



# BOSTON PIPINGS

news and notes for members of Boston Chapter AGO

From the Dean

From the Sub-Dean

Harry Lyn Huff (by Carson Cooman)

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## ***From the Dean:***

Greetings from the Dean:

Please check to see if you have, in fact, renewed your membership.

ONCARD problems continue to plague the membership process, but many of you have renewed - thanks! If you are in touch with other BAGO members, or former members, remind them to renew!

We are coming up on one of the busiest times of the year for us who work for the church. As the darkness encroaches, it can also seem like the loneliest time of the year, as we balance our service preparation time with other holiday obligations. In the weeks to come, we will be responsible for bringing the light of the season to our congregations through our music making, which means for many of us, planting our butts on the bench for hours, leading service after service. We do this because we love it and we feel called, but it does take much time and energy. How do we recharge our batteries to keep on as the Energizer Rabbit of the holiday season? Tending to our own spiritual needs is important, in whatever way that works for you. Stepping outside of our selves to get a larger perspective is also crucial. I am lucky to have a great relationship, and regular contact with my colleagues in Concord, and I am aware of the marvelous music-making going on in each of the other houses of worship, and that makes me think, especially as your Dean, of how many "Hark the Herald" and "Silent Nights" will be cranked out by the end of the month, in the Boston area alone! Being aware of how fortunate I am to have these wonderful colleagues in my life and how many people are fed by our music helps me feel less alone. There are several new, younger members who have joined our chapter recently. This is such an inspiration to see these talented young players, filled with enthusiasm for this musical path we have chosen. Reach out to your colleagues to offer, and to ask for a word of encouragement. Among the many benefits membership in the AGO provides for us, (see the website: [agohq.org](http://agohq.org)) including educational resources, employment opportunities, and communication, camaraderie, may be the most important. This happens only when we participate and share our strengths, and ourselves with our fellow chapter members. Join us on January 1 at 2:00 PM on First Day for concerts at the Mother Church. Come share food and fellowship at the home of Louise



Munding on Sunday, January 22 at 5:00 pm. Consider joining a committee of the chapter, and getting more involved. Mark down the remaining chapter events in your calendar, and call your colleagues to join you. I would also ask you to think about organizing a regional or town-wide gathering of organists sometime in the New Year.

We had a great meeting on November 7 with a presentation by Cheryl Duerr, our National Councilor, on the ramifications on the Guild's settlement with the FTC. There will be many changes coming, and it seems we may need to have another meeting to bring more of you on board. While we will have time to digest and process the information regarding the changes, eventually every member will have to sign a paper pledging to abide by the new rules.

Please see other articles, including the Sub-Dean's message for more information on many upcoming events.

Have you renewed your membership yet?

*Robert Barney*

### *From the Sub-Dean:*



The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

About twelve years ago I was involved in a music program that included the Jubilee Church in Mattapan and the American Composer's Forum. I went to a Sunday morning service just before Christmas and heard the youth choir sing. A very young soloist started: "Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ...." and then the singer paused and took a big, confident breath to sustain the next word. "Is....." Hundreds of people held their breath while others began to shout encouragement as the young girl extended the word. The church hovered somewhere between heaven and earth. "Is....." remained suspended as the girl balanced on her breath. The word, the girl, an exhaled note was bringing the Christmas story to life.

A few years before the Jubilee note, I went to the Church of the Immaculate Conception on Harrison Ave. to hear an Advent Lessons and Carols. The choir, directed by Christa Rakich, sang the Franz Biebl "Ave Maria" in the original version for men's voices. As they began, the ease of the Latin diction joined with the choir's love of subject and tradition. For me, a Protestant through and through, the potent combination of music, language and tradition lifted me somewhere between heaven and earth.

In both churches, love of subject and tradition were expressed on the deep, informed breaths of trained musicians. Then those breaths came to life and dwelt among the listeners.

So here we go, BAGO. It's our season to make lots of music. I received many notifications of Lessons and Carols happening on December 18<sup>th</sup>, so if you aren't playing, singing or directing L&C somewhere, you should attend one if you are able and enjoy the work of your musician colleagues.

We don't have any BAGO programs scheduled for December, but here are upcoming programs for January and February:

**January 1<sup>st</sup> at 2 p.m.**

**A concert to welcome the New Year.** The Mother Church and BAGO are co-sponsoring a concert featuring **Eric Huennecke, Louise Munding and Forrest Eimold**. The concert will last around an hour and feature Judith Bingham's *Ancient Sunlight* and *Hallelujah! Gott zu loben* by Max Reger. On-street parking is free because January 1<sup>st</sup> is a holiday and a Sunday this year. The nearest T stop is Symphony on the Green Line.

**January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5 p.m.**A party! This social event is nothing more than a potluck dinner with conversation at 150 Brooks Street in Medford (my house). Bring food to share and a friend if possible. On street parking is available. You can also take the Commuter Rail (Lowell Line, West Medford stop and a ten-minute walk) or the 94 bus (Playstead Road and a five minute walk).

**February 17<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m.**

**A Concert at St. Cecilia church in Boston.** Faythe Freese, a frequent performer at National Conventions and Professor of Organ at the University of Alabama will play a program of Reger, Tournemire and Decker. Faythe has coordinated a fascinating collaboration with composer Pamela Decker (Featured Composer for AGO2018 in Kansas City) and the artist "Nall." You can read more about Faythe's project and recording by following this link: [https://ravencd.com/merchantmanager/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=180](https://ravencd.com/merchantmanager/product_info.php?products_id=180).

**February 18<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.** **A Masterclass with Faythe at Old South.** Right now there is room for participants, but priority will be given to current students.

**February 25<sup>th</sup> MidWinter Convention co-sponsored with Merrimack Valley AGO.** Spectrum Music will be on hand as well.

**March 18<sup>th</sup> Bach Birthday all day starting at 9 :00 a.m. at first Lutheran in Boston.** **Dr. Christoph Wolff will be the keynote speaker**

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**May 6<sup>th</sup> WIMFEST 2017 at Harvard University.**

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**June 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Members Recital.**

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The organ recital co-sponsored by BAGO and Holy Cross Cathedral in October was reviewed by Barbara Owen for the Boston *Musical Intelligencer*. The link is here:

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<http://www.classical-scene.com/2016/11/04/joye-de-sonner/>

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New members, dual members, special members and renewals are coming in. Here is a list of membership activity since August:

Charles Raines, Juan Mesa, Edith Auner, Saeah Lee, Matthew Hall, Steven Lamberson, John Kramer, Joseph Scolastico, Katya Barash, Benjamin Rechel, Scot Huntington, Esther Redington, Christian J. Pattavina, Cana Sofia Teague, Sierra Curtis Little-Gill, Robert S Potterton, III, Marissa Hall, Eric Anderson, Jr, Dr. Abbey H. Siegfried, Joseph Gurkan, Matthew J. Hall, Hyunsoo (Ellie) Wee, Shawn R Mikkelson, George A. Wiseman, Maksymilian A J P Adach, ARCO,

Neil Katuna

Welcome new members! Welcome back, renewals!

*-Louise Munding*

## Harry Lyn Huff (1952-2016)

Early November brought the shocking and unexpected news of the death of Harry Lyn Huff, from a brain aneurysm, just a few days after his 64th birthday. At the time of his death, Harry was Minister of Music at Old South Church and Lecturer on Ministry at Harvard Divinity School. Many of Harry's career accomplishments are enumerated in detail in the obituary prepared by Old South, which can be read here:

<http://www.oldsouth.org/news/old-south-church-mourns-passing-minister-music-harry-lyn-huff>

Harry came to Boston in 2004, following more than two decades in New York City. He began his NYC career as protégé of the composer Calvin Hampton, taking Hampton's post at Calvary/St. George's upon Hampton's final illness and death from AIDS. As Harry's obituary shows, during these years his activities took him in a dizzying variety of musical directions, and he collaborated frequently with a number of internationally renowned artists. But by 2004, Harry was at a point in his life where he was deeply desirous for major change. Due to various leadership transitions, his church situation in NYC was no longer the excellent environment it had previously been, and he felt as though he needed a new set of challenges and experiences in general.

Knowing of Harry's desire for an excuse to begin a new adventure, my Harvard colleagues Edward Jones and Matthew Burt conceived of the plan to engage him to fill the vacancy for Assistant Organist and Choirmaster at Memorial Church. Harry eagerly leapt at the invitation and moved to Cambridge that summer to begin a dual appointment at Memorial Church and Lecturer on Ministry at Harvard Divinity School. It was almost certainly true that Harry was the most overqualified "assistant organist" in the country during those years, but the excuse to move to Boston for the Harvard positions provided what he described as a real lifeline at a time when he sought change. He jumped into life here with the boundless enthusiasm he had for so many things.

Several years later, when the position of Minister of Music at Old South Church became vacant, both he and Old South quickly realized what an ideal candidate he would be for ministry there. For the last nine years, he presided over a music program in Copley Square that fully incorporated his versatility and consummate musicianship. On a personal note, I first knew Harry only by reputation as the musical executor for composers Calvin Hampton and Chris DeBlasio. When he came to Harvard, we came to know each other very well. I really can say with true sincerity that Harry was the most versatile and naturally gifted musician I've ever worked with personally. His seemingly effortless keyboard technique and musicianship could be turned to any musical style and genre (classical or not). Whatever music he chose (and his taste was astoundingly broad) or was engaged to execute, he always did it with wholehearted conviction and a real sense for the holistic experience of a concert or service.

Harry recorded the very first CD of my own organ music, and the late night recording sessions at Old South were a treasured mix of fun and jokes, serious discussions about the music, perfect organ registrations and interpretations, and astoundingly mistake-free takes. Though he had released a number of collaborative chamber recordings over the

years, the resulting CD of our project ("Wild Sunrises," Raven Records) ended up being Harry's only solo organ CD. He had great plans for many more recording projects, including the complete organ works of Calvin Hampton, music that he played authoritatively and definitely. Alas, it was not to be.

Harry said time and time again how at Old South he had finally found his ideal church position, where he could actually put all of his interests and abilities to use, and how he intended for it to be the last job he ever had. In the end, that did prove to be true, even as all of us wish that his final "Boston chapter" could have been a longer one. All of us in this area were the beneficiaries of his presence on the musical scene, and we can all be so grateful for the years that we had with him.

-Carson Cooman

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

<p><b>THESE ARE YOUR TOOLS</b></p> 	<p><b>THESE ARE OUR TOOLS</b></p> 	
<p><b>WE USE OUR TOOLS TO KEEP YOUR TOOLS RAZOR SHARP</b></p>		
<p>CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH, MANCHESTER NH          ST. JOSEPH, WEST END OF BOSTON          FIRST BAPTIST, MEDFORD          ST. JOSEPH, MALDEN          ST. RAPHAEL, MEDFORD          IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, MALDEN          IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, EVERETT          ST. ANTHONY, EVERETT          ST. ANTHONY, ALLSTON          ST. MARY, WALTHAM          ST. MARY, E. WALPOLE          ST. PETER EPISCOPAL, SALEM          &lt; YOUR NAME HERE NEXT YEAR &gt;  <a href="http://twitter.com/stopsrus">HTTP://TWITTER.COM/STOPSRUS</a></p>		<p>ST. BRIGID, LEXINGTON          ST. THERESA OF AVILA, WEST ROXBURY          MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD, HYDE PARK          THE TABERNACLE CHURCH, SALEM          GRACE EPISCOPAL, MEDFORD          OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, WALTHAM          SAINT ANSELM COLLEGE, MANCHESTER NH          STAR OF THE SEA, MARBLEHEAD          CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL, LYNN          UNION CONGREGATIONAL, WINTHROP          ST. BARBARA, WOBURN          READING UNITARIAN, READING          ST. JOSEPH, MEDFORD  <a href="http://www.facebook.com/stopsrus">HTTP://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/STOPSRUS</a></p>
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