

**American Guild of Organists, Boston Chapter
Annual Meeting
Trinitarian Congregational Church
54 Walden Street, Concord, MA 01742
May 13, 2019**

Dean Louise Munding called the meeting to order at 8:33 PM.

Previous Annual Meeting: Louise recapped our last annual meeting. All voted unanimously to accept her account of the previous meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Daryl Bichel presented the current program year's budget, and next year's as well. Next year's budget is essentially unchanged. YTD finances are on target. Our funds are invested with Morgan Stanley through Boston University. At the end of 2018, our portfolio balance was about \$725,000, down about 8 percent. We are now at about \$760,800. Most of this is restricted funds. Checking account balance is slightly over \$13,500. Exact figures are available from Daryl. All voted unanimously to accept the treasurer's report.

Program Committee

This evening we officially end the 2018-2019 season. Thanks and congratulations to Louise Munding and her program committee for planning all of this before she ascended to the Deanship. The events offered a great deal of variety, and were largely well attended.

- We began on Saturday, September 1, with a Bach masterclass at First Lutheran, led by Martin Scheduling (Leipzig) and Christa Rakich (Hartford). This event was co-sponsored by the Boston Bach International Competition.
- On Sunday, September 23rd, we had our opening service, A Boston Evensong with installation of officers, at King's Chapel, and a glorious reception following the service.
- On Saturday, October 13, Jay Lane offered the workshop "A Blended sound from your volunteer choir" at the Church of the Advent.
- We were treated to a recital by Mark Dwyer on Sunday, October 28th, at St. John's Seminary in Brighton, as a benefit fundraiser for Holy Cross Cathedral.
- On Friday, November 9, we hosted Jonathan Ryan in recital at St. Joseph's Church in Needham (who co-sponsored the event, thank you Fr. David Michael), with a pre-recital dinner catered by our own Daryl Bichel and Persimmon Catering.
- The First Night Concert with Bryan Ashley, Heinrich Christenson and Jennifer Hsiao at the Mother Church on December 31 was a huge success, with approximately 1,500 in attendance.
- Sunday, January 13 was the return of the annual Potluck at Dean Munding's house.
- On Sunday, February 10, we had the 4th annual WIMFest (Women In Music) event with the Concord Women's Chorus *Jane Ring Frank, conductor and Robert Barney, organist) at Trinity Church in Concord.
- Saturday March 23rd we again co-sponsored the annual Boston Bach Birthday celebration, hosted and planned by First Lutheran Church (thank you Dr. Jonathan Wessler).

The program committee is hard at work wrapping up details and negotiations for the 2019-2020 program season. A complete list of events will be distributed at the Opening Service on September 18, which will be a choral evensong at Trinity Church, Copley Square, with a reception to follow.

Respectfully submitted,
--Jeremy Bruns

Special Projects Advisory Committee

The Special Projects Advisory Committee (SPAC) is tasked to make recommendations to the Executive committee regarding the use of invested Chapter funds derived from some of the National Conventions held in Boston. Special projects are considered to augment the normal Chapter activities. Grants can be made to anyone in the USA in the categories of: public concerts, radio broadcasts, research, publications, recordings, competitions, commissions, educational projects, and organ music libraries. Since its inception in 1977 with about \$80,000 from the 1976 Convention, more than \$185,000 has been granted to various groups and endeavors using the income from the endowment. The value of the SPAC fund is now about \$110,000 which generates about \$5,000 in yearly income from the Morgan-Stanley investment account. There were 10 applications for funding this year and the 5 recipients were as follows.

1. \$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.
2. \$500 for an "OrgelKids" case. This group from Oregon, started in 2016, needs a new case for their traveling organ kit.
3. \$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.
4. \$2,200 for the Cape Cod and Islands Chapter, AGO, Pipe Organ Encounter in July 2019.
5. The Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra presents 8 different concerts in their 1,200 seat Memorial Hall. The first features the Saint-Saens (Organ) Symphony No.3. and is expected to fill the hall. The Boston Chapter will take a ¼ page ad for \$350 to be incorporated in all 8 of their program books reaching about 10,000 musical people during the year,

The five SPAC members this year are: Daniel McKinley (2019), Colin Lynch (2020), Lee Ridgway (2021), Scot Huntington (2022), and Margaret Angelini (2023).

Applications for Special Project consideration next time will be due in September. Additional information will be on the chapter website.

Respectfully submitted, Martin Steinmetz,
SPAC Coordinator and Assistant Treasurer of Library/ SPAC funds

Examinations

Our chapter administered one Service Playing exam in the spring.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Young, AAGO, DMA

Placement Report

As of May 2019 there are thirteen jobs posted on the Boston Chapter website. Every few months I check in and find out if there has been a new hire. I believe from talking to people at these churches that there is a shortage of organists. Many of these jobs have remained unfilled for a while, and the churches are using interims or sub organists to fill in. Personally, I know of at least three jobs that will be up coming in the next month to add to our list.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Jodice

Substitute report

Currently there are 75 members listed as possible substitutes from the Boston Chapter, 45 of whom are also on the separate Sunday list. I have not received a direct inquiry in some time. This may be due in part to our Webmaster fielding inquiries and passing them along to the list directly, but I do not have evidence either way. In fact, a lot of the credit for the list this year should go to Claire DeCusati, who has been most helpful in passing along requests to be added or for information to be changed, as well as the slightly consuming problem of keeping track of current membership. Many thanks to Claire.

Respectfully submitted,
Joshua Lawton

RYCO – Regional Competition for Young Organists (also known as the Quimby Competition)

The RYCO occurred in Marsh Chapel at Boston University on Saturday afternoon, March 16, 2019. At the time of the deadline for applications, there were four people who had registered to compete. The ages of the competitors were 15, 17, 20, and 20. By the time of the competition, two had withdrawn, one because of an accident in which he injured his hand and the other for personal reasons. The judges for the competition were Jeremy runs, Colin Lynch, and Carolyn Skelton. By unanimous decision of the judges, 1st place was awarded to Marshal Joos, age 15, from Somersworth, NH. The 2nd place award went to Matthew Dion, age 20, from Somerset, MA, a second-year student at Oberlin College Conservatory of Music. Marshall will compete at the Northeast Regional Convention in Buffalo, NY, in early July. Those interested in hearing our winner may do so on Wednesday evening, May 22, at 8:00 pm at the annual Young Artists Concert at the Methuen Memorial Music Hall, when Marshall will offer the *Variations de Concert* by Joseph Bonnet. We are indebted to Boston University and the staff of Marsh Chapel. These people offered abundant and uncommon hospitality, technical assistance, and generosity of spirit to the competitors, and to the Boston Chapter of the AGO in hosting this competition. In addition, we are grateful to Jonathan Ortloff for attending to the tuning and servicing of the Marsh Chapel Organ.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Russell

Membership

As of May 7, 2019, there are 151 paid members and 217 invoiced/not paid. There were 37 whose memberships lapsed in 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Vermeer, Registrar
Sam Nelson, Membership Coordinator

Reporter

This was the first year we had the position of Reporter for the Boston Chapter, one who sends reports of Chapter-sponsored events to the TAO. This past year, we have sent information (written and photographs) from our opening service, the Jonathan Ryan concert, the YOI competition, the First Night concert and WIMFest. As of this writing, news from the Boston Bach Birthday has not gone out. This highlights an issue, the Reporter is aware that he needs to be more consistent and timely in getting information out!

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Scolastico

Young Organists Initiative (YOI)

The YOI held their annual King's Chapel Recital June 26 where the 2017-2018 Scholarship Winners Joshua Beresford, Blake Chen, Benjamin Driscoll, Fred Probst, Reed Probst, John Roper and Mathias Why performed.

Auditions for the 2018-2019 Scholarships were held Saturday, September 29 at The Dover Church in Dover, Massachusetts. Six \$600 scholarships were awarded to students Christopher Allan, John Dunn, Michael Tekaekara, Alexander Marin, Adelaide Mangum and Johanna Murphy. These students are studying with Jeremy Bruns, Christian Lane, William Ness and John Whiteside.

The YOI Program has added an additional performance opportunity preceding the annual recital at King's Chapel in Boston. Students may play at either or both recitals, the first at The Dover Church May 18 at 2 PM. This new recital opportunity also offers former YOI Scholarship winners the opportunity to come back and perform, as well as graduating seniors to be honored. Graduation senior and student of Cathy Meyer, Savannah Curro will be honored May 18.

Upcoming Dates for YOI

Auditions:

**The Dover Church (all 10:00 AM)
17 Springdale Avenue, Dover MA**

Saturday, September 28, 2019

Saturday, September 26, 2020

Saturday, September 25, 2021

YOI Recitals, King's Chapel (all 12:15 PM)

Tuesday, July 2 2019

Tuesday, June 30 2020

Tuesday, June 29 2021

The Dover Church (all 2:00 PM)

Saturday, May 18 2019

Saturday, May 16 2020

Saturday, May 15 2021

The YOI Program is grateful to the support of :

John Dunn, beloved benefactor, Heinrich Christensen and King's Chapel, Louise Mundinger, Jeremy Bruns and Daryl Bichel, the YOI Committee and The Dover Church.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Hogan

Chair, Young Organists Initiative

Communications

This year, the Chapter has improved communications to Chapter members, friends, and interested parties through a revitalization of our Facebook page. Our page promotes Chapter events, and items of universal interest to our membership. Our Facebook page has had a peak reach of 2,500 people this year. Our webpage continues to add content, and we encourage all members to use the calendar portion of the webpage to promote your own concerts and events.

This is also the first year our new Operating Procedures have been in effect. You might have noticed there was no Chapter election this year, as we have implemented a two-year election cycle. Our next election will be held in 2020, when we will elect all Chapter Officers (who serve for 2 years), and three Members-at-Large (who serve for 4 years).

We have had an addition to our Operating Procedures to add an Organ Advisory Committee. The Chapter has had several inquiries about unused or soon-to-be-removed organs. The Executive Committee has determined that it was time to reestablish this committee, which has been part of the Chapter in past years.

Our Dean, Louise Munding, has penned a monthly “Pipings” newsletter with information for Chapter members. “Pipings” is distributed electronically, so it is critical that Chapter members keep their email current in the AGO membership system. Our Chapter does not keep an email listing separate from the AGO HQ list. So, if you change your email, please remember to change it on the AGO HQ system.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire DeCusati

Election Coordinator

Elections for officers and at-large members will be held in 2020. A nominating committee will be named in the fall of 2019. See our Operating Procedures for information on the Nominating Committee and their duties.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tish Kilgore, Election Coordinator

BAGO Organ Library

The Organ Library is a repository of organ music, books and periodicals about the organ, archives and papers of well-known organists, and recordings of local organs and local organists. We serve the organ world as a research library. During the past year we have provided research material to David Pickering for his new book on Poister; Wayne Leupold for a publication of John Knowles Paine’s music; the Duruflé Society; Rollin Smith; Phil Cooper; and several other academic researchers. We also run a small, online used-music sales service for organists: we sell items which are duplicates of things already in our music holdings.

Our agreement with Boston University seems to be holding up, and there has been no further indication that there will be any need for us to move.

During 2018, fifty years of recordings of our weekly radio broadcasts were brought to the library. We have begun a major effort to digitize as many of these programs as possible. They are of course in many recorded formats. A plan is in place to prioritize what should and can be digitized, and to do the work, some in-house, some outsourced. We have just purchased a new computer and other equipment to do some of the digitizing, with the goal of getting more of these recordings online.

We are also collaborating with the OHS and the New England Document Conservation Center on the restoration and digitization of some of the early broadcasts that E. P. Biggs did at Busch Hall.

We have de-accessioned the vast majority of our LPs. These commercially recorded records, acquired over the years through gifts and bequests, were, by board action, gifted to the Leupold Foundation, which has much better conditions for their long-term storage. They were not central to our mission, and were not a unique collection. We have retained a number of commercial LPs of local Boston organs and performers.

We are happy to announce that we have just approved the long-term loan of many of our famous organist archives to the Organ Historical Society, which is writing a large grant application for the digitization of many types of materials. The implementation of this idea has taken over two years of planning and preparation. The vote approving the move just happened at the last BAGO executive committee meeting, and still needs final approval by the OHS. The digitization of material will make it accessible to far more readers and researchers, and the OHS is actively moving forward with work of this type. The collaboration will be beneficial to all, as it will free up a bit of badly-needed space in the Organ Library, and it will eventually get the material into a digital and accessible form for online viewing.

On behalf of the AGO Organ Library Board,
Carl Klein
Administrator

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All reports were unanimously accepted.

Dean Munding asked if there was any new business, and none was forthcoming. She concluded with a lively and inspiring address.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.