



BOSTON PIPINGS

news and notes for members of Boston Chapter AGO

August 2021 Pippings - The Newsletter of the Boston Chapter AGO

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

*Sponsored Content

Get Back in (Singing) Shape: A Post-Pandemic Workshop for Choral Singers with Bonnie Pomfret, soprano and master teacher

Even if your choir had virtual rehearsals, sitting in front of a screen and singing to it are nothing like singing in an acoustical space with other singers! As we begin at last to make music together, it's time to get our voices back in shape with a technical tune up. In this interactive workshop, Bonnie will help your choral singers:

- reconnect to their breathing
- enhance their resonance
- reclaim their support
- energize their singing

Your singers will feel (and you will hear) the difference!
One-hour workshop by appointment: \$200 in-person or virtual.

Bonnie Pomfret, soprano, has sung around the U.S. and internationally; her solo CD of songs by American women was received to critical acclaim. She holds the DM in Voice from Indiana University and the MM in Voice from Boston Conservatory. Bonnie is a Certified McClosky Vocal Technician and Master Teacher and served as a Singing Voice Specialist at Peoria ENT Group and Emory Voice Center (Atlanta). Bonnie has served on the voice faculties of Boston University, Emory University, and Illinois State University, and has presented at the international Congress of Voice Teachers, the Korean Association of Voice Professionals in the Arts, the Voice Foundation, the American Speech and Hearing Association, and at numerous regional conferences.

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Dean's Message

Greetings!

I was probably eight years old when my parents first took me to a Six Flags amusement park in my native Texas. My mother loved roller coasters, and managed to convince me to ride the Runaway Mine Train with her—hardly a roller coaster by modern standards, but scary to a youngster nonetheless. Though only a bit over 3 minutes, the ride felt endless! The initial slow tug up what seemed to be an



enormous climb produced much anxiety, and then the ride 'proper' began. Many screams and heart palpitations later, we were finally thrust up to what I thought was the loading/unloading building; I had survived. Another slow tug up to the building ensued, as I pronounced how glad I was that the ride was finally over. Just as I started to breathe normally again, I realized the building we were pulling into wasn't the loading/unloading building, but rather a pretend Saloon with plastic people and decorations. Suddenly, there was no floor in front of us, and our train was heading straight down toward a lake! We went through an underwater tunnel at what seemed like lightning speed, and then did indeed reach the final destination.

"I expected the worst, and it was worse than I expected." ~ attributed to Henry Adams

Eleven months ago, I wrote to you in what turned out to be the still-early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic. I spoke about the train we were riding on together, in the back car, unable to see forward. It seems that at some point during the past eleven months, we made our way to the front of the train, and 'thought' that we could at last see where we were headed. However, as we approached what seemed to be a stopping point, we instead found ourselves in the make-believe Saloon. The ride continues, and it feels as if the floor has dropped beneath us yet again, as we plunge into a dark tunnel. Where will we be when we emerge this time?

"Courage is not the absence of fear; it is a commitment to something greater than fear." ~ Robert Holden

I didn't take part in any more rides that day at Six Flags. However, the adventure did obviously plant a few seeds, as I later became an avid coaster fan. Though I haven't been to an amusement park in over 20 years, I can still recall the exhilarating dopamine rush the rides produced. How easy it would be at this juncture to just throw in the towel, overcome with frustration and uncertainty. I hope, however, that we will continue to persevere through this evolving challenge, and that we will continue to do so together. Even in these troubling times, we do indeed have much to be excited about. For starters, our national organization has named this the Year of the Young Organist (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022). Though 'young' is a relative term, in this case it refers to those under the age of 30! It might seem difficult to encourage anyone, young or old, to go into this line of study and work right now; but, just think about 'why' you yourself chose this path in the first instance (or perhaps, like me, the path chose you). Can you still imagine that exhilarating dopamine rush of performing or teaching, even if unable to do it properly right now? Or, as you've adapted to new and more 'virtual' methods, have you discovered new sources of excitement and inspiration? If you have stories to share, or advice to offer, please write to me and fill me in! It might be that we ask you for permission to share your musings with the BAGO community in a future edition of Pipings.

Cory Muscara, former monk and author of *Stop Missing Your Life*, says this: "The most difficult moments of life can bring the greatest growth, perspective, and insight. They can also drop us into vulnerability, making us more receptive to things like love, connection, honesty, and authenticity. We're more likely to connect to the people we care about and reprioritize what is most important in life." Colleagues, I hope that you're holding on to what you find most important, and that you will stay in touch and connected during the upcoming "2nd Season" of Covid-tide. Whatever the path forward turns out to be, and however long this journey takes, I am glad to be in good company for all of the challenges and thrills along the way.

Jeremy Bruns
Dean



MARK STEINBACH

First Lutheran Church of Boston
Sunday, October 10
3:00 PM

ADMISSION \$10/\$5

WORKS BY

Johann Sebastian Bach
Philip Glass
Anton Heiller
Olivier Messiaen

Edith Ho, Rest in Peace

Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Edith Ho Choirmaster Emerita of the Church of the Advent, who entered into larger life on July 30, 2021

Her Requiem is scheduled for Saturday, September 11th at 11am at Church of the Advent, 30 Brimmer Street, Boston MA

For a remembrance of Edith by Chapter Members Mark Dwyer, Ross Wood, and Katelyn Emerson, please [click here](#).



It is our solemn duty to inform you of the

REQUIEM MASS

to be sung for the repose of the soul of

EDITH HO
(1932-2021)

Organist & Choirmaster Emerita

September 11, 2021 at 11:00 am

Donations in memory of Dr Ho may be made to the Special Music Fund.



The Church of the Advent
30 Brimmer Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Save the Dates! BAGO Events for the 2021 - 2022 Program Year

Even amidst uncertainty around the nature of the

coronavirus pandemic, BAGO is delighted to offer a number of exciting events to its members and the broader Boston community during the program year ahead. We ask for your patience, as some details and formats could change in response to altered contexts. In this Year of the Young Organist, we look forward to providing opportunities for youth and young adults to engage with the many talented artists featured in this year's programs. Watch *Pipings* for more information and updates!



Friday, September 24 (tentative) — Opening Service with Installation of Officers
Given our ever-changing pandemic landscape, we'll determine in September whether to hold this event in person or via Zoom. Save the date and look for updates from BAGO.

Monday, October 18, 7PM — Recital by David Enlow at The Church of the Advent
A light reception will follow. Please plan to join us in person for this long-awaited concert by Mr. Enlow.

November (date TBD) — Repertoire Swap
Join fellow BAGO members for a repertoire swap! Players will be invited to sign up in advance to share a favorite "prelude" or "postlude" with those gathered.

Friday, December 31 — First Night at Old South Church
With the Mother Church Extension closed for renovations, BAGO members and friends are invited to attend this year's First Night events at Old South Church:
3PM – "The King of Instruments," a family-friendly demonstration-concert featuring the "Copley Philharmonic Organ"
6:30 and 8PM: Pipes and Pops, featuring music for Brass and Organ

Early January (date TBD) — Holiday Potluck
*BAGO Past-Dean Louise Munding has invited us to her home for a potluck holiday party. Watch for details in *Pipings*.*

Saturday, February 12 — Masterclass with Dr. David Hurd
Few living have contributed more to American sacred and organ music than Dr. David Hurd, formerly of General Theological Seminary and now organist of The Church of Saint Mary the Virgin in Times Square, New York City. His Masterclass for BAGO will be one not to miss!

March — Bach Birthday Bash at First Lutheran Church of Boston
BAGO is thrilled to continue its co-sponsorship of First Lutheran's annual Bach Birthday Bash.

Saturday, April 30 — A Boston Walking Tour
Beginning at 9:30 a.m., we'll survey and hear demonstrations of three lesser-known local treasures:

- Saint Mary's Charlestown (1894 Cole & Woodberry, restored by Andover)
- Saint Joseph's "West End" (1883 Hook & Hastings)
- Park Street Church (1960 Aeolian-Skinner, revised Spencer Organ Co. 2012-present)

Saturday, May 21 — Scott Dettra Plays Franck at Methuen
BAGO celebrates César Franck's bicentennial with a full day of programming

- the complete organ works of Franck, in two recitals by Scott Dettra
- lecture by Dr. Christopher Anderson of Southern Methodist University, on the reception of Franck's organ music in 19th and 20th-century German organ circles.

All events will take place in the sumptuous Methuen Memorial Music Hall, which this year celebrates its 75th year as a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the hall and the promotion of the Great Organ.

Mitchell Crawford
Program Chair

Jonathan Wessler joins Executive Committee

Jonathan Wessler, Kantor at First Lutheran Church of Boston, has been appointed to serve on the Chapter Executive Committee. He will also serve the Chapter as Advertising Manager for our newsletter "Pipings".



Jonathan Wessler has served since 2016 as the Kantor at First Lutheran Church of Boston, where he oversees a thriving music program specializing in the finest liturgical music of the Lutheran tradition. Under his direction, the FLC choir and orchestra present music of Bach, Praetorius, Schütz, Handl, Hassler, Senfl, and others, as well as liturgical chant as retained in the Lutheran missals. He is honored to play the church's fine Baroque pipe organ, built in 2000 by Richards, Fowkes & Co. Known as "Boston's Bach Organ," it renders the music of Bach and his contemporaries with the utmost authority. Wessler also serves as the artistic director of the annual Boston Bach Birthday, which draws hundreds in celebration of Bach's contributions to sacred music.

Wessler received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in organ performance from the Eastman School of Music, studying with William Porter. His primary research interest was in early Lutheran liturgy, and his doctoral essay concerned the reception of Martin Luther's Latin and German settings of the Mass by the second generation of Lutherans, as evidenced in Johann Spangenberg's *Cantiones ecclesiasticae/Kirchengesenge Deudsch* (1545). He previously earned the Bachelor of Music degree in organ performance from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, studying with David Boe, and the Master of Sacred Music degree from the University of Notre Dame, studying with Craig Cramer. He additionally mentored under Sherry Seckler and Christiaan Teeuwesen. He holds the Colleague certificate from the American Guild of Organists and was a finalist in the 2007 Arthur Poister Organ Competition.

Wessler previously worked as the Assistant Organist at the Church of St. Paul in Harvard Square and St. Paul's Choir School, where he accompanied the Choir of St. Paul's, the premier Catholic choir of boys and men in America. He also trained the Probationers, directed the St. Paul Parish Choir and the Schola Cantorum, and taught music theory in the Choir School. He maintains an active career as a recitalist and continuo player.

Wessler lives in suburban Boston with his wife, Joy, and their children, Julia, Matthew, and Benjamin.



Welcome New Members

We are pleased to welcome new members to our Chapter:

Paul Dinan has joined our Chapter as a Dual member.

Christopher Maynard has joined us from the New Hampshire Chapter. He is organist at St. Patrick's in Milford.

Pablo Gorin has changed his membership from Independent to a Boston Chapter Member.

And we also welcome seven new members for the "Year of the Young Organist":

Nathan Barcelon
Emily Castner
Davis Evans
Gabriel Harrison

Rachel Inman
Gabriel Johnston
Tyler-Minseok Kim
Drew Orland

We ask all of our new members to introduce themselves, if they so wish. **Pablo Gorin** writes:

"Greetings. My name is Pablo Gorin, I am originally from Argentina, and I am excited to join the Boston Chapter of the AGO.

As Associate Director of Music and Organist at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Albany, a position that I held for two years, I developed a curriculum to teach organ for people of all walks of life. I have also taught piano, organ, and *basso continuo* courses at the college for several years (Miami Dade College, University of Iowa).

I hold a Doctor of Music degree in organ performance and pedagogy from the University of Iowa (August 2018), and I have other graduate degrees in organ and piano performance. As a solo pianist and organist I performed concerts in South America, Europe, and across the United States."

Please extend a warm welcome to these new members when we meet, either in-person or via ZOOM.

The Year of the Young Organist

The AGO National Council is committed to membership recruitment, retention, and growth within our organization. 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.



As part of the Year of the Young Organist, the AGO is now accepting applications from host chapters that wish to partner with religious institutions to offer a one-year, gap-year (between college and graduate school) organ scholar internship. [Click here](#) for more information.

With Appreciation



The Boston Chapter would like to acknowledge and thank the following Chapter members who generously contributed additional monies to fund chapter programs and operations. These donations are above and beyond dues payment, and are directed toward General Operations (O), Educational Programs (E), the Organ Library (L), and the Young Organist Initiative (YOI). This year, these funds have helped us to fund a ZOOM account, a YouTube account, production of virtual recitals, lessons for YOI students, and the continued operations of the Organ Library.

We are deeply grateful to the following people for donations made in June and July:

Raffi Berberian (L)
Daryl Bichel (O,L,E)
Joel Davidson (O,E)
Donald Hodgkins (E)
Thomas Hosington (L,E)
Linda Ingram (O)
Jeffrey Mills (O,L,E)

Louise Mundinger (O)
Donald Paine (E)
Mary Jane Rupert (O,E)
Denise Ann Shea (O)
Timothy Shotmeyer (O)
Victoria Wagner (O,E)



Thank you Lynn Vermeer

Lynn has served as our elected Registrar and a Member of our Executive Committee for many years. She has had to step down from the position.

Thank you Lynn, for your many years of service to the Chapter and the AGO.



Chapter Substitute List Updated

The Substitute List has been updated in July. This is the list from which institutions contact Chapter Members when substitute musicians are needed.

The list is available [here](#). If your data needs updating, please do so by completing [this form](#)

Our Chapter's Standing Committees

Did you know that our chapter currently has 19 Committees at work for our Chapter? A "Committee" may be 1 or more persons. Some Committee chairs are open now. Would you considering serving?

To read more out our Chapter's Committees, [click here](#)



The Boston Organ Library Celebrates 36 Years

This year, our beloved Boston Organ Library will celebrate 36 years of service to the Chapter and the larger music community. Barbara Owen our Librarian Emerita, wrote of the festival opening in "The American Organist" magazine.

To read about the Opening of the Library on November 24, 1985, [click here](#).

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.





Job Placement News

In the "Members Area" of the BAGO Chapter website, we maintain a list of current job openings from churches and institutions that have chosen to list with us. These job openings are for Chapter Members only. If we have no current openings, that will be noted on the website.

Please check frequently if you are seeking employment, as new listings can come in at any time. Listings are posted for 6 months, or until the position is filled.

AGO Webinars

AGO Headquarter has a variety of webinars available for replay in these topic areas:

- Webinars for Professional Development
- Webinars for Continuing Professional Education
- Webinars Promoting New Technology



To view these webinars, [click here](#).

More webinars will be announced soon for the Fall.

Child Safety Committee Created

Last Program Year, The Executive Committee has approved the creation of a Committee on Child Safety. **Robert Barney**, Chapter Dean 2016-2018 has agreed to serve on the committee.

The Chapter is looking for 1 additional person to serve with Robert . The candidate 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](#)

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