



# BOSTON PIPINGS

news and notes for members of Boston Chapter AGO

Dean's Easter Message

Executive committee meeting

Ken Cowan Recital

## The Dean's Easter Message

*Hello and Happy Spring to all of you reading this message.*

The Boston Chapter continues to offer musical experiences for its membership and the general public that excite, inform and bring the art of the organ to a wider audience.

Our opening service at Church of the Advent was led with superb playing by Mark Dwyer and enlightening leadership by our Chaplain, Rev. Carl P. Daw, Jr. At Holy Cross Cathedral, Thomas Murray of Yale presented a recital of historic merit on the 1875 E. & G. Hook & Hastings Organ, opus 801. The popular First Night organ performances continued at Arlington Street Church under the leadership of Rodger Vine ushering us into 2015 with a joyful noise. The Merrimack Valley Chapter Jubilee was wonderfully attended and featured a day full of practical, enlightening and helpful workshops on almost every aspect of our art. Cameron Carpenter, presented in partnership with the Boston Celebrity Series, stretched our musical world and got us talking. The annual Bach Birthday Festival at First Lutheran Church presented in partnership with WGBH/WCRB and beautifully led by members Joyce Painter Rice and Balint Karosi drew a large rolling crowd and presented world-class performances.

What's next? This week-end Boston will experience yet another performer at the top of his form and I strongly encourage you to not only attend, but to bring as many of your friends, relatives and colleagues as you can to experience pipe organ playing that will entertain, satisfy and amaze. Ken Cowan will present a program that will be both aesthetically elegant and crowd pleasing on the magnificent Aeolian/Skinner organ at Church of the Advent at 4:00 PM. Tickets are \$10 for Children, Students with I.D. and Seniors and \$15 for general attendees (Cash and Check sales only available at the door... arrive early!) Please see elsewhere in this PIPINGS for information.

And don't forget our Dinner, and Annual Meeting featuring a presentation by Scot Huntington on May 11th and the YOI Scholarship Audition Winners Concert at King's Chapel on July, 7th. See the next PIPINGS for details!

To my colleagues serving as musical leaders in Christian organizations, it is with no small hope that your Holy Week and Easter music making met or exceeded your expectations and that you were able to find a way to remember and experience the story of our Lord with meaning, relevance and joy. To my Jewish friends, I trust that this time just past has found a renewal of your faith during this time of Passover. We in Boston certainly are glad to see the return of Spring and the warming of our land.

I leave you with a brief story. As an avid Facebook user I revel in reconnecting to friends long out of touch; celebrating with colleagues in professional and personal triumphs; am grateful to be able to express condolences to those in times of sorrow and loss; and in general enjoy learning about and getting to understand a bit more about people from different traditions than my own. Always careful with personal information, I have sometimes taken a chance "friend-ing" someone from a very different reality than myself. Recently I was having a cautious conversation from one of these newly discovered people and finally asked, "What type of Music do you listen to?" After a delay of sometime the reply came back... "It is against my religion to listen to music." Realizing that there might indeed be a sensitivity to probin, I nonetheless asked whether he at least experienced music during religious services. "Only then, and not often" was the response. After more conversation during which I discovered that this person had never experienced the sounds of, let alone heard of, Beethoven, Michael Jackson, Barbara Streisand, Elvis Presley, Herbert Howells or Phillip Glass, I realized that I was dealing with a newfound reality. After much courteous banter, I expressed that music was a very important center of my life to which the reply was very respectful. We continue to chat about world politics and the conditions in his country. That said, it got me thinking about a world without music as I knew it and was quite sobering.

What do you think?

I quote a dear friend, Judith Anne Ollikkala, (Judy to most of us) - one of the far too many who have left us for the final adventure this season. Her motto in her 1953 yearbook read: "Without music, life would be a mistake."

Please support our guild by your continued membership, your attendance at events, and, most importantly, your valued input. Keep the music alive.

Best wishes for the year remaining and time for renewal ahead.

Peter Edwin Krasinski  
Dean, Boston Chapter of the AGO

## **Executive Committee Meeting**

This Monday at 7 p.m. at Trinity Church, Concord. All members invited

## **Church of the Advent to present Ken Cowan recital**

On Sunday, April 26th, at 4:00 pm, Ken Cowan will play a full program on the Advent Organ.

Ken Cowan is one of North America's finest concert organists. Praised for his dazzling artistry, impeccable technique, and imaginative programming by audiences and critics alike, recent feature performances have included appearances at Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa California, Philadelphia's Verizon Hall, Spivey Hall, and Walt Disney Concert Hall, as well as concerts in Germany and Korea. Suggested donation at the door: \$15/\$10. His unusual program will include the transcriptions of Mephisto Waltz by Liszt and the Prelude to the Meistersinger by Wagner, as well as music by Guillou, Bach and Roger-Ducasse. This concert is co-sponsored by the Boston Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

See <http://www.concertorganists.com/artists/ken-cowan/> for more information and sound clips from Ken Cowan.