

October 2023

The Newsletter of the Boston Chapter American Guild of Organists

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION IN BOSTON IS AVAILABLE!

Our Executive Committee is working to revitalize our chapter as a regional center for the AGO Certification. As a Guild, the AGO offers members these unique learning opportunities which are points of arrival for musicians at all levels. Guilds, being different from "clubs," typically aim to support the mutual interests of members, and encourage maintenance of high standards. This is partially accomplished through the Certification Program.

View the Certification Requirements Here

Why?

- 1. Strengthen your skills and gain confidence in areas you use all the time: sight reading, hymn playing, transposing, etc.
- 2. Add additional qualifications to your resume to bolster your qualifications.
- 3. Prepare/study at your own pace, either alone, with a teacher, or in a group.
- 4. Set an example and encourage other colleagues to maintain, renew, and refresh their skills.
- 5. Your church choirs and congregations will benefit from your extra enthusiasm, new techniques and repertoire, and increased confidence at the organ!
- 6. Cash prizes are available for high scoring candidates!
- 7. All AGO Chapters need more certified members. Certified members are needed to be part of the National Board of Examiners, to grade exams, and to encourage others.
- 8. Even those holding advanced music degrees can benefit from certification for all of the above reasons.

How can you help?

- 1. Volunteer to be an exam proctor (an easy job, especially for detail-oriented people! Does not need to be an organist. Detailed directions provided.)
- 2. Offer your church as a host for Guild exams. (Ideally a quiet space with a flexible 3-man organ in good, working condition with a fairly standard console setup.)

- 3. Help identify members in the Boston Chapter (and nearby chapters) who hold ChM, AAGO or FAGO certification for assistance in grading the live portion os upper-level exams.
- 4. Consider challenging yourself by reviewing the 2024 Certification Requirements (link above) and signing up to take whichever exam feels right to you.

Andrew Scanlon, FAGO, is the new chapter Exam Coordinator. Please reach out to him directly if you wish to respond to any of the invitations and challenges listed above. (ascanlon@theadventboston.org)



ONCARD Login

Enter your username and password to access your account and members-only benefits, including the AGO Job Center and special discounts.

First time login:

Your username is the first letter of your first name followed by your last name, with no space in between. (For example, Jane Doe's username would be JDoe). Do not include apostrophes or hyphens. If your last name has a space, leave the space. (For example, Dick Van Dyke's username would be (DVan Dyke).

Your default password is your member ID which is found just to the left of the date on the address label of The American Organist magazine.

BY TELEPHONE

A member can renew anytime by calling the national office (212-870-2310) with a credit card







Organ Crawl for Young Organists and Emerging Artists

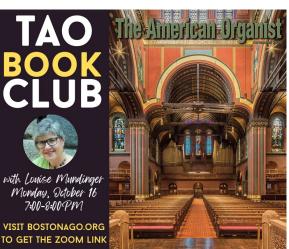
Explore the organs of Harvard Memorial Church and Busch Hall

November 11, 2023 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Meet at Harvard Memorial Church

1 Harvard Yard Cambridge, MA





October 16, 7-8PM TAO Book Club with Louise Mundinger (via Zoom)

Click here for the link

Join former dean Louise Mundinger in discussions about content found in The American Organist magazine! Bring your favorite article to discuss,

Meeting ID: 842 3620 3146

Passcode: AGOboston



Season Opening Recital

from Left to Right - David von Behren, Jennifer Hsiao, Mary-Katherine Fletcher, Jerrick Cavagnaro

On September 24, chapter members gathered to celebrate the beginning of our programmatic year at King's Chapel in downtown Boston, adding to their year-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of Daniel Pinkham's birth. Four Emerging Artists (David von Behren, Jennifer Hsiao, Mary-Katherine Fletcher, Jerrick Cavagnaro) performed works by Pinkham: *The Four Winds*, *Four Epigrams*, *Tidings*, and *Revelations* on the Fisk organ, Op. 44. Members of the Executive and Program Committees read texts that Pinkham had set to music, including an original text about angels. The evening ended with a wine and cheese reception. It was a wonderful evening!



Holistic Wellness Night

Members of the Chapter and our Emerging Artists Program (for ages 18-30) met on October 2, 2023 at Harvard University's Memorial Church for an Evening of Holistic Wellness, led by sound healing practitioners Cathy Meyer (also Sub-Dean) and Janet Kessenich. Often organists, in our capacities as church/temple musicians, teachers, and performers, are so focused on outcomes that we neglect to remember how important taking care of ourselves is if we wish to continue to thrive as musical professionals.



Through a series of both individual and group sound therapies and meditations, Cathy and Janet led the group into new or increased awareness of our need for self-care. Many remarked on how they felt their stress levels and physical alignments had been improved in the short time we were together. It was encouraging to see the keen interest in holistic wellness among the Emerging Artists, as well as more senior Chapter members.





Max Reger Festival 150 November 3-5, 2023

Concerts • Lectures • Tours • Demonstrations

The Worcester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is hosting the Nov. 3-5, 2023 festival to celebrate the 150th birthday of German composer Max Reger. In his brief 46 years Reger expanded the compositional language for the organ, leaving a profound portfolio of works for generations to come. Recitals and lectures will be centered in Worcester and open to all.







Place article copy here. Be sure to make the articles short and concise as people tend not to read much more than a couple of paragraphs. Place article copy here.

Text Link



In Remembrance

James Hejduk, former Director of Music at Belmont Hill School and Organist-Choirmaster of The Congregational Church in Needham, MA, passed away on September 18, 2023 at his home in Lincoln, Nebraska. He was past Dean of the Boston Chapter AGO from 1985-1986, and an Executive Committee Member for several years.

You can read more about James at https://www.bostonago.org/remembrance/

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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