



BOSTON PIPINGS

news and notes for members of Boston Chapter AGO

April 2024

The Newsletter of the Boston Chapter American Guild of Organists

A Message from your Sub-Dean



Dear David,

Whew! We made it through March! With all the extra services and expectations for grand music in recent weeks, I am curious how many of us are beginning the month of April feeling a bit exhausted.

This is where the community found in the Boston AGO can be very helpful: a support system filled with people who understand just how hard you work to produce just the right moment through music. In this issue of *Pipings*, you will find many opportunities to gather with fellow organists locally and nationally to explore, learn, listen, and play - and eat! Whether you are wanting to play some different instruments, interested in hearing new repertoire, have questions about working with your organ technician, or are looking to "give back" by supporting young musicians, there is something for you here! Or maybe you just like good food with good company?

I hope to see you at one or more of these events!

Cathy Meyer



Aiming High for YOI

BAGO's Young Organists Initiative (YOI) is a long-standing program of the chapter, and currently a high priority for our Executive Committee. Until his death in 2022, John Dunn gave annually to completely support YOI. Now new donors are needed to make an investment in the future of our profession.

You have an exciting opportunity to join a small group of annual donors to support the YOI. Four BAGO members have already agreed to give \$1,000 annually. The goal is to raise \$7,000 each year. We're accepting annual pledges for \$250, \$500, \$750, and \$1,000 or more. A pledge is not a lifetime commitment. If you decide to withdraw from your annual pledge at some point, we'll find a new donor to take your place.

Admission to the YOI program is by audition. Youth receive a \$1,000 scholarship for private organ lessons, participate in one or two masterclasses, are given free memberships in the AGO, and have the opportunity to play in a recital at King's Chapel in June following their year of study. There are events that connect them with organists too, including BAGO's Emerging Artists program. The YOI experience gives them a trajectory to follow as they progress through their studies.

There are many YOI graduates who have excelled in the field. An example is Savannah Curro, who recently completed a dual degree in organ performance and history from Mercer, studying with Jack Mitchener. She is now enrolled in a masters degree program at Yale University.

If you're interested in becoming an annual donor or want to make a one-time donation, contact [Cathy Meyer](#) or [Daryl Bichel](#). Thank you!

The deadline to apply for a 2024-25 scholarship is April 28. Please [click here](#) and print a poster to hang at your place of employment. Help us spread the word about this amazing program!

Ortloff Organ Shop Tour NEW DATE & TIME! April 20, 10AM-12noon

Were you worried you missed the Ortloff Organ Shop Tour? There is still time to register! The March tour had to be postponed due to a family emergency, but we have a new date of April 20. Jonathan Ortloff's shop is one of the only new shops set up in North America in the last three decades dedicated to the design and construction of new pipe organs and the restoration of vintage instruments, on a large scale. There will be much to see, learn, hear, and experience! This tour will be limited to 12 people only, with preference given to those who have never been to the shop. 178 Crescent Road, Needham. To register or get your name on the waitlist, [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.

In person and live attendance is free for BAGO members
To register to attend in person, [click here](#)
To register to attend the livestream, [click here](#)

Emerging Artists



On March 4, 2024 members of the **Boston AGO - Emerging Artists** and Harvard Organ Society gathered at First Lutheran Church in Boston for a masterclass by Jonathan Wessler. Pictured is Jennifer Hsiao improvising on the Richard, Fawlkess & Company, Op. 10 Instrument.

On April 14, at 1:00 pm, members of the **Boston AGO - Emerging Artists** and Harvard Organ Society will head to Groton School to visit the Aeolian-Skinner organ there, a landmark instrument in the history of American organ-building. For those of you who were around last term, we saw the console of this instrument in shop at the Ortloff Organ Company, so we will get to see it fully rejuvenated and back at home! **Please meet at Harvard Memorial Church on Sunday, April 14 at 1:00 pm, and we'll provide transportation.**

On Saturday, April 27 at 4:20 pm- come hear members of the Harvard Organ Society and Boston AGO - Emerging Artists perform a 30-minute recital at Busch-Adolphus Hall! Address: 29 Kirkland Street, Cambridge, MA 02138



For more information or to register for any of these events, please email [David von Behren](mailto:David.von.Behren@bostonago.org), EA coordinator.

**ORGAN CRAWL
& TUNER TALK**

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024
ST ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
HOUGHTON CHAPEL, WELLESLEY COLLEGE
WELLESLEY, MA



8:45AM Meet at St Andrew's for coffee & donuts, 79 Denton Rd, Wellesley
9:30AM Demonstration of the 2006 Juget-Sinclair organ
9:50AM "Tuner Talk" with Jonathan Ambrosino
10:15AM Walk to Houghton Chapel, Wellesley College (those who prefer to drive will be carpooled)
10:45AM Demonstration of the 1981 Fisk organ
12:00PM Return to St Andrew's for lunch
12:15PM Lunch and conversation

For more information and to register, visit bostonago.org



Wellesley Organ Crawl and Tuner Talk (with coffee, donuts & lunch) Saturday, May 11, 8:45AM-12:45PM

Come to Wellesley for a varied Saturday of organ nerding out.

First, we'll gather at St Andrew's Episcopal Church, Wellesley (*the church parking lot is one block southwest of the Church, on the same side of Washington Street*). After coffee and donuts, we'll have a brief demonstration of the 2006 Juget-Sinclair organ. Afterward, organ technician Jonathan Ambrosino will lead "Tuner Talk," a brief guide on how best to communicate

organ troubles to your organ service people. He'll also answer basic questions on pipe organ maintenance.

From there, attendees can walk or be driven to Houghton Chapel at Wellesley Chapel, to explore the 1981 Fisk organ in Houghton Chapel. The courageous among us can foot-pump the organ while others play, and College Organist Erica Johnson will be on hand to explain the meantone tuning system and what all the additional accidental keys do. Opus 72 was the last organ Charles Fisk finish-voiced before his death in 1983.

Finally, those who wish to gather for lunch will return to Saint Andrew's. There will be sign-up opportunities for lunch prior to the event, for those who pre-register. A separate email will be sent closer to the date with links to register.

**BAGO Annual Meeting
with Dinner and a Members' Recital**

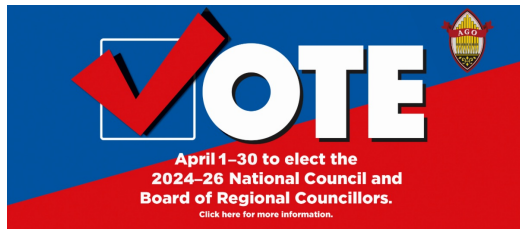


Monday, June 3, 6-9PM

We hope to see you for our annual dinner, members' recital, and meeting on Monday, June 3. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss out. All are welcome!

welcome New and Rejoining Members

This month, we welcome new Dual member *Shoko Hosono*. Shoko is a primary member of the Merrimack Chapter. Please welcome Shoko at Chapter events.



Have you voted? Now through April 30!

If you are a Voting Member of the AGO, we encourage you to cast your votes for the members of the 2024-2026 AGO National Council and Board of Regional Councillors. To access the ballot, [click here](#).

Substitute List Member Verification to begin in April

Are you a member of the BAGO Substitute List? If so, you will be receiving a communication from the Boston Chapter asking you to verify your interest to still be on this list. Yearly verification is necessary to maintain the integrity of the information on the list. This verification will start later this month.



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](#).

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

[View The Chapter Calendar](#)

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