



Notes From A Loft

April 2023

The American Guild of Organists

Tampa, Florida Chapter

Celebrating 75 Years

ago-tampa.org

FROM THE DEAN

Dear Tampa Chapter AGO Members and Friends,

Remember the joy of meeting with other organists, musicians, music loving friends...having such a good time that you didn't want to leave? That was the feeling after our 22nd Annual Bach Birthday Bash this past March 19th. The music was wonderful, the performers superb, the camaraderie warm and enthusiastic...people just didn't want to leave.

With the Covid pandemic in our rear-view mirror, plan to come to our April 30th organ recital at 5:00 pm at Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church! Recitalist Adam Brakel, a former member of our chapter, is performing.

Meantime, NOW is the time to apply for our Organ Scholarships! Interested young people must apply and submit forms by April 13th. We need you to encourage the young people you know to apply today! Van Howard at (813)857-8800 or vbhoward@gmail.com has the forms; so do I.

Warm regards -

Sylvia Chai, Dean
Tampa Chapter AGO
813-390-0911

FROM THE SUB-DEAN

Dear Tampa AGO Members and Friends,

Many thanks to everyone who made our Bach Birthday Bash at Hyde Park United Methodist Church a tremendous success. The playing was excellent, and our chapter should be proud!

Please encourage piano students in your network to consider applying for our Margaret Smith McAlister Organ Scholarship program. This funding provides a vehicle for interested young organists to cultivate, what we hope is, a lasting interest in the "King of Instruments". You will find details further in this newsletter

Our final recital program of the season is Adam Brakel on April 30th at 5:00 pm at Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church in Tampa. You will not want to miss this virtuoso performance of great masterworks for the organ in an excellent setting.

Happy Easter to All -

Stephen Allen, Sub-dean



***WELCOME NEW
MEMBERS!!!!***

Dr. Natalia Simkins

Andrew O'Connor

Christ the King Catholic Church, Tampa

Nancy Beth Bailey

2022 – 2023 Calendar of Chapter Events

October 30, 2022 – 4:00 pm – “Peculiar Pipes” – A Costumed Halloween Recital

First Presbyterian Church of Lakeland, 175 Lake Hollingworth Dr, Lakeland, FL 33801

Contact: Thomas Ingui (772) 913-0279 or hippomaster@gmail.com

November 13, 2022 – 4:00 pm – Members Organ Recital featuring

Tampa AGO Scholarship Winners and Our Young Organists

Grace Lutheran Church, 3714 W Linebaugh Ave, Tampa, FL 33618

Contact: Sylvia Chai (813) 390-0911 or sylviachai0@gmail.com

January 21-22, 2023 – see next page for details – Festival of Music with

Former Dean Nancy Callahan, Clinician, Members of the Tampa Oratorio Singers, the Chancel Choir, and All Interested Singers

Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church, 3501 W San Jose St, Tampa, FL 33629

Contact: Stephen Allen (813) 997-7859 or slafl@aol.com

February 14, 2023 – 7:00 pm – “Seven Chances” – A silent film with accompaniment on the Mighty Wurlitzer by Artist-In-Residence Steven Ball

Tampa Theatre, 711 N Franklin St, Tampa, FL 33602

[Promo code TAMPAAGO for \$3 ticket discount on online ticket sales]

Pre-Concert Dinner – 5:00 pm – Si-Am Thai Restaurant, 713 N Franklin St, Tampa, FL 33602

Contact: Steven Ball (609) 515-5857 or info@stevenball.com

March 19, 2023 – 4:00 pm – 22nd Bach Birthday Bash – Featuring Organ, Instrumental, and Vocal Works of Johann Sebastian Bach

Benefiting the Margaret Smith McAlister Scholarship Fund

Hyde Park United Methodist Church, 500 W Platt St, Tampa, FL 33606

Contact: Van Howard (813) 857-8800 or vbhoward@gmail.com

April 16, 2023 – 4:00 pm – Margaret Smith McAlister Scholarship Auditions

St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 13312 Cain Rd, Tampa, FL 33625

Contact: Edwin Taylor (203) 947-3497 or edwinrtaylor52@gmail.com

April 30, 2023 – 5:00 pm – Adam Brakel Organ Concert

Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church, 3501 W San Jose St, Tampa, FL 33629

Contact: Van Howard (813) 857-8800 or vbhoward@gmail.com

****June 2, 2023 – 6:00 pm – Closing Banquet and Installation of Officers**

A Tri-Chapter Event featuring Elizabeth George, Chief Membership Officer – AGO National HQ

Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church, 110 S Fort Harrison Ave, Clearwater, FL 33756

Dinner is Provided – RSVP Information Forthcoming

Contact: Van Howard (813) 857-8800 or vbhoward@gmail.com

** - Please Note This Change

The 22nd Bach Birthday Bash is In the Books!!



Left to Right - Tom Ingui, Rebecca Steinke, Jack Rain, Stephen Allen, Edwin Taylor, Van Howard, Jack Rozance, Sylvia Chai

Upcoming Scholarship Auditions

**April 16th, 2023, 4 pm at St. Mark's Episcopal Church
13312 Cain Rd, Tampa, FL 33625**

Application Deadline Extended to April 13th, 2023.

Everyone on the distribution of the newsletter has received the scholarship information, so please distribute it to your networks.

**If anyone needs the information sent directly, please direct them to
Edwin Taylor at edwinrtaylor52@gmail.com,
Sylvia Chai at sylviachai0@gmail.com,
or Van Howard at vbhoward@gmail.com
to receive the scholarship information and application by return email.**

Please help us fulfill a priority mission of the Tampa Chapter with strong backing from the public and the McAlister family to cultivate interest in the organ among our student population. We have the financial ability and desire to fund multiple scholarships this year to qualified students.

Adam Brakel In Concert

April 30th, 2023, 5:00

**Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church
3501 W San Jose St, Tampa, FL 33629**



"The Franz Liszt of the Organ"

National Public Radio

"Spellbinding virtuosity, keen sense for phrasing and line, superb rhythmic control, contrapuntal and linear clarity, and a fine sense of color. He is highly capable of communicative lyricism, a sure grasp of musical structure and counterpoint, and incendiary virtuosity"

The American Organist

A Freewill Offering Will be Taken At the Conclusion of the Program

From Our Colleague Dr. Laura Ellis

Plans are in place for another invigorating Sacred Music Workshop on the UF campus on May 7-9. Our guest clinician will be Dr. Vicki Schaeffer. Vicki hails from Oklahoma and is the current National Councillor for Membership for the AGO.

The event will also include an organ recital by Notre Dame student (and recent SE AGO Rising Star) David Stultz. And, of course, we'll have some great workshops, a choral reading session, and a carillon recital by a current UF carillonneur!

More details may be found on our website: <https://uflsmw.wixsite.com/home>

Registration is only \$80! Register here:
<https://reg.conferences.dce.ufl.edu/SSP/1400087991>

Thanks much!

Laura Ellis
Associate Director & Professor of Music
University of Florida

2022 - 2023 Officers - Tampa Chapter

Dean

Sylvia Chai

Sub-Dean

Stephen Allen

Secretary/Treasurer

Van Howard

Members-At-Large

Steven Ball - 2025

Dennis Douglas - 2023

Thomas Ingui - 2025

Tony Sievert - 2024

Rebecca Steinke - 2025

Edwin Taylor - 2024

Rebecca Steinke, Webmaster

John Matthew Cowan, Social Media Coordinator

Please send any newsletter submission by no later than the 25th of the prior month for the next month's newsletter to Van Howard at vbhoward@gmail.com

Positions Available

Please send available positions to Van Howard at vbhoward@gmail.com along with clear contact information for any inquiries

Substitutes Available

(O - Organist, P - Pianist, O/D - Organist/Director, D - Director, V - Vocalist)

Please send updates or corrections to this list to Van Howard at vbhoward@gmail.com. Inclusion in this list does not constitute the Chapter's endorsement of skills, and thus it encourages interviews with prospective substitutes. Those listed must be a member of the American Guild of Organists.

Mr. Stephen Allen	O/D	(813) 997-7859	Mon - Sat
Mr. Timothy Belk	O/D	(704) 309-0822	Sun, Tue - Sat
Ms. Cheryl Blackwell-Cox	O/P	(813) 465-3332	Sun - Sat
Ms. Sylvia Chai	O/D	(813) 390-0911	Sun - Sat
Dr. Christopher Combie	O	(813) 990-7369	Mon - Fri
Dr. Michael Dougherty	O/D	(813) 624-6768	Mon - Sat
Mr. Dennis Douglas	O	(813) 352-4748	Mon - Sat
Mr. John (Jay) Findlater	O/P	(313) 410-6478	Sun - Sat
Ms. Jan Ellis Highsmith	O	(813) 495-8905	Sun - Sat
Ms. Frances Johnson	O/P	(813) 730-4173	Sun - Sat
Mr. Cal Leferink	O/D	(813) 850-9845	Mon - Fri
Ms. Rebecca Steinke	O/D	(619) 841-8930	Mo, Tu, Th, Fr
Mr. Edwin Taylor	O/D	(203) 947-3497	Sun - Sat
Mr. Kurt Taylor	O/D	(660) 631-9416	Sun - Sat
Dr. Shawn Thomas	O/D	(850) 316-0321	Mon - Sat
Mr. Brandon Vennink	O/D	(508) 208-7774	Mon - Fri
Ms. Sarah Whitt	O	(813) 928-2102	Sun - Sat