



# BOSTON PIPINGS

news and notes for members of Boston Chapter AGO

## ***December 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 Cathy Meyer, a Member-at-Large.

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When I was a young child, I thought you had to be at least 100 years old to play the organ, maybe even 120.

I remember sitting in the pews of the ELCA church that my grandparents had founded in north Seattle, looking around while people sang the hymns along to that funny little instrument in the loft (if it had been a “real” organ, perhaps I wouldn’t have thought it was so funny?). My mom would often turn to me and say, “Well, Cathy, if you keep practicing the piano then that could be *you* one day, up there playing!” Yuck, I thought, looking at the organist and the few gray hairs in his beard. I’ll never be old enough to do that.



Fast forward eight years or so to my piano teacher’s annual spring recital, in a different church with a sweet little two-manual Balcolm and Vaughan, when one of my contemporaries finished the program with the Bach *Tocatta and Fugue in D minor*: Oh, so *that’s* what an organ sounds like! He was a year younger than I was, so my competitive side got me thinking that I could play like that too. That evening I asked my parents for organ lessons in addition to the trumpet and pianos lessons I was already taking. Needless to say, my mother was delighted and I began my studies within a few weeks.

Two years later I began an Organ Performance degree at the University of North Texas with Dr. Lenora McCroskey. Seven years after graduating, I completed my Master’s of Sacred Music at Boston University’s School of Theology, studying with Peter Sykes and Nancy Granert. As an adult I was definitely playing the organ, and apparently, I didn’t have to be 100 years old after all.

When I arrived in Boston in 1999, I took a job at a church in Watertown where I found home in the United Church of Christ and also where I fell in love with being a church musician. I love the extravagant welcome the UCC extends as well as the focus on justice and peace. I love working with people of all ages exploring a wide variety of genres. I love mixing the seriousness of a concert series with the lightheartedness found around a

handbell table. I love being in a circle not only make music, but also to create community. I love building programs so that the music ministry includes more people than anyone thought possible in a church. I love offering a seat to someone who is daring enough to give it a try. Perhaps these are things that you love, too.

Looking back on my childhood reactions to church music, I have a new appreciation for the power that churches have on our youngest parishioners. How are we inspiring the youth in our congregations? Are we working to make sure our churches have the highest quality instruments possible and then escorting young musicians to the bench? How are we interacting with the very youngest children who worship with us? What can we do to make our youth programming more engaging? How can our welcome be more extravagant?

It is these questions which compel me to work with young musicians, to share why “the king of instruments” is a major part of my life. I’ve hosted at *Pedals, Pipes and Pizza* for 15 youth through the MVAGO (where I am also active), a *Halloween Organ and Light Show* (think *Fantasia* where the visual display augments the music), and have taught several students with the YOI.

In addition to my teaching and ministry at South Church Andover, I am also a Reiki Master Teacher and energy worker, a Girl Scout leader for high school girls, a mother to three children and two beautiful Maine Coon kittens, and Musical Director for the One Spirit Foundation interfaith group. Adding service to the BAGO Executive Committee is a welcome addition to that list, and I look forward to getting to know all of you better!

Peace,

*Cathy Meyer*  
*Member-at-Large*



### **First Night Concert Premiering December 31, 2020 at 7:00 PM EST**

Facebook link [here](#)  
YouTube link [here](#)

Please join us on New Year’s Eve for BAGO’s virtual First Night concert, which will premier December 31st at 7PM and subsequently made available for on-demand viewing at the chapter’s YouTube channel (links above). The idea for this year’s recital is that, though the pandemic has made impossible an in-person performance, it has presented an opportunity to check in with several remote players with ties to the area and chapter. Featuring performances by **Katelyn Emerson, Matthew Dion, John Roper, and David von Behren**, this concert will be a fitting conclusion to a year of virtual music making, and a great way to usher in 2021.

Available on-demand beginning after the premiere at our [YouTube channel](#)

### **E. Power Biggs Digitized Tapes Received**

The Organ Library has received the digitized E.P. Biggs tapes that he recorded on the Flentrop at the Busch-Reisinger Museum when it was new. The tapes are quite wonderful. Great work by the New England Document Conservation Center, paid for by a grant from National AGO to the OHS. A fabulous collaborative project.

*Carl Klein*



## In Memoriam



### Florence Dunn

Musician Florence Alice Dunn, 98, of Boston, died peacefully on October 12 at Sherrill House in Boston. She earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the New England Conservatory in Boston. While at NEC, she was appointed Dean of Women and Resident Head. Later she received the NEC Alumni Award and was recognized for distinguished service by the NEC Alumni Association. "Flossie" was active in numerous musical organizations in the Boston area and in Massachusetts. For many years, she was assistant organist at Trinity Church in Copley Square in Boston, where she was also director of the Canterbury Chorus. In 1997, she received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Choral Arts New England, an organization that provides resources to encourage choral excellence in New England. She was a loyal member of the College Club of Boston and the Daughters of the American Revolution. To read her full remembrance, please [click here](#)



### Charles Page

We were saddened to learn that our dear friend Charles Page passed away Monday morning – please keep him, his family, his friends and his loving husband, Malcolm, in your prayers. He was a former member of Worcester AGO, and substituted for many of us through the years. Charles made our world a better place.

A tribute to Charles also appeared in the December 1, 2020 edition of ***The Republican*** newspaper. It was written by Clifton "Jerry" Noble, Jr. who has been the classical music critic for The Republican for more than two decades. As a composer, he has written for clients nationwide, ranging from the Bella Voce Women's Ensemble in Reno, Nev., to the Cantic Singers of Baltimore. This tribute is reprinted with permission on our website. To read the full tribute, please [click here](#)

## Organs of the Boston Area - Welcome University Lutheran Church Cambridge and St. Leonard of Port Maurice Boston

We welcome University Lutheran Church in Cambridge to our "Organs of Boston" webpage. The instrument is a Fritz Noack and Company organ, 1971, Two Manuals and Pedal Mechanical action, registers and couplers. To read about the organ, [click here](#).

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We also welcome St. Leonard of Port Maurice in Boston's North End. The instrument is built by Peragallo Organ Company and was featured in the December issue of ***The Diapason*** magazine. We use the information and photos with permission.

To read about the organ, [click here](#)

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](#)



*Wishing our Members tidings of comfort and joy  
for the season. May 2021 be merry and bright!*



### 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](#).

**Proposed Update to Operating Procedures - Creation of Committee on Child Safety**

As part of our continuing effort to enhance our policy on Child Safety, the Executive Committee is proposing creation of a new committee to track child safety certifications required for those BAGO members participating in programs with children (such as POE, Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza, YOI, etc.) The Operating Procedures require that this addition be open for 30 days for comments from the BAGO Chapter membership. The proposed update is listed below. To comment, [click here](#) and address your comments to the Dean of the Chapter from the drop down box. The comment period will close January 15, 2021.

### **Proposal: Creation of Child Safety Committee**

The purpose of this committee is to ensure that the Chapter conducts child safety screenings as required by AGO Headquarters as well as Massachusetts State law. The chair and members of this committee will also be required to complete all screening requirements for Child Safety as required by AGO HQ and Massachusetts State law. Responsibilities of this committee include: working with the Executive Committee throughout the year to identify individuals who will be involved with interactions with children (e.g., organ lessons, POEs, Pedals, Pipes and Pizza, etc.); ensuring that proper certification requirements such as background checks, training, etc., are conducted before any interaction with children begins; securely keeping records on completion of required training and certification, and other sensitive material; maintaining the confidentiality of all training and certification reports received; properly destroying all sensitive material after the 3 year period required by Massachusetts State law; liaising with AGO HQ's Sexual Harassment Review Board as required; and managing the ongoing improvement of child protection practice through ongoing awareness of policy from AGO HQ and the State of Massachusetts. The chair of this committee and any committee members will be appointed and approved by the Executive Committee.



### **SPAC Grant Approved for Organ Historical Society**

#### **Organ Historical Society Convention**

The OHS is embarking on an ambitious virtual convention this summer. It will be not only for their members, but for all AGO members and anyone around the globe who wants to hear organ music played on some of the country's finest historic instruments.

**Kaleidoscope of Colors** will feature fifteen instruments played by organists who know the instrument well and can demonstrate its tonal variety. Each recital will include a brief history of the organ, a review of its stop list, and an introduction to the repertoire. The event will take place over five consecutive weeks in the July-August 2021 time frame. The recitals will be recorded and available to anyone online for many months following the convention.

The OHS was seeking financial support from the Boston Chapter through SPAC funding. The Boston Chapter Special Project Advisory Committee approved a grant of \$1,200. This was ratified at a recent meeting of the Executive Committee. Co-sponsorship will also come from other AGO chapters and organ builders, as well as OHS members and other sources.

*Martin Steinmetz, SPAC coordinator*

## 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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Click the image to link to AGO HQ website

Boston Chapter, American Guild of Organists | [bostonago@verizon.net](mailto:bostonago@verizon.net)

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