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February 2022

The Newsletter of the Boston Chapter American Guild of Organists



From Whence Cometh My Help?

As your new chaplain... No, as a priest who is a professional singer... No, as a follower of God who longs for worship... I bring you all of my heart's gratitude for what you are doing during this pandemic.

Probably, like me, you are feeling the wearisome malaise caused by the relentless weight of Covidtide, bearing down on the very work that brings you joy. You are not alone! Indeed, from what I am witnessing, the musicians are holding congregations and communities together. Amid isolation and yearning, you are providing essential ministerial leadership. I am full of gratitude for you, and I pray that you may receive the sustenance that comes from Divine provision. You are cherished.

Recently, when I asked how I could best support a clergy friend, she said, "Please pray that I do not forget God while I am busy serving God." Ouch. Does it sound familiar? Is God in the storm of constantly pivoting between online worship and sparsely-attended in-person rehearsals? Our heads may say, "Of course, God is in everything," but our hearts may feel weighted towards a different reality. But faith reminds us that there is a place we can rest those burdens, as hard it might be to do. Lay them down, friends.

During the past few years, the importance of self-care has often been discussed. I admit that I am poor at practicing this. Brené Brown wrote, "What boundaries need to be in place for me to be in my integrity and generous with my assumptions about the intentions, words, and actions of others?" One of the dear spiritual directors in my past often asked me the simple question, "Brett, what does your soul require, right now?" Perhaps that

could be your mantra in these times of frenzied unknowing. Friend, what does your soul require right now?

As we enter a third year of pandemic, and as some of us turn to Lent and preparations for Holy Week, I want you to remember that you are not alone, and your efforts are essential and valued. Not just by those of us fellow ministry leaders, nor by appreciative parishioners, nor by grateful audiences - but by a God who instilled in you the gift of music, who sees you, and who cherishes and delights in you as you continue to faithfully serve this calling that you have been given.

Rev. Brett Johnson, Chaplain

Boston Chapter Elections 2022

The following is the notification to the Chapter Membership for the upcoming BAGO Executive Committee and officers. These candidates are coming forward to help lead the Boston Chapter into the future. The slate of candidates and their biographies were proposed by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Executive Committee on January 31, 2022, for consideration by the Chapter Membership.

[Click here](#) to view the slate of candidates and their biographies

Proposed comments on candidates or offers of other nominees for elected positions is open until March 15, 2022. Any comments or additions of nominees should be sent to Claire DeCusati, Election Coordinator, no later than the close of the comment period. If additional candidates wish to be added, they must submit their information and include the contact information of five other Chapter Members who support their candidacy. You may contact Claire [here](#).

Thanks to the Nominating Committee of Jonathan Ambrosino, Andrew Clarkson, and Terry Halco for assisting.

Thank you for taking the time to contribute to the vitality of our Chapter.

Sincerely,
Jeremy Bruns, Dean



FRANCK

▼

DETTA

▼

METHUEN

SATURDAY, MAY 21

9.30 to 4.00



SOUVENIR BOOKLET

Support this festive event with an advertisement in the full-color Program Booklet. Costs have been kept low to incline your participation.

Full Page	\$95	4.5" wide x 7.5" tall
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to which you may direct any questions
by email or calling (617) 251-8288
4. Advertising submission deadline: **April 21, 2022**

**A FREE EVENT,
OPEN TO ALL**

IN CELEBRATION OF César Franck's 2022 bicentennial, concert organist Scott Dettra is undertaking a national tour of Franck's 12 major organ works, performed from memory in two 75-minute recitals.

Franck's organ music—arguably the most significant contribution to the repertoire after that of Bach—broke new ground and charted the course of the French Romantic organ school. Thanks to its mature harmonic language and achingly beautiful melodies, Franck's music has become an enduring foundation of the repertoire.

Praised for clarity, rhythmic intensity, and musical elegance, Mr. Dettra will bring his hallmark poeticism and suave sense of expression to this beloved music.


Rounding out the day, Christopher Anderson of Southern Methodist University will discuss links between French and German organ cultures of the 19th and 20th centuries.

THE DAY

9.30 Doors open
10.10 Opening remarks
10.15 Recital No. 1
11.30 Lunch
1.15 Lecture:
Franck Among the Germans: Ideology and Image
2.30 Recital No. 2
4.00 Conclusion

This day is co-sponsored by the Boston and Merrimack Valley Chapters of the American Guild of Organists, with additional support from the Boston Chapter's Special Projects Committee and generous individuals.

Mr. Dettra is represented in North America by Karen McFarlane Artists, Inc.



LUKAS HASLER

PLAYING WORKS OF BACH, VIERNE, AND FRANCK

SUNDAY, MARCH 6 | 3 PM


HOOK & HASTINGS ORGAN, OPUS 2180, BUILT 1908

SAINT MARY STAR OF THE SEA, BEVERLY, MA

BEVERLYCATHOLIC.COM LUKASHASLER.COM

ADMISSION IS FREE DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

Lukas Hasler is studying organ at the Académie Supérieure de Musique de Strasbourg in France and under the tutelage of Prof. Ulrich Walther at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Graz, Austria. His international concert career has already taken him to Germany, France, Italy, Great Britain, Russia and Israel as well as to some of the largest cathedrals in the United States.




OPEN HOUSE

celebrating the completion of

OPUS 3

for
ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Cape Elizabeth, Maine

Saturday, March 5
11:00 - 3:00

178 Crescent Road
Needham, MA

Masking and vaccination required

www.ortlofforgan.com

David Hurd Events Postponed

Dear Chapter Friends,

With every regret, it has been necessary to postpone the David Hurd events scheduled for this week, including his planned Masterclass for BAGO. I am working with Dr. Hurd to reschedule these offerings and will communicate the new details as soon as they are available.

In the meantime, the Chapter is uplifting a FREE concert by the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, to be held in Symphony Hall on February 18th, featuring one of our greatest virtuosi, the incomparable Paul Jacobs. A full description of the concert is included below; for more information, please click the button below.

I urge you to visit the page and claim your free tickets today.

Wishing all a safe and healthy February,
Mitchell Crawford, Sub-Dean

Learn More About the Concert



Louise Mundinger Interviews Gil Rose about the Upcoming BMOP Concert

1. Why did you choose to include organ concertos in this concert?

Pulling Out All The Stops was conceived as a memorial concert for our long-time Board of Directors Chairman Larry Phillips, who passed away in 2018. In addition to his generous support of so many organizations and musicians in Boston, Larry was himself an organist who served as music director at First Parish in Waltham.

2. What drew you/draws you to the organ? Is it this organ in particular or the pipe organ in general?

I myself have always been a fan of the "King of Instruments."

3. How did you hear of the concertos you will perform?

As an orchestra that exclusively plays 20th and 21st century music., I wanted to build a program that spanned a full century and that would showcase the variety of approaches to the organ as a solo instrument with the orchestra.

Stephen Paulus was a friend with whom I had worked many times before his untimely death in 2014. BMOP had released a CD of his orchestral music early in our career (The Five Senses on Arsis in 2005). It is wonderful to be able to play his music again, especially a work that has not yet been performed in Boston. Jongen's Symphonie Concertant connects back to romantic and early 20th century styles. I have always thought the Jongen work was under-rated and I'm glad to be able to bring it to Symphony Hall as well.

4. Did you decide to include Bach and Messiaen in the concert because of their relationships to the pipe organ?

I originally conceived of this concert as a program of four organ concertos, but that is a lot to ask of one organ soloist. Once we identified Paul Jacobs as a possible guest artist, I went in the direction of 2 concertos paired with orchestral works that were based on, or had a strong relationship to organ repertoire.

5. How was this concert funded?

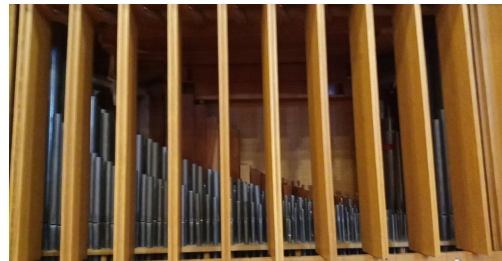
BMOP is fortunate to have several generous funders supporting this concert, including Larry's own family foundation, the Ellis L. Phillips Foundation. We also received support from the recording industry's Musicians Performance Trust Fund to subsidize the free tickets. Additional support comes from Nancy Foss Heath & Richard B. Heath Educational, Cultural, and Environmental Foundation.

6. Anything else you'd like to say to the Boston Chapter of the American Guild of Organists?

Don't miss this concert! It's a rare chance to hear the Symphony Hall organ as it is seldom presented: as a vital element of contemporary expression. Certainly, you won't get many opportunities to hear these modern masterpieces on such a powerhouse instrument, in an iconic hall, with a world renowned soloist very often.

Jay Lane Steps Down as Secretary

Jay Lane has stepped down as Secretary of the Chapter. The Secretary position will be temporarily filled by Jeffrey Mills, until new Officers are installed at the Annual Meeting. The Executive Committee would like to thank Jay for all of his years of service to the Chapter. We hope to see him at future events.

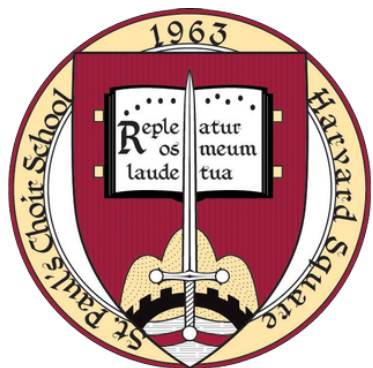


Chapter Instrument Feature: UMass Lowell

Schlicker Organ Co. (1978)

Built in 1978, this instrument by the Schlicker company resides in a small recital hall in the music building. While it doesn't see constant use, the organ is used for teaching private lessons and performances of period music. It has 2 manuals controlling 13 ranks with 710 total pipes. The instrument uses tracker action throughout.

[Learn More About This Instrument](#)



Saint Paul Harvard Square Seeking Associate Director of Music

Saint Paul's Church, Harvard Square, USA is home to Saint Paul's Choir School, and has an opening for an Associate Director of Music. Responsibilities are divided between the Church and the Choir School and requires an organist and choral director who can provide outstanding liturgical organ playing; train the Junior Choristers and Music Scholars and direct the Parish Choir.

DMA/FAGO-level organ playing, with commensurate choral training skills and experience required. Knowledge and understanding of Catholic liturgy preferred.

[View Detailed Job Information](#)



Welcome New Members!

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to our Chapter:

- Hunter Harville-Moxley
- Jake Broer

Thank you to John Dunn and Old South Church in Boston for their recent donations to the YOI scholarship fund!

Condolences to the family and friends of Charles (Chuck) Willie who passed away in early January

Learn More About Our Upcoming Programs!

[View The Chapter Calendar](#)



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Boston Chapter American Guild of Organists | David Baker, 236 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115

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