

September 2022

The Newsletter of the Boston Chapter American Guild of Organists



A Message from the Dean

Greetings Colleagues,

As I began to consider topics for this, my first opportunity to write to you as Dean, my mind kept returning to three subjects: the Election of chapter member Eileen Hunt to the office of AGO President; the retirement of Richard Webster from Trinity Church; and an AGO Denominational Music Organizations Symposium I

had the good fortune to attend this past August. I hope you'll allow me a few words about each:

First, hats off to our new National President, Dr. Eileen Hunt. Eileen is an accomplished and experienced leader, one AGO is poised to benefit from as it continues to expand its member base and enhance its relevance within the organ community and the wider arts world. Even as Eileen begins this new era of service to our parent organization, she remains rooted to the area and our chapter. In return, we can support and cheer Eileen on — as her 'home crowd,' if you will. I know I'm not alone in looking forward to all there is to come from the Hunt administration!

Second, a seismic shift in the Boston music landscape as Richard Webster retires from Trinity Church, Copley Square. Webster departs following a truly remarkable tenure, replete with successes and highlights. I often refer to Richard as "THE Richard Webster," not to differentiate him from all the other Richard Websters, but because the full name alone just doesn't seem to do him justice. I had occasion to speak to David Hurd recently (about a masterclass he'll be giving for BAGO on February 11, 2023 — save the date!) and Richard's impending retirement came up. He said, "Well of course, Richard is an institution." I couldn't agree more — kudos to a distinguished member and friend.

Finally, I attended a Symposium sponsored by AGO on the campus of Virginia Theological Seminary early in August. The gathering brought attendees from each of the various Denominational Music Organizations together for conversations around topics of great import to the organization and the churches many of us serve. Among the questions posed:

- How has music in your denomination been used to promote the healing of systemic racism?
- Who are underrepresented minority composers?
- How are you handling contemporary/global music in your denomination?

That these questions are being posed in such settings in an example of the way AGO is engaged at a core level with issues fundamental to the future of the profession. In attendance were AGO Chaplains Past and Present, Dr. Don Sailers and Judy Fentress-Williams; a keynote address was offered by Roger Holland. It was a reminder of the deep and incredible bench of leaders engaged in the work of this organization.

What scenes come to mind for you as you consider the way AGO intersects with your work, your life? Drop me a line and let me know: mitchell@oldsouth.org

- Mitchell Crawford, Dean



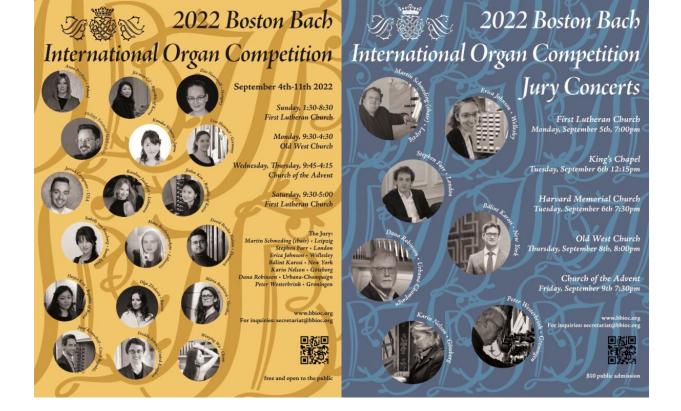


Chapter Instrument Feature: St. Luke Belmont William W. Laws - 132 Lexington St. Belmont, MA





Learn More About the Instrument



French Cathedral Organist Visiting Manchester, NH

French organist, Maurice Clerc (Titular Organist, Cathédrale Saint-Bénigne de Dijon) will be performing an organ recital at the newly restored CATHEDRAL OF SAINT JOSEPH in Manchester, NH on Wednesday 26 October at 6:30 p.m.

A gifted musician with a profound international reputation, Msgr. Clerc continues the legacy of the French organ tradition and has toured the globe extensively. In the past 40 years, he has given approximately 1,300 recitals in twenty countries, including 28 in North America. He has played in some of the world's most prestigious Cathedrals such as Notre-Dame de Paris, Cathedral of St. Patrick (New York), Germany's Dom de Lübeck, Venice's Basilica de Saint Marc, Montreal's St. Joseph Oratory, and the Cathedral of Saint-Paul in Melbourne, Australia. In addition to his duties as a Cathedral organist, he is also an esteemed professor having taught at the Conservatory of Dijon and lecturer at Dijon University.

Msgr. Clerc will be visiting the United States 24 – 31 October and his concert in Manchester – his only appearance in New England -- serves as the "kick-off" for this American tour. He will perform the music of Buxtehude, Bach, Widor, Langlais, Tournemire and two anonymous 15th century compositions originating from Spain and France.

Donations are accepted and there is a recommended donation of \$15 at the door. The Cathedral of St. Joseph is wheelchair accessible via the Bishop Bradley Lane entrance. For more information, please contact Diocesan and Cathedral Director of Music, Dr. Eric Bermani.



Performers:

- Leo Abbott, Cathedral Music Director & Organist Emeritus
- William Endicott, Holy Name Parish, West Roxbury
- Thomas Mellan, Saint Cecilia Parish, Boston
- Rosalind Mohnsen, Immaculate Conception, Malden
- Andrew Scanlon, Associate
 Organist-Choirmaster, Church of the Advent, Boston
- Richard J. Clark, Director of Music of the Cathedral of the Holy Cross.

Thirty-third Annual Cathedral Organ Benefit Recital

The Cathedral of the Holy Cross continues the longstanding tradition! Thirty-third Annual Cathedral Organ Benefit Recital for the historic 101-rank 1875 E & GG Hook & Hastings Organ, Opus 801.

Several of New England's notable organists will perform variety of works by on the historic pipe organ of 5,292 pipes.

Suggested Donation \$50 | \$25 Seniors and Students. Children 17 and under are free! OR make a donation of any amount greater or smaller at the door or online

Works by Dupré, Lemmens, Mellan, Nyzhankyzvskyi, Messaien, Clark, Friedell, and others.

Purchase Tickets Here



BOSTON

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR YOUNG ORGANISTS

The Boston Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is proud to offer young musicians the opportunity to learn to play the pipe organ through the Young Organist Initiative (YOI).

To schedule an audition, contact YOI Coordinator Christine Hogan: christine01776@verizon.net. Applications are due by October 15, 2022.

Auditions

Saturday, October 22, 2022 | 10:00AM Plymouth Congregational Church 582 Pleasant Street, Belmont, Mass Prepare 1-2 pieces for organ and/or piano

Scholar Requirements

Open to students in grades 6-12

Recipient Benefits

- +\$1000 toward organ study with a BAGO teacher
- +1 year membership in the AGO
- +The opportunity to perform at King's Chapel



For more information, visit: www.bostonago.org/chapter/yoi

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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