



BOSTON PIPINGS

news and notes for members of Boston Chapter AGO

May 2024

The Newsletter of the Boston Chapter American Guild of Organists

A Message from your Sub-Dean



Dear David,

The month of April was incredible for BAGO!

On Saturday, April 20, twelve of us met in Needham for the Ortloff Organ Shop Tour. Principal and founder Jonathan Ortloff spent the morning showing us around the shop, explaining some of his organ building techniques and describing recent, current, and future projects. The highlight for many was a thorough demonstration of voicing a few pipes from the new pedal mixture for his current project at Trinity University in San Antonio. It was a fascinating to see the magic of this process! If you wish you had been there, don't worry: we are planning another shop tour in early 2025. For more information about the shop, I invite you to visit ortlofforgan.com.



Ortloff Organ Shop Tour



Ortloff Organ Shop Tour

Less than a week later, chapter members found themselves enjoying the *Stars and Planets* concert in collaboration with Seraphim Singers and the Youth Choir from First Church in Belmont (with Ian Garvie, director). This program was built around Peter Sykes' brilliant transcription of *The Planets*, alternating between Holst's movements and anthems on shared themes by composers such as Timothy Takach, Patricia Van Ness, and Jonathan Dove. Peter was assisted by former BAGO Dean Victoria Wagner; together they built a masterpiece of sound on the 2018 Schoenstein & Co. Opus 178, a three

manual, 25-stop instrument designed in the Anglican tradition. They shared the bench with Heinrich Christensen, who accompanied Seraphim Singers and then brought the audience to their feet to join in singing Richard Proulx's setting of *O God, Beyond All Praising*.



This was the final concert for Jennifer Lester (also a former BAGO Dean) as Seraphim's Music Director; the standing-room-only audience did not hold back their gratitude for all of her contributions to Seraphim and BAGO. Following the concert, we enjoyed a reception put together by Daryl Bichel, featuring his out-of-this-world Galactic Brownies, Cosmic Popcorn, Stardust Cookies, and a Solar System Cake, complete with mocktails and great conversation.

The next morning, our Young Organist Initiative scholarship recipients met with Heinrich Christensen at King's Chapel for a masterclass. Keep reading to find out more about this fun event for our youth.

I hope to see you on May 11 in Wellesley for our next event: an organ crawl that will feature two very interesting instruments and Jonathan Ambrosino's "Tuner Talk!" More information is below.

Cathy Meyer



BAGO Chapter Elections

The slate of candidates coming forward to help lead the Boston Chapter into the future has been posted on the Chapter's website [here](#). This posting includes candidates' bios and photos. The slate was proposed by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Executive Committee on April 25, 2024.

Proposed comments on candidates or offers of other nominees for elected positions is open until May 15, 2024. Any comments or additions of nominees should be sent to Jeffrey Mills, Registrar, no later than close of the comment period. If additional candidates wish to be added, they must submit their information and include contact information of five other Chapter Members who support their candidacy. You may contact [Jeffrey](#) with questions or documents about additional candidates.

Voting members will receive ballots on May 16. Voting closes at noon on May 30

Thanks to the members of the Nominating Committee—Robert Barney, Buffy Gray, Louise Munding, David von Behren, and Jonathan Wessler—for their assistance in identifying candidates for the slate.



Young Organist Initiative News

On Saturday, April 27, all three of our current YOI students met at King's Chapel for a masterclass with Heinrich Christinsen. Ilario Faienza (6th grade), student of Jeremy Bruns, began the session with *Élégie* by Léon Boëllmann and *Verse* (Anon. Italian, 18th century). Liam Cummings (8th grade), also a student of Jeremy Bruns, played *Prelude* by César Franck and *Prelude in C Major*, BWV 553, attributed to J.S. Bach. Ravi Burtner (10th grade), student of Cathy Meyer, finished the class with the *Prelude and Fugue in F Major*, BWV 556, and *Elegy* by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor. Heinrich worked with them on technique, gave them ideas for articulation, fingering and phrasing, and gave each of them the chance to try pressing pistons, as the organs they all have lessons on are completely mechanical. After

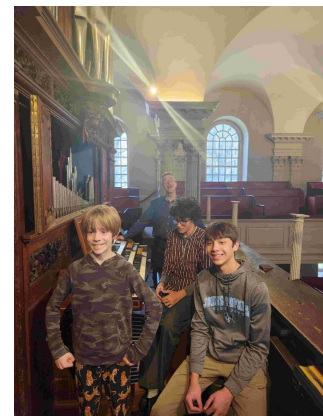
the masterclass, the students, along with their families, went out for tacos and fajitas with Heinrich and Cathy, giving everyone the opportunity to form new friendships.

The YOI Committee is grateful to Heinrich, David von Behren, and Andrew Sheranian, for their masterclasses and *Pedals, Pipes & Pizza* programs this year! We also give thanks to William Ness, who has served as our YOI Chairperson this year, and welcome Jeremy Bruns to the committee beginning in April.

We hope you will join us at King's Chapel for the YOI recital at 12:15PM on Tuesday, June 25!

The YOI Committee

William Ness, Cathy Meyer, David von Behren, Savannah Curro, Andrew Sheranian, and James Kennerley



Emerging Artists

On April 27, members of the Boston AGO Emerging Artists and Harvard Organ Society played a recital at Adolphus Busch Hall at Harvard University. The recital included works of J.S. Bach, Nicolaus Bruhns, Noam Elkies, and Johann Pachelbel.

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

BAGO's organ crawls are a highlight of the year! We hope you will join us for this fun morning!

8:45AM meet at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church for coffee and donuts, located at 79 Denton Rd in Wellesley, for coffee & donuts (church parking lot is one block southwest of the church, on the same side of Washington Street)

9:30AM demonstration of the 2006 Juget-Sinclair organ

9:50AM "Tuner Talk" with organ technician Jonathan Ambrosino

What exactly is "Tuner Talk?" 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.

10:15AM walk to Houghton Chapel at Wellesley College (a carpool will be offered upon request)

10:45AM demonstration of the 1981 Fisk organ

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.

12PM return to St. Andrew's for lunch

12:15PM lunch and conversation

Finally, those who wish to gather for lunch will return to Saint Andrew's. Registration for lunch is live! [Click here to submit your lunch order](#), and plan to bring \$10 cash for lunch. There will be no lunch charge for Emerging Artists (age 18-30) who are current members of the chapter.



ORGAN CRAWL & TUNER TALK

Saturday, May 9, 2024 | 8:45AM
St Andrews Episcopal Church
Houghton Chapel, Wellesley College

For more information and to register for lunch, please visit bostonago.org

BOSTON AGO



BOSTON AGO THE BOSTON CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

MEMBERS' RECITAL ANNUAL MEETING

Celebrate another fantastic year with us over a delicious dinner and wonderful members' recital!

MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2024 | 6-9PM

SAINT JOSEPH PARISH
68 WILLIAM CARDINAL O'CONNELL WAY
BOSTON, MA 02114

bostonago.org

BAGO Annual Meeting with Dinner and a Members' Recital Monday, June 3, 6-9PM

Saint Joseph Parish, Boston

Come and enjoy a *buffet Italian dinner* and a recital presented by Mitchell Crawford, Glenn Goda, and Adrian Cho.

We will then celebrate this past year and present the list of programs for next year.

Mark your calendars now so you don't miss out! All are welcome.

MEMORIAL CONCERT

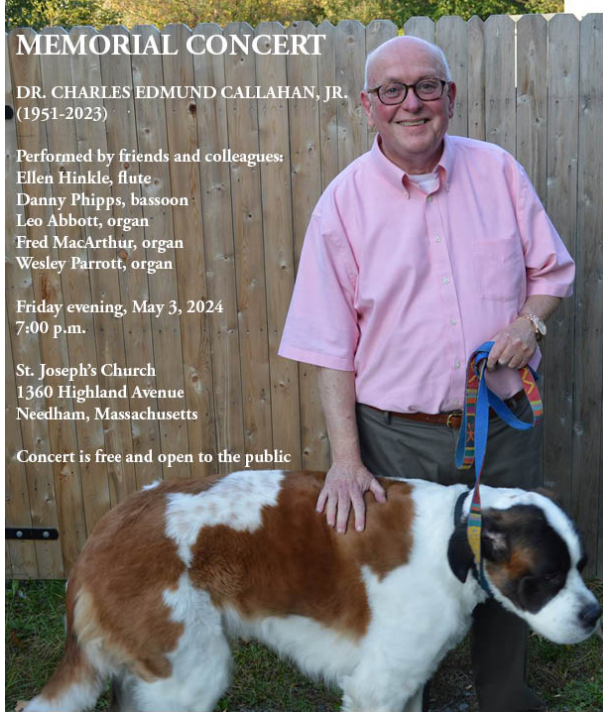
DR. CHARLES EDMUND CALLAHAN, JR.
(1951-2023)

Performed by friends and colleagues:
Ellen Hinkle, flute
Danny Phipps, bassoon
Leo Abbott, organ
Fred MacArthur, organ
Wesley Parrott, organ

Friday evening, May 3, 2024
7:00 p.m.

St. Joseph's Church
1360 Highland Avenue
Needham, Massachusetts

Concert is free and open to the public



AGO 2024
SAN FRANCISCO

Have you registered for **AGO 2024 San Francisco** yet? Registration is open until June 30. Don't miss out on this opportunity for growth and connection through workshops, masterclasses, concerts, worship, publisher reading sessions,

not to mention all the sights of San Francisco!

NEW MUSIC PREMIERES IN SAN FRANCISCO ANNOUNCED

Attendees at the 2024 AGO National Convention, June 30–July 4 in San Francisco, will experience a wide variety of new works for organ, choir, and instruments. The convention committee recently announced these commissions and premieres as part of the program:

- **Mason Bates – Suite for Organ**
- **David Conte – *O Come, Let Us Sing / When In Our Music God Is Glorified* for organ, choir, and opt. congregation**
- **Melissa Dunphy – *Generations* for organ and voice**
- **Iain Farrington – *Heads Up (I. Swing Around, II. Swag Rag, III. Sweet Steak)* for organ solo**
- **Texu Kim – *Diptych on Veni Creator Spiritus* for organ solo**
- **Jessica Meyer – *Strong Arms to Hold Back the Dark (Ghostly – Reassuring – With Resounding Joy – Beginning Anew)* for organ and trombone**
- **Eurydice Osterman – Psalm 23 for organ solo**
- **Carl Rütli – *Wisdom – Suite for organ solo (I. Dancing Wisdom, II. Brother Glacier's Farewell, III. Mea culpa, IV. Hope, V. La Sapienza di San Francesco)***
- **Errollyn Wallen – *Gather* for organ solo**

[Click here](#) to learn more and register. To reserve your room at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis for a steeply discounted rate of \$169/night, [click here](#). **The AGO hotel block closes on June 9.**

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2024 Summer Series
 Weds. 7:30 pm May 22 – August 28
 Series Subscriptions available

Young Artists Concert (5/22) Bush Brothers Organ & Piano (5/29)
 Mária Budáčová (6/5) David von Behren (6/12) 
 Four Women: Rosalind Mohsen, Abbey Siegfried
 Jennifer McPherson Mulhern, Cathy Meyer (6/19) 
 Edith Yam (6/26) Meg Cutting (7/3) Joseph Ripka (7/10)
 Anne Laver (7/17) Lukas Hasler (7/24) Carina Brackin(7/31)
 Joonho Park (8/7) Jan Kraybill (8/14)
 Tyler Boehmer (8/21) Dana Robinson (8/28)

Save the Date: Sunday, Sept. 15, 3:00 pm PAUL JACOBS

View The Chapter Calendar

Donate to the Chapter via PayPal



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