

*Boston Chapter, American Guild of Organists*

# NEWSLETTER

Volume XXI, Number 9 [www.bostonago.com](http://www.bostonago.com) May 2012

## Chapter Programs

### BAGO Recital, Dinner, Annual Meeting

Monday, May 21, 6:30 p.m.  
Eliot Church  
474 Centre Street  
Newton, MA

The recital begins at 6:30 on the church's 33-rank 1987 Bozeman organ. The program will be played by organ builder George Bozeman, parish music director Charles Raines, and Boston AGO officers, including Joshua Lawton, Brandon Santini, and David Tierney.

A buffet dinner follows, catered by Baker's Best. The menu includes mixed grilled chicken platter, grilled salmon with mango salsa, garden salad, pasta leonardo, pastry bars and cookies, sodas and waters. Cost is **\$15** per person, payable at the dinner. Reservations are due by **Thursday, May 17**; contact Sub-Dean Dan McKinley, 978-774-3163 x353, [dan.mckinley@ctr-anglican.org](mailto:dan.mckinley@ctr-anglican.org).

The annual meeting will follow, led by Dean Vickie Wagner.

For map, public transportation, directions, parking: [www.eliotchurch.org/about/directions.html](http://www.eliotchurch.org/about/directions.html), if you do not have access to this site, the information is also given below.

### Public Transportation

Eliot is most easily accessed with buses that stop at 400 Centre Street, about a 3-minute walk to the church. The MBTA bus routes that stop here include: 504 Downtown Copley or Watertown Copley, 553/554 Downtown via Turnpike, 556 Newton Corner, 558 Downtown, and 57 Kenmore. Upon exiting the bus (facing *away* from the Turnpike) walk to your right about 150 yards (around the assisted living facility), and take a left (on Centre St.) Eliot is on the next block, to your left.

The nearest T station is Newton Center on the Green line about 2 miles from Eliot farther up Centre Street. From here take the 52 Watertown Square via Parker bus that stops at 400 Centre Street.

## Driving

Parking in the church lot off Church Street is limited – but there is plenty of parking on the streets around Eliot Church.

**Mass Pike (I-90) eastbound:** Take Exit 17. At the top of the ramp, take a right at the stop light, on to Centre Street. Eliot Church is on the left at the first intersection, at the northeast corner of Centre and Church Streets.

**Mass Pike (I-90) westbound:** Take Exit 17. At the top of the ramp, stay to the left, heading to Newton. Go left around the hotel in the center of the roundabout. On the south side of the roundabout, take a right at the intersection on to Centre Street (heading toward Newton Centre). Eliot Church is on the left at the first set of lights.

**From the South:** From the VFW parkway take Dedham Street Westbound. Take a right onto Parker Street, cross Route 9 and take a right onto Centre Street in Newton Center. Continue down Centre Street and Eliot Church is on the right at the intersection of Centre and Church Streets.

**From the North:** Eliot Church is most easily accessed taking Galen Street South where it intersects Route 20 in Watertown Center. Continue southbound until the road ends at the entrance to the Turnpike. Take a right, and go left around the hotel in the center of the roundabout. On the south side of the roundabout, take a right at the intersection on to Centre Street (heading toward Newton Centre). Eliot Church is on the left at the first set of lights.

—Dan McKinley, Sub-Dean

## Membership Renewal

Membership renewal notices for the 2012-13 year will be mailed in early May. (The AGO year runs from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013.) Your renewal form and check **MUST** be received back by July 1 to ensure that you're included in the Chapter yearbook. After that date, no guarantee!

—Tim Hughes

## Dean's Message

### Dear Committee Chairs and Officers,

Please submit your annual reports to me (by e-mail attachment) by May 15. I will make booklets of all the reports bound together and bring them to the Annual meeting (5/21). If you prefer to distribute your report at the meeting yourself, please let me know.

### Dear Chapter Members,

Please **VOTE** when your ballot arrives via e-mail or U.S. mail. The online voting mechanism is very quick and easy.

Please **COME** to the ANNUAL MEETING, Monday, May 21.

Many chapters have business meetings as part of their monthly programs, but we don't. This is the only general business meeting of the year. Participate. Share your thoughts and ideas. Spend an evening with other chapter members. Meet the newly elected officers.

*There once was a Dean named Victoria,  
Who felt a brief wave of euphoria.  
She noted the date, saw what's still on her plate  
and cried, "Just one message left...Dei Gloria!"*

—Vickie Wagner

## PLACEMENT MAY, 2012

The date in brackets following a church's name shows when the church first requested a listing. Salary is income paid by the church. Services such as funerals (fn) and weddings (wd) with additional fees are estimated as shown.

### ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

Denomination	Hours	Location	Name of Church	Organ	Salary	Est. Add'l Comp
Episcopal	20-25	Falmouth, MA	St Barnabas Episcopal Church [03/12]	Hutchings	\$35,000 to \$45,000	20 fn/10 wd
UU	6-10	Mendon, MA	Unitarian Congregation of Mendon and Uxbridge [12/11]	Laws	\$6,000-\$12,000	Not stated

Please also see postings at [www.bostonago.com](http://www.bostonago.com) for contact information regarding these openings. Some churches here may no longer be receiving names but have not notified placement.

The following positions have been filled: First Parish in Lincoln, MA; St Theresa's, W. Roxbury, MA

**LISTING YOUR CHURCH ON THIS PAGE** Contact Janet Hunt, Placement Coordinator, at [janet.hunt@sjis.edu](mailto:janet.hunt@sjis.edu).

## Executive Committee Meetings

**Tuesdays** at United Parish, 210 Harvard St, Brookline (near Coolidge Corner) 7-9 pm  
Last meeting: June 5

Executive committee meetings are open to all Chapter members.

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## Boston Chapter AGO Officers 2011-2012

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<i>Webmaster</i> <a href="mailto:marknelson@cbfisk.com">marknelson@cbfisk.com</a>	Mark Nelson 978-283-1909

### Executive Committee

Kathleen Adams, R. Harrison Kelton,  
Christian Lane, Nadia Stevens,  
Susan DeSelms, Elisabeth (Buffy) Gray,  
Carole Lawton, David Tierney  
Bryan Ashley, Christine Hogan  
Harry Huff, Brandon Santini

## “Do You Know Where Methuen Is?”

Re: Wednesday Organ Recitals: May 23 - August 29

That question was asked to me twice in recent years by German and Italian organists who had come to Boston to play recitals. With some hesitation and uncertainty as to how to pronounce the name, they asked about this mysterious place with the famous organ. In both cases I gladly arranged for these organists to make a visit, with great excitement, to the Methuen Memorial Music Hall.

MMMh is the 103-year-old massive, beautiful, private and unique concert hall built by Edward Searles, Methuen's native son and philanthropist, to be the new home for his prized possession, The Great Organ (1863) of the Boston Music Hall. In this awesome building and on this awesome organ, fifteen outstanding organists are invited each summer to present the Wednesday night organ recital series. Many of these recitalists come from far away, fulfilling a long-held dream of playing at Methuen.

It's relatively easy to get to Methuen. The town is thirty miles north of Boston, directly east of I-93. The Music Hall is at 192 Broadway (Route 128) and there is free parking. By public transportation, take the commuter rail from North Station to Lawrence (Haverhill line) and then a taxi to the Hall. Come early and enjoy dinner, often with other AGO members, at the Family Restaurant next door. The recitals are at 8:00 pm and seating is unreserved. Admission is \$12 Adults, \$5 Children, or \$125 for a summer series pass.

How is it possible that a historic, specialized endeavor such as MMMh still operates? It is thanks to the dedicated efforts and skills of the Board of Trustees, all volunteers. They are the fourth leg of the improbable remarkables there: building, organ, organists, trustees.

Read Barbara Owen's recent book, *The Great Organ at Methuen*, (OHS Press) for the fascinating story of MMMh: “its checkered history, and, perhaps most intriguingly, the varied and colorful cast of characters who conceived and financed it, built and rebuilt it, played it, made recordings on it, wrote about it, maintained it, rescued it from time to time, and continue to ensure that its voice continues to be heard.”

On the website, [www.mmmh.org](http://www.mmmh.org), you will find programs for all the recitals this year. Here's the new, annual gem of MMMh and the reason for going there repeatedly: it's the repertoire and musicianship of the recitalists. Following is an overview of this summer's highlights:

**May 23, Christoph Bull** (University Organist, UCLA). In his own compositions, he mixes rock 'n' roll, jazz, and classical repertoire into pieces that he fondly calls “rockin' organ music.”

**May 30, Daniel Brondel**, Associate Music Director at St. Patrick's Cathedral, NYC: Vierne's *Carillon de Westminster* and Boëllmann's *Suite Gothique* (complete).

**June 6, Christian Lane**, Associate University Organist, Harvard University: Elgar's *Imperial March* and pieces by Percy Whitlock and Carson Cooman.

**June 13, Faythe Freese**, University of Alabama: Tournemire's *Pentecost Suite* and Duruflé's *Prélude et Fugue sur le nom d'Alain*.

**June 20, John Robinson**, St. Paul's Parish and Choir School, Cambridge: Bach's *Passacaglia & Fugue in C minor* and Baisrow's *Sonata in E-Flat Major*.

**June 27, David Carrier**, Wellesley UCC Church and Director, Newton Choral Society: Widor's *Symphony No. 6 (II. Adagio, I. Allegro)* and eight pieces by Garth Edmundson.

**July 4, Brandon Santini**, St. Theresa of Avila, West Roxbury: Thayer's *Sonata No. 2* (includes “The Star-Spangled Banner” variations) and Reubke's *Sonata on the 94<sup>th</sup> Psalm*.

**July 11, Barbara Bruns**, Christ Church, Andover: Franck's *Choral No. 1* and Dupré's *Variations sur un vieux Noël*.

**July 18, Kevin Birch**, St. John's RC, Bangor, ME: Mendelssohn's *Sonata in A Major* and Buck's *Grand Sonata in E-Flat Major*.

**July 25, Nicole Keller**, Hudson, OH: Sowerby's *Comes Autumn Time* and Howells' *Rhapsody in C-sharp minor*.

**August 1, Paul Murray**, Church of the Holy Family, United Nations Parish, NYC: Bach's *Prelude & Fugue in C Major, BWV 547*, and Widor's *Symphony No. 5* (complete)

**August 8, Peter Kranefoed**, Stuttgart, Germany: Saint-Saëns' *Fantaisie* and *Prelude and Fugue*; Vierne's *Pièces de fantaisie* (selected).

**August 15, David Arcus**, Duke Chapel, Duke University: Liszt's *Prelude & Fugue on B-A-C-H* and Arcus' *Improvisation on a submitted theme*.

**August 22, Anne Horsch**, Munich, Germany: Bach's *Chorale Partita on “Sei gegrüßet”* and Tournemire's *Choral-improvisation on “Victimae Paschali”*.

**August 29, Frederick Teardo**, Associate Organist, St. Thomas, NYC: Buck's *Variations on “The Last Rose of Summer”*; Mozart's *Adagio and Allegro, K. 594*; and Reubke's *Sonata on the 94<sup>th</sup> Psalm*.

Please contact me if I can be of help with more information about attending the summer recitals in Methuen. And sign up now for the bus tour, *In Search of Searles*, visiting Methuen organ sites on Sunday, May 20. Contact Barbara Owen, at [owenbar@juno.com](mailto:owenbar@juno.com).

—Joyce Painter Rice

[joyceorganist@aol.com](mailto:joyceorganist@aol.com) 978-465-1901

## Help Needed for 2012 National Convention

Are you going to the 2012 National Convention in Nashville? Would you be willing to staff our 2014 Boston Convention booth in the Exhibit Hall? We need volunteers willing to work a 3 hour shift staffing our convention booth. The only skill needed is the desire to chat with people about our upcoming Boston National Convention. We will have brochures and promotional materials (like pencils and sticky notes) to give out; our booth will also feature a slide show showing Boston locales, convention artists (currently under contract), and notable organs. If you could donate three hours of your time, please send a note to Claire DeCusati ([AGOBoston2014@verizon.net](mailto:AGOBoston2014@verizon.net)), and she'll set you up with the time(s) of your choice.

—*Claire DeCusati* [decusati@verizon.net](mailto:decusati@verizon.net)

## Heard at the Opera

If you've ever attended an HD broadcast of a Met opera, you know that the live interviews give a wonderful glimpse of the singers as humans. Achingly true in the intermission of *La Traviata* as Deborah Voigt rushed to talk with Natalie Dessay, who had been recovering from illness and wasn't quite as incredibly spectacular as she intended to be. Almost at once, Dessay passionately blurted out, "I missed the high note! Sorry!" and then went right on with the interview. On one side of me, I heard a comment about staging of the opera 25 years ago; on the other side, I heard someone asking what she meant by her comment.

Isn't this similar to the many perceptions we encounter, from ourselves as well as others, about our work that is played out (no pun intended) in public places? Everyone brings a different perspective, experience, hope, hearing, etc. to the moment. And every aspect is valid. Remember how important it is to give and receive feedback along the way. It not only keeps us honest, it lets us be human.

—*Charlene Higbe, Chair*  
*Professional Development Committee*

**REMINDER - THE CONCERT CALENDAR NO LONGER APPEARS IN THE NEWSLETTER. PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE TO VIEW EVENT LISTINGS, OR TO ENTER NEW ONES OF YOUR OWN.**

## Caroling: Nurturing a Venerable Tradition

Carol singing, that venerable custom with origins rooted in Pagan, subsequently early Christian, lore, and more recently as a peripatetic tradition enjoyed informally in small American towns, has found the ideal New England village in which to reside each year as the focal point of a holiday celebration.

Lenox, the picturesque community nestled in the Berkshire hills of Western MA, will be welcoming singers and choral groups Dec. 7-9, to its second Lenox Caroling Festival. And what better place indeed than Lenox, which has a long musical tradition, notably for Tanglewood, the summer home, for 75 years, of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Following the successful inaugural 2011 festival in which ten groups competed for cash prizes while attracting hundreds of listeners to locations throughout the village, this year's edition is expected to more than double that initial number of entrants. Groups from churches, schools and colleges and professional ensembles all are eligible to compete for prizes, which this year will range from \$1,000 to \$4,000.

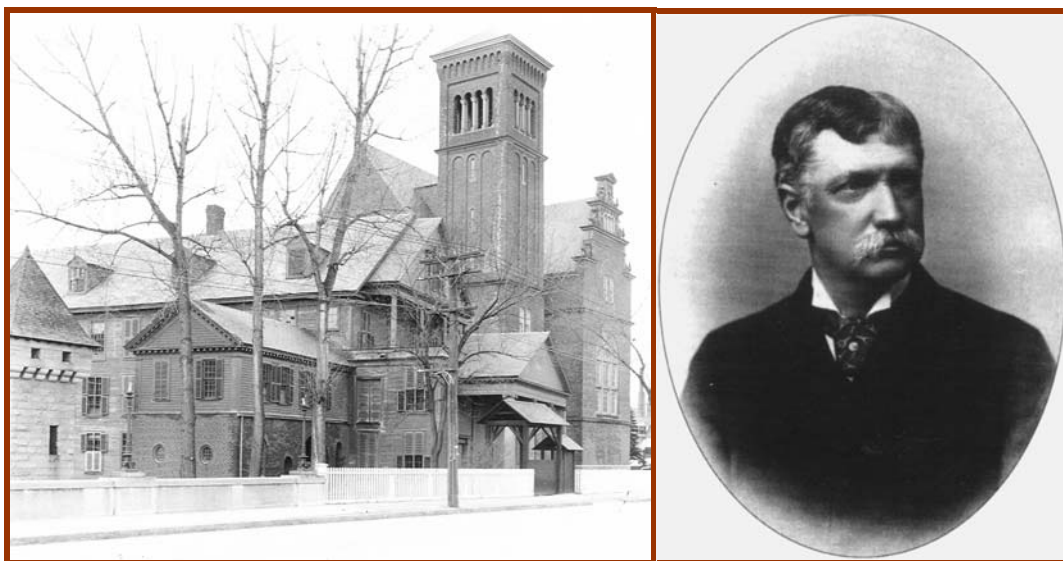
Noting that the season is an especially active time for most singers and groups, it is suggested that groups from other areas throughout the northeast plan to bring parts of programs already prepared for home-town presentation to the festival. Choral leaders are invited to engage repertory that includes traditional and more obscure carols, as well as modern literature embracing such things as elves, reindeer and mistletoe.

A veritable oasis of arts activities, Lenox also is home to Shakespeare & Co., the famed repertory company devoted to other classical and contemporary playwrights in addition to the Bard of Avon; The Mount, the Berkshire home of Edith Wharton whose 100th birthday anniversary is being marked this year; and Ventfort Hall, the fabled site of the Museum of the Gilded Age. These organizations, all magnets to tourists from throughout the world, are expected to present special programs and performances during the festival.

The unusually large array of inns, fine restaurants, galleries and shops in Lenox also will participate in the festival, offering special prices for accommodations, meals and holiday shopping opportunities. Visit [www.lenoxcarolingfestival.org](http://www.lenoxcarolingfestival.org).

Andrea Goodman, Director, Cantilena Chamber Choir  
32 Bracelan Ct., Lenox, MA 01240

Saratoga Choral Festival, PO Box 291, Saratoga Springs,  
NY 12866, 518-791-0185  
[www.cantilenachoir.org](http://www.cantilenachoir.org)  
[www.saratogachoralfest.org](http://www.saratogachoralfest.org)  
[satbchoir@yahoo.com](mailto:satbchoir@yahoo.com)



## **METHUEN MEMORIAL MUSIC HALL**

### **"IN SEARCH OF SEARLES"**

**A bus tour from the Music Hall to organs associated with Edward F. Searles:  
Saint Andrew's Church, Saint George's Church, "Pine Lodge" and  
First Congregational Church; all in Methuen**

**Sunday, May 20, 2012, 2:00 - 6:00 P.M.**

**Methuen millionaire Edward F. Searles (1841-1920) had a lifelong interest in pipe organs. It was his vision and wealth that enable us today to enjoy the "Great Organ" in the Methuen Memorial Music Hall. His collaboration with organbuilders James E. Treat (1837-1915) and John M. Ingraham (1866-1922) led to the design and construction of many organs of meticulous craftsmanship and the finest materials. The tour will visit several local examples of these instruments.**

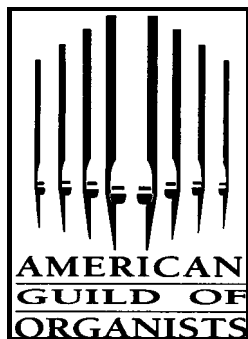
**Tickets: \$40 - Pre-Paid Advance Reservation Required  
Call (978) 465-2068 after April 1**

American Guild of Organists  
***Boston Chapter***  
Timothy Hughes, Membership Secretary  
247 Washington Street #24  
Winchester MA 01890

May 2012

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The Rachmaninoff Festival Choir of America *presents*  
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*A series of world-class musical events celebrating an array of musical jewels as vast as Russia itself*

**GOLDEN ECHOES  
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Choral Treasures from Two Cultural Capitals

Male Ensemble *Kovcheg* of St. Petersburg  
& Chorus *Elegiia* of Moscow



Thursday, May 24, 7:30 p.m.

First Church in Cambridge  
11 Garden St., Cambridge, MA

**FILIGREE AND FINERY  
CHAMBER & ORGAN MUSIC**



Rarely performed works played by  
virtuoso organist

**YULIA PIROZHNIKINA**



Saturday, May 26, 5:00 p.m.

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church  
472 Massachusetts Ave., Acton, MA

**GLORY! RUSSIAN TREASURES  
GALA CONCERT AT JORDAN HALL**



**RACHMANINOFF FESTIVAL CHOIR OF  
AMERICA**

with the Festival Orchestra  
Director: **IRINA SHACHNEVA**

**FEATURING:** Vassily Primakov, award-  
winning pianist; Maria Lyudko, National Art-  
ist of Russia, soprano; Andrey Nemzer, Met-  
ropolitan Opera champion, countertenor,  
with guest choirs & instrumentalists



Sunday, May 27, 4:00 p.m.

New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall  
30 Gainsborough Ave., Boston, MA

**TICKETS & INFORMATION: [WWW.RUSSIANMUSICFEST.COM](http://WWW.RUSSIANMUSICFEST.COM) OR 617-564-FEST (617-564-3378)**