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January 2022

The Newsletter of the Boston Chapter American Guild of Organists



A Message from the Dean

Greetings!

I am very pleased to share with you that on January 1, 2022 the Rev. Brett Johnson accepted the appointment of Chaplain for the Boston AGO Chapter. This is a voluntary, non-elected post for a two-year term. Though having a Chaplain isn't required, many of us have certainly felt the absence of one during these unique and trying times. Rev. Johnson's background is quite extraordinary, and he will no doubt share bits and pieces of that with us in his writings and in-person interactions over the coming years. He is also an accomplished musician— our members interested in having more clergy/musician related discussions and events will no doubt welcome his addition to our group! You will likely hear from him next month in Pings; until then, let me simply share with you a bit of his biography.

Baritone Brett Johnson has been firmly established in the musical world of Boston for over thirty years. He has appeared regularly with the premier ensembles of the city, including Boston Baroque, Emmanuel Music and the Handel & Haydn Society. Comfortable in the rich Early Music world of the city, he has also done extensive solo work in oratorio and recital. His warm baritone, interpretive maturity and keen intellect have been appreciated throughout his performing career. Solo engagements have included Bach's St. Matthew Passion, Brahms's Requiem, Mozart's Requiem, Orff's Carmina Burana, and Monteverdi's Orfeo to name a few. Mr. Johnson has recorded with several chamber ensembles on Telarc International, Harmonia Mundi, and Koch International. He is a respected teacher of voice and a composer of a cappella works for chorus. His compositions have been performed by Emmanuel Music and The Orpheus Singers.

In the last several years, Brett has answered a calling to serve God in the world and in the church. He did four units of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) and served as an Oncology Chaplain. He left the hospital and closed his thriving voice studio in May 2018 to complete his seminary training. He has an MDiv from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP) and is ordained in The Episcopal Church. He was very recently ordained after serving as a Transitional Deacon at All Saints Episcopal Church in Danvers, and will soon begin a new appointment in Beverly MA.

Welcome to the Boston AGO, Rev. Johnson— we look forward to hearing from you soon and meeting you in-person in due course!

Jeremy Bruns, Dean



Pipes and Pops Concert Recording Now Available

If you were not able to watch on December 31st, a recording of the New Year's Pipes and Pops concert is now available for viewing at your leisure. Click the button below to see it.

[Watch the Concert Recording](#)

New Year's Potluck Postponed

We've all been following the recent trends regarding the Omicron variant and this latest surge in COVID-19 infection rates. While the longer-term prognosis is perhaps encouraging (more mild? fast peaking?), prudence dictates we postpone our Chapter Potluck, which was to have occurred on January 9th. We'll look for a good date this Spring when we might reschedule.





Chapter Instrument Feature: Schloming Residence

Flentrop Orgelbouw (1978) - Originally built for Jacques van Oortmerssen

Other than the famous instrument in Adolphus Busch Hall (Harvard), there are not many instruments built by Flentrop in the New England area. The organ in the Schloming residence was built in 1975 for the Dutch organist Jacques van Oortmerssen. It was shipped to Cambridge MA in December 2021 adding to the number of that builder's instruments in the area. It features 6 ranks and 324 pipes with tracker action throughout. The 27-note pedal is permanently coupled to Manual 1, and Manual 1 can be coupled to Manual 2 by pulling Manual 1 toward the player.



[Learn More About the Instrument](#)



LUKAS HASLER
 PLAYING WORKS OF BACH, VIERNE, AND FRANCK
 SUNDAY, MARCH 6 | 3 PM
 HOOK & HASTINGS ORGAN, OPUS 2180, BUILT 1908
SAINT MARY STAR OF THE SEA, BEVERLY, MA
 BEVERLYCATHOLIC.COM LUKASHASLER.COM
 ADMISSION IS FREE DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

LUKAS HASLER is studying organ at the Académie Supérieure de Musique de Strasbourg in France and under the tutelage of Prof. Ulrich Walther at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Graz, Austria. His international concert career has already taken him to Germany, France, Italy, Great Britain, Russia and Israel as well as to some of the largest cathedrals in the United States.





Welcome New Members!

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to our Chapter:

- Joseph T. Gurkan

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Learn More About Our Upcoming Programs!

[View The Chapter Calendar](#)



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Boston Chapter American Guild of Organists | David Baker, 236 Huntington Avenue, Boston,
MA 02115

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