



# 2026 AMICA MBSI/COAA Convention

**August 18-23, 2026 Princeton, New Jersey**

Here is the schedule for this year's AMICA/MBSI/COAA Convention! The event will take place at the historic Nassau Inn in the center of downtown Princeton, NJ, across the street from the esteemed Ivy League university. Hotel reservations can be made now. See information below. If you have any specific questions, you can contact co-chair Joel Cluskey at [ampico2018@gmail.com](mailto:ampico2018@gmail.com) or Glenn Thomas at [wurlitzer165@gmail.com](mailto:wurlitzer165@gmail.com).

## **Early Arrival - Monday, August 17, 2026**

Attendees planning to attend the pre-convention tour to Arnold Chase settle into Nassau Inn.

## **Pre-Convention Tour & Convention Arrivals - Tuesday, August 18, 2026**

**Arnold Chase Home Tour:** Buses will provide transportation to one of the most remarkable personal collections of automatic musical instruments, held in a stunning hilltop estate in West Hartford, CT. Bus travel is 4 hours each way. Attendees must use bus transportation for security reasons.

Attendees planning to attend the convention should arrive this day.

## **Day One - Wednesday, August 19, 2026**

### **Welcome Breakfast, Edison Labs, Morris Museum & Silent Movie**

After a welcome breakfast at the Nassau Inn, buses will take us to various destinations north of Princeton. These include:

**Thomas Edison National Historical Park**, which houses the world's first industrial research laboratory, where revolutionary inventions like the motion picture camera and improved phonographs were developed.

**Morris Museum** in Morristown is New Jersey's second-largest museum and its only Smithsonian Affiliate, housed within a historic Georgian-style mansion designed by Stanford White. Its centerpiece is the world-renowned Murtoth D. Guinness Collection, which features over 750 historic mechanical musical instruments and automata that are brought to life through daily live demonstrations.

**Silent Movie at the Morris Museum Bickford Theater** accompanied by award-winning theater organist Ian Fraser.

**Day Two - Thursday, August 20, 2026**  
**American Treasure Tour & Glenn Thomas Home Collection with Evening Player Piano Pumper Contest**

After breakfast on your own, buses take us again to destinations no more than a 1 hour drive from Princeton, they include:

**American Treasure Tour** in Oaks, Pennsylvania. This is a sprawling 100,000-square-foot Americana museum that showcases one of the world's largest private collections of mechanical music machines, classic cars, and pop culture oddities. Visitors explore the massive warehouse via a narrated tram ride that meanders through floor-to-ceiling displays of vintage toys, animatronics, and quirky memorabilia. See many instruments held here that are owned by MBSI. Lunch is included at the 1950's themed Arnolds Restaurant on the property.

**Glenn Thomas Private Collection:** A meticulously refined assembly of rare automatic musical instruments, including nickelodeons, orchestrions, and reproducing grand pianos. The highlight of the collection is a massive Wurlitzer Style 165 Band Organ, which Thomas has documented and preserved.

The evening concludes with the infamous Player Piano Pumper contest.



**Day Three - Friday, August 21, 2026**  
**2026 Workshops & Mart**

**Workshops:** The morning will be packed with mechanical music-related workshops, topics to be announced in later promotions.

Mechanical Music Mart will be held in the afternoon. The mart is a dedicated marketplace where members can buy and sell a wide array of automatic musical instruments, parts, and literature.

Following dinner on your own, the traditional ice cream social will be held at the Nassau Inn, including a new-member meet & greet and entertainment.

**Day Four - Saturday, August 22, 2026**  
**Meetings, Band Organ Rally & Banquet Dinner**

This day introduces a change to the traditional convention meeting/schedule. AMICA board meeting & MBSI annual meeting will be held while those not part of these activities will enjoy the day in Princeton attending the COAA Band Organ Rally.

**Band Organ Rally** will be a vibrant public gathering on the streets of Princeton where collectors showcase a wide variety of mechanical musical instruments, ranging from small hand-cranked monkey organs to massive, trailer-mounted fairground organs.

**Princeton University Tours** for those interested in learning about this beautiful town and campus.

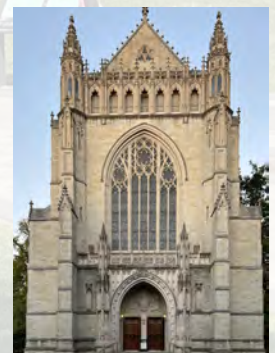
The evening begins with a cocktail hour, then annual dinner banquet dinner, followed by light entertainment.

**Day Five - Sunday, August 23, 2026**  
**Breakfast Meetings & Band Organ Rally**

Breakfast buffet will be followed by AMICA annual meeting. An optional Sunday non-denominational service with mechanical music will be available.

**Band Organ Rally** will continue on the streets of Princeton throughout the day.

No house tours are scheduled at this time, but suggestions for afternoon destinations will be provided.



## **Nassau Inn Reservation Information**

The convention committee has negotiated a per night room rate of \$169.00 + tax. This is a very fair price considering location in the center of the town of Princeton and the historic nature of the hotel.

You can only make reservations for this group rate up until Friday, July 17, 2026. After that day you may be required to pay the non-discounted room rate. The following options are available to make reservations:

### **Option 1:**

Call the Nassau Inn directly at (609) 921-7500. Tell them you are part of the AMICA/MBSI/COAA group and reference booking number 30355.

### **Option 2:**

On-line at either of the two links below. If a pop-up appears at any time while you are reserving and asks if you would like to, "Unlock Exclusive Rates by Nassau Inn", click on "DON'T ALLOW".

### **Link A:**

**Nassau Website <https://nassauinn.com/>**

1. At upper righthand corner click on "Book Now" (or find it in the hamburger pull down on your mobile device).
2. Select number of adults and click on "Add Code" pulldown. Leave default at "Group Attendee" and add group code 30355. Click on "Add".
3. The next screen will identify the room block. Click "Select & Go To The Next Step".
4. At the Guests & Rooms page select days on calendar pop-up & click on "Confirm Dates of Stay". Follow remaining screen instructions for room selection and payment.

### **Link B:**

**For direct access to the group reservation use: <https://reservations.travelclick.com/13522?groupID=4891622>**

1. A popup will identify the room block AMICA/MBSI/COAA. Click, "Select & Go To The Next Step".
2. At the Guests & Rooms page, select # of adults and click on "Add Code" pulldown box. Leave default at "Group Attendee" and add group code 30355. Click on "Add".
3. Click on "Update Guests & Rooms", Select days on calendar pop-up & click on "Confirm Dates of Stay". Follow remaining screen instructions for room selection and payment.



**Nassau Inn  
10 Palmer Square  
Princeton, NJ 08542**

**Scan the codes below using  
your phone's camera.**



Link A



Link B

## Other Important Information:

- There is a limited number of guest rooms available, so make your reservation as soon as possible.
- The group rate is for overnight stays from check-in Monday, August 17 through check-out Sunday, August 22, 2026. There are a very limited number of rooms available for check-in Sunday, August 16 & August 23.
- Room modifications are allowed only before cutoff date of Friday, July 17, 2026.
- Cancellation Policy: Cancellation is up to 3 PM, 48 hours prior to arrival to avoid one night's room and tax charge. There will be no exceptions to this policy.
- Group Rates not eligible for Rewards Program.
- Check-In Time: 3:00pm, Check-Out Time: 11:00am
- Vehicle parking is available across the street from the hotel in a municipal garage which has an arrangement with the Nassau Inn. For \$20.00 per night you will receive a pass with 24-hour unlimited access (you can come and go as you please). Non-hotel guest rate for 24-hour parking at the garage is currently \$36.00. Vehicle height limit is 6'-4".
- Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR) is the most convenient airport to access Princeton, NJ. Travel time by auto/rideshare is approximately 1 hour. The hotel does not provide transportation/limousine service, but private services are available. Public transportation from the airport is possible via a combination of the AirTrain from airport to NJ Transit main line which will take you to Princeton Junction Station. Then transfer for a 5-minute shuttle train (locally referred to as the "Dinky") to Princeton Station. The hotel is just over ½ mile walk from the station or take an Uber. Overall travel time for these connections is about 2 hours and total cost for AirTrain & NJ Transit is roughly \$28-\$42.
- Additional information about the Nassau Inn can be found at their website <https://nassauinn.com/> **See QR code on page 10 for Link A.**

