



BOSTON PIPINGS

news and notes for members of Boston Chapter AGO

September 2021 Pipings - The Newsletter of the Boston Chapter AGO

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

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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

Dean's Message

Greetings!

“Music is the silence between the notes.” — attr. Claude Debussy

Just over 20 years ago, on Tuesday morning 11 September 2001, I was at home preparing for the first rehearsal of the season which would take place later that evening. Once the first plane hit the World Trade Center, my attention turned to the news; though the TV remained on for a good part of the day, what I recall is silence— my own silence. What was there to say or do, other than sitting still and observing the events unfolding in front of me, first in real time, and then in countless re-plays. Fast-forward 20 years, and things feel strangely similar; many of the events we are faced with in person or on the news are completely out of the norm. Is my reaction merely silence, or full-fledged disbelief?



We've begun the Year of the Young Organist at a very strange time indeed. It could easily be argued that now isn't the time to be encouraging young people to study the organ or embark on a career with the King of Instruments. However, if the past 20 years have lessons to offer, perhaps one is simply that times will always be uncertain. Our institution does need to continue working with the soil no matter the current weather conditions, if we

hope to produce a harvest down the line. Knowing full well that I no longer qualify as a young organist (!) I sought inspiration from one of our more recent Young Organist Initiative graduates, Miss Savannah Curro; she has kindly written to us for this September Pipings, and gives evidence that our soil has indeed been well tended. Perhaps “gift” yourself a moment of silence, and then read what she has to share as we officially begin our 2021-22 season.

*Jeremy Bruns
Dean*

Dear Valued Boston AGO Colleague,

During the pandemic, many of us have had to endure times of extended silence: the silence of our missing choirs, the silence of our idle car engines, and the silence of our congregations filing into a Zoom meeting room rather than a church sanctuary seconds before the prelude. In quietness, I have come to more greatly appreciate the space of warmth and healing that music occupies in my daily life.

When I was 15 years old, I had my very first organ lesson. My life had not been musically silent before that point; I had sung in choirs, played the glockenspiel in my school’s concert band, and took piano lessons on the spinet in my dining room. However, my life had lacked a pattern of musical richness, where music became both a passion and a vocation. The more I played the organ, the more the moments of silence during my day, due to their increasing scarcity, became both ever more sacred.

When I was selected as a Young Organist Initiative Scholar during the fall of 2016, the generous scholarship the selection granted me towards paying for sheet music and organ lessons, permitted me to explore my passion for the organ and potential to pursue church music as a vocation without the anxiety of finding the funds to pay for lessons. The YOI program, by connecting me with a supportive teacher, Ms. Cathy Meyer, and giving me the opportunity to perform at King’s Chapel, empowered me to strive to be the best organist I could be. My positive experience in the program called me to become an organ performance major at Mercer University, where I am currently a junior studying under Dr. Jack Mitchener. At Mercer, I am also pursuing a BA in History and am an active member of several musical and non-musical student organizations, including the university’s touring choir, the Mercer Singers, and the Episcopal-Lutheran campus ministry, for which I serve as student president. Currently, I am the Director of Music and Organist at St. Andrew’s-by-the-Sea Episcopal Summer Chapel in Rye Beach, NH as well as the co-organist at Forsyth Presbyterian Church in Forsyth, GA.

During this Year of the Young Organist, as we continue to grapple with the impact of the pandemic on our church music ministry programs and our ability to perform as organists, I want to remind you of how organ lessons can continue to transform a young person’s life as well as to encourage you to not view all silence as a stumbling block, but rather an opportunity to more greatly appreciate the great gift of music that we have.



*Soli Deo Gloria,
Savannah Curro
YOI Class of 2016*



Date Set for Password Change!

The Password to the Members Area of the website will change on October 1, 2021

We will be changing the password to the Members Area of our Chapter Website **October 1, 2021**. 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.

In late September each current Chapter 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.

Be aware that during the change (Sept 30 - Oct 1), some pages in the Members' Area may be temporarily unavailable.

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Fall Special Events In Person and Live-Streamed Concerts

www.youtube.com/c/methuenmemorialmusic hall

Adults \$12 Children \$5 Cash or Credit at door
<http://mmmh.brownpapertickets.com> in advance

October 1: Fall Scholarship Concert – **Frederick Hohman**
(in Memory of Edward J. Sampson, Jr.)

October 4: Piano at Methuen – classical pianist **Renana Gutman**

October 15: Piano at Methuen – jazz pianist **John Chmaj**

World Premier of “Aurora” based on the Hall’s marble sculpture

November 10: Memorial Concert – **Fred MacArthur**, piano and organ
Neil Ferreira, tenor and **Richard Watson**, trumpet

 METHUENMEMORIALMUSIC HALL 192 Broadway (Rt. 28) Methuen www.mmmh.org



OHS Kaleidoscope of Colors

Kaleidoscope of Colors; A Festival of Pipes presented by the Organ Historical Society has been broadcast on the five Sundays in August. They lined up 15 pipe organs across the country in 14 different states

covering three centuries of organ building. Our Chapter’s SPAC Fund helped to sponsor this convention.

All five shows into a “playlist” which can be found here:

<https://organhistoricalsociety.org/kaleidoscope-of-colors/>

Please “**read the instructions**” in order to access the videos. Alternately, they can be found on the OHS YouTube channel. These recordings are available free of charge until Thanksgiving.

Robert M. Thompson
Favorite Hymn Settings

for the Church Year
for Organ



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(LE600343)

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(LE600365)

Volume 3, Christmas, Part 2
(LE600366)

Order your copies today!

Call 800-765-3196 or visit online at www.theleupoldfoundation.org.
See Robert's website organmixtures.com for some amazing information.

SPAC

Special Project Advisory Committee

SPAC Application Dates Set

The Special Projects Advisory Committee has set the application deadlines for the coming program year. Applications must be submitted by **October 15, 2021** or **March 15, 2022**. The Committee considers projects for potential funding in the areas of education, concerts, new music, and organ building or restoration.

For more information or to apply, [click here](#)



Thank you, Lee Ridgway!

Lee Ridgway has completed his five year term on the Special Programs Advisory Committee. We thank Lee for his service in reviewing grant applications for the SPAC fund.

A new member of SPAC will be appointed in October for a 5 year term.

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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.

bonniepomfret.com

bonniepomfret@verizon.net

(781) 850-5616



Welcome Jeffrey Mills to the Executive Committee as Registrar

We welcome Jeffrey Mills to our Executive Committee in the role of Registrar. Jeffrey has exercised leadership in music ministries at Saint Peter's Church in Cambridge, the Parish of Saint John the Evangelist on Bowdoin Street, Boston, All Saints Ashmont, and at Grace Church, Newton. In addition, is also a trainer and mentor of Eucharistic Visitors for the Diocese of Massachusetts, and a Mentor in the Education for Ministry (EfM) program.

Jeffrey studied at Indiana University at Bloomington, where he received the B.Mus. in Organ and Church Music. He is also a bivocational music director, serving simultaneously in public service as Assistant Executive Director of the Board of Registration in Dentistry for the Executive Office of Health and Human Services in Massachusetts. He solves crossword puzzles with a pen and enjoys bicycling as well. Welcome Jeffrey!

Election year 2022

Per our Operating Procedures, the Chapter will vote in 2022 for a new Executive Committee (EC) and 3 new Members-at-Large. The New EC members serve for 2 years, and the Members-at-Large serve 4 years.

Will you consider serving our Chapter in an Elected Office? The Offices and duties are listed in our Operating Procedures ([click here](#)) starting on page 5.

A Nominating Committee will be put in place in October to reach out to Chapter Members and ask for consideration in standing for election.

If you are interesting in leading our Chapter, please contact our Dean, [Jeremy Bruns](#).



2021-2022 Executive Committee Meeting Dates

The dates for the Executive Committee Meetings have been set. The meetings will be at 2:30 on Mondays via ZOOM (unless otherwise specified) on:

- October 4
- Nov 15 (SPAC review)
- Jan 31
- April 25 (SPAC review)

All Chapter Members are welcome to attend. If you are interested in attending, please contact Dean [Jeremey Bruns](#)



Moving On

Chapter Member **Kevin Neel** has been appointed director of music and organist at All Saints Episcopal Church, Worcester, where he will direct the All Saints Choir (choristers and adults), manage the music series, oversee music education programs, play the Rice Memorial Organ (Aeolian Skinner Opus 909, 4 manuals) and collaborate with Worcester area music and arts organizations.

Congratulations Kevin!

Have you taken a new position? Let us know! To submit your information, [click here](#)

Concert/Event Calendar

Have you listed your concerts and events on our calendar? Did you know that the calendar is regionally based, and has reach beyond the Boston area? Did you know you can **print** a copy of the calendar for yourself?



To add an event to our calendar, or to print current listings, please [click here](#)



Dates have been updated!

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!

Tuesday, September 28, 7:30PM — Opening Service with Installation of Officers

Join us at St. Cecilia Parish (18 Belvidere St.) for our opening service for the 2021-2022 program year. We'll install new officers, and music of BAGO composers Carson Cooman, Louise Munding, Patricia Van Ness, and Richard Webster will be featured. For those attending, BAGO asks that all be vaccinated, mask, and socially distance when in the space.

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, 3PM; 6:30 and 8PM — 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

Sunday, January 9, 5PM — 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, 10AM — 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. The German Lunch is back! Activities include:

- *Jonathan Wessler playing all of the Orgel-Büchlein*
- *A set "Bach In the 19th Century" featuring two authentic late-19th-century pianos and Rheinberger's arrangement of the Goldberg Variations for 2 pianos, 4 hands*
- *Vespers with the cantata Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit (Actus tragicus), BWV 106.*

Saturday, April 30, beginning at 9:30AM — 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, beginning at 10AM — 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.*
-

This event 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*



Welcome New Members

We are pleased to welcome **Daniel Ward** as a new Young Organist new member to our Chapter:

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 August:

John Erlich (O) James Kennerly (E)

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](#)



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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