



BOSTON PIPINGS

news and notes for members of Boston Chapter AGO

April 2021 Pippings - The Newsletter of the Boston Chapter AGO

Click here to go to the Calendar on our website.



Our 75th Annual Summer Recital Series! Live-streamed

Wednesdays 7:30 pm

May 19 – August 25

www.youtube.com/c/methuenmemorialmusichall

Michael Hey

Bridgette Wargovich

Scott Lamlein

Adam Pajan

Jeremy Bruns

Cathy Meyer

Christopher Houlihan

Rhonda Sider Edgington

Stephan Griffin

Mark Pacoe

Stefan Donner

Nicole Keller

Caroline Robinson

Rosalind Mohnsen

Jennifer McPherson

www.mmmh.org

 **METHUENMEMORIALMUSICHALL**

The Great Organ at MMMH is America's first concert organ. You can read more about the [organ here](#). To read more about the MMMH click [here](#).

These concerts will be available on demand at MMMH's Youtube Channel [here](#). MMMH also has all of last year's performances (organ, cello, piano, piano and violin, organ and trumpet) on this Channel.

Additional concerts and videos will be presented in 2021. Watch for details on the Calendar on our Chapter's website.

Meet the Executive Committee

Greetings!

Welcome to a new feature of our newsletter. We are asking members of our Executive

“What is the best way to cook asparagus?”. This is a question I was asked many times when people learned that I was born in Argenteuil, a city ten miles Northwest of Paris, famous for two things: its asparagus and for Monet's and Renoir's many paintings of “La Seine à Argenteuil”.

I took my first piano lesson when I was around six with an old lady, Mrs. Gross; she was very kind but not very demanding and I was not very motivated by her teaching, so I stopped playing the piano five years later. I then thought it was the end of my “musical career”.



I used to attend mass every Sunday at the catholic parish, not far from my home; it was a recently built post Vatican II church, modern, made with concrete and there was an electronic organ played by Mr. Sarthre, a volunteer organist in his seventies. And one Sunday morning, after mass, I was thirteen then, I went to see Mr. Sarthre and told him that I wanted to learn to play the organ. And since he was really looking for somebody to share his unpaid workload on Sundays and during the school vacations, he graciously accepted me as his student; my training mainly consisted in learning to accompany the modern hymns (remember! post Vatican II) from lead sheets. It also became a good technical training for me because that electronic organ was very temperamental, sometimes generating a totally uncontrolled tremolo and I was often there making adjustments with my screwdriver just before mass, but when it didn't work, I ended up playing the harmonium instead!

After graduating in engineering in the French “Grandes Ecoles” system, I spent my professional life working in high tech, initially as an engineer and project manager but soon moved to marketing, business development and management (general manager, CEO,...) in France then in the USA. My wife Elisabeth and I met in Paris singing in a choir, our first date was at an organ recital in Notre Dame and from the beginning we had a shared interest in coming to the USA for graduate studies or work.

We moved several times in France and I kept playing the organ as a volunteer organist in the church in the towns where we lived.

In 1992, the international company I was working for offered me a position located in Boston, and my wife and I, with three young boys in tow, crossed the Atlantic Ocean, and settled in Carlisle, MA for two years, then moved to Atlanta for four years, then back to Carlisle.

During those years, I traveled a lot, sharing my time between Boston, Silicon Valley, Asia and Europe. I still loved music, but my enjoyment was limited to listening to music, not playing for almost sixteen years.

After I retired from my high-tech job in 2007, I decided to practice the organ again, bought a practice organ for home, joined the AGO Merrimack Valley Chapter then BAGO and took my first formal organ lesson with Patrick Kabanda, then the MVAGO Dean. It is never too late to start.

Looking for new challenges and with the help and support from MVAGO friends, I was hired by the catholic church in Hampton, NH as their organist, and continued taking lessons with Fred MacArthur. I will always remember the comments from my choir every time I played short pieces from “Les Heures Mystiques” by Boellmann, using the original book dated 1896 I inherited from Mr. Sarthre.

I retired from my organist job last year, after ten years, to be available to travel and visit our grandchildren in Canada, Portugal and up-state New York. We are quite an international family.

I am a past Dean of the MVAGO and I have been and I am still involved in volunteer work

*Alain Bojarski
Member at Large*



Welcome New Members

We are pleased to welcome two new members to our Chapter:

Eric Williams has served as organist/choir master for three R.C. Churches on Long Island since 1984. After 34 years as Director of Choirs at Hewlett High School, Hewlett, NY, he has retired and relocated to MA. Whether directing from the console or accompanying a soloist or choir, he is looking forward to helping the worshipping community grow spiritually through the gift of music.

Nigel Potts has been called to be the Director of Music for Church of the Redeemer at Chestnut Hill. He is transferring into our Chapter from Charleston, SC where he served as the Canon Organist and Master of Music at Grace Church Cathedral since 2015. There he has overseen the music programs of one of the largest Episcopal parishes in the South-East. Prior to his call to Grace Church Cathedral, Nigel served as Organist and Choirmaster of Christ and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in New York City. There he oversaw the installation of their Schoenstein & Co. pipe organ in 2008. He received his Master of Music (Organ) from Yale University in 2002 and studied at the Royal Academy of Music in London, UK during the 1990's. Nigel hails from Wellington, New Zealand. He has also served on the NYC AGO Board.

Please extend a warm welcome to Eric and Nigel.

Announcing the Year of the Young Organist

Calling all current, former, and future members of BAGO under the age of 30!



During the **Year of the Young Organist**, July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022, any individual under the age of 30 can become a member or renew her/his membership for free as part of this program.

Events and new initiatives will be held throughout the year. [Click here](#) for more information or contact [Mitchell Crawford](#)



Beware of Fraudulent Email - Will you play my wedding?

Members of AGO are being targeted. Once again (as we have done so repeatedly on the past) we advise you to circumspect all email addresses and the content of email

which are soliciting information from you.

This is a sample of text which you may have recently received in your personal email box:

"Hello,
I want to know if you can perform (piano) for an hour at my wedding ceremony with my

beautiful fiancée at a private home in [city/town appears here] on April 10th, 2021. The ceremony will start by 5pm and the event will be attended by limited friends and family. Social distancing will be adhered to and all guests will be putting on face masks. You will be required to perform 7 minutes prelude, 2 minutes processional, 3 minutes Recessional and 10 minutes postlude all during the 1 hour of the ceremony. Please let me know if you are available and how much do you charge?"

You may then be asked to provide Venmo or Paypal information.

If you receive this email, please delete immediately. Do not share any personal information, especially on an unsolicited email.



Virtual *Orgelbüchlein* Recital!

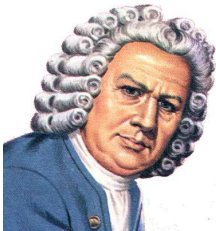
We now have recitalists for all the *Orgelbüchlein* chorales.

The recitalists will have until April 30 to make their recording(s) and submit them via upload to the Google Drive folder [here](#).

Within the folder, you'll also find a sheet containing some tips to ensure a successful recording — though this may have become rather routine for many during a long season of pandemic!

All submissions be completed by **April 30** so that we have time to assemble the recital for its May premier.

Thanks to all for adding your distinctive “voice” to our collaboration. There is no better way to highlight our amazing chapter and its fabulous members!



Conversing with J.S. Bach -by Louise Munding

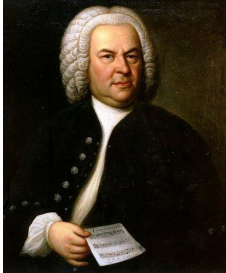
For the upcoming *Orgelbüchlein* project, I looked at OB preludes with “Canone” in the subtitle to see what I could find. * In my search, two preludes stood out: *Christe, du Lamm Gottes in Canone alla Duodecima 2 Clav. e Pedale.*, BWV 619 and *Christus, der uns selig macht, in Canone all' Ottava.*, BWV 620.

In *Christe, du Lamm Gottes*, BWV 619, the descending F major scales fall gently, but steadily. I have always found this prelude sweet and satisfying to play. The scales, the sixths, the wide spacing between dux (leader) and comes (follower) make the dissonances poignant, not sharp. There is a sense of pity and sorrow as well as hope. You can imagine Bach writing out the scales, the notes falling like tears. He comes close to painting anguish, drawing each tear as a note on the paper. After the canon begins there are two four-note, rising duets in thirds followed by a five-note rising passage to the second phrase of the canon. Then the five-note rises extend to six notes, the final rise as a six-note passage in the pedal, from B natural to G, including an f-sharp. Bach begins the piece in F major and then sixteen bars later he is in G with parallel sixths coming down in the freshness of a new tones. Hope increases amidst the anguish.

In *Christus, der uns selig macht*, BWV 620 the mood is harrowing. Christ is not adorned with sorrowful tears but is instead dragged into the mire of chromatic thirds placed deep below middle C, the thirds bound together like handcuffs. At two octaves apart, the dux in the soprano voice and comes in the bass begin on the strong beats of one and three, but at the second phrase dux begins on the fourth beat followed by comes on the second: the wrong beats. Is the canon lost? The inner voices begin as a canon at the octave, but the second voice soon insists on augmented rhythms and then goes its own way. The inner voices seem to be in a deep forest without penetrating light, with roots ready to trip anyone who comes by. A paraphrase of the text says, “Christ, the one who blesses us,

was caught as a thief in the night, falsely accused, laughed at and mocked." At the final phrase, the alto voice rises chromatically above the dux, and the alto and soprano voices further ascend chromatically while getting more and more dissonant as the final cadence approaches. The final E Major chord is a hard-won resolution. In the 25 measures of BWV 620 the Christ who blesses us descends to a muck of low tones and comes back exhausted but victorious. Hope overcomes anguish.

*The other Orgelbüchlein preludes that mention Canone in the subtitle are BWV 600, 608, 618, 619, 620, 624, 629, 633/634.



The Boston Bach Birthday Replay Available

BAGO partners with First Lutheran Church Boston

If you either missed, or would like to hear again the concerts of First Lutheran Church in honor of JSB's 336th birthday, it is available for replay on demand by clicking here.

To watch the recitals live, click [here](#)

For more information, including the day's recital program, click [here](#)

Deo volente, the Boston Bach Birthday will be back in 2022, in its full incarnation, on Saturday, March 19. Mark your calendars now!

The Password to the Members Area of the website will change in September 2021

We will be changing the password to the Members Area of our Chapter Website **in September**. This will ensure that Chapter Members will receive benefits reserved for them - just as the ability to list yourself as an instructor; access to job placement listings: access to the Membership Directory; etc.



Before the change happens, each member will receive an email containing the new password. **We will reset the password for you**. And if you forget the new password, there will be a way to ask the Website Coordinator to provide it to you as a Member.

With Appreciation



The Boston Chapter would like to acknowledge and thank the following Chapter members who generously contributed additional monies to fund chapter programs and operations. These donations are above and beyond dues payment, and are directed toward General Operations (O), Educational Programs (E), the Organ Library (L), and the Young Organist Initiative (YOI). This year, these funds have helped us to fund a ZOOM account, a

YouTube account, production of virtual recitals, lessons for YOI students, and the continued operations of the Organ Library.

We are deeply grateful to **Peter Krasinski** (O,E,L) for the donation he made in March.



Job Placement News

In the "Members Area" of the BAGO Chapter website, we maintain a list of current job openings from churches and institutions that have chosen to list with us. These job openings are for Chapter Members only. If we have no current openings, that will be noted on the website.

Please check frequently if you are seeking employment, as new listings can come in at any time. Listings are posted for 6 months, or until the position is filled.

Women in Music Festival (WIMFest) 2021

Undaunted, our sixth annual WIMFest will be held this spring. The Boston Chapter will purchase copies of "Multitude of Voyces' Anthology of Sacred Music by Women Composers" Vol. I SATB. To receive a copy, you will need to be among the first twenty-five members who sign up and attend the festival. The copies will be given to members who sign up and then attend the festival. The location of the festival is under discussion, as is the date, but it will happen before the program year is over.



Please look for further details (date, time, and location).

If you would like to preview the contents of the Anthology, please [click here](#)



Save the Date!

The Chapter's Annual Meeting will be held this year on **Monday, June 7, 2021 beginning at 6:30PM via ZOOM**. Please mark the date on your calendars.

Last year we had a very engaging annual meeting using this virtual platform. We hope Members will join us again for this year in review.

Bring a beverage and join us. Meeting information will follow in future issues of Pippings.

Upcoming Webinars

[AGOYO Fridays at Noon Eastern](#)

April 9, 2021: Organ Factory Tour at Taylor & Boody

Monday, April 19th, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. EDT

Re-Igniting, Re-Imagining and Re-Emerging from COVID-19

Presented by the AGO Committee on Membership Development and Chapter Support. Join chapter leaders who participated in the breakout sessions during the 2021 AGO Leadership

Conference, as they share their innovations and new strategies to strengthen their chapter's programming and member engagement. This interactive webinar will provide lots of peer-to-peer sharing, as well as time allotted for Q&A. [Click here](#) to register.



Monday, April 26, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. EDT

The Do-Re-Mi's of Website Design

Presented by the AGO Technology Committee. This webinar will cover creating, posting and the importance of keeping your website up-to-date. [Click here to register.](#)

Thursday, May 4, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. EDT

There Must Be 50 Ways to Raise Some Money

Presented by John Dixon, AGO Councillor for Finance and moderated by AGO Executive Director James E. Thomashower, CAE. This webinar is designed to assist chapter leaders in learning best practices for raising money to support chapter programs and activities.

[Click here to register.](#)



AGO Membership - Membership Aid still available

If you have suffered financial hardships and loss of income as a result of the pandemic, AGO has received donations to assist those who cannot afford to renew their memberships. If you do need assistance, or know someone who does, contact Lynn Vermeer so that she

may send the name to AGO HQ. Your request will be held in confidence.

Have you moved lately? Has your address, phone, or email changed? If so you are probably busy with many tasks, and keeping your information current with AGO Headquarters may be lower on your to-do list.

Let us help! You can update ONCARD directly using your login id and password (the account number found on your TAO label). Or you can contact me using contact section of our website. [Click here](#) and address your comments to the Membership Secretary from the drop down box.

Please visit the AGO COVID-19 resource page by [clicking here](#) .

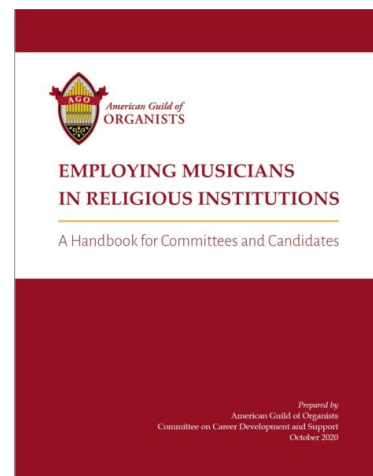
Most importantly, during this particularly challenging time, continuing to be part of our chapter offers you the opportunity to stay connected with a community who is here to engage, uplift and support you.

Lynn Vermeer
Registrar

New Guide Available from AGO HQ

The new guide, ***EMPLOYING MUSICIANS IN RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS: A Handbook for Committees and Candidates***, is available for download from AGO HQ [here](#).

Vincent Carr, Councillor for Education, moderated a panel discussion regarding Know Your Value: Introducing the AGO's New Employment Guide for Musicians on February 1st. If you would like to hear the recording of this webinar, [click here](#).



Child Safety Committee Created

The Executive Committee has approved the creation of a Committee on Child Safety at the February 8th EC meeting. The duties and responsibilities of this Committee are outlined in our Operating Procedures here.

The Chapter is looking for 2 people to serve on this Committee . Candidates must be willing to undergo Massachusetts CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) and SORI (Sex Offender Registry Information) Screening (at Chapter expense), sign a confidentiality agreement, and be approved by the Executive Committee.

If you are interested in serving our Chapter in this manner, please contact [Louise Munding](#)



Click the image to link to our website



Click the image to link to AGO HQ website

Boston Chapter, American Guild of Organists | bostonago@verizon.net

See what's happening on our Facebook Page:

