



*Boston Chapter, American Guild of Organists*

# NEWSLETTER

Volume XIV, Number 1 [www.bostonago.com](http://www.bostonago.com) September 2004

## Election Results

The results of the 2004 Chapter elections are as follows:

**Elected were:** Heinrich Christensen, sub-dean; Barbara Owen, recording secretary; John Bishop and Nancy Granert, auditors; Joyce Painter Rice, registrar; and Jonathan Ambrosino, Matthew Burt, Brian Jones and Sally Slade Warner, Executive Committee members.

It was an oversight that Margaret Angelini's name was not on the ballot as candidate for Dean. She will be elected by acclamation at the Annual Meeting.

The Chapter thanks the Nominating Committee and the candidates, all of whom are distinguished in our profession. Congratulations to those who have been elected.

Thanks also to a Newburyport friend and volunteers from Trinity Church, Haverhill, who helped prepare the ballots for mailing to all members. Two hundred thirty-six ballots were returned by mail.

-- Joyce Painter Rice, Registrar

## Choir Festival

Save the date in your Church's Schedule - 40th Annual Choir Festival, a Service of Ecumenical Song.

Sunday, October 24th, 2004 at 4:00 pm.

For information: 781-643-6597

-- Loryne Koebele

Send your AGO news & notices to:

Jim Swist, Editor

66 Coolidge Road, Arlington MA 02476

Phone: 781-643-9733 E-mail: [swist@comcast.net](mailto:swist@comcast.net)

E-mail strongly suggested, use plain text or WORD.doc attachment

*September 3 deadline for October 2004 issue*

See us on the Web! [www.bostonago.com](http://www.bostonago.com)

## Chapter Programs

Monday, September 13, 2004 at 7:30pm

### Opening Service and Installation of Officers

150th Anniversary Celebration of E & GG Hook Organ Opus 171

First Church, Unitarian

6 Eliot St, Monument Square, Jamaica Plain

Prelude begins before the service.

This year's opening service is also a celebration of one particular instrument that has been serving its congregation for 150 years. As a part of the evening we will sing the hymn that was sung at the dedication of the 1854 Hook at the First Church in Jamaica Plain. Chapter members Robert Barney, Lois Regestein, and others will offer music and hymns for us all as we begin our new year together.

Directions to First Church, Unitarian

**By Car:** Take Route 9 to the Jamaica way southbound. Follow as it becomes the Arborway; at the rotary take Center St. towards Jamaica Plain (3/4 around). Follow to Monument Square; First Church is on the left.

**By Public Transportation:** Take the Orange Line to the Forest Hills Station, then take the #38 Bus to the Jamaica Plain Monument stop.

## Attention Substitute Organists

Regarding "SPC", That's not 'Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to All Organists'! It stands, actually, for Service Playing Certificate, one of the categories of ongoing-development exams set up by the AGO.

Last September the Boston Chapter's executive board announced a ruling that all players wishing their names to appear in the Guild's substitute list — both summer and regular — would need to have taken this exam and been awarded this certification. ***This requirement is effective this fall.***

Exams, and contacts for taking them, are administered for the Chapter by Glenn Goda: [glennghoda@aol.com](mailto:glennghoda@aol.com).

## Dean's Message

Welcome back to all of you! I hope that summer gave you the opportunity to rest and recreate a bit. When I do get to rest, I often find myself being thankful for many things. This summer, one reason has been that as your brand new Dean I have been working alongside a group of talented, dedicated, and hard-working people who in spite of the slower pace of summer have still found time to serve us all. Several committees have been working to make sure that events get planned, the yearbook gets published, and that you are able to stay connected with your chapter and the Guild. Without their efforts we would be so much the poorer – my thanks to all who have kept the home fires burning!

As if that were not enough, there are also a large number of chapter members who have been generous with their treasure as well as their time. At dues renewal time, 54 of you decided to give a little more to either the education fund or the general fund, and our budget is now more than \$1400 richer for your generosity. I'm sure you're aware that the greater portion of our dues goes to support national programs (think TAO here), and your extra help means that we can do more right here in Boston.

If you didn't contribute when renewing your dues, fear not! The Boston Chapter will celebrate its centenary in 2005, and we are planning several large events for which we will need extra help in many ways. Look for more in the next newsletter, and make plans now to come to as many events as you can – starting with the Opening Service on Monday, September 13 at the First Church, Unitarian in Jamaica Plain. I hope to meet as many of you as I can during my tenure as your Dean, and don't be surprised if you get a call to pitch in – there's lots of work to be done!

See you soon!

Margaret

### Executive Committee Meetings

Monday evenings 7-9 pm, King's Chapel Parish House, 64 Beacon St.  
5th floor, Boston. Charles or Park St. MBTA

September 20, 2004    November 15, 2004    January 10, 2005  
March 7, 2005        June 6, 2005.

Executive committee meetings are open to all chapter members.

Newsletter of the Boston Chapter, American Guild of Organists

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### **Boston Chapter, AGO Officers 2003-2004**

<i>Dean</i>	Margaret Angelini 508-435-6167
<i>Sub-Dean</i>	Heinrich Christensen 617-451-0822
<i>Treasurer</i>	Carl Klein 781-274-8406
<i>Broadcasts</i>	Martin Steinmetz 781-235-9472
<i>Chaplain</i>	To be named
<i>Competitions</i>	David Baker 617-266-0746
<i>Examinations</i>	Glenn Goda 617-442-7079
<i>Library</i>	Joseph Dyer 617-527-6403
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Timothy Hughes 781-874-0538
<i>Membership Committee</i>	Robert Humphreville 617-864-0800
<i>Newsletter</i>	Jim Swist 781-643-9733
<i>Organ Advisory</i>	Richard Hill 508-238-6081
<i>Placement</i>	Rose Mary Gabler 781-862-6322
<i>Professional Concerns</i>	Gregory Peterson 617-425-5146
<i>Professional Development</i>	Richard Hunter 617-924-6557
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Richard Clark 617-983-2024
<i>Registrar</i>	Joyce Painter Rice 978-465-1901
<i>SPAC</i>	Martin Steinmetz 781-235-9472
<i>Substitutes</i>	David Owens 508-429-1725
<i>YOI</i>	Mary Sue Willie 978-369-2363 Stuart Forster 617-876-0200
<i>Auditors</i>	John Bishop 781-862-9004 Nancy Granert 617-479-0682
<i>Region I Councilor</i>	Lois Toepfner 508-366-0509
<i>District Convener</i>	Grant Moss 413-585-3181
<i>Webmaster</i>	Scott Gunn 508-653-4313

#### *Executive Committee*

*Elisabeth Gray, Robert Humphreville,  
Richard Hunter, Henry Lebedinsky,  
Frederick Guzasky, Charlene Higbe,  
Lee Ridgway, Mary Sue Willie, Brian Jones,  
Jonathan Ambrosino, Joan Reddy,  
Sally Slade Warner*

## The Organ Library – Summer 2004

Over the summer, the volunteer team that recatalogued the Organ Library completed its work on the “composers” section of the catalogue (single works, manuscripts, and organ with instruments). The resulting Webcatalog, when finally available online, will allow many types of searches. Even now, however, it is possible to find every single setting of a specific hymntune anywhere in the Library. The Organ Library received two very important donations from the estates of deceased organists: the music of M. Searle Wright and the music and archives of Boston Chapter member and former BSO organist, Berj Zamkochian, who died earlier this year.

In addition, the Library benefited from generous donations made by its circle of “Friends.” This year’s gift to the Friends was a color reproduction of a chamber organ once owned by Marie Antoinette, lithograph taken from an old catalogue of *orgues de salon* published by Cavallé-Coll.

Professor Anton Warde, emeritus professor of German at Union College in Schenectady and currently Associate of organ builder David E. Wallace & Co. (Gorham, Maine), received a Margaret Power Biggs grant to research E. Power Biggs’s recording trips through southern Germany and Austria in 1954 and 1955. In addition to the Biggs archives, he will draw on the personal reminiscences of Georg Steinmeyer, presently living in Brattleboro, Vermont, who planned the itinerary and accompanied Biggs on his travels.

Inevitably, some donated items duplicate scores already in the Library’s collections. These are sold for the benefit of the Library. For a list of currently available items send a message to [orglib@bu.edu](mailto:orglib@bu.edu).

## Chapter Member Places in Competition

Chapter member Dong-Ill Shin won 3rd place in the final round of the National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance in conjunction with the AGO National Convention in Los Angeles.

Mr Shin received a \$1,000 cash award provided by the Noack Organ Company.

He is a candidate for an artist diploma at the Boston Conservatory, where he studies with James David Christie, and is associate organist at Marsh Chapel, Boston University. Mr Shin is already the winner of several international competitions.

## Boston City Singers Opens Auditions for Young Singers

Boston-based youth chorus program - Musical Opportunities for Boys and Girls of all Ages. Jane Money, artistic director.

Auditions for new members being held now through end of September.

Welcoming young singers, ages 6-17, from the metro Boston area

- \* boys (unchanged voices)
- \* elementary and middle school girls
- \* high school singers

Offering vocal coaching, musicianship training, and extensive performance opportunities in the 2004-2005 season for talented young singers.

Parish of All Saints, 209 Ashmont Street, Dorchester (MBTA Ashmont/Redline).

Please call Jane Money, 617-825-0674 for an appointment.

To learn more about BCS, see [www.bostoncitysingers.org](http://www.bostoncitysingers.org).

## Scholarship Announced for Church Musicians

Applications are now being accepted for the 2005 Charlotte Hoyt Bagnall Scholarship for Church Musicians. The scholarship is for study in religious music and liturgy and is intended to help musicians improve their ability to support religious worship services. It is open to musicians of all faiths.

Up to \$1,500 will be awarded this year based on the judgment of a panel of prominent church musicians from Connecticut. The scholarship can be used for a variety of religious and music studies including organ lessons, undergraduate or graduate studies related to organ or religious music, participation in organ festivals, seminars, music camps, etc.

On even numbered years the scholarship will be limited to high school age musicians and on odd numbered years the scholarship will be open to all musicians that have completed high school.

Information and applications can be obtained by visiting the scholarship website [www.chbscholarship.com](http://www.chbscholarship.com), by sending a request to [Info@CHBScholarship.com](mailto:Info@CHBScholarship.com) or by writing “The Charlotte H. Bagnall Scholarship”, 17 Beaverbrook Rd., West Simsbury, CT 06092.

## BOSTON/AGO CONCERT CALENDAR

### Wednesday, September 1

#### 8:00 pm

Rodger Vine, organ.  
Methuen Memorial Music Hall,  
Route 28, Methuen MA.  
978-685-0693 \$7/2

### Friday, September 3

#### 12:00 noon

Epp Sonin, soprano & Friends.  
First Parish Church,  
7 Harrington Rd, Lexington MA.  
781-862-8200 Donation

### Sunday, September 5

#### 12:00 midnight

Mark Steinbach, organ.  
Sayles Hall, Brown University,  
Providence RI.  
401-863-2344 Free

### Tuesday, September 7

#### 12:15 pm

Lisa Hennessy & Timothy Macri,  
flute duo: WF Bach, Kuhlau, others.  
King's Chapel,  
Tremont & School Sts, Boston.  
617-227-2155 Donation \$3

#### 8:00 pm

Christa Rakich, organ;  
Peter Sykes, harpsichord: See  
[www.tuesdayswithsebastian.info](http://www.tuesdayswithsebastian.info).  
Old West Church,  
131 Cambridge St, Boston.  
617-661-0570 Donation \$10

### Friday, September 10

#### 12:00 noon

Concord Septet (Yost, *cond*):  
Stravinsky *L'Histoire du Soldat*.  
First Parish Church,  
7 Harrington Rd, Lexington MA.  
781-862-8200 Donation

#### 8:00 pm

Providence Jeeyoon Choi, organ.  
Jesuit Urban Center,  
775 Harrison Ave, Boston.  
617-536-8440 Donation \$10/5

### Tuesday, September 14

#### 12:15 pm

Maria Georgakarakou, soprano;  
Ruch Maloney, lute: Lute Songs &  
Solos from Tudor England & Stuart  
Scotland. King's Chapel,  
Tremont & School Sts, Boston.  
617-227-2155 Donation \$3

### Friday, September 17

#### 12:00 noon

Mary Neumann, flute & Friends.  
First Parish Church,  
7 Harrington Rd, Lexington MA.  
781-862-8200 Donation

#### 8:00 pm

Stephen Roberts, organ.  
Methuen Memorial Music Hall,  
Route 28, Methuen MA.  
978-388-2823 \$10/5

### Saturday, September 18

#### 7:30 pm

Clara Kim, violin;  
-Kyung Kim, organ: Bach,  
Prokofiev, Boulnois.  
First Church Congregational,  
11 Garden St, Cambridge.  
617-547-2724

### Sunday, September 19

#### 3:30 pm

David Owens, organ: Bach, Boyce,  
G Jacob, Owens, Callahan, Bridge.  
Chestnut Hill Benevolent Assoc,  
910 Boylston St, Chestnut Hill MA.  
617-734-5600 Free

### Tuesday, September 21

#### 12:15 pm

David Owens, organ: Bach, Bridge,  
Mathias, Owens. King's Chapel,  
Tremont & School Sts, Boston.  
617-227-2155 Donation \$3

#### 8:00 pm

Christa Rakich, organ;  
Peter Sykes, harpsichord: See  
[www.tuesdayswithsebastian.info](http://www.tuesdayswithsebastian.info).  
First Lutheran Church of Boston,  
299 Berkeley St, Boston.  
617-661-0570 Donation \$10

### Friday, September 24

#### 12:00 noon

Mary Jane Rupert, harp & piano;  
Cynthia Forbes, cello.  
First Parish Church,  
7 Harrington Rd, Lexington MA.  
781-862-8200 Donation

#### 7:30 pm

Janette Fishell, organ: Tournemire,  
Franck, Eben, Howells, Vierne,  
Durufle. St. Paul's School,  
325 Pleasant St, Concord NH.  
603-229-4600 x4681 Free

#### 7:30 pm

Leo Abbott, Glenn Goda, Edmund  
Murray, Rosalind Mohnsen, organ;  
Gerhardt & Barbara Suhrstedt, piano  
duo: Concert in celebration of  
150th anniversary of Parish.  
Immaculate Conception Church,  
600 Pleasant St, Malden MA.  
781-324-4941 \$5

#### 8:00 pm

Brian Harlow, organ.  
Jesuit Urban Center,  
775 Harrison Ave, Boston.  
617-536-8440 Donation \$10/5

### Sunday, September 26

#### 3:30 pm

Foundling Baroque Orchestra:  
Vivaldi, Torelli, Muffat, Telemann,  
A Scarlatti, Handel, including  
concerti for multiple violins & works  
for trumpet, soprano & strings.  
Grace Church, 175 Mathewson St,  
Providence RI.  
401-273-7308 \$22/18/8

#### 5:00 pm

Andrew Paul Holman, organ;  
Franziska Huhn, harp:  
Pinkham, Grandjany, Blanco,  
Nørholm, CPE Bach.  
Harvard-Epworth Church,  
1555 Mass Ave, Cambridge.  
617-354-0837 Free

### Monday, September 27

#### 7:30 pm

Bay Colony Brass  
(Cadden, *dir*; Meyer, *org*):  
Bach, Dupré, Strauss, Kaska, others.  
Marsh Chapel, Boston University,  
735 Comm Ave, Boston.  
617-838-3935 Free

### Tuesday, September 28

#### 12:15 pm

Mary Sullivan, soprano;  
Heinrich Christensen, organ:  
Holmès *Vision of St. Theresa*,  
Conte *Songs of Consolation*.  
King's Chapel,  
Tremont & School Sts, Boston.  
617-227-2155 Donation \$3

#### 8:00 pm

Musica Sacra (Beekman, *cond*);  
Arcadian Winds; Franziska Huhn,  
harp; Joe Dan Harper, tenor; Sally  
Pinkhas, piano; William Wrzesien,  
clarinet; Ida Bryhn, viola;  
Carole Haber, soprano;

Aaron Larget-Caplan, guitar.  
Pinkham *Magnificat*.  
Jordan Hall at NEC,  
290 Huntington Ave, Boston.  
617-349-3400 Free

### Saturday, October 2

#### 9:00 am

Workshop: "Spirituals & Gospel Songs:  
Diverse Informed Programming!"  
led by J Donald Dumpson.  
Congregational Church of Needham,  
1154 Great Plain Ave, Needham MA.  
781-935-9013

### Tuesday, October 5

#### 8:00 pm

Christa Rakich, harpsichord;  
Peter Sykes, organ: See  
[www.tuesdayswithsebastian.info](http://www.tuesdayswithsebastian.info).  
The Church of the Redeemer,  
379 Hammond St, Chestnut Hill MA.  
617-661-0570 Donation \$10

### Saturday, October 9

#### 9:30 am

Nantucket Organ Crawl.  
Roche, Appleton, Bigelow,  
Goodrich, Hutchings-Votey.  
508-228-0738 Donation

### Friday, October 15

#### 7:30 pm

Triple Helix: Lois Shapiro, piano;  
Bayla Keyes, violin; Rhonda Rider,  
cello. Art Exhibit by Fritz Kubitz.  
St Andrew's Episcopal Church,  
79 Denton Rd, Wellesley MA.  
781-235-7310 \$20/10/5

### Saturday, October 16

#### 8:00 pm

Fretwork Viol Consort & Emma  
Kirby, soprano (BEMF).  
Jesuit Urban Center,  
775 Harrison Ave, Boston.  
617-536-8440 Call for tickets

#### 8:00 pm

The Boston Cecilia (Teeters, *cond*);  
Susan Console &  
Jayne Tankersley, soprano;  
Jonas Laughlin, countertenor;  
Ryan Turner & Aaron Sheehan, tenor;  
Donald Wilkinson & Paul Guttry, bass:  
Schütz, Schumann, Schönberg.  
Free pre-concert lecture at 7:00 by  
Prof. Roye Wates, Boston University.  
Emmanuel Church,  
15 Newbury St, Boston.  
617-232-4540 \$60,40,25,15  
-\$5 st, sr

**Tuesday, October 19**

**8:00 pm**

Peter Sykes, harpsichord:  
Well Tempered Clavier, Book II  
St. Paul's Church,  
15 St Paul St, Brookline MA  
617-661-0570 Donation \$10

**Friday, October 22**

**8:00 pm**

Tong-soon Kwak, organ.  
Jesuit Urban Center,  
775 Harrison Ave, Boston.  
617-536-8440 Donation \$10/5 ♿

**8:00 pm**

Chandler Noyes, organ: Silent Movie  
"An Evening with Laurel & Hardy."  
Methuen Memorial Music Hall,  
Route 28, Methuen MA.  
978-388-2823 \$10/3

**Sunday, October 24**

**3:00 pm**

George Bozeman, Jr, organ.  
First Congregational Church,  
Rindge NH.  
603-463-7407 Donation

**Friday, October 29**

**8:00 pm**

Chandler Noyes, organ: Silent Movie  
"The Cat & the Canary."  
Methuen Memorial Music Hall,  
Route 28, Methuen MA.  
978-388-2823 \$10/3

**Saturday, October 30**

**8:00 pm**

Musica Sacra: Baroque Settings of  
Psalms for Chorus & Strings:  
Handel, Monteverdi, Schütz,  
Buxtehude.  
First Church Congregational,  
11 Garden St, Cambridge.  
617-349-3400 \$40/25/20/15 ♿

**Sunday, October 31**

**5:00 pm**

Veronica Jochum, piano.  
Harvard-Epworth Church,  
1555 Mass Ave, Cambridge.  
617-354-0837 Free ♿

**5:00 pm**

King's Chapel Choir & Soloists  
(Christensen, *dir*): Requiem  
Masses by Palestrina & Pizzetti;  
Lars Johan Werle's setting of  
Petrarch's Sonnet 35.  
King's Chapel,  
Tremont & School Sts, Boston.  
617-227-2155 \$12/8 ♿

**NEXT DEADLINE:  
September 3 for October 2004 issue**

Please send all news and notes to:  
Jim Swist, 66 Coolidge Rd, Arlington MA 02476  
Send via e-mail to [swist@comcast.net](mailto:swist@comcast.net)

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 business day of the prior month. We will include all listings for the month of issue plus as many for the following month as space allows.

**AGO Website Passwords**

Until something more sophisticated can be devised, the username and password to enter the "Member's Area" of the Chapter website are the same for everyone:

Member Username: [bostonago](#)

Password: [bago](#)

-- Tim Hughes

**Ad Space Available**

The back page of the November, January, February, and March newsletters is available at \$85 each. Contact the editor if you are interested.

Boston Chapter, American Guild of Organists  
**Broadcast Schedule, September 2004, WCRB (102.5 fm)**

Sunday Morning 7:00am –7:25am

Martin Steinmetz, Executive Producer and Technical Director

Broadcast Date	Performer	Location	Music
September 5	Peter Sykes	Methuen Memorial Music Hall	Fantasy on "Wachet Auf", Reger
September 12	Dong-Ill Shin	Holy Cross College	Chorale Prelude, Bach; 2 <sup>nd</sup> fantasy, Alain; Prelude in Gmin, Buxtehude
September 19	John Finney	Wellesley Hills Cong. Church	Fantasy & Fugue in Gmin, Bach; Allegro from Symph. 6, Widor
September 26	Dong-Ill Shin	Holy Cross College	Toccata No. 6, Froberger; Toccata, Adagio & Fugue in C, Bach

## PLACEMENT SEPTEMBER, 2004

The date in brackets following a church's name shows when the church first requested a listing. The ratings for all listings have been adjusted for cost-of-living in the area relative to Boston. \*Indicates church is considering work on replacement of their organ.

### ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

Academic	B	Andover	Phillips Academy [2/04]	Andover (3 organs)	28,000-50,000
Congregational	D	Manchester, NH	Brookside Congregational Church UCC [6/04] <b>NEW</b>	Austin	22,000-26,437
	E	Beverly	Dane Street Congregational Church [4/04]	Austin	10,000-15,000
	C	Boston	Church of the Covenant [2/04]	Welte-Tripp	24,000-26,000
	C	Newton	Eliot Church (UCC) [3/04]	George Boseman	21,180
Episcopal	D	Cambridge	St. Peter's Episcopal [6/04] <b>NEW</b>	Kimball	17,850
Evangelical Covenant	E	Quincy	Covenant Congregational Church [2/04]	Moller	6,200
Lutheran	C	Ridgefield, CT	St. Andrew's Lutheran Church [3/04]	Rodgers	20,000-35,000
UCC/Methodist	D	Fitchburg	Faith United Church [6/04] <b>NEW</b>	Austin	8,000-10,000
Methodist	B	Watertown	St. John's United Methodist Church [7/04] <b>NEW</b>	Skinner	14,000
	C	Worcester	Wesley United Methodist Church [4/04] <b>RENEWED</b>	Skinner & Rodgers	13,000-18,000
Presbyterian	A	Bedford, NH	Bedford Presbyterian Church [3/04]	Hutchins & Allen	34,000 +
Unitarian-Universalist	D	Framingham	First Parish in Framingham [2/04]	Frazeo/Nobscoot	30,000
	D	Wellesley Hills	Unitarian Universalist Society of Wellesley Hills [2/04]	Andover	20,000
	C	Scituate	First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church [2/04] <b>RENEWED</b>	Hook & Hastings	12,200

### ORGANIST ONLY

Christian Science	E	Concord	First Church of Christ, Scientist [3/04]	Austin	100-125/week
Unitarian/Congregational	D	Harvard	First Congregational Unitarian Church [4/04]	Wicks.	200/week

### DIRECTOR ONLY

Baptist	C	West Acton	West Acton Baptist Church [2/04]		11,730-13,000
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Please note: This list is as accurate as possible as of August 1, 2004; notices for job openings received after this date will be included in the next newsletter. It is possible that some churches on this list have filled their positions but have not notified placement.

A = excellent salary for job expectations; B = good salary; C = average salary; D = low salary; E = very low salary; NR = not rated.

**POSITIONS FILLED** - Berkley Peabody - St. Andrews's Episcopal, Methuen; Ascension Memorial Church, Ipswich; Joan Jensen - First Parish in Hingham; Trinity Episcopal Church, Randolph; Tom Whitestone - Trinity Church of Northborough, Lutheran Church, Acton - Chris Gantner. If you accept a position or learn that one is filled, please email Rose Mary Gabler at [rmgabler@aol.com](mailto:rmgabler@aol.com).

**POSITIONS REMOVED** - none

### **PROFESSIONAL CONCERNS PUBLICATION**

*The Work and Compensation of the Church Musician* (the Boston Chapter's 16-page "Green Book"), 2000 edition, is available for \$4.00 per copy, postage-paid. Please make your check payable to Boston Chapter, AGO, and send to Rose Mary Gabler, 16 Summer Street, Lexington, MA 02420.

**LISTING YOUR CHURCH ON THIS PAGE** Contact Rose Mary Gabler at [rmgabler@aol.com](mailto:rmgabler@aol.com) or 781-862-6322.

## Editorial

I am glad to see at least two trends in our business which, at least to my way of thinking, are steps forward for our Guild and our profession.

First, I noticed in the latest issue of TAO that the national organization has begun some small steps to recognize that those members who play electronic or combination instruments are indeed not second-class members of the Guild. Whether or not digital instruments are second-class organs is an argument that has been hotly debated for some time now, and I certainly do not intend to bring that debate into these pages. However, it does seem that there has been a tendency to lump such instruments and those who play them into the same not-quite-legitimate status. There are few enough good jobs available in this profession that the luxury of choosing one's instrument is reserved for the very few. And since when do one's professional skills get reduced because of having to play a certain instrument? I could argue that the contrary might even be true - it takes a more skilled performer to produce satisfying musical results out of an inferior instrument (whatever its type might be).

The second comment regards programming in organ concerts. I have been to a number of concerts lately where there seems to be a greater attempt than ever before to reach out to the lay members of the audience. Organists have always been accused of programming only for other organists, and this has been cited as one reason why attendance at recitals is poor. This profession is in crisis - the time is past where we can successfully program based on our own limited view of artistic merit. If we have to do things like talk to the audience, demonstrate how the organ works, play transcriptions or other crowd-pleasers, then that is what we must do.

I recently had an organist guest from California who recounted an interesting story of practicing late at night in a venue where the only others present were the cleaning crew. The cleaning crew was entirely from another culture where classical organ music was not likely to be known at all, and they went about their jobs oblivious to the music being practiced; however, when my friend ran his encore consisting of a potpourri of juxtaposed marches, can-can music, and *Take me out to the Ballgame*, the cleaning crew broke into loud applause. There has to be a message here.

For those that ask if such tactics demean the dignity of our profession, I would respond by asking what if there were no profession whose dignity could be demeaned?

-- Jim Swist *Contrary views are welcome and will be printed.*

## If Organists Wrote Wedding Columns

On Saturday, well after the stated time of 2:00 pm, Ann Jones and Bob Smith were married at Our Lady of Sorry Acoustics. The delay was attributed to the late arrival of an aunt of the bride and was deftly covered by organist Reginald Laudfuss (now celebrating his seventh month at the church) who improvised on an original theme for well over ten minutes. This improvisation was accomplished in all minor keys without the use of the organ's wholly unnecessary transposer.

Mr. Laudfuss chose a lightweight summer robe of shimmering burgundy. The organist's shoes, in tasteful black, were by Organmaster, accessorized with upgraded laces from Thom McAn. They are his third pair in about fifteen years. The wedding party wore the usual clothes.

There were a sufficiently large number of attendants to build a lengthy processional upon, but despite last night's rehearsal they heedlessly hurried up the aisle, resulting in a drastic compression of the *Prince of Denmark's March*. This critical number was therefore performed with no repeats, and Mr. Laudfuss pointedly ended on the dominant in protest. However, the 8' Tuba (purchased pre-voiced over the internet and the central feature of the March) was a resounding success as could be measured by the smiles that spread throughout the congregation during the processional.

After a few minutes of talking by a clergy type, the organist played the first four phrases of the Schubert *Ave Maria* (in E-major to avoid a pulled pipe) on the shimmering Choir Gemshorn 8' (no tremolo) while the couple did something. Later, somebody's female relative breathily sang *The Wedding Song*. It appeared that this person's usual venue was a country-western bar, and some tension occurred during the solo. The soloist attempted to continue singing during the interludes. Mr. Laudfuss responded by trying to cover her error with cues from the Swell Trompette 8' (Wicks, 1940's, revoiced by Gantt in the 1958 rebuild), but she continued in her own misguided way, forcing the organist to shuffle his music loudly. This contretemps prevented the congregation from enjoying the subtle chuff of the Choir Gedeckt 8', which would have been the only bright spot in a notoriously boring song.

The recessional was the Mendelssohn, chosen despite Mr. Laudfuss's counsel to the contrary. It was played on a satisfying plenum in A B A B A form to fit the available time. When the wedding party was finally out of the way Mr. Laudfuss presented the Widor Toccata as the postlude. The guests inconsiderately talked throughout the number, but the organist added stops as the noise level increased, masterfully maneuvering each drawknob, coupler and piston without missing a single note of the Widor. The sforzando button unexpectedly brought the Brass Trumpet into the ensemble, but by now there was no turning back; the Widor ended breathtakingly. This noble feat did not go unnoticed by the congregation, who responded with audible sighs when the music stopped.

The bride and groom went to college somewhere, but they did not take any music. After their honeymoon they will blend into suburbia where they will produce children. The highlight of each year will be the replay of Mr. Laudfuss's work via a wedding video.

-- Submitted by Charles Callahan

American Guild of Organists

***Boston Chapter***

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