



BOSTON PIPINGS

news and notes for members of Boston Chapter AGO

January 2020 Pippings - The Newsletter of the Boston Chapter AGO

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

Greetings!

“Do pipe organs use steam?” I was waiting for the recent BSO concert to begin, which featured Thierry Escaich playing the Poulenc Organ Concerto and the Saint-Säens Organ Symphony, when the fellow seated next to me started asking questions. He bought a ticket at the last minute since he was a fan of the Saint-Säens and was looking forward to hearing it live. He was curious how the piece would compare to his recordings. But he had no idea how a pipe organ works. The steam question led to a discussion about flue and reed pipes, sliders and all the rest before the concert began. And then during intermission I heard someone else in the same row reading information about the organ from the program book. At the end of the concert the audience was applauding before the final release.



The BSO discussion reminded me of BAGO member Mitchell Crawford’s introduction to the “King of Instruments” at Old South on this past New Year’s Eve. Mitchell explained to a packed church that a pipe organ is a wind instrument and then he demonstrated all kinds of different sounds to a delighted audience. I had a *deja vu* moment during that event since I first heard the Old South organ at St. Paul’s Municipal Auditorium in MN before it was dismantled and brought back to Boston where it was originally built. The Auditorium no longer exists and the Skinner organ almost met the same fate except for the intervention of several organists and builders. Even though it was in tough shape, I remember the warmth of the Skinner sound in the Auditorium. It was the largest instrument I had ever heard, and it made an impression on me.

When I saw that there were going to opportunities to hear three different organs on December 31st, I decided to be a proud Dean and get to part of all three events. I raced from Old South to The Mother Church and then hitched a ride with Christa Rakich to make it to Church of the Advent by the third lesson. I walked in to musical fireworks as Jeremy Bruns and Mark Dwyer led one of the sunniest versions of “For unto us a Child is born” in my memory. Close to

2,000 people (1,000+ at TMC alone) heard pipe organs on New Year's Eve 2019. I have the pictures! Then Thierry Escaich came to town to play with the BSO and lots more people heard a pipe organ. The past month is one to remember for the Boston organ scene.

The pipe organ is alive and well even though we know that some instruments are struggling. With care and feeding, though, they can endure difficult times and return to glory, bringing their beautiful historic sounds with them. Thank you, BAGO members, for assisting our instruments

Lübeck's Arvid Gast is returning to play at Church of the Advent in a concert of German Romantic literature on January 31st, and then we have our fifth WIMfest with the spectacular soprano Sophie Michaux at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul on February 7th at 7 pm. Prior to the concert, be sure to come for the Members' forum at 6 pm to talk about women composers. Bring music or titles to share, or ask questions along the way.

Louise Munding, Dean

New Members in December:

Please welcome our new members Shoko Hosono and Hiromi Inomata. Please greet them at our events.

Organ Recital - Arvid Gast at The Church of the Advent



Save the Date!

Organ Recital - Arvid Gast (Lübeck Conservatory – St. Jakobi Church in Lübeck)

Program [here](#)

Friday, January 31, 2020 7:00 PM
The Church of the Advent
30 Brimmer Street Boston

A Reception will follow in Moseley Hall
Suggested donation: \$10 per person

Born in 1962 in Bremen, Arvid Gast studied Organ Performance and Church Music under Prof. Ulrich Bremsteller at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Hannover, Germany. From 1990-1993 he held the position of organist and choirmaster at St. Nikolai church in Flensburg. Appointed Professor of Organ Performance at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater "Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy" and University Organist in Leipzig in 1993, he remained until 2004 when he accepted the post of Director of the Church Music Institute at the Musikhochschule in Lubeck. He is simultaneously Titular Organist of the historic Stellwagen organ in St. Jakobi Lubeck.

During his studies, Gast had won numerous international organ competitions, and is an oft invited juror for many distinguished international competitions in

Europe. His numerous recordings, concert invitations and interpretation courses at home and abroad attest to his abilities as an eminent recitalist and pedagogue, and is currently a foremost interpreter of German Romantic music.
* This event is donated to BAGO.



Sophie Michaux



Benjamin Katz



Paul Holmes Morton

February BAGO Chapter Program

5th Annual Women In Music Festival (WimFest)

Friday, February 7, 2020 6:00 PM

5th Annual Women In Music Festival (WimFest)

Members' Forum at 6:00 PM

Concert at 7:00 PM

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul

138 Tremont St, Boston

Suggested donation: \$10 per person

[Sophie Michaux](#), mezzo-soprano

[Benjamin Katz](#), harpsichord

[Paul Holmes Morton](#), theorbo
including works by [Barbara Strozzi](#) (1619-1677)

* This event is co-sponsored by The Cathedral Church of St. Paul

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.

Jonathan Ortloff



“Do you *really* know what happens after you press the key? Come spend a few hours with Jonathan Ortloff 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](#). Your enrollment will be confirmed via email after your payment is received. Details are on the enrollment form



- On December 31, 2018 - Annual First Night Organ Recital at the First Church of Christ Scientist, (Mother Church) in Boston on the large Aeolian-Skinner (Opus 1203) organ. The performers were Bryan Ashley (organist of the Mother Church), Jenifer Hsiao (organist of Old West Church) and Heinrich Christensen (organist of King's Chapel).
- Potluck Dinner at Louise's home. Over 40 people attended
- January Jubilee Workshops - Worcester MA
- February 10 - Fountain in the Wood: A Celebration of Women Composers
- March 16 - Quimby Competition at Boston University
- March 19 - Fire at the door of the rue palatine of Saint- Sulpice. “You have been very many to ask us if the fire had consequences on the great organ. The effect on the great

Boston Chapter AGO 2019 - A Year in Review

- September 15 - Leo Abbott Rededication of the 1875 E&GG Hook & Hastings Organ, Opus 801 at Holy Cross Cathedral
- September 18 – Opening Service at Trinity Church, Copley Square on Wednesday September 18th at 6pm. BAGO members Richard Webster and Colin Lynch along with the Trinity Choirs led Choral Evensong accompanied by the Skinner and Aeolian Skinner organs recently refurbished by BAGO member Jonathan Ambrosino
- September 28 – YOI auditions. 7 Scholars named for 2019-2020 year
- October 30 – In an historic collaboration between the BAGO and the OHS, Organ Library Administrator Carl Klein delivered 46 drawers of archival material of famous organists from the BAGO Organ Library to the OHS storage facility in Warminster, PA. The materials are on a long-term loan agreement to the OHS, which is waiting to hear about a large grant to digitize them.

organ is more fear than evil, fortunately! Despite the impressive cloud of smoke that spread in the church yesterday, the organ factor - who visited the instrument today - did not notice any damage. A little extra dust of course, but it remains moderate." (message from the church)

- March 22 - Balint Karosi performs at Old West Church for Bach's 334 Birthday
- March 23 – Boston Bach 334 Birthday at First Lutheran Church of Boston
- April 4 - Professor Emerita Marilyn Mason, beloved former University Organist and Chair of the Organ Department at the University of Michigan, passed away this morning at her residence in Florida
- April 15 – Fire at Notre Dame Paris
- April 16 – Boston Chapter expresses sorrow at this loss to the Consul Général à France de Boston
- May 13 - Dinner, Members' Recital, and Annual Meeting
- May 18- YOI Organ Recital at the Dover Church
- June 2 – YOI Recital at King's College
- AGO Buffalo Regional Convention July 1-4

- November 22 - Caroline Robinson in Concert at The Memorial Church, Harvard. Ms. Robinson is a Doctoral Candidate at the Eastman School of Music
- December 31 First Night Organ Recital: Organists Steven Loher, Douglas Major, and George Sargeant
- Special Project Advisory Committee made five grants -
- \$1,500 to the Association of Anglican Musicians (AAM) for their conference in July. Concerts by the Boston Camerata and the Lorelei Ensemble are open to the public and will partially be funded by this grant.
- \$500 for an "OrgelKids" case. This group from Oregon, started in 2016, needs a new case for their traveling organ kit
- \$300 for our Chapter Organ Library to digitally transcribe cassette tapes from the E. power Biggs's 1940-1949 CBS broadcasts housed in our Library.
- \$2,200 for the Cape Cod and Islands Chapter, AGO, Pipe Organ Encounter (POE) in July 2019.
- The Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra presents 8 different concerts in their 1,200 seat Memorial Hall. The Boston Chapter took a ¼ page ad for \$350 to be incorporated in all 8 of their concert program books reaching about 10,000 musical people during the year
- Additional activities:
- 8 Pippings Newsletters, and multiple event announcements sent out to BAGO Members
- 2 Directory Updates (Spring and Fall)
- Operating Procedures Updated to reflect current Chapter Committees and Practices



The longtime President of the Methuen Memorial Music Hall, **Edward Sampson**, passed away on January 2, following a complicated illness of several years. It would be nigh impossible to describe how committed Ed was to the continuance and support of the Music Hall and Great Organ. He had a lifelong passion for classical organ music and organs. He served as President of the Board of Trustees of the Methuen Memorial Music Hall, home of the world-famous "Great Organ," for over 40 years.

To view the obituary, [click here](#)

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We also offer a premiere "eblast" service that features your ad only. This replaces our prior service of providing mailing labels.

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Substitute List

Our chapter's list of organists available to substitute has been updated for January 2020. To view the current list, please [click 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](#)



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