

# PIPINGs - June 2019 Edition

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## It's June!

### *Why belong to the AGO?*

Last month in Dover I heard the Young Organists Initiative scholars in concert after a year studying the organ. Beautiful weather graced the concert and garden reception expertly organized by YOI coordinator Christine Hogan. The Fisk organ at The Dover Church was in fine form and the students were prepped and ready.

Each time I hear a YOI concert I am transported back to my first years on the organ bench. Like many of you I started playing the organ as a teenager after studying piano for a number of years. Before I started studying my father showed me an ad announcing the need for an organist at a nearby church. I didn't play the pedals at all so I hunted around for a piece with only one note in the pedal and found one. I arrived at the church, sat down at the organ, placed my foot above the one pedal note I would need and commenced playing. I'm not sure what I did about the hymns but it probably wasn't too pretty. Wonder of wonders I got the job. (It probably helped that the pastor of the church and my grandfather were great friends.) The organ had four ranks, two manuals and an array of stops. I loved the music of Bach, especially the Toccata, Adagio and Fugue. After playing the T, A & F on the organ at my church I was bowled over when I heard recordings of historic European instruments by BAGO member E Power Biggs. I remember being astounded at the depth of the Bach organ works when the inner voices could be heard distinctly. Then I went to an organ intensive week for young organists at St. Olaf college and found like-minded teenagers. We shared our similar experiences. It was exhilarating.

When I listen to the YOI organists these days, I hear when their pieces soar and when they falter. I remember the hours of getting all those moving parts to work together. The journey with the organ is one of coordinating fingers and feet with complex registrations originating from study, observation and listening. It's great, isn't it? One of the reasons I am still playing is because many people encouraged me along with way.

The YOI students have another chance to play at King's Chapel on July 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12:15. If you have the chance, please come out to hear them. Our encouragement can be part of what leads students to continue their study.

Participants in the Young Organists Initiative program have stories ranging from interest in the instrument to college major to career. The AGO is committed to supporting young musicians through programs such as the Pipe Organ Encounter and at least one online program. A recent NEA grant will support this year's POE

programs.

Speaking of POEs, if any of you are interested in hosting a POE, please contact me. We need to host another program so if you feel the urge to help out or, better yet, lead the program, let me know as soon as possible. it'll save me some phone calls.

Besides sharing the rich experiences of our talented members and encouraging young organists, there is yet another reason to belong to BAGO. Members Carl Klein and Martin Steinmetz have worked for three years with the Organ Historical Society to protect some of the fragile holdings housed at the Organ Library. The E Power Biggs recordings that I referenced earlier need the type of protection that our Library cannot offer. The new OHS facility can help maintain the old recordings and thus the heritage of the AGO. Thanks to Carl and Martin part of our Boston organ heritage will be preserved.

This past year we had outstanding attendance at many of our program offerings. We have found that, in general, partnerships are the way to go. We partnered with King's Chapel, St. Joseph's, Needham, Holy Cross Cathedral, The Mother Church, the Concord Women's Chorus and First Lutheran as well as the National Pastoral Musicians. The annual meeting was well-attended and we feasted on food prepared by treasurer Daryl Bichel followed by a members' concert on the 2016 Noack organ at Trinitarian Congregational Church, Concord.

In the next edition of Pippings we will put out the program for 2019-2020, but for now be sure to mark Wednesday, September 18th for our Opening service with the newly renovated organ at Trinity Church, Copley Square. A reception will follow so we can catch up with one another after a summer of music and rejuvenation.

I am going to represent you, the talented members of BAGO, for one day at the Northeast regional convention in Buffalo before I return to attend the latter part of the Association of Anglican Musicians convention in Boston (an embarrassment of riches the first week of July). After that I hope to see you at some of the summer organ recitals in the area.

Happy practicing!

## May YOI Scholar Recital at The Dover Church

The Boston Chapter held its first annual Spring YOI Scholarship Winner and Graduate Recognition Recital Saturday, May 18 at The Dover Church in Dover, MA. Annual YOI scholarship recipients are given two opportunities to perform, one in May and the second in early summer, and they may play in one or both.

Three 2018-2019 YOI Scholarship students, John Dunn, Adelaide Mangum, Alexander Marin, joined 2016-2017 YOI Scholar Savannah Curro performing works by J.S. Bach, Joann Fischer, Robert Jones, Gottfried Walther and Louis Vierne. The Graduate Recognition aspect of the May recital was added this year as a way to recognize current and former scholarship recipients and wish them well on their next endeavor. Savannah Curro is currently the church music intern at Parish of the Epiphany in Winchester, MA and following her graduation from Arlington High School will be attending Mercer University in Macon, GA this fall



Savannah Curro and her teacher, Cathy Meyer

where she will be pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree in organ performance.

Our next recital will be July 2 at 12:15 at King's Chapel in Boston where 2018-2019 YOI Scholarship Students Christopher Allen, Michael Tekaekara, Alexander Marin , Adelaide Mangum and Johanna Murphy will perform.



Alexander Marin\_ Adelaide Mangum\_ Savannah Curro\_ and John Dunn

Auditions for our 2019-2020 Scholarship will be held Saturday, September 28 at The Dover Church, 17 Springdale Avenue in Dover, MA at 10:00 AM. For more information please visit [www.bostonago.org](http://www.bostonago.org) or BAGO YOI Chair Christine Hogan - [christine01776@verizon.net](mailto:christine01776@verizon.net).

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### **Notre Dame Cathedral Benefit**

**THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME  
FUNDRAISER FOR THE ORGANS OF NOTRE-DAME CATHEDRAL DE PARIS  
TO FEATURE FILM WITH LIVE MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT**

**THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME** silent film starring Lon Chaney  
Presented with live improvised musical accompaniment provided by  
**PETER KRASINSKI.**

#### **PURPOSE**

To raise funds for the organs of Notre Dame of Paris after the fire of April 15, 2019

#### **LOCATION**

Old South Church  
645 Boylston Street  
Boston, MA 02116

#### **DATE AND TIME**

July 3, 2019  
7:30 PM

#### **ADMISSION**

\$10 for the general public. \$5 for students with a current ID, any member of any branch of the military or fire department, any member of AAM, ATOS and AGO members. Children under 12 will be admitted free. Click [here](#) for more information.