



BOSTON PIPINGS

news and notes for members of Boston Chapter AGO

September 2024

The Newsletter of the Boston Chapter American Guild of Organists

Directly from the Dean



Dear David,

September is here! I hope this *Pipings* finds you well rested after a wonderful summer, and that you are ready to take on whatever this fall has in store for you. September can be a time of renewal and inspiration, and I am thrilled to highlight some upcoming BAGO events with you that we hope will contribute to that. In fact, this whole edition of *Pipings* is filled to the brim with important updates and exciting opportunities for learning, fellowship, and fun!

The Program Committee, now under the direction of Jeffrey Mills, has presented a rich lineup of activities for this coming year. After hearing feedback at our annual Epiphany party, it was decided to focus some energy on helping pianists become more comfortable on the organ bench. As such, Dr. David von Behren will be offering a masterclass on basic organ technique later this month, and in February we will have a special Pedals, Pipes and Pizza - with Pinot Noir! - (think PPP but for adults) at two neighboring churches in Duxbury. We also have events which are designed to give everyone repertoire ideas (like the Opening Service and Installation, featuring composers and writers who are celebrating anniversaries this year, and a weekend with composer Chelsea Chen), a return to the Orloff Organ Shop, TAO Book Club events for those who prefer a virtual venue, and so much more! There is truly something for everyone of every ability and interest.

Over the summer I have been focusing on filling our empty committee chair positions, and am thrilled with those who have agreed to step into these roles. If you would like to become more involved, I hope you will reach out to me - there is a space especially for you! Whether you are a seasoned performer or a budding artist, I encourage you to participate and celebrate the diverse talents within our guild.

As we embark on this new season, I hope you will be engaged, participate actively, and take full advantage of the opportunities our chapter has to offer. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and working together to make this a memorable and successful year!

Here's to a great year ahead!

-Cathy

September Events

Opening Service

Please join us to celebrate anniversaries and come meet the new team of Boston Officers.

Our Opening Service will be held on September 10 at 7pm. It will be located at First Parish Church in Concord, MA.

OPENING SERVICE & *Installation of Officers*



Tuesday, September 10, 2024
7:00 PM

*an evening to celebrate
anniversaries*

First Parish Church
20 Lexington Rd, Concord, MA

www.bostonago.org



Masterclass: From the Piano to the Organ

Join us for a Masterclass discussing how pianists find success at the organ. Dr. David von Behren will be sharing his expertise.

This event will be held at Plymouth Congregational Church in Belmont, MA at 10am.

Masterclass: *From the Piano to the Organ*



WITH:

Dr. David von Behren

Assistant University Organist & Choirmaster, Harvard Memorial Church



TIPS & TRICKS FOR SUCCESS FOR PIANISTS AT THE ORGAN

Learn to use your feet, develop a legato finger technique, and glean insights on registering colorful sounds in an immersive, hands-on experience on the King of Instruments!



September 28, 2024 | 10AM-12noon

Plymouth Congregational Church
582 Pleasant Street, Belmont, MA

www.bostonago.org

Dinner(s) with the Dean

Our new Dean will be



YOU ARE INVITED TO

Dinner with the Dean

7PM. FIVE NIGHTS. FIVE NEIGHBORHOODS.

OCTOBER 1
QUINCY



NOVEMBER 20
MALDEN

JANUARY 13
WALTHAM

MARCH 18
NEEDHAM

MAY 21
CAMBRIDGE

EMAIL DEAN@BOSTONAGO.ORG AT LEAST 48 HOURS
PRIOR TO THE EVENT TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT

hosting five *Dinners With the Dean* this year, in five different neighborhoods around the city. All are located at restaurants with a diverse menu, have access to parking, and are close to the T.

The first dinner is on Tuesday October 1. Join us in Quincy at 7pm.

If you would like to attend, please email dean@bostonago.org no later than 48 hours prior to the event to get the restaurant's address.

Please bring cash so we can easily split the bill.

Are you curious about the chapter's future plans? Do you have something to share from the past? Or are you looking for more opportunities to connect with other organists? Look no further!

AGO Certification Reminders

The requirements for the 2025 Exams were announced in the July issue of "The American Guild of Organists" and can be viewed here: [2025-Certification-Requirements.pdf](#). Any chapter members or friends who are thinking about working towards any level of certification should bear in mind the important dates:

Service Playing: applications are open Sept 1, 2024 through February 1, 2025. *Note that the February closing date often catches people unaware.* If you want to take SPC text in the spring, be sure to apply right after Christmas!

Colleague (CAGO): to take this exam, apply by September 15 for the fall exam or March 15 for the spring exam.

All Upper Level Exams: ChM, AAGO and FAGO: Apply by April 1 for the June exams.

Note that in addition to your local teachers and colleagues, many online resources are available for exam preparation and study. [Visit the Certification portion of the AGO website](#) where you can click on each exam to view sample tests, solution books, and other resources. You may reach out to our chapter exam coordinator, Andrew Scanlon, FAGO, by email anytime you have a question. ascanlon@theadventboston.org

Meet our new Committee Chairs!

Thank you to all our new committee chairs! If you should see any of these people, please

**Chaplain -
REV. ADAM ISBITSKY**

Rev. Adam, a Boston-area native, is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, currently serving as Legacy Pastor to the Second Congregational Church, UCC, of Beverly. After receiving a bachelor's degree in music and music education at Bridgewater State College, he led children's and youth musical theatre programs and taught music in the K-12 public school system.

In the past, he has sung and played at various Protestant and Catholic churches in the area. Currently, in addition to his pastoral duties, he volunteers his musical skills with Voices of Hope, raising funds to fight cancer through performance. He writes, "I am interested in serving as chaplain to the Boston Chapter of the AGO because I hope to be a pastoral presence and advocate for musicians, and because I value and respect the mystical, sacred nature inherent in music."



**AGO/Quimby Regional Competition
for Young Organists Chairperson -
JACK MERRILL RUSSELL**

John Russell is Professor Emeritus of Music at The College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio. He currently serves as Organist-Choirmaster at Christ Church of Hamilton; Wenham in Hamilton, Massachusetts. His strong advocacy for greater incorporation of students and young organists into the AGO has included lobbying the national leadership on behalf of increased financial support for the Rising Stars who perform at the National Conventions of the Guild. He has been a faculty member of Pipe Organ Encounters in Cleveland, Ohio, Charleston, West Virginia, and at the Eastman School of

**EC Member-at-Large, Class of 2026 -
JERRICK CAVAGNARO**

Jerrick is the Associate Director of Music at Trinity Church in Copley Square, and just recently won first place in the National Competition for Organ Improvisation in San Francisco. Jerrick is a recent graduate of the Yale School of Music and the Yale Institute of Sacred Music where he earned a master's degree in organ performance, studying under Jon Laukvik and Thomas Murray. He completed his undergraduate studies at Westminster Choir College, where he earned bachelor's degrees in sacred music and organ performance, studying under Alan Morrison. In 2022, Jerrick received the second prize in the National Competition in Organ Accompaniment, sponsored by the Washington, DC chapter of the AGO, third prize in the Quebec Organ Competition in Quebec City, Canada, and was a semifinalist in the 2022 Boston Bach International Organ Competition. Also an active composer, Jerrick's compositions have recently been published by Oxford University Press.

Jerrick is filling an open position on the Executive Committee and will serve for the remaining 2 years of the position.



**YOI Committee Chairperson -
JEREMY BRUNS**

Jeremy returns to the YOI Committee, this time as Chairperson. Named a "coolly aristocratic player" by The Dallas Morning News, Jeremy has been heard on the nationally syndicated radio show *Pipedreams*, BBC Radio, and the Pro Organo label. He has been featured at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston SC, and has performed numerous recitals with engagements including St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey in London, Canterbury Cathedral, Washington National Cathedral, St. James' Cathedral in Toronto, Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, Methuen Memorial Music Hall, St. Paul Cathedral and Heinz Memorial Chapel in Pittsburgh, Adolphus Busch Hall, and the Fisor Reformed Church in Budapest. As a church musician, Bruns has held positions in Boston, Pittsburgh and other locations, including St. Thomas

Music in Rochester, New York. He has served as an adjudicator for AGO competitions in organ performance at the chapter and regional levels.

Within the Boston chapter Mr. Russell has served as chair of the competition committee for several years and as a member of the Steering Committees for both the biennial regional and national conventions.



Church Fifth Avenue in NYC. He also served as Visiting Assistant Professor in the School of Music at Stephen F. Austin State University. He studied with David Higgs at the Eastman School of Music, earning the Master of Music and the Performer's Certificate.

He is former Dean of BAGO and is represented by *Concert Artist Cooperative*. He serves as Director of Music and Organist at Parish of the Epiphany in Winchester. He currently serves on the YOI Committee and has taught many students in the YOI program.



Save the Date: Oct 27th Concert

Enter the cavernous space at Old South Church, Boston (costumes welcome!) to hear ghoulish music played on this notable instrument at this Halloween Family Organ Concert.

This is a fundraiser, so encourage families you know to come with you to enjoy this special concert that will benefit our Chapter's Young Organist Initiative (YOI). Suggested donation is \$25 per family group.

Sunday, October 27, 6-7 pm

Old South Church

645 Boylston St. Boston, MA 02116

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook

The Boston Chapter now has an Instagram account please go follow us. We plan on posting event announcements with fun reels sprinkled in.

Search our handle: [boston_chapter_ago](#)
or [click the link](#) to go to our Instagram account.

Also, follow us on Facebook ([Boston Chapter, American Guild of Organists](#)) for news in the local organ world.

An Update about Barbara Owen

As many of you know, Barbara Owen took a fall in her home in mid-July and broke her right hip. She had successful surgery and—after a week in the hospital—spent several weeks in a rehab facility.

Recently, she was transferred to ATRIA MERRIMAC at 85 Storey Avenue in Newburyport,

where she receives further support with PT and assistance. She's quite happy in her attractive new setting, has her computer, loves visitors, and much enjoys the good food. A well-organized "Gang" from the First Religious Society (her church in Newburyport), along with a couple of local organ buddies, fuss over her, get her to her appointments.

As noted above, she loves visitors at ATRIA. If you wish to send a note or card, please use her home address:

26 Jefferson St
Newburyport, MA 01950

New Operating Procedures Approved


The Operating Procedures are the documents that define the operations for our Boston Chapter. Every two years, these procedures must be reviewed and updated as needed. Then, the proposed revisions are sent out for member review, and review by the AGO HQ Vice President and also our Northeast Regional Ambassador. All reviews came back very positive, with many congratulations on the work that was done. Our own Executive Committee has voted to approve this new document, which can be [accessed here](#) on the website.

Thank you to all the EC members who worked so diligently to ensure that this vital document is up to date. Next review is in 2026!

Claire DeCusati
Operating Procedures Committee Chair

*Sponsored Content

First Lutheran Church of Boston Organ Recital Series 2024



Sunday, October 13 | 3:00pm

Philip Fillion
St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica, Toronto
Admission \$20 / \$10

Works by:
J.S. Bach Buxtehude
Kuhnau Foote
Mendelssohn Willan

299 Berkeley Street | Boston MA 02116 | flc-boston.org
MBTA: Charles/MGH or Arlington
Parking: Boston Common Garage

First Lutheran Church of Boston Organ Recital Series 2024–2025



Sunday, October 13 | 3:00pm
Philip Fillion
St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica, Toronto
Admission \$20



Saturday, March 22 | ALL DAY
Boston Bach Birthday 340
Admission free (donations accepted)



Sunday, April 27 | 3:00pm
Jonathan Dimmock
The London Oratory
Admission \$20

299 Berkeley Street | Boston MA 02116 | flc-boston.org
MBTA: Charles/MGH or Arlington
Parking: Boston Common Garage

[View The Chapter Event Calendar](#)

[Donate to the Chapter via PayPal](#)



*Sponsored Content: The Boston Chapter of the American Guild of Organists accepts a limited amount of advertising in order to provide financial support for the chapter. Acceptance and publishing of the advertising does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation of the advertiser by the chapter. Contact the webmaster for information on placing advertising, which is subject to approval of the Executive Committee of the Chapter, in its sole discretion.



Try email marketing for free today!