



BOSTON PIPINGS

news and notes for members of Boston Chapter AGO

In this issue: July 14, 2014

POE Performances--come and listen!

Convention thanks and opportunities to savor the event.

Photos and commentary on the convention reach out to families and youth.

Barbara Owen receives award.

The South Shore POE has begun. Remaining events are:

- Monday, July 14 7:30 p.m. Christian Lane at Harvard's Memorial Church (organs by Fisk and Skinner)
- Tuesday, July 15 7:30 p.m. "Rising Stars" faculty recital, featuring Jennifer McPherson, Katelyn Emerson, Monica Czausz, and Christopher Gage at Second Congregational Church, 50 Park Street, Attleboro, MA (Schlicker organ)
- Friday, July 18 1:00 p.m. POE Student Recital, First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 900 Main Street, Brockton, MA (Schantz organ)

More information is [here](#).

Thanks and Praise to everyone who volunteered at the convention!

The Convention was wonderful! Here are some fruits of the event that can be savored for a long time:

- **Convention Workshop handouts** are available to all [here](#): learn about topics related to organs, organ music, composers, handbells, choral techniques, hymn playing, spirituals, improvisation, registration, etc. There available to anyone! Share with your colleagues.
- **Convention Photo Stream** is [here](#). Event specific photos are [here](#). (Thanks to Will Sherwood, convention photographer & Dean Worcester AGO.)
- Click [here](#) to visit the convention FaceBook page. Lots of photos, comments and reviews.

**SOMETHING'S BEEN HAPPENING - AND IT'S ALL GOOD! - FROM WILL SHERWOOD ,
WorcAGO Dean**

Something's happening with our young people - every generation says this, usually referring to the demise of manners, civility, and respect. Those "hoodlums", "hippies", "delinquents" are all becoming lowlifes-is what we frequently hear. However, I'm here to report that I've observed an revolutionary increase in

quality and number of outstanding young organists both on the horizon and recently launched into the organ world. I've got to believe this is in big part attributable to the AGO's decade-long focus on youth in the form of POE's, PPP's, Rising Stars, and general awareness and cheerleading. Last year, WorcAGO celebrated 20 years of our highly successful scholarship program, and many other chapters have similar programs to encourage youth (and all ages), not to mention the chapter that "invented" the first POE.

The Boston convention was replete with young recitalists who presented international-circuit-quality concerts with demanding repertoire, some even from memory. All were musical and thrilling. Thrilling in a number of respects: not only the organ music itself, but the audience rapport was strongly evident. It's been exciting from my personal vantage point of having hosted for a number of years Young Artists Showcase both at Mechanics Hall and 1st U to see this new generation of talent grow and blossom into top-shelf performers as well as fine and personable people-far from delinquent!

FOCUS ON YOUTH - TWO FIRSTS AT THE BOSTON CONVENTION - FROM WILL SHERWOOD

Cutting-edge it was: A Family Day (pre-convention Saturday) program and demonstration play-hall took over Old South in a whirlwind of short concerts, organ-accompanied silent films, Peter & the Wolf (organ transcription with dramatic reading), 3-octave+pedal/5-rank portativ demonstration organ, and the list goes on.

Like New England weather, if it's not for you, wait 15 minutes until the next segment and you'll be dazzled by the King of Instruments. On average about 75 were in attendance in the sanctuary ("theater") throughout the day, with fascinated listeners ranging from the very young to the curious older generation too. Gone was the stereotype of the pipe organ as "Phantom of the Opera", replaced with a huge range of tonal effects demos and repertoire masterpieces that were truly awe-inspiring. How could you resist goose-bumpies in seeing the littlest's eyes bug-open-wide when Peter Krasinski tells "Pricilla's" Story with animated voice inflections, jumping body movements, and of course 32' tumbles and 1' whistles - a true wide-frequency hearing test!

The fun continued in the Copley Place (indoors) patio area (Mon-Thurs) where a 16' low CCC with a hand-pumped 2x3' reservoir gave a steamboat signal, along with the 5-rank portativ demonstration where ANYONE could take it out for a spin. The convention's organ scholars staffed the "booth" area all week and informed laypeople about the pipe organ, as well as planted seeds in some passer-by pianists' minds along the way. And the kids again were great - fascinated by something non-iPad-ic.

Thursday brought Youth Day at the convention - introductions, demonstrations, concerts, and hands-on open console at the great Aeolian-Skinner at Trinity Church. These 8 or so high schoolers, already beginning organ students, left the day with intensified enthusiasm, and gratitude for the experience and life-long memories.



Peter Krasinski at Old South Family Day demonstration.



Jonathan Ortloff accompanies silent film.



Convention Chair (and Portland Municipal Organist) Ray Cornils explains what toes are for.





Demonstration of the portativ - all hands on (key)board



Copley Place Mall Demonstration



Small meets large: Open Console at Trinity Copley

Organ Historian Barbara Owen received the Edward A. Hansen Leadership Award during the General Assembly at the AGO National Convention last week, in recognition of her many years of devoted service to the organ and to her organist colleagues, from the publication of numerous articles and books to the many leadership positions that Barbara held with continuous success.

Eileen Guenther, AGO (Past) President, presenting the award to Barbara at AGOBoston2014.



