



# BOSTON PIPINGS

news and notes for members of Boston Chapter AGO

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## ***From the Dean:***

**Greetings fellow Boston Chapter AGO members:**



First, if you have not renewed your membership this year, please do so immediately!

When I was 15, at the bidding of Marion Weldon, our church Organist, I attended my first AGO meeting in a local church basement. The guest speaker was none other than E. Power Biggs. I was changed that night, not just by hearing and meeting a giant in the field, but as much or more by the local AGO members that I met - the other organists whose work and commitment to the organ inspired me. At our recent opening service at First Lutheran, I was moved and inspired by some beautiful music and liturgy, but I was also moved by seeing and talking with my colleagues, some, friends whom I have known for years, and others I didn't know, including two young people who are brand new to Boston, and to our chapter. It is clear to me that we need to come together at events, to socialize and to exchange ideas by listening to music, and discussing issues pertaining to our work as organists.

As I mentioned last month, there are many changes taking place in the Guild. Some are a result of the changes in technology, including E-mail membership renewal reminders and electronic Newsletters, both of which can be easily lost or ignored.

Other major changes taking place on the national level have to do with the Federal Trade Commission's ruling on how the AGO operates. If you have not already read your TAO, for October, I call your attention to a letter (page 6) from our Executive Director, James Thomashower. Our November 7 dinner meeting in Concord will include a presentation by our National Councilor, Cheryl Duerr, and discussion of what this means to all of us members. Even if you don't think you have questions about this issue, I urge you to come join us, to be together as a chapter on this evening, as you will feed others by your presence. Mark your calendar, invite your colleagues, and make your reservation now!

While we can sometimes feel bombarded by discouraging signs in our profession, I am buoyed by having heard the recent dedication of two new instruments in Concord, MA and news of a significant rebuilding of an instrument in Nashua, as well as others, in our area. I am excited hearing young, capable players, and my spirit is lifted at the response to the Young Organists initiative. There is so much good happening!

Please see the Sub-Dean's message for more information on the many October events.

Have you renewed your membership yet?

Robert Barney

## *From the Sub-Dean:*



"Do you know Nathan Skinner? He's a very good organist. I wasn't going to have organ music for my wedding, but his playing changed my mind." What did Nathan play for the wedding? He played standard wedding music, the scores that many of us can play in our sleep. The bride is a fine math teacher and member of the Park Street Church. Nathan told me in an email that there is quite an organ culture at the Park Street Church, a fact acknowledged by the math teacher. She loved Nathan's playing at her wedding and then became part of the organ culture at Park Street.

I went to a family wedding on the UVA campus in Charlottesville two years ago. Everyone else had things to do before the ceremony so I got to sit blissfully in a pew and listen to an unexpected Bach recital. There was conversation around me, but the magnificent playing soared above the noise of the assembled guests. Normally I am one of those who is tortured by reprobates who maliciously unwrap their candies during concerts, but on this day I closed my eyes and listened to the glorious structure of the 'St. Anne' triple fugue. The bride and groom featured at that family wedding came to visit last week and shared with me that they are now active listeners to organ music. We started our year with fiery and sublime playing at First Lutheran on September 19th. The vibrant Opus 10 of Richards, Fowkes & Co. was on display under the resourceful fingers of Jonathan Wessler and David Eaton. They played well for us, but I know that they play well for weddings too; and that may be just as important for bringing in new fans of the organ. An organ culture does not exist without good instruments and good players. We all need to use our sometimes limited resources to keep our instruments sounding as well as possible and to play well for every service. People are listening.

### **October FallCrawl, YOI Auditions, Pedals, Pipes and Pizza in Concord and Madame Marie-Bernadette Dufourcet-Hakim at Holy Cross Cathedral.**

October is a full month for BAGO starting on the 10th. We are joining with the lovely folks at the Jamaica Plain Historical Society to see the two Hook Brothers instruments at First Church and St. Thomas. Robert Barney will demonstrate the instrument at First Church starting at 11 and then Rosalind Mohnsen will play at St. Thomas at 2:30. Barbara Owen will speak at First Baptist where a fire consumed Opus 253. Plans to return an organ to the space are underway so it is fitting that we conclude our day there. Christine Hogan has organized the Youth Organ Initiative auditions on Saturday, Oct. 15th and "Pedals, Pipes and Pizza," an organ crawl featuring the Concord, MA organs on Saturday, Oct 22nd. Hear the newly built and dedicated Noack and Spencer organs as well as the Hook organ at Holy Name Parish. See Christine's article for further details. The organ crawl is not for organists only. Spread the word to the young people in your circle.

The annual Holy Cross concert will be held on Sunday, Oct. 30th at 2 p.m. with organist Marie- Bernadette Dufourcet Hakim. This yearly event showcases the Hook and Hastings Opus 801 (1875). See the website for details.

A rich month as we turn towards Advent. Come join us.

*And now a word from our sponsor...*

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**THESE ARE OUR TOOLS**



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