



BOSTON PIPINGS

news and notes for members of Boston Chapter AGO

October 2020 Pippings - The Newsletter of the Boston Chapter AGO

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

Meet the Executive Committee

Welcome to a new feature of our newsletter. We are asking members of our Executive Committee and of our Chapter to introduce themselves in our newsletter. We begin with our new Sub-Dean, Mitchell Crawford.

Greetings!

In an attempt to introduce myself, I hope you might indulge me this bit of biographical narrative (though presented through an AGO-tinted lens, so to speak). It's a feature I'm calling...*My AGOdyssey*.



I grew up in Southwest Virginia, in the corner of the state home to Virginia Tech, and far from the bustling, populous region of the state to the Northeast. I didn't come from a musical family, but had been attracted to music from a young age. I joined a regional Boychoir, and grew increasingly interested in the piano and keyboard instruments as I got older. By the time I entered High School, I was curious enough about the organ that I approached a local teacher, Richard Cummins of Roanoke, for lessons. Not long after, I first joined the AGO via the Roanoke Chapter. Despite its modest size, Roanoke contains a number of diverse instruments: Aeolian-Skinners at St. John's Episcopal and Calvary Baptist, a vestigial EM Skinner reworked by Möller at Greene Memorial Methodist, large Schantz organs at First Baptist and First Presbyterian, a Fisk at Christ Episcopal, a Holtkamp at Hollins College — among many others. The Roanoke Chapter supported me during my last two years of High School through the Jeryl Powell Scholarship, which provides for lessons along similar lines as BAGO's YOI Scholarships.

During my years as an undergraduate organist in New York City, I transferred my membership to that Chapter. I have come to think of the Boston and NYC Chapters as alike in many ways; especially as two large, urban chapters with memberships that stretch into the suburbs, and which encompass many important instruments and houses of worship. It was particularly fascinating to see the enormous New York City Organ Project take shape across my time as a member. For those unfamiliar, the Project is itself a website housing all manner of information and resources pertaining to the organs — past and present — of the city's five boroughs, with dizzying arrays of stoplists and specifications for the enthusiast to ponder over.

After I relocated to Tallahassee for graduate school, I joined the Tallahassee Chapter of the Guild, which — as you might expect — had its fair share of student members by virtue of its proximity to the program at Florida State. This was the first AGO

Chapter I ever served in an official capacity, as a member of their board. A fond memory is the Chapter's annual Spooktacular Concert, which featured costumed performances of "spooky" music in the darkened Sanctuary of St. John's Episcopal Church (home, incidentally, to a fabulous Fisk organ), awash in Halloween-y decorations. How many organists can say they've played the Farnam and Boëllmann Toccatas publicly while dressed as a hot dog? Well, at least one (me).

I next joined the Fort Worth Chapter during my time as Music Director for St. Stephen Presbyterian Church. Texas is, of course, a huge, sprawling state, but two of its seven AGO Chapters — those for Dallas and Fort Worth — occupy opposite sides of the same "metroplex," with a mere 20 or so miles between them. For this reason, I maintained Dual membership in both these chapters while I lived in Fort Worth, my first time to do so as a member of AGO. Another first for me was my role as organizer for the Chapter's RCYO Competition in 2017. I appreciated the opportunity this provided to interact not just with the contestants, but the panel of judges as well. At the competition itself, I turned pages for the competitors — a front row seat for some very fine playing!

Now, as both member and newly-elected Sub-Dean of Boston's storied AGO chapter, I look forward to the experiences I know are in store. Though the pandemic has, for a time, curtailed our ability to hold in-person gatherings, I look forward to meeting more of you — something our chapter's active calendar will no doubt facilitate in the future! And, in closing, please let me add a word to thank you for the chance to serve in this capacity. What a wonderful thought that we work to edify and uplift an organization that has positively impacted countless within our community throughout many generations. This is a great honor, which all of us on the Executive Committee share.

Yours sincerely,

Mitchell Crawford
Sub-Dean

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Robert M. Thompson
Favorite Hymn Settings
for the Church Year
for Organ
Volume 1 • Advent
Contents
ABERWYSTWYTH "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" • WACHET AUF "Sleepers, Wake!"
CHESTERFIELD/RICHMOND "Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes" • TRURO "Lift Up Your Heads"
O HEILAND, REISS DIE HIMMEL AUF "O Heavenly Word, Eternal Light"
FIGAROY "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" • HELMSLEY "Lo! He Comes, with Clouds Descending"
BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN "Prepare the Way, O Zion" • ELLACOMBE "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"
MIT FREUDEN ZART "Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth"
STUTTGART "Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus" • ANGEL'S MESSAGE "The Angel Gabriel"
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SPAC

Special Project Advisory Committee

Special Projects Advisory Committee (SPAC)

SPAC announces that **Louise Munding** has joined the committee as the new Chapter representative. Her term will run until 2025. She replaces **Colin Lynch**, who has completed his four year term. The other member of the Committee are: Lee Ridgway (2021), Scot Huntington (2022), and Margaret Angelini (2023), and Robert Barney (2024).

SPAC Application Dates

The Special Project Advisory Committee (SPAC) is tasked to make recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding the use of income from invested Chapter funds derived from previous convention profits. Special projects are considered to augment the normal Boston Chapter activities and are also available to all AGO members or chapters in the country.

Projects supported are usually in the following areas and relate to the organ in some way: Education; Concerts; New Music; Organ building or restoration.

SPAC funds are distributed twice a year. Applications must be submitted by **November 1, 2020 and April 1, 2021**. An application form to request funding is available from SPAC Coordinator [Martin Steinmetz](#).

For more information on SPAC or the application process, [click here](#).

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charlesbolton942@gmail.com

From the Program Committee

Despite the limitations on gathering for in-person events necessitated by the ongoing pandemic, the program committee is working to translate as many 2020-2021 BAGO events to an online or "virtual" format as possible. In addition September's YOI Scholarship Recipients Virtual Recital, we plan to offer a Forum on Practice Techniques later this Fall. To close out the year, we'll Livestream our annual First Night Concert, maintaining a much-loved (and well attended!) BAGO tradition. Stay tuned for dates and details



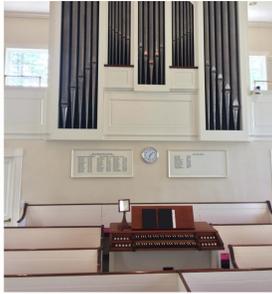
Emergency Grants from Choral Arts New England

The COVID-19 crisis has had an enormous impact on choral organizations and Choral Arts New England is proud to support our choral communities as they weather these uncertain times. Choral Arts New England

Emergency Grants are a special initiative to provide immediate assistance to organizations experiencing difficulty due to circumstances related to COVID-19. Applications will be accepted via our online application form until 11:59 p.m. on November 15, 2020. In addition, we expect to continue offering Alfred Nash Patterson grants early next year, as we have in every year since 1985.

Applicants must be located in one of the six New England states (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut or Rhode Island).

For additional requirements and application information, [click here](#)



BAGO YOUNG ORGANIST INITIATIVE SCHOLARSHIP AUDITIONS

Auditions for 2020-2021 will be conducted VIRTUALLY Submission deadline: October 31st, 2020 For more information: click here	Students in grades 6-12 are eligible to audition Applicants should submit one or two organ and/or piano pieces to audition for these scholarships. Please note: former YOI Scholarship winners are not eligible to audition again.	SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS: • A \$600 Scholarship for organ studies with a BAGO organ teacher, to be selected by the BAGO YOI Committee • One year membership in the American Guild of Organists • \$100 award following concluding concert	All 2020-2021 Scholars perform in recital at King's Chapel Boston (Tuesday, June 29, 2021 12:15 PM) This date is tentative, and will be revisited in light of the ongoing pandemic during the course of 2021.
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- Membership for one year in the American Guild of Organists
- \$100 award following concluding concert

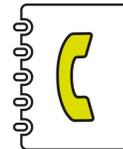
All 2020-2021 Scholars perform in recital at

- King's Chapel, Boston, Tuesday June 29, 2021 12:15 PM
 - This date is tentative, and will be revisited in light of the ongoing pandemic during the course of 2021

For questions, or to apply, please contact YOI Coordinator [Mitchell Crawford](#)

Updated Chapter Membership Directory Available

Our Chapter Directory has been updated and is available for download on our website. The Directory is password protected. To access it, [click here](#)



Music Teacher List

Did you know that we have a listing of instructors on our website? These musicians are available to instruct in a variety of instruments.

If you are looking for a music teacher, [click here](#).

If you'd like to add your name to our list, [click here](#).

YOI Premier September 2020 Chapter Event

Our 2020 YOI Scholarship Recipients recital is still available for viewing now. It is 1 hour in length, and can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

Thanks to all who support our Young Organist Initiative, and



these talented young organists.



AGO Headquarters Organ Webinars on Teaching

This series takes place on Mondays at 4 pm EDT via Zoom

To register for one or all of these webinars, [click here](#)

October 19th: Anne Laver, presenter

Improvisation for Beginning Organists

This webinar will demonstrate how to incorporate improvisation pedagogy when teaching beginning organists of any age or experience level. Anne Laver is professor of organ and university organist at Syracuse University's Setnor School of Music. She is also visiting professor of organ at the Eastman School of Music for the academic year 2020-21.

October 26th: Don Cook, AAGO, presenter

Group Organ Teaching Strategies

Since its beginnings in 1988, the BYU Organ Lab has helped over 6,000 pianists learn basic organ skills. Join us as we consider ideas in student engagement, lesson plans, student savers, and online teaching options. Don Cook joined the organ faculty at Brigham Young University in 1991. He oversees a highly successful group organ program and serves as university carillonneur. He holds bachelor and master of music degrees from BYU and a doctor of musical arts from the University of Kansas. Between 2014 and 2020, Don served as the AGO national councillor for education.

November 2nd: Cathryn Wilkinson, AAGO, presenter

Three Suites from the 18th to the 21st Centuries

Looking to add some variety to your repertoire? In this session we will learn about context and techniques in performing excerpts from three organ suites, representing different eras, styles, and moods. Cathryn Wilkinson studied with J.S. Darling at the College of William and Mary and finished her graduate degrees at the University of Iowa. She is currently vice president of academic affairs at Hartnell College in Salinas, California, and serves on the AGO Committee for the New Organist.

November 9th: Ann Labounsky, FAGO, presenter

Improvisation and the Music of Jean Langlais

Improvisation is one of the most rewarding experiences that can exist for an organist. Building on her studies with Jean Langlais, Ann will explore approaches to improvisation using hands-on techniques. The webinar will also explore how to understand Langlais's style of composition and performance. Ann Labounsky is the author of *Jean Langlais: The Man and His Music*, and she has recorded the complete works of Langlais issued through *voixduventrecorderings*. She is chair of Organ and Sacred Music at Duquesne University. A former AGO councillor for education as well as a past dean of the Pittsburgh chapter, Ann serves as organist/director at Church of the Redeemer in Squirrel Hill, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Know your Chapter's History Quiz:

The 1931-1932 season featured numerous services. The eminent German organist-composer, Dr. Sigfrid Karg-Elert gave a recital in Jordan Hall.

True or False: Dean Robinson gave a harsh critique of the composer's choice of registrations.

1. **False:** This was Karg-Elert playing his own compositions. He would know best how to register his works on the organ
2. **True:** Of course this is true. If it weren't, would this even be a question?

Substitute List Update



We are in process of updating the Substitute List for a current listing in September. Please remember that you must be a member of BAGO to be on the list. If you have not renewed your Chapter membership, now is the time. You can review the data on the substitute list [here](#), and update any information [here](#). (You will need the website password to access the Members Area).

Do you need assistance 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, we encourage you to renew your membership by credit card, utilizing ONCARD.



If you have suffered financial hardships and loss of income as a result of the pandemic, AGO has received donations to assist those who cannot afford to renew their memberships. If you do need assistance, please [click here](#) to contact me so that I may send your name to AGO HQ. Your request will be held in confidence.

Please visit the AGO COVID-19 resource page by [clicking here](#).

Most importantly, during this particularly challenging time, continuing to be part of our chapter offers you the opportunity to stay connected with a community who is here to engage, uplift and support you.

Please contact me if I can be of any assistance to you.

*Lynn Vermeer
Registrar*

Choose Your Thoughts, Create Your Future

As musicians we know that our thoughts and feelings affect the way we perform. The same is true of all art - painting, sculpture, choral arts, even gardening and needlework. I found the following article interesting and have shared it here. I hope you find it uplifting.

Claire DeCusati

(This article was originally written by Evan Yeh and published for members of the email list for Oriental Art Supply. Oriental Art Supply (OAS) is a family business that focuses on teaching and promotion the beauty of Chinese and Asian Painting, Calligraphy and Culture. You can find out more at their website [here](#).)

Your Current Thoughts Paint Your Future

Whenever I have a conversation about painting with someone, what they say is always so revealing. Their words reveal their thoughts and their thoughts create their future. The secret to making progress towards your ultimate desires in painting or anything in life is as follows:

- Examine your current dominant thoughts
- Pay attention to how those thoughts make you feel
- Incrementally change the thought to one that feels slightly better
- Repeat methodically until your dominant thoughts produce highly desirable emotions like enthusiasm, joy or passion
- Once you are there in this feeling, let the feeling wash over you, enjoy it, "milk it" and suddenly you will be inspired towards easy, natural action that put you on a path to all your ultimate desires

[Read the full article](#)

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