



BOSTON PIPINGS

news and notes for members of Boston Chapter AGO

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From the Dean:

Greetings fellow Boston Chapter AGO members:

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



We have had many problems with the new ONCARD system of renewal, and several people have recently discovered that they are not renewed, when they think they were. The Chapter needs you!

As I have mentioned last month, there are many changes taking place in the Guild at the national level. Come at 7:00 PM on Monday, November 7 (Election Eve) to Trinity Church in Concord, MA, at 81 Elm Street, to hear about some of these changes. A Boston Market dinner by reservation precedes the presentation by Cheryl Duerr, our National Councilor. See the Sign-up Genius notice in your email box, or see the Sub-Dean's message to make your reservation. Hopefully this will be informative, as well as time of fellowship.

I have heard from many people in our chapter that we have become disconnected. We are a large chapter, and quite spread out. I am hoping to work on helping us to become more connected, and one way we can all help is to contact a friend and colleague and invite them to a chapter event - whether they are current members or not (maybe encourage them to join). Another way is to reach out to the various colleagues where you live or where you work, and invite them to a social gathering - lunch at a restaurant or dessert at a home, or whatever, just to talk about local issues, and to connect!

The Executive Committee had a terrific meeting this week, and we are working to improve the information process of our chapter, including this newsletter. Feedback is welcome, even friendly, constructive criticism. We are also looking to form a committee to help get information out to the public about our chapter and its activities. If this is something that interests you, or if you think your skillset matches, get in touch with me!

At the recent Young Organists Initiative events, I was thrilled to see so many enthusiastic young people interested in the organ. Thanks to the work of Christine Hogan and her committee, and the various teachers out in the "Trenches" there is a new generation of organists coming along. See the attached

information on the YOI scholarships, and mark your calendar to attend the concert at King's Chapel on June 27th.

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

Have you renewed your membership yet?

- Robert
Barney

From the Sub-Dean:

Evensong

"The Listening Stone" is a sculpture by Joseph Wheelwright located at the DeCordova Museum in Lincoln. A contemplative face, hewn from a boulder found on the museum grounds, with lips loosely drawn together and eyes fixed in a pensive gaze, greets the viewer. The familiar features are an invitation to view. In a recent conversation with the sculptor, Joe told me that he produced "The Listening Stone" according to the properties of the boulder itself. The familiar features of the face follow the properties of the boulder. The head is angled as if to show an extra bit of attentiveness. Transformed, this piece of earth seems to be asking "What's that again?" One ear is visible, but the other is not. The viewer can imagine the stone listening to the pulse of the earth with the invisible ear. Does it hear what we cannot? Did we just miss something? What about the visible ear? Does it hear what we hear or did we miss something there, too? The visible and invisible ears of "The Listening Stone" hear audible and inaudible sounds from earth and heaven. The pensive face takes it all in while it rests and ponders.



For many of us, musicians and non-musicians alike, evening services are occasions to take time and use it expressively. The musicians, through attention to timing, make the inaudible audible. In the psalms, the undulations of poetic meter follow the inner properties of speech. Our own breathing can give our singing intention when we sing hymns and chant psalms. We listen as the world moves from day to dusk and mark the movement with holy songs following the guidance of a choir.

Evensong services are sung weekly by our chapter members. Following is a list of some of those services. Some of the programs follow a regular schedule, others happen at different times of the year. Below is a list of Evensong and Evening services for November and December.

Trinity/ Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m. with Trinity Choristers
Copley Square

First Church Cambridge Sundays at 7 p.m. Nightsong

First Unitarian Society/ First Sunday of every month at 7 p.m. with Vermilion
Newton

Parish of the Epiphany/ Fourth Sunday of every month at 5 p.m.
Winchester

All Saints/Brookline October 30th, November 13th. Recital at 4:30 p.m.
Evensong at 5 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Church/ November 6th and December 4th at 5 p.m.
Concord

First Lutheran/Boston November 26th. Recital at 4:30 p.m. Vespers at 5 p.m.

Church of the Advent/ November 27th. Recital at 4:30 p.m. Evensong at 5
p.m.
Boston

Magnificat Boston December 10th at 4 p.m. St. Andrew's Church, New
Bedford.

Diocesan Choir. Evensong sung in Episcopal Churches in the Diocese of Mass.

Upcoming BAGO Events

Chapter Meeting

On Monday, November 7th we will gather at Trinity Church, 81 Elm Street in Concord, to hear about some of the changes brought about by an agreement between the AGO and the Federal Trade Commission. The decision affects all of us, so this is an important meeting to attend. More details can be found in the September TAO in James Thomashower's monthly column.

A Boston Market dinner by reservation precedes the presentation by Cheryl Duerr, our National Councilor. The dinner begins at 6 p.m. followed by the 7 p.m. meeting. See the Sign-up Genius notice in your email box, or contact me at louise.mundinger@gmail.com to make your reservation. The chicken dinner costs \$15 and the vegetarian option (salad and hummus) is \$10. Sparkling water and cider is included. If you contact me, please include "dinner reservation" in the subject line.

Members Recital

On January 1st at 2 p.m. (First **Day** and not First Night) BAGO will co-sponsor a members recital at the Mother Church.

Social Event

Potluck dinner at the home of Louise Mundinger on January 22nd at 5 p.m.

Recital and Masterclass by Faythe Freese

Recital at St. Cecilia Parish in Boston and Masterclass at Old South February 17th and 18th.

-Louise Mundinger

For All the Saints

This December will mark the 10th year of the passing of Boston musical institution Daniel Pinkham. For those who caught the recent film '[Florence Foster Jenkins](#)', you may be interested in the wonderful documentary found here [Florence Foster Jenkins: A World Of Her Own](#). A startlingly young Daniel Pinkham was in



DANIEL PINKHAM CENTER — Composer Daniel Pinkham and Conductor James Levine of St. Cecilia Parish before a rehearsal, Sept. 2011. Photo by David J. Pinkham's work.

attendance at Madame Jenkins famous concert at [Carnegie Hall](#) on October 25, 1944. Daniel Pinkham recalls the concert starting at 1:02:10. Here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVcatZDdaIY>

The **final October event** on the AGO calendar was Marie-Bernadette Dufourcet Hakim's concert at Holy Cross Cathedral, October 30th at 2 pm. This may have been Madame Hakim's first appearance playing H&H Opus 800 at Holy Cross, although her husband, Naji Hakim, has played at the Cathedral at least twice.



This concert, occurring hours before All Saints and All Souls Days, brings several threads of recent history together. A few years ago, past chapter Dean Larry Carson commissioned four chorale preludes from Naji Hakim to honor the memory of a dear friend and colleague from Dublin, Ireland: Anne Leahy. The first time Anne appeared in Boston may have been in the early 1990s. She had "traded" jobs for a couple of summer months with a Boston organist who traveled to Ireland to take over her church job during the same period. The arrangement was typical of Anne's resourceful and imaginative approach to life.

Anne met and easily became friends with several local organists who remember her fondly as vivacious, endlessly energetic, witty, funny and fun-loving. In years following, Anne returned to Boston several times to visit friends. She played concerts at Methuen and Old West in 1995. She loved the music of Bach, and it came as no surprise that her doctoral dissertation would be a study of the Leipzig Chorales ("the Great Eighteen") of JSB. She traveled here for Bach symposia at Harvard organized by Christoph Wolff. Then, with dissertation completed and a bright future ahead, Anne was unfortunately diagnosed with a brain tumor. She assured friends that she would survive this setback, but toward the end of 2007 aggrieved friends learned of her death.

One of her closest friends, Larry Carson, maintained contact with her parents at this time, and later commissioned Naji Hakim to compose a tribute that became "Vier Choralbearbeitungen", a slim volume of four short, attractive, accessible chorale preludes based on four of the chorales in the Leipzig settings. These are: Komm, heiliger Geist; An Wasserflüssen Babylon; Schmücke dich; and Allein Gott. The preludes are individually useful and, taken together, form a lovely addition to a concert program. Larry premiered these pieces in Anne's last parish, St Michael's Church in Dun Loaghair, Ireland, and premiered them here at Holy Cross Cathedral in early 2014. In following programs at Mission Church and Old West, local friends of Anne played the Bach preludes and Larry played the corresponding Hakim preludes dedicated to Anne. Leo Abbott, Heinrich Christensen, Glenn Goda and Lois Regestein participated in these programs.

Anne was an unforgettable character who graced our Boston scene for a few short years. She is missed.

- LR

And now a word from our sponsor...

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THESE ARE *OUR* TOOLS



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