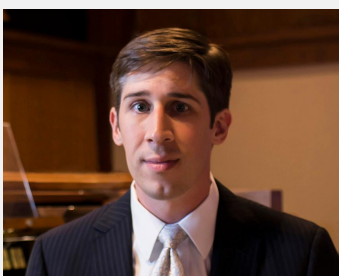


BOSTON PIPINGS

news and notes for members of Boston Chapter AGO

October 2022

The Newsletter of the Boston Chapter American Guild of Organists



A Message from the Dean

Greetings Colleagues,

Happy Howells-o-ween!

Lately, I've had the idiosyncratic British composer on my mind, no doubt in anticipation of Paul Spicer's visit to the Boston area later this month to lead morning and evening services at The Church of the Redeemer, Chestnut Hill. Howells is a composer very near to the heart of many organists and church musicians, and rightfully so: he innately and intrinsically reveals the potential of the instrument within any number of distinct contexts, and his melodic and harmonic stylings are at once sumptuous and alluring. I find an analogue in Howells' relationship to the organ and organists with that of Chopin to the piano and pianists. Chopin was, without question, one of the most remarkable composers of the 19th century, a flat-out genius who transformed the piano repertory and keyboard technique more generally; yet, he remains a niche composer in most respects — a pianist-composer who wrote music for other virtuoso pianists to play. In the same way Howells, who has such significant standing among organists, simply did not leave enough compelling music in other genres to achieve the broad appeal of a Mozart or, for that matter, his contemporaries Ralph Vaughan Williams or Benjamin Britten. But perhaps in this way, Howells is and remains one of our community's best-kept secrets.

Paul Spicer, a former pupil of Howells's, has devoted much of his subsequent career to the promotion of Howells' music and legacy, and his visit to the area is an excellent opportunity to consider this repertory afresh. Spicer's October 23rd residency at The Church of the Redeemer concludes with an Evensong (5PM) featuring the Dallas Canticles by Howells — the last of his 20 Evening Canticle settings. More information at <https://www.redeemerchestnuthill.org/Choral-Evensong-and-Special-Services>.

- Mitchell Crawford, Dean



2022 Fall Performances

A Kaleidoscope of Musical Colors

Sunday matinees at 3:00 p.m.

October 23: Randall Hodgkinson, pianist

November 6: Shriners Swing Band

November 20: Folk Music at Methuen

Tickets \$15 (adult) \$5 (child) at door or online <https://MMMh.brownpapertickets.com>

A MERRY MUSIC HALL CHRISTMAS – 2022

Ray Cornils, organ Robinson Pyle and Greg Gettel, trumpets

Saturday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m. & Sunday, December 4 at 3:00 p.m.

Reserved seating sales begin online November 1: Adults \$25 Children \$5

www.mmmh.org

 METHUENMEMORIALMUSICHALL

First Lutheran Church of Boston Organ Recital Series 2022–2023



Sunday, October 9 | 3:00pm

Karen Electra Christianson

Princeton University

Admission \$10

299 Berkeley Street | Boston MA 02116 | flc-boston.org | 617/536-8851

MBTA: Charles/MGH or Arlington

Parking: Boston Common Garage



A Tribute to C. Martin Steinmetz

I met Martin shortly after moving to Boston in 1997. I had joined the Chapter and learned of the Organ Library. He encouraged me to join that committee. In 1999, when I had just started a church position in Newton, I called Martin and we met at my church and went to lunch at the deli around the corner. He was very gracious and friendly, and helpful, and got me more involved in the Library and its work. During my years as Chapter Treasurer, he was a

constant source of knowledge and help. Over the years, we have remained friends, meeting for dinner and g&t's now and then, and talking to each other about many things: families, church jobs, clergy, money, and mostly about the BAGO, especially about the Library.

The more I've learned about him, the more I've seen that he has been a major leader and contributor to the BAGO over an entire lifetime. I'm sure that I only know a tiny fraction of what he has done, mostly because of his peaceful, unassuming, generous, efficient, and effective way of working on all that he does.

His work and accomplishments for the Chapter are many. He was heavily involved in the creation of the "Work and Compensation" booklet that the BAGO self-published for decades. He recently told me a story about the nationwide survey that he was in charge of in the preparation of the booklet. In the time of punch cards, a survey with over 5000 responses was quite a thing. This booklet became a national resource in its time – BAGO supplied them to the National Office - and definitely influenced the understandings and compensation standards eventually set in various denominational musicians associations.

He was in the original group that formed our SPAC after the 1976 Convention; he was part of the original group that formed the Organ Library, and has been on both committees ever since. He brought me into the Library, and has always been a resource. We have worked together on the Library committee for many years now, to grow the Library endowment through prudent investing. He has been Chapter Dean, and served as treasurer in many capacities. He was also a successful working church musician his whole career - and, oh, he had a full-time "day job" at Lincoln Laboratory, the national government lab in Lexington, MA. Perhaps his greatest AGO legacy is his work on the radio broadcasts that were aired for fifty years. I don't know what year he took over this responsibility, but I do know that his career covered the end of reel-to-reel tapes, then cassettes, then DATs, then CD's. He did recording, editing, script-writing, and likely many other things that none of us know much about. His basement still has machines for every format! All the recordings were turned over to the Library several years ago, and the CDs and DATs are now all reformatted and many are up on the Library website, with more to come as digitization efforts proceed.

A couple months ago, Martin decided that it was time to work on cleaning out his basement, which had many decades of materials from all his AGO work. One thing that has come out of this effort is that he had many of the issues of Music and of TAO that the National office did not have, and we (Library) will be able to fill in the gaps in their magazine digitization efforts. And he still has current projects – one of which is writing a history of the BAGO broadcasts. Most recently, he has decided to retire from the SPAC committee, which he has led and coordinated in one way or another since its inception. It is on this occasion that I write to express my appreciation for him and his work. I believe he well-deserves as much recognition as we can give him for his tireless dedication and completely competent, steadfast devotion to our Chapter and its projects. He certainly has my admiration.

Cheers Martin,
Carl Klein, DMA
AGO Organ Library Administrator

ORGAN CONCERT

**FIRST
CHURCH
BOSTON**
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST



CELEBRATING OUR RE-BUILDING · 1972–2022

October 16 at 3:00pm

First Church Boston | 66 Marlborough St.



Rev. Richard F. Jones, BA, MDiv

Rev. Richard F. Jones, BA, MDiv (born 7/17/1956) passed away on Sunday, August 28, 2022 after a short hospitalization. Before retiring in 2020, he was the Pastor of the First Parish of Bolton, Massachusetts, for 25 years, and was a leader in the cultural life of the Worcester area and a passionate advocate for music and history throughout the region. As Hook Organ Curator and Development Officer of Worcester's historic Mechanics Hall, he instituted a popular free noontime Brown Bag concert series and worked with many well-known personalities, from cellist Yo Yo Ma to civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks. Richard served numerous organizations including two terms as dean of the Worcester AGO and as board member of the Organ Historical Society. In his work as Dean, Richard instituted a public school education program for the chapter that mesmerized thousands of students with the capabilities of the pipe organ. In 1985, he organized The Fuller International Organ Festival with organists including Simon Preston, Peter Hurford, and David Higgs. He also served as Education Director of the Worcester Historical Museum, was a contributing writer for Worcester Magazine, hosted a radio program on the local NPR station ("The Art of the Organ"), served as musical consultant for the Merchant-Ivory film, *The Bostonians*, and was an active member of the Worcester Shakespeare Club. He served on the organ restoration committees of both the Hook in Mechanics Hall and the Kimball in Worcester Auditorium.

A Celebration of Life service is being planned for Tuesday, 10/11/22 at 7pm at Mechanics Hall, 321 Main St, Worcester, MA. A tribute concert is being planned at the hall for 2023.



We recently held the Opening Service and Installation of Officers for the 2022-2023 season. It was great to join together in person at Milton Academy with the 1971 Casavant and experience some Christmas-themed musical selections. We look forward to seeing more people at the events we have planned for the rest of the season!

How to get Regional Organ Events from our website calendar customized to your interest and delivered directly to your email

A personal profile Subscription on our calendar allows you to be notified via a periodical email containing concert listings that you want to know about.

The frequency of the emails can be weekly or monthly, or can be at the time the event is posted (be the first to know about it!).

You choose which concerts you want listed in your notification email by filling in the profile information on the website to set the filtering (selection) criteria you want. Upcoming concerts that match your criteria are listed in the emails sent to you. You can define multiple profiles in order to request different combinations of concerts - one email will be sent for each profile. If no concerts match in a given period, no notification email is sent. Here are some example profile possibilities:

- Notify me weekly for any organ concerts in Region I that occur during just the upcoming week.
- Send me a monthly listing of choral concerts within 50 miles of zip code 01608.
- Send me weekly reminders on Wednesdays for organ concerts in MA that are handicap accessible

The subscription process is very easy – just fill out the form on the website.

1. First go to **<https://www.musi-cal.us/calendar/subscription.php>**
2. You'll be asked to name your profile. You can create multiple profiles for yourself based on your areas of interest.
3. Click on "Subscribe for Listing Reminders"
4. Scroll to the bottom of the page, and click on "Submit subscription profile"

Also, this is calendar is shared with other AGO chapters, listing events in other cities (like Worcester, MA and Hartford, CT). If you live or travel to those areas, you might want a unique profile for those events.

Remember to post your own concert entries. You care the most about your publicity, and it's important to keep other members' informed of your concerts.

Questions? On the webpage, under the "Contacts" tab, you may enter a question addressed to "General". It will be forwarded to the correct contact, and you'll receive a response back.



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



Password to the Members' Area of the website to change in November

In keeping with good security practices, the password to the Members' Area of the website will change again in November. The Executive Committee has approved this yearly update. Since the Members' Area is a benefit of BAGO membership, a separate announcement will be sent out containing the new password only to members of the Boston Chapter. More information will be forthcoming in November.



Pipe Organ Sound at a Fraction of the Cost

The leader in digital and hybrid organs as well as low-cost residence practice organs has expanded its presence in MA! Marshall & Ogletree Organ Builders in Needham has added Mr. Bill Thompson as a sales representative.

Contact Bill with any questions you may have at 678-521-7200 or billinatlanta@gmail.com Offering organs by Marshall & Ogletree, Rodgers and Johannus.

Learn More About Our Upcoming Programs!

View The Chapter Calendar



American Guild of
ORGANISTS



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