

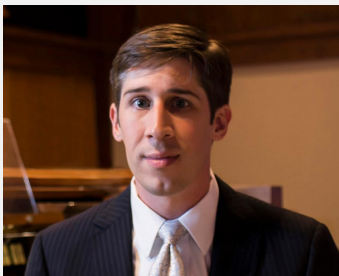


BOSTON PIPINGS

news and notes for members of Boston Chapter AGO

May 2023

The Newsletter of the Boston Chapter American Guild of Organists



A Message from the Dean

Greetings Colleagues,

Happy Spring! After what feels like a mostly chilly start to the season, things have in recent days moderated, something for which I offer thanks and praise. For those whose April included the busyness of High Holy Days, I hope you're now enjoying a more relaxed pace of work and life.

I'd like to use this space to muse on Ahreum Han's recital at the Mother Church this past month. To state the obvious: it was a fabulous concert by a tremendous virtuoso, and wonderful that our chapter could facilitate Ahreum's inaugural concert in this city. Also on ample display was the utterly stupendous Æolian-Skinner that occupies the Mother Church's extension, along with similarly ample hospitality and generosity from the Mother Church community, our hosts.

Ahreum began her recital with the Te Deum of Jeanne Demessieux. The opening portion of the concert, comprising the Te Deum, Bach Toccata, Adagio, and Fugue and Jean Berveiller's Mouvement, evoked in me tremendous nostalgia for the time in my life when I first discovered Jeanne Demessieux's recordings. I had the few Demessieux albums then available on CD; one was her recording of the complete works of Franck, and another was a miscellany, but which included her performances of the Te Deum and Mouvement. They were made on Demessieux's "home organ", the Cavallé-Coll of La Madeleine in Paris, and part of my love for them has to do with that instrument and that room — what a pair. For me, this portion of the concert felt like a grand tribute from one virtuoso to another, and I saw shades of Demessieux in Ahreum's electric virtuosity.

Ahreum showed considerable range across the recital, which continued with her own transcription of Offenbach's Overture to "Orpheus in the Underworld" and William Albright's "Concert Rag for Organ", Sweet Sixteenths. I am a little embarrassed to admit I had not known many of the familiar tunes strung together to form the Overture belonged to this work! When the irrepressible can-can began ricocheting from the organ's solo batteries at the conclusion, it was a sound to behold. The Albright impresses me whenever I hear it. Albright had so clearly absorbed this idiom; all the unique dissonances and rhythmic interplay one expects to find are there, but very carefully, and precisely, constructed. When we hear the piece, it seems so authentic an expression of the ragtime style, yet to see the score is to understand the lengths to which Albright went in order to capture in notation an idiom so flexible and nuanced.

Ahreum closed the concert with two substantial works of German composers: the Three Jazz Preludes of Johannes Matthias Michel and Chorale-Fantasie on "Wachet Auf, ruft uns die Stimme" of Max Reger. Again, the Mother Church instrument proved a perfect

partner for Ahreum, with so much color available and limitless possibilities for compound and ensemble sounds. These two pieces place considerable technical demands on the performer, as well as requiring deft handling of the instrument and its resources. Ahreum dispatched them with ease, coaxing a great wall of sound from the organ as the Reger drew to its close. The inclusion of one of the great Reger showpieces offered a foretaste of the upcoming program year, which is set to include a number of events honoring the composer's 150th birthday.

It was a wonderful evening, and an important opportunity to be together as a chapter community in support of a tremendous artist. It also proved a highlight within an already strong year of excellent programming. But there are still a few more opportunities to gather this Spring — you'll find more details in this edition of Pipings.

- Mitchell Crawford, Dean

"I am a neighbor of the Mother Church where Ahreum Han played last night. I heard about the concert when I attended one of the bi-monthly public recitals that the church holds earlier this month. I want to thank the Boston Chapter for the concert and I hope to hear more. I know that my neighbors Symphony Hall and the Mother Church both own wonderful instruments that are not heard enough!! Thanks again! - Best regards, Joel Shellhase"

BOSTON AGO

WALKING ORGAN CRAWL

**Saturday, May 13, 2023
Boston, MA**

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
68 WILLIAM CARDINAL O'CONNELL WAY
9:00AM COFFEE & DONUTS
9:30AM STOP DEMONSTRATION | OPEN CONSOLE

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
138 TREMONT STREET
11AM STOP DEMONSTRATION | OPEN CONSOLE
12NOON LUNCH (\$10)

RSVP for lunch by 5/10/23:
<https://forms.gle/r4Hv827dfjjTJqGcA>

bostonago.com



2023 Summer Series

Wednesdays 7:30 pm

May 24 – August 30

Young Artists Concert – 4 Local Organ Students (5/24)

Randy Steere (5/31)

Andrew Scanlon (6/7)

North American Debut Paul Fey (6/14)

Margaret Kvamme (6/21)

Michael Hey (6/28)

Zoe Lei (7/5)

Emily Amos (7/12)

Kevin Neel (7/19)

Elena Baquerizo (7/26)

Stephen Price (8/2)

Nigel Potts (8/9)

Anne Horsch (8/16)

Garrett Martin (8/23)

Crista Miller (8/30)

Tickets: \$15 (adult) \$10 (student with ID) \$5 (child under 12)

At the door and online

Subscriptions also Available

www.mmmh.org



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192 Broadway (Route 28) Methuen



Upcoming Concerts by Randy Steere



Saturday, March 25, 7:30 PM Groton Hill Music Center – 122 Old Ayer Rd, Groton

Featured Soloist with the Vista Philharmonic Orchestra in their new 1,000 Seat Concert Hall

Tickets at GrotonHill.org – not many tickets left for this concert

“Fleet Feet”

Samuel Barber – Toccata Festiva

Camille Saint-Saëns – Symphony No. 3

Friday, April 14, 8:00 PM Groton Hill Music Center – 122 Old Ayer Rd, Groton

Solo Organ Concert to inaugurate the new organ in their new 1,000 Seat Concert Hall

Tickets at GrotonHill.org

Pre-concert talk about the Hauptwerk organ at 7:00 PM

“Back to the Future”

Works by Camillo Schumann, Reger, Bingham, Fey, Bach, Guilment

Wednesday, May 31, 7:30 PM Methuen Memorial Music Hall – Broadway, Methuen (MMMh.org)

Tickets at the door - \$15

“Musical Thoughts on Lives Lived”

Works by Bissinger, Fey, Alain, Ireland, Saint-Saëns, Sowande, Vierne, Weaver

Learn More About Our Upcoming Programs!

[View The Chapter Calendar](#)



American Guild of
ORGANISTS



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