



BOSTON PIPINGS

news and notes for members of Boston Chapter AGO

May 2020 Pipings - The Newsletter of the Boston Chapter AGO

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

Greetings!

None of us have seen times like this before. It feels like a reset followed by another reset, and then another. This morning I began to think of concerts and events which have remained in my memory over the years. I was in St. Paul when I heard Messaien's *Quartet for the End of Time* with the composer in attendance. Cellist Pablo Casals died that day so the mix of those youthful emotions was overwhelming. At the end of the concert I didn't clap, I exhaled. When I arrived in Boston, Donald Teeters played a rare concert of the three Franck chorales. The opening of the E Major chorale, with its mix of reeds the likes of which I'd never heard before just bowled me over. The rich room, the carved pews transported me. The violin diapason of Fisk Op. 55 at Old West Church just gets me every time. *Schmücke dich* never gets old. That's the tip of the iceberg. We organists are so fortunate in our centuries of music and instruments. The quiet of the world now has left me exploring my memories, making use of them as I bring them back to life. The memories accommodate me in return as they send out the energy they gave me in the first place.



Now I need to rely on recordings so my congregation can sing the hymns each week. The recorded sound doesn't give as much as hearing the sound live, but it's where we are now. At least with my congregation, the people are happy to see and hear their musicians when they appear on computer screens. The sound isn't as good, but the intimacy of the music is what my congregation values now. They want to hear their musicians to help everyone to pray the liturgy.

We are all learning new skills, things we never knew we would need. When we return to our instruments we will be changed people. We will have new ways to engage the world in our music. We have been given a huge challenge which can turn into opportunities. In the meantime, be well. Support each other, grieve when necessary, take walks and rejoice in small things.

Louise Munding, Dean



2020 Summer Series

Due to concerns regarding COVID-19, we will be LIVE-STREAMING our concerts.

www.youtube.com/c/methuenmemorialmusicall

Wednesdays
7:30 p.m.

May 20 – Philip Pampreen

**May 27 – Fred MacArthur, organ
Richard Watson, trumpet**

June 3 – David Michael Kenney Sr.

June 10 – Kyle Bertulli

 METHUENMEMORIALMUSICALL

www.mmmh.org

New Member Welcome

Welcome a new member of our Chapter. **Rev. Dr Timothy J. R. Shotmeyer SSJE** is from Marblehead MA. We're glad you've joined us and look forward to meeting you when we can gather again in person.

Royal College of Organists Provides Free Access to iRCO Web Site



During the UK's lockdown period, and at least until the end of June, the Royal College of Organists (RCO) is generously giving everyone free access to iRCO, its outstanding website. The RCO, which operates without a national office, describes iRCO as, "the College's virtual campus – an online environment where members and guest users can explore and engage with a wide range of resources."

Launched in 2016 under the banner 'the first stop for every organist,' iRCO encompasses a broad mix of material and services. In a recent conversation with AGO Executive Director James Thomashower, RCO Chief Executive Andrew Parmley enumerated the range of resources available at the iRCO site, which include educational materials, examination materials, films, "lockdown learning," webinars and the RCO Journal. Many more such resources are currently being developed as part of the response to the lockdown.

Access to the iRCO is normally available only to dues paying members of the RCO. However, the RCO has offered to make available to all AGO members full access to the iRCO at a special discounted rate of £25 per year (approximately \$31) when the RCO reintroduces its pay wall. The AGO National Council warmly embraced this offer and in exchange will provide RCO members with access to the online edition of TAO for the same rate. The logistics necessary to achieve this collaboration are currently being studied pursuant to their implementation.

To learn more about the iRCO, visit their welcome page here:

<https://www.rco.org.uk/irco.php>

For complimentary access to the iRCO site while it is temporarily open to all, create your own user id and password by logging in here: <https://i.rco.org.uk/>

Staying Connected through the AGO HQ Website

As a response to our members who are without work due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the AGO has created a new page on our website

Resources: Responding to Covid-19 <https://www.agohq.org/responding-to-covid-19/>.

AGO Resources provide links that connect you to information regarding unemployment, recovering from job termination, online educational resources, our career hotline and a COVID-19 survey that I encourage you to take.

We have also provided additional Resources for Artists with links to several relief funds, an unemployment benefits eligibility website, instructions for utilizing Flipgrid for classroom teachers and a guide for using Zoom for live-streamed lessons.

Additionally, we have added links to some helpful articles and blogs that address what to do regarding cancellation of gigs and choral concerts.

I want to thank Vincent Carr, Chair, of the AGO Career Development & Support Committee and Doris Dabrowski, Esq., committee member, for compiling these resources, and to Eric Birk for his assistance in uploading this most valuable content to our website. As new information and resources become available, this page will continue to be updated.

Elizabeth George, CMM
Director of Member Engagement & Chapter Development
American Guild of Organists

OrgelChat

Picking up on what Louise said in her Pipings message, David Baker thought it might be helpful to have a chat group for area Organists. This group is orgelchat@groups.io and is managed independently by one of our members, David Baker. If you would like to join this group, please email him at orgelchat+owner@groups.io or bostonago@gmail.com

David Baker

Chapter Programs Update

The **Annual Meeting** has tentatively been rescheduled for **Tuesday, June 23**, still at The Parish of All Saints-Ashmont in Dorchester. Please put this date on your calendars, and we will continue to update you as the situation unfolds.

Is it time to renew your AGO Membership?



This time of year, our Chapter normally has a large number of memberships coming up for renewal. AGO Headquarters has extended a member's expiration date with a three month grace period; however, when a membership becomes inactive, it will result in suspended delivery of TAO. During this time, encourage you renew your membership by credit card, utilizing ONCARD.

A video with instructions on how to renew through ONCARD can be found [here](#). If you are not comfortable using ONCARD through the <http://www.agohq.org> website, the member services team is here to help! Please call 212-870-2311 and follow the voicemail prompts. They are most happy to help in processing anyone's membership renewal by credit card!



Our Online Calendar has been updated for Streaming events!

As all of our in-person events have either been cancelled or changed into “virtual” or online-only events, our calendar has been updated with new features to keep our membership and beyond up-to-date in this new normal.

Celebrating more than 10 years, the Northeast AGO online calendar “Musi-Cal” (Music Calendar) has recently been updated to note if an event is Livestreamed and list the Livestream URL.

There are many features in the calendar database, both for concert enthusiast attendees as well as for musicians and venues. Musi-Cal is tailored for musicians and especially organ/choral concerts.

Click [here](#) to learn how to use this new feature.

Many thanks to **Will Sherwood** of the Worcester Chapter for updating the calendar for chapter and regional use!

Trivia Question: How well do you know the Boston Chapter?

Who was the first woman to be Dean of the Massachusetts/Boston Chapter?

- Edith Lang - 1921
- Ruth Barrett Arno/Phelps - 1949
- Mary Crowley Vivian - 1957

[Click here to reveal the answer](#)

Massachusetts website for resources during Covid-19

Here's the link for a compilation of laws, regulations, cases, and web sources on the coronavirus (COVID-19): <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-law-about-covid-19>

Chapter Elections 2020

The slate of officers for the 2020 Chapter Elections has been selected. Voting members of the Chapter will receive, in a separate email, the biographies of candidates for election. After a comment period of 30 days, you will receive an electronic ballot (or a paper ballot for those without emails). A 15 day voting period then begins.

When the ballot is received, please take the time to vote. Your participation is critical for the success of our Chapter.

Past Dean's List - Can you help?

We have added a page to our website with images and biographies of past Deans of the Boston Chapter, beginning at our founding in 1905. Some information is missing. Can you help provide it?

If you are a past Dean, you should have received an email from Claire DeCusati asking for your photo and short biography.



If you aren't a past Dean, but may have leads on missing information, please email [Claire DeCusati](mailto:Claire.DeCusati) and send her what information you might have. Even if you take a photo on your phone of information and send it, it will be most appreciated.

Take a look at the page by clicking [here](#)

Special Thanks to **Barbara Owen** of our Chapter, and **Todd Sisley**, editor of *The American Organist* magazine for their help in researching these Deans.

Requiescat In Pace



Joseph R. Policelli, 71, of Worcester, a respected organist and beloved professor of music, died April 27 at the UMass Medical Center of complications from COVID-19.

He was born in Cambridge on Oct. 29, 1948, the son of Josephine and the late Frank Policelli. Joseph grew up in Medford and attended the School of the Immaculate Conception in Malden, and graduated from Boys Catholic High School (now Malden Catholic High School). He later earned a degree in Sacred Music from Boston University.

Joseph served as an altar boy and took piano lessons as a child, developing a love for church music. He eventually served for 50 years as director of music or accompanist in churches, most recently as music director at St. Columbkille Church in Brighton, and an accompanist at Temple Beth Shalom in Needham for several years. He also served at St. Paul's Church in Wellesley, St. Pius V in Lynn, and St. Joseph in Malden, and was known to elevate the standard of music and liturgy in every parish he was associated with. He was also an active and prominent figure in the Worcester music community, well-known for his work as Dean of the Worcester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

He joined Worcester Polytechnic Institute as an adjunct professor of music in 1995, and was greatly respected by his fellow faculty and students, to whom he gave selflessly of his time and expertise. Students loved him and recognized that he would take whatever time was needed to ensure that each could succeed in their classes.

In addition to being a brilliant organist, Joe was director of music at Saint Paul's Cathedral in Worcester through the 1980s and served there for almost 17 years. His programs at Saint Paul included hundreds of masses and services with a renowned choir and with organ music of the highest standard. He appreciated the musicians who worked with him.

Audiences would travel great distances to attend these beautiful liturgies for the quality of the outstanding music. In addition to liturgies, he presented formal concerts of choral masterworks with orchestra as part of the Cathedral's amazing music series. He invited the WPI brass ensemble to play at Saint Paul's every year.

In addition to his mother, Joseph is survived by a sister, Lorraine Mayne of North Reading, and a brother, Richard Policelli of Pelham, NH, four nieces, one grand-nephew and grand-niece

He will be laid to rest in Oak Grove Cemetery in Medford when public services are allowed.

In lieu of flowers, a donation in Joseph's memory may be made to the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Columbkille's Parish, 321 Market Street, Brighton, MA 02135.



Click the image to link to our website



Click the image to link to AGO HQ website

Boston Chapter, American Guild of Organists | bostonago@verizon.net

See what's happening on our Facebook Page:

