



BOSTON PIPINGS

news and notes for members of Boston Chapter AGO

May 2021 Pippings - The Newsletter of the Boston Chapter AGO

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

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The [2021 Boston Early Music Festival](#) is going VIRTUAL with a weeklong celebration of Early Music events you can view from the comfort of your own home, June 6-13 at BEMF.org. Enjoy 2 gorgeous opera productions alongside 14 exclusive concerts by acclaimed artists and ensembles, including the 10th biennial [ORGAN MINI-FESTIVAL](#). All festival videos will be available for viewing until July 11, 2021.

To learn more or purchase tickets, [click here](#)

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 Christine Hogan, Member at Large.

As I reflect back on my career in music, I realize music came to claim me as a centerpoint of my life, nearly from the beginning.

I grew up in Glen Rock, New Jersey, a suburb of Manhattan, in a family that prioritized music. I began piano at age 6 and violin in 3rd grade. My father played cello growing up and my earliest orchestral experience was playing violin with him in the Glen Rock Pops Orchestra at 8 years old. I loved Thursday nights where I could stay up until 9:15 in order to go to rehearsals, and regularly receive \$1.50

at break to get a soda and snack from the vending machines. Throughout my childhood years I continued as both a concert pianist and violinist and enjoyed playing both instruments in several orchestras and venues including Lincoln Center.



I was encouraged to work hard at my musical training and I soon found that I had an aptitude for being an “accompanist” and was a skilled sight-reader. I have always loved playing piano for other instrumentalists and began playing my sister’s cello teacher’s studio recitals at age 8. My first church professional “gig” was at 13 when I became the organist of the Arcola United Methodist Church in Paramus, New Jersey. The pastor was the father of one of the cello students I played for and asked me to fill the position. I was able to continue playing there until I went to North Carolina School for the Arts to finish high school. While there, I had the opportunity to study piano with Eric Larson. I spent my last three summers of high school at Tanglewood in their piano program studying with Maria Clodes-Jaguaribe and knew at 16 that I wanted to go to Boston University for college to study with her. Another highlight of that time at Tanglewood was performing Appalachian Spring for piano four-hands at the Main Campus.

My freshman year at BU two other opportunities presented themselves when I first became the Music Director at Church of All Nations in Boston, and then Music Director at the Catholic Center of Boston University. During this time. I took a year off from college to earn money to finish my studies and except for Sunday mornings, worked as a waitress at Boston Beer Works. This was an especially auspicious choice because that is where I met and fell in love with my husband, Paul. I finished my last two years of undergrad and we were married 13 days after graduation and had our first child one year later.

As I was finishing my undergrad studies I decided that I needed to become a “real” organist and asked my dear friend, Julian Wachner, if he would teach me. He generously agreed and then asked, “Have you thought about getting an MSM? If you do that your organ lessons would be part of the program.” I had never heard of an MSM before but once he explained it, I immediately walked over to the School of Theology, set up an appointment with Dean of Admissions, Earl Beane, applied, and was on my way. I am a very grateful alum for Boston University provided extraordinary opportunities including the chance to train and work with world-class musicians such as Julian Wachner, Ann Jones, and Max Miller.

My career has been consistently centered on church jobs working in a wide variety of churches. That afforded me the opportunity to continue to expand my skills to include handbells, both directing and performing.



One of my biggest passions, both professionally and in my personal life, is to find ways to support young musicians and artists. Few things have been more gratifying than seeing first-hand what access to music education can provide for young people. I consider it an honor and a responsibility to do all that I can to help instill a love, appreciation and admiration for the organ in the younger generation, both for the performers, as well as the builders and the listeners.

Because of this, I am extremely involved in music education and performances. I served as Chair of the Curtis Friends of Music where I oversaw the fundraising for a grand piano for the auditorium, was Music Director and Pianist for the ECMS Theatre Troupe for 12 years, am pianist for the choral program at Curtis Middle School and occasionally play for Lincoln Sudbury choral, theatre and orchestral programs. I also served 6 years on the Sudbury School Committee where I actively advocated for the importance of music education. I have also coached and managed my children’s soccer and baseball teams over the years, am a US Swimming Official, and enjoy baking and gardening and walks and playtime with Josie, our 9-month old puppy. What I treasure most, however, is spending time with my family, which includes Paul and our five amazing children, who range in age from 11-23.

During the past 14 months it has become even more apparent how important music is in

all our lives, and the positive impact music has on others. Like so many of you, I have worked hard throughout this past year to keep music consistent and accessible in my current job, and it has created many opportunities for outreach and connectedness during some of the more isolating periods of COVID, and opportunities for some who have not been able to participate in our programs before to do so now. Ultimately, I am enormously grateful for my career in music.

Christine Hogan
Member at Large

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New Music from Robert Thompson

Nine Pieces for Organ

These are useful short works transcribed from the instrumental repertoire:

- Claude Debussy, *Hommage à Haydn* for piano.
- Sir Edward Elgar, *Salut D'Amour*, violin and piano.
- Gabriel Fauré, *Sicilienne*, for 'cello and piano.
- Percy Aldridge Grainger, *Irish Tune from County Derry*, woodwinds. Later known as "Danny Boy."
- Edvard Grieg, *Jesus, meine Zuversicht*, organ prelude on a German chorale.
- Nicoló Paganini, Sonata for Violin and Guitar.
- Camille Saint-Saëns, *Prière*, for 'cello and organ.
- Erik Satie, *Chant Eclésiastique*, from *Mess des Pauvres* for organ.
- Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, *Mélodie* from *Souvenir d'un lieu cher* for violin and piano.

Walking Tune

A cheerful tune arranged from a woodwind quintet by Percy Grainger. A colorful, fun piece for concert with all of Grainger's original markings that encourage a flexible interpretation.

Were You There?

A moving work that begins simply, grows in harmonic richness and ends majestically, an expression of the Resurrection of our Lord. An effective piece for Holy Week.

Nine pieces To listen click [click here](#). To view and purchase [click here](#).

Walking tune to view and purchase [click here](#). Were you there? to view and purchase [click here](#)



Annual Meeting via ZOOM. Registration is required!

The Chapter's Annual Meeting will be held this year on **Monday, June 7, 2021 beginning at 6:30PM via ZOOM.**

Registration is required for this meeting. To register [click here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting

Last year we had a very engaging annual meeting using this virtual platform. We hope Members will join us again for this year in review.

Bring a beverage and join us.

Women in Music Festival (WIMFest) 2021

Saturday, June 12, 2021 (Rain Date Sunday June 13th)

1:30 PM to 3:00PM

St. Anne's in-the-Fields Episcopal Church



WIMFest is happening! This time instead of hearing performances, you'll provide the singing—from your car—as we read through Volume 1 of the Anthology series, "Multitude of Voyces". The event is at St. Anne's in-the-Fields Episcopal Church on Saturday, June 12th from 1:30 - 3 pm (Sunday, June 13th is the rain date).

We have ordered copies of "Multitude of Voyces", Volume 1 for SATB choir for the first 25 BAGO Chapter Members for our *driveway choir*...Yes, a driveway choir; the one you read about in the Boston Globe with BAGO member Jay Lane. (Read the Boston Globe article [here](#)). Receive a wireless microphone and Volume 1 of Multitude of Voyces, and then sing with your radio.

The Anthology series, Multitude of Voyces presents 63 women composers spanning 800 years of music, across three printed volumes, with many historical works published for the first time, and several works composed specially for our volumes by both emerging and established composers.

Come to St. Anne's in Lincoln (147 Concord Road) and sing, sing, sing!

If you would like to preview the contents of the Anthology, please [click here](#)

Jay Lane
Louise Mundinger

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Our 75th Annual Summer Recital Series! Live-streamed

Wednesdays 7:30 pm

May 19 – August 25

www.youtube.com/c/methuenmemorialmusichall

Michael Hey

Bridgette [Wargovich](#)

Scott [Lamlein](#)

Adam [Pajan](#)

Jeremy Bruns

Cathy Meyer

Christopher Houlihan

Rhonda Sider Edgington

Stephan Griffin

Mark [Pacoe](#)

Stefan Donner

Nicole Keller

Caroline Robinson

Rosalind [Mohnsen](#)

Jennifer McPherson

www.mmmh.org

 METHUENMEMORIALMUSICHALL

The Great Organ at MMMH is America's first concert organ. You can read more about the [organ here](#). To read more about the MMMH click [here](#).

These concerts will be available on demand at MMMH's Youtube Channel [here](#). MMMH also has all of last year's performances (organ, cello, piano, piano and violin, organ and trumpet) on this Channel.

Additional concerts and videos will be presented in 2021. Watch for details on the Calendar on our Chapter's website.

Virtual Orgelbüchlein Recital Update

A hearty *Thank You* to the many BAGO members who participated in our spring Orgelbüchlein project. Production of this virtual recital is underway, and will debut later in the month. Look for an email with all the details of the premiere, which will be live streamed on Facebook and simultaneously made available on the chapter YouTube channel.



Michell Crawford



SPAC Grant Made to Conference

The Special Projects Advisory Committee (SPAC) of the Boston Chapter has made a grant of \$2,000 to the conference described below. Kola Owolabi, Professor of Organ at the Sacred Music Department of Notre Dame is the leader of this conference. This grant was approved by the Boston Chapter's Executive Committee on April 19.

“Diversity and Belonging: Unsung Keyboard Stories,” is scheduled to take place in Ann Arbor and Detroit, Michigan from January 26-30, 2022. This conference is cosponsored by the University of Michigan and the Westfield Center for Historical Keyboard Studies/Cornell Center for Historical Keyboards, in collaboration with Sphinx-Connect. Conference planning committee members include the University of Michigan organ, piano, carillon, and harpsichord faculty and students, organ faculty at University of Notre Dame, and Westfield board members. Conference concerts will be free to the general public. The conference is available to registered attendees (free to students), and some events livestreamed and video-recorded. With lasting impact, this conference will model best practice strategies for organists to promote the pipe organ by addressing the underrepresentation of people of color and women in the keyboard world. Presenters will tell the unsung stories of keyboardists and composers of color—notable musicians who have been left out of most music history books and performance venues.

Martin Steinmetz
SPAC Administrator

ALERT - Gift Card Scam

Members are being contacted with the following Scam. Please don't respond to this in any manner. AGOHQ has been made aware of this, as other Chapters may be affected.

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AGOHQ has this warning on their website:

DON'T FALL FOR SCAMS

Scammers are everywhere and chapter officers need to be vigilant. Don't respond to requests to send funds unless you know for sure that the request is valid.

Below is an example of the scam email.

From: Chapter Officer Name <samdragon@centurytel.net> <- This is not the person's real email address
To: Chapter member name
Date: Thu, 13 May 2021 07:09:10 -0400 (EDT)
Subject: Boston Chapter American Guild of Organists
Message-ID: <788986522.15465749.1620904150975.JavaMailzimbra@centurytel.net><-



Another indication of a potential fake email

Also, note the the text below is not how English speakers normally write. Unusual phraseology highlighted

Hi, Are you available to assist? I am out of the state, and I've got **credence in you** to take care of this. I would have called your phone, but presently I do not have access to my mobile phone. Boston Chapter American Guild of Organists **need** some gift cards for donations to Veterans at Hospice and Palliative care units for personal protective equipment from Corona Virus (COVID-19). **I have decided to make it a personal duty** . I will be responsible for the reimbursement.

Regards,
Chapter Officer Name



Welcome New Members

We are pleased to welcome two new members to our Chapter:

Bill Thompson just relocated from Georgia to Massachusetts. He is a lifetime organist and choirmaster/organist most recently at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Winder, GA. He accepted his first church position at age 16 and has been playing ever since. He had an exceptional beginning teacher, especially in a small town in Texas. Bill pursued organ studies at Southern Methodist Univ. but decided not to proceed to

advanced degrees or a full-time career. He loves teaching beginning organ students, though they have been few and far between. One of his students received a scholarship in organ to Indiana University. Bill looks forward to becoming involved as much as possible in the life of BAGO.

Randall Steere has joined our Chapter as a Dual Member from the Merrimack Valley Chapter. Randy used to live in Boston and was the Assistant Organist at Old South Church under Greg Peterson for quite a few years. Although he now lives north of Boston, has retired, and wants to keep up with what's going on in Boston. He's using his new found time in retirement to learn new repertoire and enjoys practicing again.

Rex Ryan has joined our Chapter as a Dual Member from the Greater Kansas City Chapter.

Please extend a warm welcome to Bill, Randy, and Rex



Thank you Stephan

Stephan Griffin has resigned his position as Member-at-Large on the Executive Committee. Stephan gave his time and commitment to the Chapter and we thank him on behalf of the Boston Chapter.

Stephan, we look forward to seeing you at future events.

Operating Procedures Update

Some members of the Executive Committee have been working diligently over the past months on three new sections for the Chapter's operating procedures document: Invested Funds, the Organ Library, and the Special Projects Advisory Committee (SPAC). We have been advised by several people, including officers from National, to develop this material. The effort has



also included finding information on the history of these significant Chapter assets, and the plan is to post histories on the web site for reference by Chapter members and those who will serve in leadership positions in the future.

Our Finance Committee has drafted policies and procedures for oversight and management of our invested funds with Morgan Stanley. Chapter members on this committee are Daryl Bichel, Alain Bojarski, Claire DeCusati, Fr David Michael, Louise Munding, and Deans Jeremy Bruns and Mitchell Crawford. Most of the invested funds were garnered from national convention proceeds when Boston hosted. These funds support the Organ Library and SPAC, and can be tapped for the Chapter's operating budget if needed.

In accord with Chapter operating procedures, the Organ Library and SPAC are operated by committees appointed by the Chapter. The Organ Library is a special treasure indeed; no other Chapter in the Guild boasts such a resource. It was established in 1983 and has been well managed since then by a faithful Library Committee comprised of Chapter members with extensive leadership experience and a great sense of ommitment. Chapter member Carl Klein is currently the Librarian, and deserves recognition for what has been achieved.

The specific purpose of the Special Projects Advisory Committee ("SPAC") is to solicit, review and make funding recommendations to the Chapter's Executive Committee on grants to worthwhile individuals and organizations for special projects which further the cause of the organ and its music. It too is a valued program of the Chapter.

We will keep the membership posted regarding completion of these projects, and provide regular articles about Organ Library and SPAC activities in Pipings

Child Safety Committee looking for one more team member

Robert Barney has volunteered to join the leadership of this essential committee. We thank him for his willingness to serve the Chapter again in this important role. Robert is a past-Dean, and current member of the SPAC Committee.

We are looking for one more member to join this team with Robert.

Committee candidates must be willing to undergo Massachusetts CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) and SORI (Sex Offender Registry Information) Screening (at Chapter expense), sign a confidentiality agreement, and be approved by the Executive Committee.

If you are interested in serving our Chapter in this manner, please contact [Louise Munding](#)

Announcing the Year of the Young Organist

Calling all current, former, and future members of BAGO under the age of 30!



During the **Year of the Young Organist**, July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022, any individual under the age of 30 can become a member or renew her/his membership for free as part of this program.

Events and new initiatives will be held throughout the year. [Click here](#) for more information or contact [Mitchell Crawford](#)

The Password to the Members Area of the website will change in September 2021

We will be changing the password to the Members Area of our Chapter Website **in September**. This will ensure that Chapter Members will receive benefits reserved for them - just as the ability to list yourself as an instructor; access to job placement listings: access to the Membership Directory; etc.



Before the change happens, each member will receive an email containing the new password. **We will reset the password for you**. And if you forget the new password, there will be a way to ask the Website Coordinator to provide it to you as a Member.



AGO Membership - Membership Aid still available

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, or know someone who does, contact Lynn Vermeer so that she

may send the name to AGO HQ. Your request will be held in confidence.

Have you moved lately? Has your address, phone, or email changed? If so you are probably busy with many tasks, and keeping your information current with AGO Headquarters may be lower on your to-do list.

Let us help! You can update ONCARD directly using your login id and password (the account number found on your TAO label). Or you can contact me using contact section of our website. [Click here](#) and address your comments to the Membership Secretary from the drop down box.

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

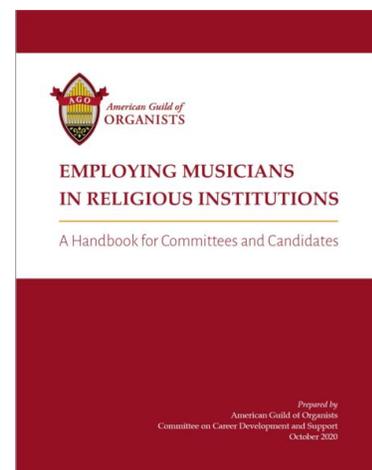
Most importantly, during this particularly challenging time, continuing to be part of our chapter offers you the opportunity to stay connected with a community who is here to engage, uplift and support you.

Lynn Vermeer
Registrar

New Guide Available from AGO HQ

The new guide, ***EMPLOYING MUSICIANS IN RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS: A Handbook for Committees and Candidates***, is available for download from AGO HQ [here](#).

Vincent Carr, Councillor for Education, moderated a panel discussion regarding Know Your Value: Introducing the AGO's New Employment Guide for Musicians on February 1st. If you would like to hear the recording of this webinar, [click here](#).



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

See what's happening on our Facebook Page:

