



# BOSTON PIPINGS

news and notes for members of Boston Chapter AGO

## ***March 2020 Pippings - The Newsletter of the Boston Chapter AGO***

[Click here to go to the Calendar on our website.](#)

Greetings!

The annual day-long Boston Bach Birthday event co-sponsored by the American Guild of Organists, Boston Chapter and First Lutheran Church in Boston has been canceled for 2020. It was to be held on Saturday, March 21st, the 335th birthday of Johann Sebastian Bach. We looked into the possibility of live-streaming the concert, but we couldn't make it happen.



While this was a difficult decision to make, we in the Boston Chapter and beyond can make the best of the day. March 21st is the natal day of JSB. How can you celebrate? What is it about your favorite Bach piece? recording? favorite book about JSB? Can you phone a friend and talk Bach?

I'm presently learning the Bach C Major Prelude and Fugue, BWV 545. What a glorious piece. I was inspired to learn it after hearing Jonathan Wessler play the Buxtehude Prelude & Fugue in F# (BuxWV 146) this past Advent at First Lutheran. I first learned the Buxtehude as an undergraduate, so I was looking to add something to that place in my repertoire. Both pieces begin with cascading, descending arpeggios that broadcast the image of heaven coming down to earth. Then after their dramatic openings the rising phrases and falling suspensions arrive to speak to each other, plead with each other, respond to each other in the nonverbal language we know as music.

Then, in my further investigations I went to the Bach archive website, [www.bach-digital.de](http://www.bach-digital.de) and found a scan of the oldest known copy of the piece (there is no original). On that copy were suggestions about playing the piece. There is a BWV 545b and another similar piece in Bb. I won't fill in the details. You can do that on Saturday, March 21st while you have the time.

We are in strange times and our situations are fluid. Check in with each other, learn a new piece and, above all, stay healthy.

The Boston Bach Birthday will be back March 20, 2021. Stay tuned!

**Louise Munding, Dean**

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The Boston Bach Birthday will return on March 20, 2021.

Keep calm and play Bach!



Thanks to Jonathan Ortloff and Jonathan Ambrosino for "Organ Building 101." a day at the Ortloff Organ Company on February 7, 2020. The day included a tour of the Ortloff Organ Company, hands on demonstrations and a look at the latest organ in the shop.

### **A Celebration of Life for Richard W. Hill**

Christ Congregational Church, Brockton  
1350 Pleasant St, Brockton, MA 02301  
March 28, 2020

Note: due to the coronavirus situation, please check with the church to see the current status of the service.

Richard W. Hill, a resident of Easton for the past 42 years, passed away on February 2, 2020 at the age of 81. Born in Taunton, he was raised in Raynham and was a graduate of Taunton High School, continuing his education at Bridgewater State College where he earned both a Bachelors and Master's Degree in Education.



A gifted and talented organist, he studied organ playing as a private student of John Fesperman at the New England Conservatory in Boston. Richard was a member of the Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and performed in many churches throughout Massachusetts and the greater New England area. Richard was also a member of the Organ Historical Society, Easton Lions Club, Easton Historical Society and a life member of the Taunton Historical Society.

A Celebration of Life and Music will be held at Christ Congregational Church, Brockton, on March 28, 2020. Calling hours at the church from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, followed by a service at 12:30 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Organ Fund at Christ Congregational Church, 1350 Pleasant Street, Brockton, MA 02301.

For details and condolences, [click here](#)

### **Are you receiving our Chapter email?**

We have been made aware that some members may not be receiving emails from officers and committees of our Chapter.

To prevent our emails from going into your Spam folder, please add these names and emails to your contacts folder:

Louise Munding (Dean) [louise.munding@gmail.com](mailto:louise.munding@gmail.com)  
Jeremy Bruns (Sub-Dean) [jsbruns426@me.com](mailto:jsbruns426@me.com)  
Claire DeCusati (Technology Chair) [bostonago@verizon.net](mailto:bostonago@verizon.net)  
David Baker (Newsletter Editor) [bostonago@gmail.com](mailto:bostonago@gmail.com)  
Tish Kilgore (Elections Chair) [tishkilgore@yahoo.com](mailto:tishkilgore@yahoo.com)

## New Member Welcome

Welcome two new members to our Chapter. **Karen Kay** is from Chestnut Hill MA and **Iddo Van Der Giessen** from The Hague, Netherlands. We're glad you've joined us and look forward to hearing from you.



## Nominating Committee Named

2020 is an election year for officers of the Chapter. As you remember, we updated our Operating Procedures two years ago to allow for biennial elections. Patrick Walker has agreed to Chair the Nominating Committee. Positions to be filled include Sub-Dean and Treasurer (who serve for 2 years), and 3 Members-at-Large (who serve a 4 year term).

Would you be interested in serving on the Executive Committee? Contact Patrick if you are interested. Position descriptions can be found [here](#), beginning on page 4.

## AGO National Convention – Atlanta 2020

To read about early registration dates and pricing, [click here](#)

ATLANTA IS PROUD to host the American Guild of Organists National Convention in the summer of 2020. With "A Kaleidoscope of Color and Sound," we celebrate the diversity of experiences, races, ages, and cultures in Atlanta.

As the center of the Civil Rights movement, Atlanta made an impact on the world of culture and music. In this spirit, we are featuring historically significant venues, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s place of baptism and ordination, Ebenezer Baptist Church, as well as America's oldest private historically black liberal arts college for women, Spelman College.

Celebrating the Atlanta interfaith community's long and significant role as leaders for justice confronting issues of civil and human rights, the worship services will be held in historic spaces along the Peachtree Street corridor. We begin at Ebenezer Baptist Church, in the neighborhood still echoing the voice of Martin Luther King Jr., moving up the street to The Temple, bombed at the height of the Civil Rights Movement but rebuilt and standing witness for social justice in the city. From there we move on to Peachtree Christian Church, the Catholic Cathedral of Christ the King, and the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Philip. Traditional musical styles and new voices and songs will both reflect the dynamic religious life of the city and inspire our ministry.

To read about all the concerts, venues, and workshops, [click here](#)



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