



BOSTON PIPINGS

news and notes for members of Boston Chapter AGO

February 2020 Pippings - The Newsletter of the Boston Chapter AGO

[Click here to go to the Calendar on our website.](#)

Greetings!

You can never know when music will move you; it's a constant surprise.

Years ago, I went to a performance of Terry Riley's "In C" given by members of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. "In C" requires musicians to exit and enter the stage at will playing short musical excerpts. The "In C" part refers to one musician who plays a high C octave (two notes) throughout the performance. It was great to watch musicians come and go, to hear the musical texture change as the "C"s held everything together over the span of about thirty minutes. I saw some movement out of the corner of my eye and saw concert patrons lining up at the doors to make their own exits. I was young, and I was surprised at the line of concert patrons waiting to leave. The SPCO didn't retain the music director for too long after that concert, and the next one concentrated on Baroque and Classical music. Nonetheless, I loved hearing the new sounds I heard from the SPCO at that time, sounds which I remember to this day.



The performance of the Riley piece moved people. For some it moved them through the doors, down the steps and out the hall but for me, the randomness of the score created something meaningful for that moment in time. The sounds reached me and made something positive, but those same sounds reached others in a different way. At my mother's funeral we arranged for the choir to perform "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring," one of my mother's favorites. I've played that piece countless times while looking around to see the bridal party. But at my mother's funeral, for those moments, the Bach favorite took on an entirely new meaning for me. Those few minutes summed up years of conversations spoken and unspoken. That piece meant the world to my mother and she loved hearing me play it. She really didn't appreciate my affection for new music, though. She certainly didn't share my excitement about hearing "In C" so many years ago.

As we wind our way toward Lent and Easter, I wish many surprises for each of you.

You also may be surprised at the changes in the BAGO website. Take a look, download the directory, read up on Boston organ history, find a sub. There is a lot of information there. www.bostonago.org

Louise Munding, Dean



Bach's Organ World Tour June 2-11, 2020

BAGO members Lee Ridgway and Mark Steinbach, DMA, will lead the seventh "Bach's Organ World" tour to Germany, June 2-11, 2020. The tour will visit organs which Bach actually played: Hildebrandt organs in Naumburg and Störmthal, and the Trost in Altenburg. Other highlights are Silbermann organs in Dresden and Freiberg; the 1624 Scherer in Tangermünde; and the 1905 Sauer in the Berliner Dom. Participants will have time to hear and play the instruments and participate in masterclasses. For more details visit www.concept-tours.com/tours/cultural-group-individual-2/ or call 800-300-8841.

WORKSHOP: Organbuilding 101

Saturday, March 7 from 10 AM to 3 PM
Ortloff Organ Company, Needham, MA

Registration open now; closes March 1. Limit of 20 people.

“Do you *really* know what happens after you press the key? Come spend a few hours with Jonathan Ortloff (picture right) and Jonathan Ambrosino at the Ortloff Organ Company workshop in Needham and find out. We’ll discuss and demonstrate design, construction, and mechanism, and dispel some of the myths and misconceptions of scaling and voicing, using Ortloff Opus 2, which will be set up on the shop floor, as a guide.”



Cost: \$35 per person (includes lunch)

To enroll, please [click here](#). Please note, this will download the enrollment form to your computer. You may have to look in your download form for this document. If you need assistance, please contact Daryl Bichel (darylbichel@aol.com)

Your enrollment will be confirmed via email after your payment is received. Details are on the enrollment form. Directions available at [this link](#).

New Member Welcome

Welcome to new member **David Burnham**! Please greet him at our Chapter Events

Nominating Committee Named

2020 is an election year for officers of the Chapter. As you remember, we updated our Operating Procedures two years ago to allow for biennial elections. Patrick Walker has agreed to Chair the Nominating Committee. Positions to be filled include Sub-Dean



and Treasurer (who serve for 2 years), and 3 Members-at-Large (who serve a 4 year term).

Would you be interested in serving on the Executive Committee? Contact Patrick if you are interested. Position descriptions can be found [here](#), beginning on page 4.



Special Project Advisory Committee

Special Project Funding Awards for Fall, 2019

disbursement of \$2500.

The Special Projects Advisory Committee has granted three awards during the Fall of 2019, for a total

Anthony Thurman, Music Director and Organist at the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown, PA was awarded a \$1200 grant for a project celebrating the 100th year anniversary of the largest church organ in the area. This included real time streaming of two concerts, a January Martin Luther King Day celebration with organ and brass, and a concert by Ken Cowan in April. The Boston Chapter would use the experience and information from Thurman about real time video streaming, to determine if this should be done by the Boston Chapter.

Steve Young was awarded a \$1000 grant to continue his scholarly research on the life and career of French organist and composer, Marthe Bracquemond (1898-1973).

Morton Hyams of Needham has been awarded \$300 to have students from the Jackson Mann School in Boston travel to First Lutheran Church, Boston, to learn about the organ and hear Mr. Hyams and Jonathan Wessler play. This award is contingent upon Mr. Hyams receiving the proper authorization and contacts to conduct this event.

The deadline for the next SPAC award nominations is March 15, 2020. More information can be found [here](#)

AGO National Convention – Atlanta 2020

To read about early registration dates and pricing [click here](#)

ATLANTA IS PROUD to host the American Guild of Organists National Convention in the summer of 2020. With “A Kaleidoscope of Color and Sound,” we celebrate the diversity of experiences, races, ages, and cultures in Atlanta.

As the center of the Civil Rights movement, Atlanta made an impact on the world of culture and music. In this spirit, we are featuring historically significant venues, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s place of baptism and ordination, Ebenezer Baptist Church, as well as America’s oldest private historically black liberal arts college for women, Spelman College.



Celebrating the Atlanta interfaith community’s long and significant role as leaders for justice confronting issues of civil and human rights, the worship services will be held in historic spaces along the Peachtree Street corridor. We begin at Ebenezer Baptist Church, in the neighborhood still echoing the voice of Martin Luther King Jr., moving up the street to The Temple, bombed at the height of the Civil Rights Movement but rebuilt and standing witness for social justice in the city. From there we move on to Peachtree Christian Church, the Catholic Cathedral of Christ the King, and the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Philip. Traditional musical styles and new voices and songs will both reflect the dynamic religious life of the city and inspire our ministry.

To read about all the concerts, venues, and workshops, [click here](#)

From our neighbors to the North:

The Merrimack Valley Chapter invites you to attend the **Sunday March 8, 2020 - 3 pm organ workshop with Heinrich Christensen: Bach and Baroque Style** at All Saints Episcopal Church, 10 Billerica Rd, Chelmsford, MA 01824.



In this workshop, co-sponsored by the MVAGO and New Hampshire AGO chapters, organist Heinrich Christensen will offer an exploration of Baroque touch, articulation, registration, and pedaling, with a particular focus on their application to the organ music of J S Bach. Christensen will discuss how historical understanding and performance practice can inform our playing today. Ample time for questions and discussion, with a reception to follow. Free to all and friends are welcome to attend.

To help with the organization, please register by sending an email to Hugh Hinton, MVAGO Sub-Dean: hugh.hinton@verizon.net

A native of Denmark, **Heinrich Christensen** came to the US in 1998 and received an Artist Diploma in Organ Performance from the Boston Conservatory, in addition to degrees from conservatories in Denmark and France. He was appointed Music Director of historic King's Chapel, Boston, in the year 2000.

Heinrich was a prizewinner at the international organ competitions in Odense and Erfurt and has given solo recitals on four continents. He has performed with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Boston Ballet, Handel & Haydn Society, and numerous choruses in the greater Boston area. An avid proponent of contemporary music, he has premiered works by Daniel Pinkham, Carson Cooman, Graham Gordon Ramsay, and several others. He has recorded several organ and choral CDs, and Daniel Pinkham's works for solo voice and organ with Florestan.

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