



# BOSTON PIPINGS

*news and notes for members of Boston Chapter AGO*

## Chapter Elections Update

## WIMFest and Annual Meeting

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### Chapter Elections Update

Voting for the BAGO 2016-2017 Executive Committee begins May 1. To read about the candidates click [here](#). You will receive a ballot on May 1st and we ask that you vote as soon as possible. Voting will remain open through May 14th. Thank you, in advance, for your participation.

Claire DeCusati  
Registrar, Boston AGO  
[bostonago@verizon.net](mailto:bostonago@verizon.net)

### Annual Meeting

The Boston Chapter Annual Meeting and Dinner will follow WIMFest. The Annual Meeting begins at 5:30 PM with dinner at 6:30 PM. Dinner choices are BBQ with 3 sides or a Vegetarian option. You will be asked to RSVP for the dinner through a separate invitation. We look forward to seeing you at this event.

Here is a schedule for the day:

Annual Meeting and WIMFest (see below)  
**May 22, 2016 at Second Church in Newton**  
**[60 Highland Street, West Newton, MA](#)**

- 2:00 forum on women composers
- 3:00 reception/discussion/social time
- 4:00 concert (open to the public)
- 5:30 Boston Chapter AGO annual meeting
- 6:30 Blue Ribbon Barbecue Dinner (by reservation - see separate E-mail)

*Robert Barney, Sub Dean*

### WIMFest

We sing hymns by Christina Rossetti, Cecil F. Alexander, Fanny Crosby, Frances Havergal and Katherine K. Davis on a regular basis. Thanksgiving, Christmas, Holy Week and Easter would be very different without the work of these women. But

beyond these women, we choose music by men composers almost exclusively. And not only that, we can continue to perform music composed by mostly men composers and be very happy. Really. When there is already so much music, should we focus on women composers?

WIMFest (Women In Music) 2016 is an emphatic yes to that question. WIMFest 2016 will bring all of us to new music, composers and hymn writers.. BAGO members Jennifer Lester and Christa Rakich are going to help us explore the work of several women composers.

Jennifer writes: When I picked the theme of "Renew the Face of the Earth" for Seraphim's spring concerts, I was inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si." There are numerous references, not only in that document but throughout human history, to the Earth as Mother, and to the Creator Spirit as embodying the more

"feminine" attributes of God. It followed naturally that I should seek out the work of women composers in choosing the repertoire.



I already had a few composers and pieces in mind, but needing more, I researched the way I do on any topic or composers: talked to colleagues and publishers (Stanley Hoffman at ECS was particularly helpful); cruised composers' websites, YouTube and Spotify; and posted on ChoralNet, which gave me a lot to choose from.

Christa Rakich is going to play music by the composers Margaretha Christina de Jong, Germaine Tailleferre and Florence Price.

Christa writes: I draw inspiration from people who accomplished something beautiful, despite the conventional wisdom they could not. There is a certain courage, and a compelling integrity, in music born from 'the other,' whether 'the other' is female, black, or anything outside the mainstream. Of course, in a larger sense, all organ music is outside the mainstream. Exploring the edges gives a new perspective on the center, and new ways of understanding music altogether.

You, dear BAGO member, can lead us, too. May 22, 2016 is Trinity Sunday. As part of WIMFest, we are asking you to include at least one women composer and/or hymnwriter in your service for Trinity.

Here are two places to start:

1. The medieval composer Hildegard von Bingen set *O virtus sapientie*, a chant to the Trinity. You can find it on [cpdl](#).
2. "I bind unto myself today" is a hymn attributed to St. Patrick translated by Cecil Alexander.

Starting at 2 pm we will share anthems, organ preludes, postludes and solos as well as hymns that we used in the morning. This is your chance to share music by women composers that you have found in your own work. Bring your favorite pieces by women composers and share them with fellow BAGO members.

WIMFest 2016 is one step toward the day when we can refer to composers and know

that men and women will be represented equally.

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

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**THESE ARE OUR TOOLS**



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