

## WorcAGO Newsletter Digest – Jan 2014- Feb 2014 *(reverse chronological)*

2/25/14

### ***In This 2/25 Issue:***

- Scholarship Application Deadline March 1 (this Saturday)
- First Monday Open Console at Salem Covenant
- Jonathan Bezdegian at Assumption
- Abe Ross pinch-hits at Holy Cross
- Local Calendar

### **Scholarship Application Deadline – Celebrating 25 years**

March 1 (this Saturday) is the deadline for online or postmarked applications – each year WorcAGO offers scholarships for organ lesson from WorcAGO member teachers.

If you haven't seen our [Scholarship web page](#), take a look – we have quite a history.

### **First Monday Open Console at Salem Covenant – 7pm**

WorcAGO member Bradford Hendrickson is this month's host at Salem Covenant Church (East Mountain St) opening up their sanctuary for their 1969 Reuter III EP Op.1684

WorcAGO last heard this versatile instrument in a hymn-playing workshop and an organ-piano duet concert. Join us to try out the instrument, and catch up with all your colleagues.

### **Jonathan Bezdegian, Harpsichordist**

Thursday February 27, 2014 12:00pm

Tinsley Campus Ministry Center, Assumption College, Worcester  
Works by Richardson, Frescobaldi, Buxtehude

**WorcAGO member Jonathan Bezdegian** is a native of Paxton and has studied organ with Frank Corbin and John Grew, and harpsichord with Lisa Crawford, Brett Maguire, and Webb Wiggins.

He is currently studying for his DMA in Organ Performance with Dr. Carole Terry at the University of Washington. While in Seattle, he had the opportunity to study harpsichord with Jillon Dupree and organ improvisation with Douglas Cleveland.

Jonathan is the Director of Music at St. Matthew's Catholic Church in Southborough, and serves as the accompanist for the Assumption College Chapel Choir.





Substituting at the last minute for Christian Schmitt on 2/16, **Abe Ross** played a masterful concert at Holy Cross which included works by Buxtehude, Sweelinck, Grigny, Frescobaldi, and Bach. Schmitt had to cancel his North American tour due to an illness in the family.

## Local Calendar

[3/1 \(The Worcester Children's Chorus, Philip Montgomery and Pamela Mindell Directors, Bruce Hopkins, Trumpet, Donald Dame, Organ in Worcester\)](#) A "Classical Celebration" with the Worcester Children's Chorus & Guest Artists, Bruce Hopkins, Trumpet, Donald Dame, Organ

[3/1 \(Simsbury\) CONCORA Rite of Swing V Gala Dinner Dance](#)

[3/1 \(Bonifantes Boy Choir in West Roxbury\)](#) Bonifantes Boy Choir from the Czech Republic

[3/2 \(Cambridge\) DIANE MEREDITH BELCHER](#)

[3/2 \(Choir of Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church; Daniel McKinley, organist & choirmaster in Danvers\)](#) Choral Evensong

[3/2 \(Sutton\) Dedication and Organ Recital](#)

[3/3 First Monday 7pm Open Console Salem Covenant, Worcester](#) **AGO**

[3/6 First Thursday Noon Lunch Bunch Tweeds Worcester](#) **AGO**

[3/6 \(Cambridge\) THURSDAYS AT HARVARD: Carson Cooman](#)

[3/7 \(Cambridge\) Choral Concert with Stile Antico](#)

[3/7 \(The Hartt School Choruses, The Soli Deo Gloria Orchestra, Dr. Edward Bolkovac, Conductor in Hartford\)](#) A Lenten Meditation: Mozart's Requiem, K. 626

[3/11 \(Cambridge\) TUESDAYS AT HARVARD: Members of the Harvard Organ Society](#)

[3/12 \(New London,\) Peter Niedmann, organist](#)

[3/13 \(Cambridge\) THURSDAYS AT HARVARD: Iain Quinn](#)

[3/14 \(Boston Boy Choir, St. Paul's Choir School, John Robinson, Conductor in Holliston\)](#) Boston Boy Choir performs at St Mary's in Holliston - FREE CONCERT - Friday March 14, 7pm

[3/16 \(Kyle Bertulli in Worcester\)](#) **AGO** Music at Trinity: Kyle Bertulli, Organist, in concert

[3/16 \(Mark Steinbach in Providence\)](#) CD Release concert: Organ Works of Anton Heiller, Mark Steinbach, Brown University Organist

[3/22 \(Boston\) Boston Bach Birthday 329](#)

[3/25 \(Cambridge\) TUESDAYS AT HARVARD: James D. Hicks](#)

[3/27 \(Cambridge\) THURSDAYS AT HARVARD: Mark Nelson](#)

[3/29 \(The Seraphim Singers/Jennifer Lester; Peter Krasinski in Boston\)](#) La Passion de Jeanne D'Arc

[3/30 \(Malcolm Halliday & Will Sherwood in Worcester\)](#) **AGO** *The Peacemakers* 4pm Mech Hall

2/7/14

# X6 Reasons to attend the *First Monday Open Console* this week!

- Hear/see the historic **Gilbert & Butler II/10 tracker pipe organ**, exquisitely maintained over the years.
- Rare opportunity to get access to play this **1895 Gem**
- Feel the action improvement for a floating square rail modification
- Witness what a 10-rank instrument can do, especially the golden sounds from the sesquialtera !
- There's a **hidden historic 'surprise'** inside the organ. Kurt will reveal
- Visit with colleagues, meet new members (who have almost been outnumbering us seasoned members at recent events); easy access; easy parking at (church link)[First Presbyterian](#), (map link) [125 Holden St.](#), Worcester (nearby streets to let you know the area: Grove, Brattle, Shore Dr, Ararat, I-190)



Great (61 notes)	Swell (61 notes)	Pedal (25 notes)	
8' Diapason couplers	8' Bourdon	16' Bourdon	Three standard
8' Melodia	4' Harmonic Flute		
8' Dulciana	Sesquialtera II		Balanced Swell
pedal			
4' Octave	2' Flageolet		



*Marjorie Ness' parents' wedding in the 1940s in the instrument's original sanctuary- instrument in the background.*

1/31/14

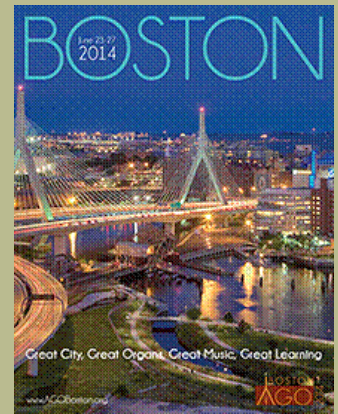
## AGO NATIONAL CONVENTION EARLY REGISTRATION ENDS JANUARY 31

Save \$ by beating the deadline.

<http://www.regonline.com/agoboston2014>.

### 3 Convention Highlights that you want to know about and pass on to students and friends of the organ:

- Family Organ Day, Saturday, June 21. Fun for the whole family. Details are [here](#).
- Convention Fellows. Help out and get a free registration. Details are [here](#).
- Convention Youth Day, June 26. A free day for students through HS age. Details are [here](#).



## CONVENTION PREVIEW CONCERT

To anticipate our hosting of the 2014 AGO National Convention, the Boston Chapter will present two concerts of music by convention-commissioned composers. The idea is to present music already written by featured composers, to excite AGO members and the public about the new music to come, and to tune our ears to new sounds.

The first is Monday, February 24, 7:30 p.m., at Old West Church, Boston, and will feature Boston-area organists. Carson Cooman will play his own works, Christa Rakich will premiere a very special piece by James Woodman, and Colin Lynch will play music of Nico Muhly.



Composers: Carson Cooman, James Woodman, and Nico Muhly

A second concert in the Spring will feature David Tierney playing Sirota, Louise Mundinger playing Larsen, and Heinrich Christensen playing Decker.



Save the Date: Saturday, March 1 for the Merrimack Valley Chapter AGO 16th annual Mini-Convention.

Details will be featured in an upcoming PIPINGS, or click [here](#) for more information!

## \$2.5 MILLION GIFT ENABLES AGO TO ENRICH LIVES THROUGH ORGAN MUSIC

Largest bequest in the history of the AGO establishes endowments for college scholarship program, organ composition competition, and organ fund to maintain tracker pipe organ. Click [here](#) for the details.



1/29/14

### First Monday – First Pres.



First Presbyterian Church, Worcester  
125 Holden Street, Worc. (next to Colony IV  
Apartments)

1895 Gilbert & Butler, II-10 ranks, relocated, revisions

7pm 2/2

[RSVP](#)

Stay tuned for next month: March 3 Salem  
Covenant Church

## First Thursday – New Restaurant

### Noon Thursday 2/5

Mark your calendar for [TWEEDS](#) 229 Grove St, Worcester. Across from Rural Cemetery; near Craft Ctr & Fire Station; *somewhat* in the neighborhood of Epworth Meth & Trin Luth. & UCC & Art Museum  
*We have changed venues due to several unfortunate incidents which Maxine's was unwilling to remedy, and misinformation about vegetarian and other ingredients.*

Tweeds: Simple dining **from the menu** – sandwiches, salads, entrees, etc.  
We each chip in our meal's cost



Special sharing/**discussion topic:**

### Anthem Repertoire Favorites for Lent/PS/Easter

Bring samples of your favorites to pass around.  
*A pep rally for anthems!*

## New Anthem Commissioned for Ronna Davis' 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

In recognition of [Ronna Archbold Davis' thirty years of service](#), the First Church in Sterling commissioned Alfred Fedak, a widely published and well known church music composer to write an anthem for choir with trumpet obbligato. As a result Fedak's concertato setting of the hymn tune How Can I Keep From Singing will be premiered 2/16 10am. Congrats Ronna!

## WorcAGO Member [Composers' Concert](#) – *Is there enough interest?*

We have an exciting and unusual opportunity ahead of us: provide a program (at no cost to us for hall rental) as a part of the Mech Hall Hook's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary "Year of the Organ" (2014)  
Several have expressed interest to participate (organ compositions are the focus, but choral/instrumental is fine as long as we have enough organ). Each composer would be limited to approx 10 minutes to allow for a balanced and interesting program.  
However, we don't yet have a "critical mass" to be enough for a substantial highly publicized concert open to the public. The opportunity is amazing: perform your composition in one of New England's finest concert halls and be featured for general public exposure (and possibly online in a recording repository).

Please [RSVP if you're a composer](#) and have the resources available for a performance of your piece.

## An Hour In the Life of an Organ Technician

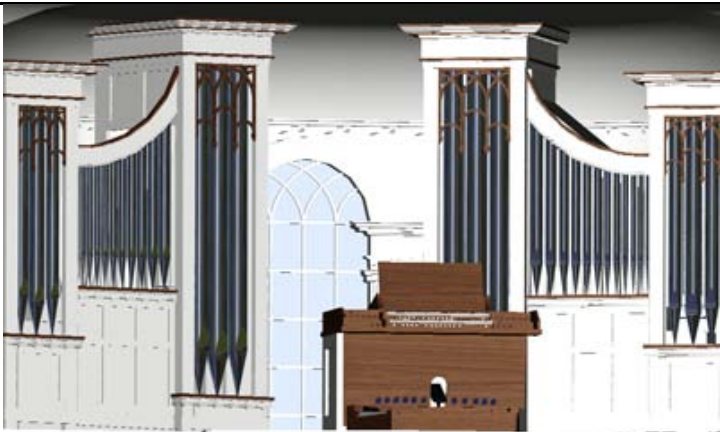
*[People often ask (and wonder) about organ tuning and sanctuary temperature, etc. Your Dean came across this informative snippet that you might find interesting]*

Tuning a whole pipe organ is time consuming, especially with large organs. It's not a simple task like tuning every string in a piano. Since organs are wind instruments their pitch rises when air is less dense (warmer or more humid) and falls when more dense. If voicing is consistent within an organ, generally all flue pipes will rise and fall uniformly with changes in air density (and thus stay in tune with each other). Pitch differences between divisions are most always the result of temperature anomalies, usually from the heat not being on 24/7 and resulting cold drafts which result from the thermal mass of the building not being thoroughly warmed to a state where all the walls and chamber surfaces are in equilibrium.

Reeds will move differently from flues. Up to an extent, they will track the flue pipes if voiced on the dark side with resonators at their natural length and tongues curved with a relatively flat area near the tuning wire. Shorter resonators result in brighter more fiery tone as will tongues with a rounder curve beginning at the tuning wire, but tuning stability is decoupled. The pitch of such reeds may move considerably with small changes in temperature (thus out of tune from flues, and again depending on voicing inconsistencies, out of tune within the same rank).

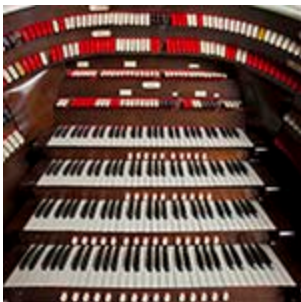
Tuners generally go through the reeds to remove dirt which upsets both tone and pitch and then to correct tuning for the current air density (temperature, atmospheric pressure and humidity). Reeds are tuned to match the best average of the flues. Occasionally a flue pipe is found (usually with bad voicing) to be wildly out of tune. This "fault" is also fixed. Wood pipes have the added complication of expanding and contracting with changes in humidity. Loose stoppers aside, the pipes grow in internal volume when it is more humid during northeastern summer months and therefore go flat. This is the opposite of the pitch movement from otherwise less dense air. Likewise they shrink in dry weather, going sharp.

## Andover Open House



*[In response to a recent AOC newsletter mailing, several have asked about this and requested more information- AGO only passes along information and we do not endorse any particular builder, but rather are supportive of ongoing organ building and maintenance to further the missions of the guild and sustainability of live organ music.]*

Andover Organ Company - **Sat., Feb. 8, 1:00-5:00 PM.**  
Come see and play AOC's newest instrument, OPUS 118, for First Parish Church, Wayland, MA. AOC is located at 560 Broadway, Lawrence, MA.



## Back in Time

Take a musical journey back in time to the *Big Band Era - Wurlitzer Style* at **The Hanover Theatre**, 2 Southbridge Street, Worcester, on **Saturday, February 8th from 3-4:30 p.m.** Join veteran performers of the Harry James Orchestra, Cathy Chemi and Skip Stine, who will share their insights on this special period in American popular music. Enjoy personal recollections, intimate stories and swing style melodies accompanied by the talented Ken Double on the theatre's Mighty Wurlitzer. [Tickets](#) are \$20, general admission seating. WOO Card holders save 10% off.

## On the Web... / In the News ...



### Pulling Out All the Stops to Save a 40-Ton, 100-Year-Old World's Fair Pipe Organ

In 1915, the great **Edwin H. Lemare** played the Exposition Organ to packed houses in Festival Hall. He gave **121 concerts** at the Panama Pacific International Exposition, bringing in \$5,000 more than *his \$10,000 fee* for the event's organizers. (Austin [Op 500](#) IV/117 1915)

[Read More>>>](#)

## Claudio Abbado, 1933-2014



One of the 20th century's most admired conductors passed away on Jan. 20. Listen to his final concerts, from the Lucerne Festival in Switzerland, on-demand on **Café Europa**.

## **New Grammy Category: *Music Educator***

A new *Music Educator Of The Year* award was presented as part of the Special Merit Awards Ceremony that took place during GRAMMY Week, beginning with the 56th GRAMMY Awards.

The 2014 inaugural Music Educator Award was given to **Kent Knappenberger** of Upstate New York. CBS News reports on Knappenberger's gift to **get students excited about music**.

See [YouTube](#) "article"



**YouTube Sports a Plethora of Organ Tours/Dictionary of Organ Stops/Demos** – What great publicity for the king of instruments!

[youtube.com/watch?v=oyesfXunWsw](https://youtube.com/watch?v=oyesfXunWsw) ← A unique visual dictionary of organ stops. See what you hear!  
[youtube.com/watch?v=0oQo8xvcg80](https://youtube.com/watch?v=0oQo8xvcg80) ← ORGAN DEMONSTRATION - Improvisations, performed by Alexander Pattavina, played on the organ of St. Paul Church, Cambridge, Massachusetts.  
Demonstration of the Casavant Chancel Organ. [Organ stoplist](#)  
Organ Improvisations, and excerpts from Sweelinck; Alexander Pattavina is the Organ Scholar at St. Paul Church  
**Alexander will be in concert at 1<sup>st</sup> U** in April 2014 as a part of 1<sup>st</sup> U's Young Artist Series in Worcester. We're lucky to be able to hear this upcoming young talent before he goes internationally viral! -- you heard him in Worcester first 😊

## Upcoming Concerts In Our Area

[1/31 \(Daniel Pereira in Hartford\)](#) Piano Preludes of Alexander Scriabin

[2/2 \(Andrew Sheranian, Graeme McCullough in Dorchester\)](#) Solemn Evensong, Procession, and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament for the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple

[2/2 \(Cambridge\)](#) Choral Concert with Ensemble Plus Ultra

[2/7 \(Cambridge\)](#) Durufle Requiem Mass

[2/9 \(Jay V. Kast-Tuttle in Worcester\)](#) Music at Trinity: Harmonie Transverse Flute Ensemble

[2/9 \(St. Anne's Adult Choir; Buffy Gray, organist and choir director in Lincoln\)](#) Evensong

[2/11 \(Cambridge\)](#) TUESDAYS AT HARVARD: Charles Boyd Tompkins

[2/16 \(Worcester\)](#) **AGO** **Holy Cross Organ Recital - Christian Schmitt, Organist**

[2/21 \(Benjamin Sheen, organ in Hartford\)](#) Organ Recital

[2/23 \(Scott Allen Jarrett; Marsh Chapel Choir; Marsh Chapel Collegium in Boston\)](#) The Bach Experience: BACH Mass in B minor (Credo)

[2/25 \(Cambridge\)](#) TUESDAYS AT HARVARD: Jung-A Lee

1/19/14

## 25 Years and Still Going Strong – Congrats Janeen!



Longtime WorcAGO member **Janeen Baker** is being honored at Pakachoag School of Music in a concert Saturday Feb 1 at 2pm for her 25 years of teaching at the school. The concert will include works for cello, trumpet, flute, organ (our own William Ness!), violin, and piano. Congrats, Janeen and thank you for inspiring so many young people to further their music skills!

## Twelfth Night Social a Huge Success

Our warm and cordial gathering was heartily attended by about 15 members, about a third of which WERE NEW MEMBERS. It was a great opportunity to get to meet them and welcome them into the fold. We are grateful to **Randy and Edla Ann Bloom** for opening their gorgeous and historic house so generously. We were treated to THE house tour by Randy and a mini-concert (duo piano) by Lois Toepfner and Deb Colageo—what fun!



>> The Bloom residence is a Greek revival 1856 house with an *unaltered* interior with original gas light fixtures, marble mantles, period furniture, and authentic reproduction 19th century wallpapers. The house never really required restoration, just careful maintenance. The house might be one of the most important mid-nineteenth century houses in New England because of its state of preservation. Felix (Mendelssohn) the cat(lower right, above) is right at home!  
>>The "square grand" (parlor) piano is an Arlington of Boston and was built sometime shortly after the Civil War. It has a rosewood case and has never been restored: therefore, like the house it is in pretty much original, and enviable exquisite condition.

## First Monday and First Thursday Programs Resume in February

**First Monday** Open Consoles monthly programs will resume on **2/3** with a visit at 7pm to **First Presbyterian**, Worcester featuring an **1895 Gilbert & Butler**, II-10 ranks, relocated, revisions.

**First Thursdays** will be relocated to **Tweeds** on Grove Street for **2/6 at noon**. We've had several accumulated issues with our previous meeting place of Silvermans.

## WorcAGO has two membership VOTES coming up!

Watch your email for a membership vote soon to approve allocation of our Restricted Fund, and in April/May our bi-yearly officers vote.

## WorcAGO Scholarship Deadline is March 1

Teachers and students: start your application engines! This is a final deadline with no exceptions.

## Local Composer Robin Dinda Featured on *Pipedreams*



Chapter member Robin Dinda's Organ Concerto No. 1 was part of a recent Pipedreams broadcast:

<http://pipedreams.publicradio.org/listings/2014/1401/>

This was a live performance of the premiere at last summer's regional convention in NC.

*Related links:*

[ROBIN DINDA: Organ Concerto No. 1 \(premiere\) –Eastern Festival Orchestra/Gerard Schwarz, conductor; John Alexander \(1982 Fisk/Christ United Methodist Church, Greensboro, NC\)](#)

*Composer Robin Dinda talks with Michael Barone:*

[...about the evolution of his organ Concerto and his life as a composer.](#)

[...about the future for organs and organists.](#)

## WorcAGO Chapter Seeks Volunteering Help

We continue to achieve only about 10% of our chapter's potential due to an embarrassing lack of member participation and volunteer help. Please consider helping with any of the following ideas/tasks:

- Connect new members and students with "old" copies of TAO that members are throwing away.
- Manage organ-CD lending library (100+ commercial/record-label CDs of famous artists in our collection donated from an estate)
- Online Concert/Performance Organ Music Archive project – 100s of local concerts from 1960s-present, last few years video
- Help with our *Endangered Species List* (Central Mass instruments that are at risk of the junkyard)
- Central Mass Organ Census project – help identify what instruments are in each church
- Central Mass Organist Census project – help catalogue organists (church musicians) in local churches (both present and historical)  
(The database would be able to answer for example: *who have been the organists at All Saints Church*)
- Sell music scores and record-label CDs on ebay and Craigslist and keep web page list of inventory up to date – proceeds to scholarship fund
- Assist with membership/new member committee
- WorcAGO history – organize files. Throw away a lot of "junk" that is now irrelevant. Organize list of important performances in Worc throughout the years (Virgil, Dupre, etc.)
- connections with neighboring chapters
- help locate missing(!) WorcAGO current members, and past members.
- help manage online ads, "business cards", etc. (repository of vocal soloists, instrumentalists, etc. - names for instance of trumpeters we can hire)
- help disseminate concert/event posters/press releases – we have packets of information that end up in the recycling bin because we cannot get them delivered/mailed.

If any of these are of interest, please email your dean.

We are STARVING for help. Lots of ideas, too few hands. Most of these are email/web/phone based projects with a wide range of time donations (one-time 2 hrs, to 1 hr per week, to leading a project)

**Save the Date: Saturday, March 1 - Merrimack Valley Organ/Choral **Mini-Convention.****

click [here](#) for more information!



## BOSTON CELEBRATED FIRST NIGHT IN STYLE

Although there were no Worcester First Night organ/choral concerts this year (there used to be many in the olden days; be thinking if we can get energies up to reach the public in this way), for many years December 31st in Boston has been a time of excitement, public fun, and cultural experience. After a few moments of trepidation, the City of Boston and FIRST NIGHT officials chose to go ahead and celebrate the transition from 2013 to 2014 in spite of the bitter cold.

Through it all, the undaunted Boston Chapter presented its annual offering at Arlington Street Church. This event has been lovingly curated by Rodger Clinton Vine for years and has become one of the more visible examples in Boston of organ music designed for and presented to the public.

Boston Chapter Sub-Dean Peter Krasinski served as Master of Ceremonies. Below is the program, which was most heartily received by an appreciative audience.

Rosalind Mohnsen, Organist  
Improvisation, Op. 150, No. 7, in A Minor - Camille Saint-Saëns  
Mozart Changes - Zsolt Gárdonyi  
In dulci jubilo, Op. 75, No.2 - Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Glenn Goda, Organist; Timothy Macri, Flutist  
Gesu Bambino - Pietro Yon  
Sinfonia from the Christmas Cantata - J. S. Bach  
Fantasia on "I Saw Three Ships" - David Overton

Steven Young, Organist  
Prelude and Fugue in Ab - Jan Koetsier  
Adagio from First Sonata - Henry M. Dunham  
Allegro risoluto from Deuxième Symphonie, Op. 20 - Louis Vierne



L to R: Steven Young, Timothy Macri, Glenn Goda, Rosalind Mohnsen & Rodger Vine

## Half a billion reichsmarks found in organ chamber in Norway cathedral

A "time capsule" hidden within the organ in Nidaros Cathedral by its builder from Bavaria on January 8, 1930 has been found. It contained **half a billion German reichsmarks** together with a warning note.



Read more>>> [www.digitaljournal.com/article/359260](http://www.digitaljournal.com/article/359260)

## Humor Department

