

Boston Chapter, American Guild of Organists

NEWSLETTER

Volume XXI, Number 10 www.bostonago.com Summer 2012

Chapter Communications FAQ

The Communications Committee answers a few questions about Chapter Communications

Q: Will there still be a Chapter newsletter next year?

A: Yes and no. This is the final issue of the familiar monthly newsletter. Its content will remain, but in a different format.

Note: If you have an email address, please include it on the dues renewal form. We need it for AGO communications. You can opt out of having it printed in the yearbook. We won't share your email address with other groups. If you change your email address during the coming year, please let the Membership Secretary know.

Q: How will we get Chapter news?

A: Via emails through a software tool called "Constant Contact", which we've been using for the past year to send you reminders of upcoming chapter programs. Next fall you'll get messages twice a month: chapter program announcements and news, messages from offices and committees, and articles of interest. You can read them on your computer when they arrive, you can print them out to read in the bathtub later. You can even refer to them on your smart phone on your way to the program!

Note: Constant Contact is a secure service that will not sell or distribute email lists. You do not need to subscribe to the tool; we will use our BAGO contact list to distribute information. **A word of caution however: if you 'unsubscribe' we cannot assist you to resubscribe.** You must do that yourself; this is a guard the service has against spamming. So, if you choose to 'unsubscribe', please realize that you are taking yourself off of our communications service. You'll miss news of all the happenings of your Chapter!

Q: I don't use email. How will I get news?

A: We've hired Barbara Swist (of our current newsletter team) to send you printed versions of these Constant Contact messages via first class mail about once a month. If you don't provide an email address on your membership renewal form, we'll know you don't have one.

Q: How will I get the substitute list?

A: It's available 24/7 on the chapter website. Go there (www.bostonago.com —or—www.bostonago.org). Put your cursor on the brown border over "Our Chapter",

move your mouse down to "substitute list" and click. You'll see guidelines and current fee scales for subs. To see the list of names, go to "Download the list" and click on the word here. If you don't use computers, call Josh Lawton to request a list.

Note: Without space restrictions of a printed newsletter, it will be possible in the future to expand the information about each organist on the list, helping to select the right person for your needs.

Q: I used to go through the monthly newsletter's Concert Calendar and mark events of interest on my calendar. It had all we needed to know: date, time, what, where. Now I get announcements when the system decides to send it and I miss concerts. How can I find out what I want to know?

A: **Our beloved concert calendar is still on the chapter website**, with all the concerts listed, just like the newsletter. But instead of it being sent to you, you have to go to it--anytime you want! Each concert listing has all the info you mention and more. If you want the concert calendar sent to you, a "clip and save" article on p. 1 of the January 2012 Newsletter gives step-by-step instructions on creating customized profile. If you create a profile, the website will also automatically notify you of concerts that you want to know about, when you want to know. If you don't use computers, ask a friend to print one out for you. If that doesn't work, contact an officer or communications committee member.

Note: The Constant Contact messages you've been received were reminders for only the official chapter programs, which had already been described in the newsletter. They were never intended to replace the concert calendar when it moved to the chapter website in January.



Dean's Message

Since 1905 and the founding of the Boston Chapter, 49 people have served as Dean. Two years ago, highly unusual circumstances made it necessary to recycle Dean #41 as Dean #50. It has been a challenge. It has been an honor. And I hereby officially re-affirm our tradition of nominating only "fresh horses" for this office!

That being said, it has been interesting to be a "Janus Dean", always looking both backward and forward. Comparing my past two years in guild leadership to my previous eighteen consecutive years (1982-2000), I realize that many of our chapter's strengths and challenges remain. *'Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.'*

What's the same? A typical chapter program draws about 5-10% of our membership. Your Sub-Deans and Program Committees consider a venue's public transit access and parking. They target events for vocational and avocational organists. They concoct lectures, practical workshops and recitals. They mix weeknights with Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Newsletter articles say, "Give us your input.....give us feedback....tell us what you want or need." Silence.

What's different this time around? Well, Deans have to know something about everything in the Chapter's life. Twenty years ago, that information came from letters or conversations—either on the telephone or in meetings. These days it requires catching at least 50 AGO emails daily, bouncing them along to the appropriate people, and retaining as much as possible. Yes, it's much easier to pass along information, but so much more difficult hold on to it. Yes, we're more connected, and yet we're more disconnected. Actual "face time" is still vital, but it's more difficult than ever to schedule.

What's the biggest change? Probably that the steady stream of young organists that used to flood this town every year has dried up to a trickle. No local organ degree programs, no students. No students, fewer new organists. Fewer newcomers, fewer Chapter members. For the most part, the same people have been holding the Chapter up for a generation. We are rich in loyalty, wisdom, and experience. But there is less energy, less vitality than there once was. Hopefully the 2014 convention will be a recharging experience!

A few observations at year's end:

- Although our membership numbers continue to drop, we are still a very large Chapter. We are blessed with financial, musical, and human resources. Yet it's easy

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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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

for members to get lost, to be unnoticed, to feel unneeded. *How can create a stronger sense of “community” in this large chapter?*

- Our chapter boasts some of the finest organ players, scholars, and builders on the planet. What resources we have! Yet this rarified air can make it intimidating for some to step forward, to become actively involved.

How can we effectively assess the needs and gifts of such a broad membership?

- The Executive Committee is responsible for approving all initiatives. It is—by nature—more reactive than proactive, more stagnant than creative. It barely has time to deal with what it *must*, let alone think about what *could* be. The *real* work of our chapter happens at the committee or “task force” level. But with 21 elected posts, our organizational energy is devoted to finding potential candidates and then serving on the Executive Committee.

Is it time to re-examine our chapter’s leadership structure?

- We are blessed to have many faithful people serving in various capacities. Their experience is so valuable! Each incoming Dean hopes and prays that everyone will continue in their roles. Yet this also creates some natural stagnation, and repeated calls for newcomers typically yield no fruit.

How do we breathe new life in our committees?

Sadly, I don’t have answers, only a few suggestions:

- 1) Create a task force to study the chapter’s organizational structure and the Operating Procedures, which are due for an updating soon.

(Note: Only the National AGO has Bylaws. Chapters have Operating Procedures, which must not be in conflict with the national Bylaws.

- 2) Expand the membership of both the Communications and Membership Committees; ask them to develop a strategy for their year’s work. Working with data from the Membership Secretary, these two bodies have enormous potential for building community within this large, amorphous chapter.

- 3) Recruit a Hospitality Team to work with both Membership and Program Committees to add a social component to more chapter programs.

- 4) Remember that the Dean has to be juggler, diplomat, CEO, cheerleader, and a jack of all trades. He can’t also be Sole Visionary or Benevolent Dictator. Don’t expect him to micromanage your committee.

- 5) Committee Chairs, don’t do the work of your committee by yourself. Insist on active participation. If some of your members are burned out, put some new logs on the fire!

Ask for help. While email is a useful tool, it’s no substitute for live discussion. Committees should meet in person at least twice a year.

- 6) Develop a survey to ascertain not only what the chapter members *want*, but also what they can *offer*. What do members need? What does the chapter need? What skills could our members bring to those needs? Remember, one doesn’t have to be able to play a Bach Trio Sonata while whistling “Dixie” in order to make a valuable contribution.

As the second reign of “Queen Victoria” draws to a close, I thank all officers and committee members for their commitment to the AGO.

Dan McKinley • Joel Davidson • Douglas Witte
 Tim Hughes • Nancy Timmerman • Mark Slawson
 Daryl Bichel • Claire DeCusati • Kathleen Adams
 Harry Kelton • Chris Lane • Nadia Stevens
 Susan DeSelms • Buffy Gray • Carole Lawton
 David Tierney • Bryan Ashley • Christine Hogan
 Harry Huff • Brandon Santini • Martin Steinmetz
 Mark Nelson • David Baker • Glenn Goda • Rodger Vine
 Peter Sykes • Barbara Owen • Joseph Dyer
 Richard Bunbury • Wendy Covell • Carl Klein
 Lois Regestein • Ross Wood • Joyce Painter Rice
 Andrew Shenton • Frances Finch • Anita Nagem
 Rob Humphreville • Janet Hunt • Jim and Barbara Swist
 Dick Hill • Leo Abbott • Robert Barney • Liz Carley
 David Baker • Charles Clutz • Frederick Gills
 Scot Huntington • Charlene Higbe • Carol Doran
 Nancy Granert • Brian Jones • Josh Lawton • Joan Reddy
 Margaret Angelini • Mark Dwyer • Rosalind Mohnsen
 Lee Ridgway • Heinrich Christensen • Terry Halco
 Jim Barkovic • Mary Sue Willie • Cheryl Duerr
 John Dunn • Ray Cornils • Peter Krasinski
 Louise Munding • Elsa Geskus • Colin Lynch
 Didier Grassin • Steve Young • Richard Webster
 Mark Englehardt • Jack Daniels • Mary Street
 Carson Cooman • Dan Romero • Joe Scolastico
 Edward Odell • Trevor Pollock • Jonathan Ambrosino
 David Carrier • Mark Dwyer • Kirsten Johnson
 Erica Johnson • John & Carolyn Skelton • Eileen Hunt
 Mark Dirksen • Michael Smith • Michael Olbash
 Jay Lane • Brent Erstad • Stephanie Budwey
 David Baker • Donald Barnum • Jean Hendry
 Jonathan Hall
 Anyone and Everyone Whom I Forgot to List

Peace,
 —Victoria Wagner

Classy Series in NH's North Country

If you vacation this summer in the White Mountains plan to check out the offerings of Music in the Great North Woods, which sponsors the annual Big Moose Bach Fest on Labor Day Weekend. On the Master Organ Series will be Christa Rakich and RP Hale playing the historic Hook and Hastings organ at St. Kieran's Cultural Arts Center in Berlin, as well as Susan Ferre and violinist, Timothy Bell, playing Rheinberger on the Hook and Hastings organ in Gorham. The early music series features Baroque violinist Mimi Mitchell and harpsichordist Richard Egarr, and the Big Moose Bach Fest will invite counter-tenor Michael Hawn (Cantata 54, *Widerstehe doch*) and baritone David Grogan, as well as Quentin Faulkner, lecturer, Christa Rakich (Leipzig Chorals and Brandenburg 5), the historic film on and excerpts from the *Anna Magdalena Bach Notebook*, ending with *Actus Tragicus*: Cantata 106, using original instruments. All concerts are free and donations benefit non-profit organizations in the needy North Country.

The organization has just established a new scholarship program for anyone in the area wanting to study the organ. Two young musicians were awarded the first Norton Scholarships to study the organ. Keenan Wood, 15, of Berlin, was awarded a full scholarship for organ lessons. Paul Salek, 9, of Milan, was awarded a Pipe Organ Encounter. A third candidate will audition in October.

For more information: www.musicgnw.org, facebook (open page), info@musicgnw.org

290 Gorham Hill Road, Gorham, NH 03581, 466-2865

Congratulations to the Newly Elected Executive Committee for 2012-13.

Officers

Dean--Daniel McKinley
 Sub-Dean--Peter Krasinski
 Treasurer--Joel Davidson
 Assistant Treasurer--Daryl Bichel
 Membership Secretary--Timothy Hughes
 Recording Secretary--Nancy Timmerman
 Registrar--Mark Slawson
 Auditors--Claire DeCusati & Martin Steinmetz
 Chaplain--Rev. Carl Daw

At-large Members

2013--Susan DeSelms, Elizabeth (Buffy) Gray,
 Carole Lawton, David Tierney
 2014--Bryan Ashley, Christine Hogan,
 Harry Huff, Brandon Santini
 2015--Richard Bunbury, James Busby,
 Jane Flummerfelt, Rosalind Mohnsen



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Explanation of Ads:

- ❖ *The Chapter reserves the right to request changes in ads that are not appropriate for the amount of space selected.*
- ❖ *All ads are reproduced in black & white.*

❖ **Please note: The following spaces in the new AGO directory will be honored on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact Terry Halco at (617) 491-0766 before mailing a check to reserve your desired ad placement.**

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- **Electronic:** Our Yearbook is produced electronically. This assures the best possible quality publication. It is to your advantage to provide your ad by electronic medium--"unlayered PDF" is preferred. For questions about electronic format, and to insure that we can access your information, please contact Jim Swist at JimSwist@gmail.com
- **Camera-Ready:** If you are unable to provide us with an electronic ad by e-mail, then our designer can scan your camera-ready copy for an additional fee (see above).
- **Custom Design:** Our designer would be happy to custom design an ad for you for an additional fee (see above).

Mail this form (with a check for payment) to:

Barbara Swist 34 Jason Street #2 Arlington, MA 02476 E-mail: BarbaraASwist@gmail.com

Thank you for your support of the Boston Chapter of the American Guild of Organists!

A Final Word (or Two)

The members of the Boston Chapter are deeply grateful to Jim and Barbara Swist for their service as Newsletter Editor and Publisher for over a decade. Month in and month out, Jim has demonstrated saintly patience while reminding, prodding, and cajoling Deans and Committee Chairs for their submissions. He has hawked ads for the back page and--when necessary--put the fear of God in those who have forgotten to pay for those ads! It was Jim who urged chapter leaders to consider communications as a whole as we discussed potential changes in format. Sometimes taking the vital role of Devil's Advocate, Jim was an important player on the new Communications Committee. His eye for detail helped focus our efforts and foresee potential pitfalls. Both of the Swists will be key as we continue the transition from print to internet communication in the coming year.

Jim and Barbara, thank you!

Editor's Comment (see I get the last word):

Thank you Vickie. It has been my and Barbara's privilege to serve the Chapter in the above-cited roles. It is interesting that just before the Communications Committee was formed, I mentioned to Barbara that after all these years, the Newsletter was starting to look tired and stale, and maybe we should give it a new look. But I have to admit I was thinking more along the lines of yellow and green

striped paper with a background of The Atlantic City Convention Hall Organ on every page. Luckily the committee reminded me that this is actually the 21st century, and I need to think outside the box of Gutenberg's press.

*However, I need to reaffirm what Vickie alluded to in the Dean's message (and elsewhere). We actually have almost **no idea** what forms of Chapter communication best serve the membership because almost **no one** ever provides feedback. I find it frankly amazing that in the 11 years of doing the Newsletter, I couldn't even begin to guess whether we were doing a good job or not - that's how sparse any input had become. Believe it or not, I actually worked in the Technology Sector before becoming a full-time musician (I think this was sometime during the reign of Charlemagne). Even that far back it was an accepted principle that if technocrats, even with all the best intentions, designed systems in a vacuum, the result would almost surely not satisfy the ultimate users of that system. All of us have had the misfortune of using computer software that was obscure in concept and byzantine in implementation (and probably full of bugs, as well). It is almost guaranteed in today's technology that lack of end-user feedback and comment will result in something far from ideal.*

*Now is the time that the membership **must** come forward and help the Chapter transition its communications mechanisms if the result is to be a marked improvement over the status quo, and not simply chaos.*

Have a great Summer.

—The Editor

PLACEMENT JUNE, 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

ORGANIST ONLY

Denomination	Hours	Location	Name of Church	Organ	Salary	Est. Add'l Comp
Episcopal	2	Lawrence, MA	Grace Episcopal Church [06/12]	Methuen	\$150/week	2-3 fn/wd
Lutheran	6-7	Holliston, MA	Christ the King Lutheran Church [06/12]	Ahlborn-Galanti	\$12,800	4 fn/4 wd

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

LISTING YOUR CHURCH ON THIS PAGE Contact Janet Hunt, Placement Coordinator, at janet.hunt@sjs.edu.



FRIDAYS AT TRINITY

12:15 PM

TRINITY CHURCH, COPLEY SQUARE

Join us for a weekly series of midday organ concerts featuring innovative programs by recitalists from the United States and abroad.

September: Benjamin Kolodziej Jonathan Wessler Angela Kraft Cross William Wisnom	October: Jung-A Lee Adriano Falcioni Rodney Long Richard Webster & Colin Lynch	November: Stefan Kiessling Craig Symons Andrew Scanlon Randall Mullin
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<http://www.trinitychurchboston.org/fridays-at-trinity.html>

Old West Organ Society

FREE Summer Series: Tuesdays at 8 pm

July 10 - Paul Murray
 July 17 - Laurence Carson
 July 24 - Andrew Shenton
 July 31 - Carson Cooman
 August 7 - Rosalind Mohnsen
 August 14 - Yuka Saruwatari, Reiko Okamoto & Kumi Shibusawa
 August 21 - Mark Engelhardt
 August 28 - Raymond Nagem

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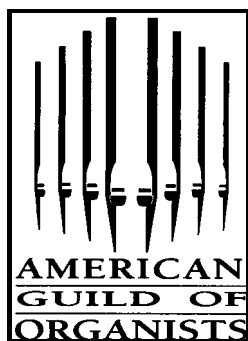
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Six Organ Interns from Minato Mirai Hall - Yokohama,
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Monday, August 13, 7:30 pm
Christ Church, Andover, Fisk Opus 137

Mineko Kojima
Mina Iizuka
Naoko Asao

Tuesday, August 14, 8:00 pm
Old West Church, Boston, Fisk Opus 55

Kumi Shibusawa
Yuka Saruwatari
Reiko Okamoto

Friday, August 17, 8:00 pm
Annisquam Village Church, Gloucester
Jeremy Adams Organ

Yuka Saruwatari
Reiko Okamoto

Saturday, August 18, 7:30 pm
St. John's Episcopal Church, Gloucester
Fisk Opus 97

Kumi Shibusawa
Mina Iizuka

followed by refreshments on the lawn
progressing to-

Mineko Kojima
Naoko Asao

Gloucester Unitarian Universalist Church
Hutchings/Fisk at 8:30 pm