

## BOSTON PIPINGS

*news and notes for members of Boston Chapter AGO*

### January 2024

#### The Newsletter of the Boston Chapter American Guild of Organists

### A Message from your Sub-Dean:



How connected are you feeling to the Boston Chapter of the American Guild of Organists? Have you had the chance to attend any of the programs offered yet this year? Which events do you hope to take part in this winter and spring? What offerings do you hope to see next year?

Did you know that since September, the Program Committee has been collecting proposals for events in the 2024-25 year? So far this year, there is an interesting mix of lectures, concerts, and other activities that people would like to present to our membership. In addition to reviewing these proposals, we also carefully consider other program ideas, trying to cover as wide of a base of activities as we can.

We try to balance the right combination of

- recitals (by national/international recitalists as well as our own members),
- educational opportunities (lectures and workshops),
- collaborations with other organizations (religious communities and musical ensembles),
- discussions (TAO book club), and
- things to experience (wellness nights and organ crawls) for organists who are full-time in the profession as those who just play on the weekend or just for fun.

If you are able to attend the Epiphany party, we hope that you will bring your ideas for the next programmatic year. What organs and organists do you want to see and hear? What would be helpful to talk about? How can our community help you answer the questions you have about repertoire, programming, recruiting, and performing? Would you like more events that are purely social, or would you prefer the structure of organized activities? We will have easel pads for you to write down your ideas, but we also would love to engage in discussions as well.

If you are unable to attend the Epiphany party but you have feedback or ideas, I would encourage you to reach out to me personally at [cathy@southchurch.com](mailto:cathy@southchurch.com) and tell me your thoughts. While I can't guarantee that the Program Committee will be able to honor each request, I can guarantee that we will discuss what is brought to us. After all, it is YOU who

makes our chapter great!

I am looking forward to spending 2024 with you!

**Cathy Meyer**

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## **BAGO's Annual Epiphany Party**

**January 7, 2024 | 5PM**

**at the home of Louise Munding  
150 Brooks Street, Medford**

Yes, yes, we know from potlucks. The awkwardnesses of new people, the salads that confound, 'function' wine.

Clearly, you've never been to Louise Munding's.

Louise and Pierre's Medford home is the best house museum you'll ever visit that isn't an actual house museum. Built in 1904 for Freeman Clarke Coffin (in his day, a noted and successful Boston engineer), this grand residence is embellished without

inhibition. From the tiled entry and spacious center hall to the ornately-carved living and dining salons, you'll find even more to explore in the bar, solarium and kitchen areas.

As for victuals, BAGOers have a solid track record of laying a good table, both of the eaten and drunken variety. This year promises more of the same. Who better to up the ante than you?

Beyond the conviviality, this annual gathering is how members help the Program Committee figure out exactly what types of events folks actually want. We review the pros and cons of past programs, get thoughts on formats that still work, and your ideas for new types to try.

So come join us for a bite. It will give your Chapter food to chew on.

**[Click Here To Let Us Know You're Coming](#)**

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## First Night Organ Concert A Success

December 31, 2023 | 2PM

at The Mother Church Extension

co-sponsored by BAGO and The First Church of Christ, Scientist

Since 1976, Boston's First Night has been a New Year's Eve celebration of artistic performances, the wonders of the season, and the beginning of a new year. Each year, BAGO teams up with The First Church of Christ, Scientist, to put on one of the finest organ concerts of the year on one of Boston's world-class organs. This year was no different, featuring organists Andrew Sheranian, Jennifer Valezquez, and Nathan Skinner. Bryan Ashley served as emcee, welcoming upwards of 1000 people into the audience. Below is the program, in case you missed it:

### **Andrew Sheranian, Organist and Master of Choristers at the Parish of All Saints, Ashmont**

- Prelude & Fugue in A minor, BWV 543 | Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
- La Vellee de Behorleguy, au matin, from Paysages Euskariens | Ermend Bonnal (1880-1944)
- Dialogue sur les mixtures, from Suite Breve | Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

### **Jennifer Velazquez, former Organist and Associate Director of Music and Worship at Independent Presbyterian Church (IPC) in Memphis, TN**

- Prelude, Fugue et Variation, Op. 18 | Cesar Franck (1822-1890)
- Carillon de Westminster, Op. 54 No. 6 | Louise Vierne (1870-1937)

### **Nathan Skinner, Director of Music and Organist at the historic Park Street Church on Boston Common**

- Marche Pontificale | Charles Gounod (1818-1893)
- Fidelis, from Four Extemporisations | Percy Whitlock (1903-1946)
- Overture, from Paulus | Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

A hearty congratulations goes out to everyone involved! It was an afternoon to remember!

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# TAO BOOK CLUB



with Louise Mundinger  
Tuesday, February 20  
7:00-8:00 PM

VISIT [BOSTONAGO.ORG](http://BOSTONAGO.ORG)  
TO GET THE ZOOM LINK



with special guest Kimberly Marshall



*In memory of*

## Alice Parker

Celebrate Alice's life by watching

**Spirituals: A Conversation with**  
Alice Parker and André Thomas

which premiered at the 2023 ACDA  
National Conference and is being  
shared for free by her foundation,  
Melodious Accord.

Watch the film at  
[www.melodiousaccord.org](http://www.melodiousaccord.org)

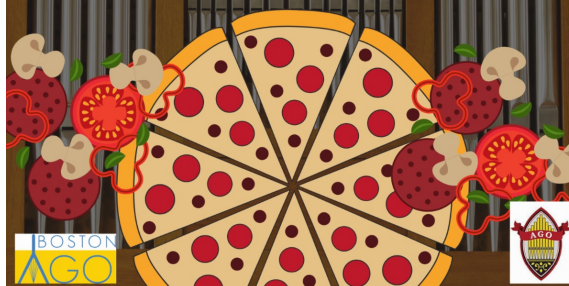
The Boston Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

presents

## PEDALS, PIPES & PIZZA!

Sunday, February 11, 2024 | 2-4PM

Parish of All Saints | 209 Ashmont Street, Boston  
Free admission | Open to all youth in grades 4-12



## Merrimack Valley AGO Chapter Mini-Convention

February 24, 2024 | 8:30 AM-1:30 PM

at All Saints' Church, Chelmsford

Join the Merrimack Valley AGO chapter for their annual mini-convention. New location at All Saints' Church, 10 Billerica Road, Chelmsford. This long-standing half-day includes workshops, fun, fellowship, and fleas (gently used organ music) to share for purchase with others. Confirmed presentations include a choral reading session featuring accessible new choral music, improvisation for the non-beginner with Leonardo Ciampa, an unorthodox but successful approach to conducting amateur choirs with Randy Steere, a panel discussion on "If these pipes could talk: tales about Merrimack Valley organs and organists" with Matthew Bellocchio, Richard Ouellette, and Andrew Scanlon, and more. Stay tuned for information on how to register for this event.

## Financial Report: Gifts to the BAGO in 2023

When BAGO members renew their dues through National there are four categories for giving to BAGO conveniently offered as options: general operating, education fund, organ library, and young organists initiative. The Executive Committee is pleased to report that \$1,985 was given in those categories during 2023 by the chapter members listed below. In addition, \$920 was raised on Giving Tuesday, bringing the total amount of gifts to \$2,905. We are grateful and encourage others to consider giving in 2024.

Our chapter offers an ambitious annual slate of educational sessions and concerts, as well as programs for young organists and emerging artists, grant funds for special projects (SPAC), and our organ library. Many of these programs can be expanded if additional funds are available through donations. Your gifts will contribute to the strength of our programs now and ensure a bright future for talented young musicians entering our profession. Thank you!

**Education Fund**  
12 gifts totaling to \$520

Jonathan Ambrosino  
Margaret M. Angelini  
Rachael J. Burckardt  
Andrea B. DeGiovanni  
Fred W. Ehrhardt  
Thomas Hoisington  
Anne Ku  
Linda J. Lyster  
Donald W. Paine  
Christopher D. Porter  
Denise A. Shea  
Victoria Wagner

**Giving Tuesday**  
5 gifts totaling to \$920

Sean Glennon  
Marjorie M. Kellner  
Allen Kinzey  
Catherine Meyer  
Jeffrey Mills

**YOI**  
13 gifts totaling to \$685

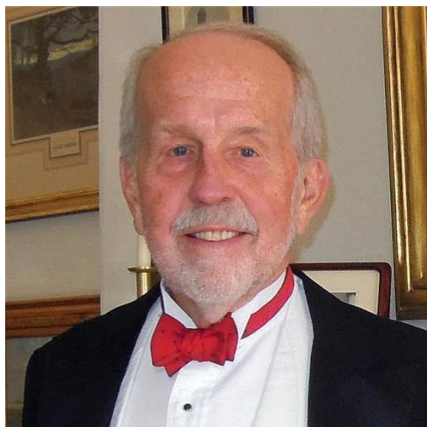
Jonathan Ambrosino  
Margaret M. Angelini  
Sady Bryce Benjamin  
Daryl J. Bichel  
Fred W. Ehrhardt  
Christine A. Hogan  
Amy E. Lepak  
Linda J. Lyster  
Jeffrey A. Mills  
Louise Munding  
William Ness  
Permelia S. Sears  
Victoria Wagner

**General Operating**  
11 gifts totaling to \$450

Jonathan Ambrosino  
Margaret M. Angelini  
Raffi R. Berberian  
Daryl J. Bichel  
Dorothy L. Bowe  
Frances C. Fitch  
Linda J. Lyster  
Jeffrey A. Mills  
Christopher D. Porter  
Gloria W. Raymond  
Victoria Wagner

**Organ Library**  
8 gifts totaling to \$330

Jonathan Ambrosino  
Margaret M. Angelini  
Sady Bryce Benjamin  
Raffi R. Berberian  
Daryl J. Bichel  
Linda J. Lyster  
Christopher D. Porter  
Lois W. Regestein



Renowned organist and choir director Brian E. Jones, whose tenure as Music Director of Trinity Church in the City of Boston spanned two decades, passed away peacefully, on November 17, 2023. He was 80. Brian contributed much to the life of the Boston Chapter and was a leader in the Boston music scene for many years. To read about Brian's life and accomplishments, [click here](#). A memorial service will be held in the spring.

Start your New Year with some inspirational reading. Please [visit the homepage of our Chapter website](#) to read the article "This is Why Music Matters - A Welcome address to Freshman Parents at the Boston Conservatory" by Karl Paulnack. This article reminds us why we have chosen music as a profession, and the effect our music-making can have on others and on the world. Reading this is a great way to recharge after the busyness of the holiday season. ( The article is reprinted with permission from the November-December 2023 issue of The Journal of the Association of Anglican Musicians. No further duplication is permitted or authorized.)

**Learn More About Our Upcoming Programs!**

# View The Chapter Calendar



*American Guild of*  
**ORGANISTS**

**Donate to the Chapter via PayPal**



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