old re-run of The Addams Family.

And then there's coffee hour at church. For 20 years you've played multiple weekly services, conducted choirs for adults and children (and their pets), led the handbell and African drumming ensembles, directed a liturgical dance group, and vacuumed the sanctuary on Saturday afternoons. The well-meaning parishioner compliments you on the morning's music and asks, "So what do you do the rest of the week?"

And we can all relate to the cartoon of "Shotgun Brenda", who has to quiet the congregation before the prelude.

The grass in academia isn't always greener. At a departmental meeting, an admissions director (a trained flutist) expressed confusion because one applicant listed "organ" as her desired major. The administrator asks, "You mean people actually get college degrees in organ?" And then, "Is it true that organists use their feet to play?" True story.

Or maybe you're rehearsing with an orchestra, and the famous composer-conductor announces that the organ is too loud. So you take off a few stops. Still too loud. Even reducing to a few 8' flutes doesn't please his ears. So you hit General Cancel and play on silent keyboards. "Perfect balance" says the conductor. Another true story.

(Continued on next page)

Executive Committee Meetings

Tuesdays at United Parish, 210 Harvard St., Brookline (near Coolidge Corner) 7-9 pm
March 6 June 5

Executive committee meetings are open to all Chapter members.

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Boston Chapter AGO Officers 2011-2012

<i>Dean</i> vwag@aol.com	Victoria Wagner 617-522-0510
<i>Sub-Dean</i> dan.mckinley@ctr-anglican.org	Dan McKinley 978-774-3163
<i>Treasurer</i> JDavid3537@aol.com	Joel Davidson 617-319-9615
<i>Assistant Treasurer</i> dnwitte@hotmail.com	Douglas Witte 617-242-0589
<i>Broadcasts</i> cmsteinmetz@verizon.net	Martin Steinmetz 781-235-9472
<i>Chaplain</i>	Rev. Todd Miller 617-527-2790
<i>Competitions</i> dgb137@mac.com	David Baker 617-367-4260
<i>Examinations</i> glennoda1545@aol.com	Glenn Goda 617-442-7079
<i>Library</i> owenbar@juno.com	Barbara Owen 978-465-2068
<i>Membership Secretary</i> thughes56@comcast.net	Timothy Hughes 781-369-1905
<i>Membership Committee</i> jlgreen@green-associates.com	Judy Green 617-482-3044
<i>Newsletter</i> jimswist@gmail.com	Jim Swist 781-799-0286
<i>Organ Advisory</i> smhill42ne@earthlink.net	Richard Hill 508-238-6081
<i>Placement</i> janet.hunt@sjs.edu	Janet Hunt 617-202-5241
<i>Professional Development</i> cthigbe@aol.com	Charlene Higbe 617-495-4518
<i>Recording Secretary</i> nstpe@hotmail.com	Nancy Timmerman 617-266-2595
<i>Registrar</i> lmark.slawson@gmail.com	Mark Slawson 617-835-5189
<i>SPAC</i> cmsteinmetz@verizon.net	Martin Steinmetz 781-235-9472
<i>Substitutes</i> jtlawton@mac.com	Joshua T. Lawton 617-926-1042
<i>YOI</i> bsantini86@gmail.com	Brandon Santini 781-331-0930
sbudwey@hotmail.com	Stephanie Budwey
<i>Auditors</i> darylrichel@aol.com	Daryl Bichel 617-312-8328
decusati@verizon.net	Claire Decusati 781-582-8722
<i>Region 1 Councillor</i> clduerr@gmail.com	Cheryl Duerr 781-860-8893
<i>District Convener</i> rbrowne1@capecod.net	Robert Browne 508-432-7238
<i>Webmaster</i> marknelson@cbfisk.com	Mark Nelson 978-283-1909

Executive Committee

Kathleen Adams, R. Harrison Kelton,
Christian Lane, Nadia Stevens,
Susan DeSelms, Elisabeth (Buffy) Gray,
Carole Lawton, David Tierney
Bryan Ashley, Christine Hogan
Harry Huff, Brandon Santini

Dean's Message (*continued*)

Sadly, the instrument we play isn't always appreciated by the general public, even by other classical musicians. We organ nuts have to support one another. We need the Guild. The Guild needs us.

The purpose of the American Guild of Organists is to promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles, to encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music, and to provide a forum for mutual support, inspiration, education, and certification of Guild members.

—Vickie Wagner

Boston Bach Birthday 327 (*continued*)

This organ is stunning for Bach's music, and First Lutheran is an example of a church that was "turned around" by getting a new organ.

Many people work behind the scenes and donate their services to make Boston Bach Birthday possible. Thank you, recitalists, and thank you, all our hosts at First Lutheran. Also, thank you, Len Levasseur for the handsome flyer design. We need to post these flyers throughout Boston. If you will help with this or would like copies of the flyer, please contact me.

—Joyce Painter Rice
joyceorganist@aol.com 978-465-1901

Hymn Playing Workshops – Save the Date

WorcAGO will be sponsoring a nuts-and-bolts 2-hour workshop for practical hymn-playing techniques. The same program will be presented three times:

- 3/24: 10-12noon tbd (Keene, NH)
- 4/14: 10-12noon (Sudbury Center)
- 4/15: 2-4pm (Auburn near College of Holy Cross)

Handouts (an illustrated/annotated hymn; hymn tips; chart of hymn styles/contexts/registrations/treatments) will be available online prior to the workshops, check www.WorcAGO.org for details and a courtesy RSVP link.

Our Boston neighbors & Region I are invited. Bring a non-member colleague to encourage them to join the AGO! FREE.

—Will Sherwood

Hymn Festival in Cambridge

On Friday, March 30 at 7 pm St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Cambridge will be hosting "Sing Peace," a hymn festival led by and featuring the hymns of Adam Tice (www.adammltice.com). Born in 1979, Tice is an extremely gifted hymn writer, pastor, and musician. He currently serves as Associate Pastor of Hyattsville Mennonite Church in Hyattsville, MD. Tice has two hymn collections, both published by GIA: *A Greener Place to Grow: 50 More Hymn Texts* (2011) and *Woven Into Harmony* (2009). Also, fourteen of his texts are in *Worship: Fourth Edition* (2011). Many of Tice's texts focus on issues of peace and social justice, and these hymns will be highlighted in the hymn festival, along with a few spirituals as well.

In conjunction with the themes of peace and social justice, a donation will be taken at the door of the hymn festival to benefit the work of two outstanding groups who work for peace and justice. Half of the donations will go to the Mennonite Central Committee who work for "relief, development and peace in the name of Christ" (www.mcc.org). You might be familiar with one of their partners found locally here in the area, the Ten Thousand Villages stores, one of which is located just down the street from St. Peter's in Central Square. The other half of the donations will be given to the Scholarship Program for children in Haiti run by the Episcopal Sisters of St. Margaret (www.ssmbos.com). This scholarship program helps to pay for the schooling of those who otherwise might not be able to afford the tuition costs.

We invite you all to please join us for what will be a wonderful night of music making and support wonderful causes! The suggested donation is \$20, \$10 for students and seniors, but we encourage everyone to attend regardless of how much you can give, whether it is more or less! St. Peter's is located at 838 Mass. Ave, Cambridge, and is handicap accessible. The church is less than a five minute walk from the Central Square T stop on the red line. Please see www.saintpeterscambridge.org for more information or call 617.547.7788.

—Steph Budwey

REMINDER - THE CONCERT CALENDAR NO LONGER APPEARS IN THE NEWSLETTER. PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE TO VIEW EVENT LISTINGS, OR TO ENTER NEW ONES OF YOUR OWN.

Recommended Book: *Organ-isms*

For Christmas I received from my wife a copy of a cute little book called *Organ-isms* by New Zealand journalist and organist Jenny Setchell. Her husband Martin is also an organist, apparently of some note in that part of the world.

It is a collection of anecdotes from the organ loft - mostly funny and whimsical, with a few poignant and serious tales thrown in.

A non-organist reading this book would probably think that it was completely made up. But those of us who have been in the profession for any time at all will know and recognize the antics and scenarios described in this book as all too likely to have really happened, as many of them have happened to us.

It is all here - locked out of lofts, locked into lofts, page turners from hell, choir members from hell, clergy from hell, parishioners from hell, bizarre instrument malfunctions, bizarre vocalists, bizarre brass, body parts caught in mechanisms, and on and on.

Most of the anecdotes are from the British Commonwealth, although there are some American organists and incidents involved.

I do believe at one point, one of our members was thinking of compiling a similar anthology. I urge him to continue, as the Boston Chapter must have a wealth of such tales which would make absolutely wonderful reading.

As the saying goes, you cannot make stuff like this up.

More information: www.pipeorgan.co.nz

—*The Editor*

Youth pro Musica News

Register now for Youth pro Musica Summer Week, August 20-24, 2012.

The response to our first ever YpM Summer Week was overwhelmingly positive. Our 2012 YpM Summer Week program is now open for registration. Singers join their YpM friends for a week of music-making, learning and fun. Classes offered include vocal technique, diction and music theory. The week culminates with an informal concert at Second Church in Newton on Friday evening, featuring a preview of repertoire planned for the 2012-2013 season. E-mail auditions@youthpromusica.org or call (617) 666-6087 for information. Tuition is \$250.

Requiescat in Pace

Former Chapter member William Elliott Jenner passed away of natural causes last September, a few days shy of his 87th birthday. Born in Goderich, Ontario, he was schooled in mathematics, but on moving to Boston in the 1970s, he started a second career as organist. A long-time member of the Boston and Portland Chapters of the AGO, among his interests were discussions of ecclesiastical and musicological scholasticism. The funeral was held at St. Matthews Episcopal Church in Hallowell, Maine.



Next Deadline: March 15 for April 2012 Issue

Please send all news and articles to:

Jim Swist, 34 Jason Street #2, Arlington MA 02476
Or e-mail to jimswist@gmail.com (please no phone calls)
(inline mail text or .doc/.pdf file attachment)

NOTE: CALENDAR EVENTS SHOULD BE ENTERED ON THE BAGO WEBSITE.

PLACEMENT MARCH, 2012

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
Roman Catholic	32	W. Roxbury, MA	St Theresa of Avila Parish [01/12]	Aeolian-Skinner	\$35,000 to \$38,000	140 fn/25 wd
Episcopal	10	Danvers, MA	Calvary Episcopal Church [08/11]	Schlicker	\$12,000 to \$15,000	5 fn/ 3 wd
Non-Denominational	13	Waltham, MA	Trinity Church [12/11]	Rodgers	\$16,000	5 fn/1 wd
Episcopal	20-25	Beverly Farms, MA	St John’s Episcopal Church [08/11]	Moller	\$32,000	20 fn/7 wd
UU	6-10	Mendon, MA	Unitarian Congregation of Mendon and Uxbridge [12/11]	Laws	\$6,000-\$12,000	Not stated
UCC	8-10	Nahant, MA	Nahant Village Church [09/11]	Hook & Hastings	\$13,500	2 fn/2 wd

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: Wakefield/Lynnfield United Methodist Church, Wakefield, MA;
St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Ayer, MA.

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

Looking for the Sub List?

Effective with the December issue, the Sub List is no longer printed in the Newsletter. It is only available on our website www.bostonago.org in the members area.

This will allow us to put more information into the list and update it in a more timely manner. It will also save us duplicate effort.

Contact Joshua Lawton if you have any questions.

Advertising Space Available

Back page ads are available in the Newsletter for the rest of the season (April, May, and Summer). Please contact the editor if you are interested.

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

March 2012

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