



BOSTON PIPINGS

news and notes for members of Boston Chapter AGO

November 2020 Pippings - The Newsletter of the Boston Chapter AGO

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

Meet the Executive Committee

Greetings!

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. This month we feature Jay Lane, Chapter Secretary, and Mary Jodice, Member-at-Large and Chair of the Placement Listing Committee.

Life is what happens while you're making other plans.

I was halfway through my BA in music at Yale, and planning to go on for a Ph.D. in musicology, when I decided to take organ lessons. I'd played the piano all my life, and I became fascinated by the organ, probably because of the wonderful instruments I heard at college. So I started over the summer with a local teacher, who turned out to be none other than Roberta Bitgood, F.A.G.O. and former President of the AGO! She started me off right, and I went back to school to study with a number of graduate students, and—for one wonderful semester—with Thomas Murray. I loved it!



I continued on with my plan, beginning my doctorate, and planning one day to be a musicology professor with a little church job on the side. Then, while I was working at a tiny church and finishing my degree, I saw a workshop called "For the Aging Voice." I went, hoping for some tips for working with the singers in my little church choir, and I discovered a wealth of technical information—the sort of thing you just don't usually pick up in an afternoon. This wonderful workshop was given by Lin Schuller, founder of the McClosky Institute of Voice. I signed up for voice lessons, and now I was hooked on vocal technique as well.

Perhaps I should have gotten the message at this point, but I persisted in my dreary plan (I didn't actually like musicology very much). After receiving my doctorate I began teaching, but I had a long commute and heavy workload, and few prospects for advancement. And then a nearby half-time church job came open. It paid more than I was making as a musicologist, and looked like a lot more fun! So I auditioned, and when I got it, I finally realized I'd been on the wrong track all along.

Ever since, my career has been all about helping amateurs to make music. While working as a more-or-less half-time organist, I went on to study vocal pedagogy at the McClosky

Institute of Voice, and the other half of the time soon filled in with choral conducting and voice teaching. So here I am! Now I'm music director at St. Anne's in-the-Fields in Lincoln, and I have a busy voice studio, with a specialty in helping older singers and those with vocal disorders. I often wish I'd been to conservatory and had the sort of training that I have since picked up along the way. But I enjoy my work, and I feel like I've landed where I belong.

Yours sincerely,

*Jay Lane
Secretary*



Writing about myself is not actually my favorite topic!

However, someone out there maybe interested in how I came to be an organist/ choirmaster.

About twelve years ago, I was sitting in church with my son. During the organ prelude I heard a voice in my head saying " you can do that" I ignored the voice, thinking it was probably the result of the glass of wine I had the night before.

Each consecutive Sunday for about four months, I heard the voice every time I was in church, hearing the organ or choir. I finally asked the Director of Music who was Ronald Arnatt if he taught adult students how to play the organ. He did, and I started lessons. Ronald saw I was a hard worker and before I knew it I was his organ scholar, choir librarian and sang in his choir. Ten months later, I played Wachet Auf from the Bach Schubler Chorales; for the first Sunday in Advent. It was slow, I was nervous, poor Ronald was a wreck, but I played it.

I kept studying, and I went to England every summer for organ and choral conducting training, Douglas Major took me on as a student after Ronald retired. At some point I auditioned for Longy School of Music, and Libor Dudas accepted me as a student, gave me a scholarship and I went back to school for a Masters degree in Music and Organ. My fellow classmates might have noticed I was as old as their professors...but they were good sports and let me in the gang.

At the same time I auditioned successfully and became Director of Music at St Andrews Church in Marblehead Mass. I have been there six years; grown the adult choir, established a concert series, started and nurtured a chorister program and now have started a professional choir of eight voices for our recorded Evensongs.

I have worked as an accompanist, choral conductor, organ soloist, organizer of musical happenings and wrangler of choir members and clergy. The past few years have been a straight up learning curve, extremely busy and often nerve wrackingly stressful. However, I did it, I do it and I have accomplished all with God's help and the good will and patience of all the wonderful people I have studied with and have been nurtured by. I am certainly not done yet by a long shot, there is much more to learn, play and conduct!

Never ignore the voice in your head. Never think that you are too old to learn something new. God will help you if you ask and work hard.

*Mary Jodice
Member-at-Large*

**Boston Chapter member Peter Krasinski
named as Providence Performing Arts
Center House Organist**

J.L. "Lynn" Singleton, president and CEO of the Providence Performing Arts Center (PPAC), is pleased to announce that world-renowned organist and silent film accompanist Peter Krasinski will be the Theatre's House Organist.



Krasinski will be PPAC's first house organist in 22 years. The position was previously held by Lincoln W.N. Pratt from 1982 until his passing in 1998.

Krasinski will play PPAC's house organ, known as "The Mighty Wurlitzer," prior to future performances and at community events, like PPAC's ARTS Showcase series and the Wonders of the Wurlitzer concert series.

"I am thrilled to be named as the successor to the previous official PPAC (Theatre) organist – it is both an honor and a privilege," Krasinski said. "I intend to showcase this rare and magnificent pipe organ in new ways for a variety of audiences to appreciate! The pipe organ is enjoying a renaissance, not only in the United States, but in venues worldwide. I am excited that PPAC will be a part of that."

To read the full article from the Cranston Herald Newspaper, [click here](#)



In Memoriam - Scott Kent

Scott Kent passed away October 23, 2020 in Massachusetts after a long illness. He was born in 1943 and is survived by his wife of 47 years, Marcia, and his daughter Julie Anderson Kent. Scott was a recording pioneer in the Boston area. He attended Clark University and Worcester Polytechnic Institute and became an adjunct professor at the University of Massachusetts

Lowell in the Recording Technology Degree program. Scott began his career recording concerts in 1968, recording the Bach cantatas at Emmanuel Church, Boston, and the concert series for the Brookline Library and various musicians in the Boston area. He recorded and produced performances for the Organ Historical Society Convention, the Merrimack Valley Symphony Orchestra, Northeastern Records, and the summer organ concerts at the Portland City Hall. He also recorded all the Methuen Music Hall's summer concerts from 1976 to 2017. For nearly 30 years, Scott recorded the recitals at Holy Cross Cathedral, Boston; when there was a program by several organists, he would give each a copy of the recording. The 2020 Cathedral Organ Benefit Recital was dedicated to Scott's memory.

Although he recorded music of all kinds around the Boston area, his favorite instrument was the organ. Scott was also an expert repair person for the Revox brand reel-to-reel recorders and a pioneer in a method of restoring premium back-coated recording tapes used in the 1980's. He was called "the person with the golden ear" as he could hear defects in sound recordings that others did not. Scott recorded many professional musicians in special sessions and sold through the BKM/AFKA label. He recorded and produced over 300 records, cassettes and CDs. Scott was elected to be one of the eight Honorary Members of the Boston Chapter, AGO.

To read remembrances of Scott from Ray Cornils, Barbara Owen, Martin Steinmetz, Richard Ouellette, and Leo Abbot, please [click here](#).

To read the article in the "Boston Music Intelligencer" [click here](#)

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



The following poem by gardener, activist, humorist, and ordained minister Max Coats (1927-2009)

A Gardener’s Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks for a bounty of people:

- *For children who are our second planting, and though they grow like weeds, and the wind too soon blows them away, may they forgive us our cultivation and fondly remember where their roots are*
- *For generous friends with hearts and smiles as bright as their blossoms*
- *For feisty friends as tart as apples*
- *For continuous friends, who, like scallions and cucumbers, keep reminding us that we’ve had them*
- *For crotchety friends, as sour as rhubarb and as indestructible*
- *For handsome friends, who are as gorgeous as eggplants and as elegant as a row of corn, and the other, plain as potatoes and as good for you*
- *For funny friends who are as silly as Brussels sprouts and as amusing as Jerusalem artichokes, and serious friends, as complex as cauliflowers and as intricate as onions*
- *For friends as unpretentious as cabbages, as subtle as summer squash, as persistent as parsley, as delightful as dill, as endless as zucchini, and who, like parsnips, can be counted on to see you through the winter*
- *For old friends, nodding like sunflowers in the evening-time, and young friends coming on as fast as radishes*
- *For loving friends, who wind around us like tendrils and hold us, despite our blights, wilts and witherings*
- *And finally, for those friends now gone, like gardens past that have been harvested, and who fed us in their times that we might have life thereafter*

For all these we give thanks.

A Chapter "Thank You" to Executive Committee Members from 2010-2020



We would like to extend a note of thanks to four members of the Executive Committee who served our Chapter for the 2018 to 2020 term:

Joe Scolastico, EC member and Reporter took many pictures at BAGO events and sent them to our national publication, The American Organist. Joe is the director of music and organist at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Norwood and until recently directed a choir at Linden Ponds in Hingham. Joe is an avid collector of Lionel model trains and regularly sets up elaborate displays to delight his followers.

Jonathan Ortloff is the founder and president of the Ortloff Organ Company in Needham. His organs can be found in Penfield, NY (Opus 1), Shoreline, WA (Opus 2) and Cape Elizabeth, ME (Opus 3). Jonathan restores and maintains instruments throughout the Northeast.

Dr. Tish Anne Kilgore is stepping down as Election Coordinator. Tish studied piano at the Setnor School of Music at Syracuse University and holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in piano performance from Boston University concentrating on the music of Franz Liszt. She founded the Center Stage School of Performing Arts in Massachusetts. Currently Tish is also a happy grandmother.

Claire DeCusati will not be retiring entirely from the Executive Committee. Claire is our new Election Coordinator, taking over from Tish Kilgore. Claire recently completed a project for BAGO; she found biographies and pictures of each BAGO Dean from 1905 to the present. Check out Claire's article in the November TAO. In addition to being on BAGO communications team, serving as webmaster, Claire works her same magic for her gardening club.

Organs of the Boston Area

Would you like your church organ to be listed on our website? We have a page dedicated to "Organs of Boston". If you would like to include a pipe organ in this list, please send a photo (.jpg or .png), the organ specifications, and the history to [Claire DeCusati](#).

To view the current listings, please [click here](#)



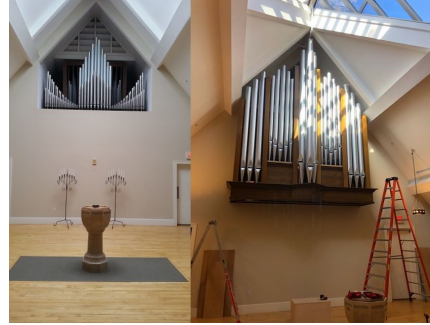
Outreach to Chapter Members

Do you know a Chapter member who is "under the weather", recovering from surgery, or just would appreciate a note of cheer from the Chapter? We would like to reach out to them with words of encouragement. Use the Chapter's contact form to let us know general information (name, address, etc.) No personal details are required. To access the form, [click here](#).

**INVITATION FROM THE MERRIMACK VALLEY
CHAPTER TO A VIRTUAL ORGAN CRAWL -**

NOVEMBER 23 at 7 pm

Join us online as organist Jay Lane and organ builder William Catanesye give a guided tour of the newly expanded Casavant organ at St. Anne's in-the-Fields Episcopal Church in Lincoln. The program will be held on Zoom, Monday November 23rd at 7:00, and will be followed by a question-and-answer session and social time.



The organ at St. Anne's has undergone quite a transformation! It began as a very modest two-manual instrument, part of a series of "stock" instruments Casavant built in the 1980s. Having one reed, one 16' stop in the pedal, and a very screechy mixture, it was marginal at best. An expansion by Casavant in 2002 added three ranks in the chancel, and replaced the 8' Chalmeau with a very aggressive 8' trumpet, but still the organ lacked a great deal; it was serviceable for hymns, inadequate for choral accompaniment, and very limited indeed for any kind of recital playing. Then in 2016, William Catanesye made a proposal to expand the organ substantially, while still staying within a moderate budget. This ambitious project, William's first on this scale, has become a great success! Jay and William will demonstrate all the many improvements—and you are all invited to come and play at a later date, when we can meet together again safely.

To register for the event, please send an email to [Alain Bojarski](mailto:Alain.Bojarski@stanne.org) and the Zoom information will be emailed to you.

Update on AGO HQ Policy on Child Safety

AGO HQ has updated their policies on child safety. An example of that is requiring two adults to be present when a minor (under 18 years old) participates in an organ lesson, either virtually or on person. Our Chapter is now updating our requirements to be in line with AGO HQ (for example with the Young Organist Initiative (YOI) program). We will keep the Chapter Members informed as more requirements become known.

Know your Chapter's History Quiz:

In 1924, the issue of organists' salaries was raised, leading to a discussion of unionization for organists at a Chapter Social Meeting. Past-Dean Everette Ellsworth Truette submitted his conception of an organists' union that could compete with the unions of bricklayers and plumbers. "If this scheme were adopted, in time organists would have become so scarce that their rates would be double those of the pastors." It was decided to bring the matter of the payment of adequate salaries for organists to the attention of Headquarters or of the various chapters of the Guild.



The issue of unionization was again discussed at the 1950 National Convention in Boston. Which Speaker(s) spoke in favor of unionization?

- Harold Gleason of the Eastman School of Music
- Edward A. Grossman of St Louis
- Rudolph Elis, music critic of the Boston Herald

[Click here for the answer!](#)

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*



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

See what's happening on our Facebook Page:

