



Notes From A Loft

December 2022

The American Guild of Organists

Tampa, Florida Chapter

Celebrating 75 Years

ago-tampa.org

FROM THE SUB-DEAN

Hello members! My wish is for everyone to have a safe and blessed holiday season. Those in our profession work especially hard these next few weeks. The music of Advent and Christmas are probably the most loved melodies of all, bringing fond memories of the past and joyous expectations of memories to come.

After Christmas and Epiphany pass, one may ask, "What happens now?" Well, your Tampa Chapter of the American Guild of Organists has a great suggestion – a Choral Festival!

Bring your choir members and friends to join their voices with members of the Tampa Oratorio Singers in concert on Sunday, January 22, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church, Tampa. It will be an exciting time to sing works by Bach, Vivaldi, Mozart, and others accompanied by brass, organ, and piano.

Read all about it on the attached poster. Spread the word and RSVP to me no later than Tuesday, January 17 to register. What a wonderful way to start the New Year!

Stephen L. Allen, Sub-Dean – Tampa Chapter of the American Guild of Organists



FROM THE DEAN

Dear Tampa AGO Members and Friends,

Many thanks to our 2022 Margaret McAlister Organ Scholarship Winners, Young Organists, and Chapter Members who performed in our November 13, 2022 Recital at Grace Lutheran Church in Carrollwood! We had a wonderful time learning more about each performer, enjoying each piece, and encouraging the performers from the youngest to the oldest. For several this was the first time to perform in public.



(L to R) Sara Kennedy, Chris Kick, Wayne Warren, John Rozance, Matthew Dolan, Dean Sylvia Chai, Jason Thrower, James Sawyers, Adrian Quesada (piano), James Slack. Not shown Andre Botero, and Stephen Allen

May you have a blessed Advent and Christmas season! Enjoy the beautiful music you help create and enjoy the people around you!

Sylvia Chai, Dean
Tampa Chapter AGO



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 – [detailed schedule forthcoming] – 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 edwintaylor52@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

May 19, 2023 – 6:30 pm – Closing Dinner and Installation of Officers

Bonfish Grill, 3665 Henderson Blvd, Tampa, FL 33609

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

Looking Ahead in January!

The Tampa Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
invites you to participate in a

CHORAL FESTIVAL

Sunday, January 22, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church

3501 West San Jose Street
Tampa, Florida 33629

Rehearsal - Saturday, January 21, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. until Noon
(Call Time - 4:30 p.m. on Sunday for concert)

Come and join your voice with area choirs to present an afternoon concert of music of the masters! Music will be provided! Singers are encouraged to wear choir robes from their respective churches. A reception will follow.

Works by Vivaldi, Brahms, Bach, Tschesnokoff, Mozart, and Vaughan Williams will be sung by the mass choir accompanied by brass, organ, and piano.

The program will be conducted by

Nancy Callahan

Director of Music, Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church
Director of Music, Tampa Oratorio Singers

Contact Stephen Allen (Sub-Dean of the Tampa AGO) at slafi@aol.com to register yourself, your friends and/or your church choir.

Please RSVP no later than Tuesday, January 17, 2023

This program is in celebration of the
75th anniversary of the
Tampa Chapter of the AGO.

A free-will offering will be received to continue the ongoing work of the Tampa Chapter through the Margaret Smith McAlister Scholarship Fund for young organists.

Other Upcoming Events

An Advent Noonday Recital Series

Tuesday December 6, 12pm – Linda Pointer and Joshua Whiteneck, organists
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Dunedin

Tuesday December 13, 12pm--Peggy Beville and Edwin Taylor, organists
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Clearwater

Tuesday, December 20th, 12pm – Mark Prater and Sandra Rogers, organists
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Largo

2023 North Carolina High School / Middle School Organ Festival

We in the Piedmont NC AGO Chapter are excited to announce the annual NC Organ Festival for Middle School [NEW!] and High School students. We are thrilled to be able to include a younger division (Intermediate) this year for those who have had some organ instruction, but aren't quite ready for larger works yet. After hosting a POE last summer in Winston-Salem, we recognized that this might be a good intermediary next step for POE participants. We hope you'll encourage your students to join us!

The Organ Festival page can be found at the link below. It includes all the information participants will need, including the online registration form.

Would you please kindly share the information below with your colleagues via email and social media options, and especially to any potential middle school or high school organists that might be interested in joining us.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,
Timothy Olsen
Piedmont NC AGO Chapter, Dean
Kenan Associate Professor of Organ, UNCSA
Associate Professor of Organ, Salem College

2023 Middle School & High School Organ Festival & Competition - Winston-Salem, NC

The application deadline is December 16 which includes a recording and online application. Those not accepted into the competition are still invited and encouraged to attend the workshops and masterclasses.

Advanced Division Recording Requirements:

A Bach Prelude (or Toccata or Fantasy) & Fugue (excluding the "8 Little") or two movements from a trio sonata or concerto

One or more contrasting movement(s) from a single work in the 19th - 20th/21st century repertoires

A hymn (introduction and two stanzas) chosen from the Competition Hymns

Intermediate Division Recording Requirements:

A baroque Prelude (or Toccata or Fantasy including Bach's "8 Little") by any composer

One contrasting movement or work from another era

A hymn (introduction and one stanza) chosen from the Competition Hymns

Entry into the competition as well as recitals, workshops, masterclasses, lessons, and two meals are included in the entry fee.

Complete information including application materials can be found here: [2023 NC HS/MS Organ Festival](#)

Other Upcoming Events



AN EVENING OF MUSIC WITH
**CHRIS
BRUNELLE**

January 26 | 6:30 p.m.
St. Patrick Catholic Church
4518 S. Manhattan Ave., Tampa

2022 – 2023 Officers – Tampa Chapter

Dean

Sylvia Chai

Sub-Dean

Stephen Allen

Secretary/Treasurer

Van Howard

Members-At-Large

Steven Ball

Dennis Douglas

Thomas Ingui

Tony Sievert

Rebecca Steinke

Edwin Taylor

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. Myles Hayden | O/D | (727) 644-6534 | 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 |