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March 2024

The Newsletter of the Boston Chapter American Guild of Organists

A Message from your Sub-Dean



Dear David,

Woman Composer Sunday is March 10, 2024. In a recent Facebook post encouraging organists to pick repertoire by women, it was interesting to read some people's comments about this topic. While some people were very supportive, "Every Sunday should be Women Composer Sunday!" and "Here are titles of some beautiful pieces I'm playing," others had questions such as: "Why is Woman Composer Sunday is replacing the Fourth Sunday of Lent?"

While I don't really think of myself as a composer, I do often find myself as the only woman in a room filled with organists. I have great respect for my male colleagues, but it can be lonely at times. In October of 2014, the results of an AGO national membership survey indicated that of the members born in the 1930s, 47% were male and 53% were female, but of the members born in the 1970s and 1980s, 74% were male and 26% were female. Why the decline in women in younger generations, and what can we do to change it?

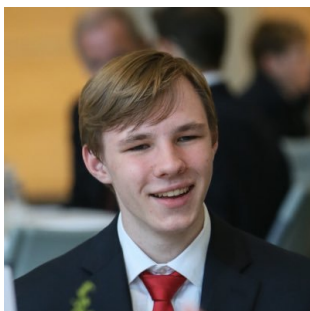
In the April 2015 TAO, Nancy Cooper writes: *Imagine a young woman paging through TAO, wondering about how women are represented in our organization as a whole? What might she infer from what she sees? Would she find role models in our workshops, our recital series, our large metropolitan church jobs, and our collegiate organ programs, or would she conclude that all these are still dominated by men? And based on this contemplation, would she be likely to attend a chapter meeting if given an invitation?*

If we want to reverse the trend of decline among numbers of organists and members in the AGO, we can start by making sure that women have a seat at the table and that we are including their compositions in our repertoire in all types of venues: concerts, worship services, and study. (And to my non-binary friends out there: I see you too!) Not only do I encourage you to take one weekend a year to highlight music by women, I would encourage you to look at your repertoire for every event and make sure there is a diverse array of voices represented. It's not an either-or choice; it's simply a widening of what we can offer all the ears who are listening. There is so much beautiful music out there - I hope you will share your favorites with the world!

Cathy Meyer

AGO Task Force on Gender Equity

To read the latest newsletter from AGO HQ from the Gender Equity Task Force, [click here](#).



Thank you, John Roper!

This past month, BAGO's Social Media Coordinator, John Roper, stepped down from his position. Roper, currently a senior at Assumption University in Worcester, had taken up the post in 2019. It occurs to me how fortunate the chapter was to have John at the helm during the challenges of the past several years. His IT acumen and comfort navigating a variety of media made him vital in our chapter's response to the demands of the pandemic and the altered reality we

have since faced. Throughout his time in the role, John managed a generous allocation of his time toward BAGO activities, wedging us in between school, work, and a number of other competing priorities. On behalf of the entire Executive Committee (EC), I want to thank John for his dedicated service to the chapter, and wish him every success as he moves ahead.

Mitchell Crawford
Dean

New Social Media Coordinator Needed

BAGO has the need to fill the Social Media Coordinator position. This role is a critical leadership position within the chapter, requiring an individual engaged with both members and programs, and effectively able to strategize and collaborate with the EC on matters of missional significance. It is vital BAGO be able to broadcast — widely, and to a multitude of constituencies — the many exciting events taking place within the chapter.

Responsibilities and skills for this role:

The Social Media Coordinator gathers and publishes items and information for the benefit of the members of the Chapter. Examples include meeting announcements, notices of upcoming events, and missives (communications from the Dean, EC, etc.). The Coordinator also serves as Editor of the Chapter Newsletter ("Pipings"), ensuring its timely publication and distribution. The individual works closely with the Sub-Dean, Advertising Committee, and Webmaster, whose duties overlap with, and are dependent upon, the chapter's Social Media apparatus. Proficiency in EC approved social media platforms (currently Facebook, YouTube, Constant Contact) will help ensure the success of the individual occupying this role.



I'd like to invite anyone interested (who feels they possess the requisite skills to effectively carry out the role) to explore with the EC service to the chapter through the role of Social Media Coordinator. Thank you for your consideration, which affords me an opportunity to thank all those whose service to the chapter has made all we do possible! Please contact me if you are interested.

Mitchell Crawford

Dean

Young Organist Initiative News

On February 11, the BAGO YOI Committee sponsored a Pedals, Pipes and Pizza event for youth and adults at Parish of All Saints (Ashmont). It was a wonderful event with many in attendance. If you might be interested in hosting a PPP at your place of employment, please let us know!

The deadline for next year's scholarships is April 28.

Please [click here](#) to apply or donate funds that could make a big difference in a young musicians' future as an organist.



Former YOI scholarship recipients Jack and Matthew McDonough standing among the pipework



Andrew Sheranian demonstrating at the console



Password Change

The Member's Area of our website has had a password change! If your membership is current, be sure to check your email inbox for an announcement with the new password. If you cannot find the announcement and believe your membership is current, please reach out to us [here](#).

Online Ordering and Payment now on BAGO Website

Our Chapter Website has now been updated to allow patrons to place advertisements and job placement listings directly online. No paperwork is required. Payment for ads and placements is automated also through PayPay. The result is faster posting of information and dissemination to our Chapter and wider community through social media. To take a look, [click here](#) for advertisements and [click here](#) for job placements.



Claire DeCusati
Webmaster

Ortloff Organ Shop Tour - *Postponed*

The shop tour has been postponed due to a family emergency. Stay tuned for a new date.



Emerging Artists

The Emerging Artists group is an initiative of the Boston AGO serving young organists between the ages of 18-30. Throughout the year, the Boston AGO's Emerging Artists group provides programming in the Greater Boston area to support, encourage, and uplift organists at the start of their careers.

On Monday, February 19, 2024, the Emerging Artists had a class on "Realizing the Partimenti of Bernardo Pasquini," taught by **Benjamin Katz**. All of the students learned new insights into the art of partimenti improvisation. This very successful class was held at Harvard Memorial Church.

If you fall into the 18-30 age group, we hope you will join us for one or more of our remaining events this semester:

Monday, March 4, 2024 - 8:00PM - "Improvisation" masterclass with Jonathan Wessler at First Lutheran Church in Boston, MA.

Saturday, April 6, 2024 (morning departure time TBA - meet at Harvard Memorial Church) - Trip to Groton, Massachusetts to visit the restored organ console at The Groton School.

Friday, April 26, 2024 - 8:00PM - The Planets with Seraphim singers -- hear a transcription of Holst's famous work interspersed with breathtaking choral selections at the Church of the Redeemer in Chestnut Hill.

Saturday, April 27, 2024 (time yet to be confirmed) - Come hear young organists in the Boston area perform at Busch-Adolphus Hall as part of Harvard's ARTSFIRST Festival.

For more information or to register for any of these events, please contact [David von Behren](#), EA coordinator.



Boston Bach Birthday 339 | Saturday, March 23

The Boston Bach Birthday is back! BBB 339 will be held at **First Lutheran Church in Boston**. As always, all musical events are free and open to the public. Featuring multiple recitals for organ, piano, strings, two cantatas, and a festival Magnificat, the day kicks off at 9AM with a recital featuring Bach's complete organ chorale partitas, and goes all the way until the 5pm Vespers. The traditional German Lunch is served at noon (tickets \$15 at the door). Free admission to all musical events. More information [click here](#).



The Planets with Seraphim Singers

Friday, April 26 - 8PM
Church of the Redeemer
379 Hammond Street
Chestnut Hill, MA 0246

In this exciting collaboration with Seraphim Singers and conductor Jennifer Lester, BAGO will have the opportunity to hear Peter Sykes' transcription of Holst's famous work interspersed with breathtaking choral selections at Church of the Redeemer in Chestnut Hill. Free admission for BAGO Members.



Cameron Johnson Memorial Organ Competition for High School Students

Saturday, June 1

Sponsored by Northeastern CT Chapter of the AGO
 Storrs Congregational Church, University of Connecticut

This competition will be held on Saturday, June 1 at 11:00 a.m. at the Storrs Congregational Church located on the campus of the University of Connecticut. It is a competition solely for High School students and offers three cash prizes: \$1,500, \$750 and \$300 along with an audience prize of

\$100. We have also advertised this on the National Website of the AGO, and hope that some of you might have private students that are eligible as well.

If you have students that may be interested, please contact [Dr. Angela Salcedo](#) for more information. For more competition information and for registration, please [click here](#).

welcome New and Rejoining Members

This month, we welcome new member *Brian Wolfie Edwards*. Please welcome Brian at Chapter events.



Mark your calendars for the Organ Crawl and Tuner Talk (with donuts) | Saturday, May 11, 9AM

Is your whatchamacallit flat? Are you sure it's C-2 that's "sticky" and not C-3? Do you talk to your organ tuner the same way you describe issues to your automobile mechanic? How can you best communicate with your organ tuner/technician?

What is the best way to describe the issues your instrument is having? Organ historian, journalist, and consultant Jonathan Ambrosino will give guidance to these issues in an enlightening and engaging event, specifically addressing how to communicate your organ's problems with your tuner. We are finalizing our venues, but can guarantee that this will be a wonderful event!

View The Chapter Calendar



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