



Notes From A Loft

June 2023

The American Guild of Organists

Tampa, Florida Chapter

Celebrating 75 Years

ago-tampa.org

FROM THE SUB-DEAN & INCOMING DEAN

Dear Members -

As your newly elected Dean, I promise to work diligently to maintain our chapter's standard of excellence. We have a wonderful Executive Board of dedicated people who I know will work well with me.

We welcome Steven Ball as our new Sub-Dean; Michael Dougherty as our new Secretary; and new Members-at-Large Andre Botero and Sylvia Chai (for the Class of 2026). I am pleased that Van Howard will continue as Treasurer.

The remainder of our Board is Edwin Taylor and Tony Sievert (Class of 2024) and Rebecca Steinke and Thomas Ingui (Class of 2025). Rebecca Steinke is our Webmaster and John Matthew Cowan is our Social Media Coordinator. A very special recognition to Dennis Douglas who rotates off our Board.

Thank you everyone for your service to the Tampa Chapter of the American Guild of Organists! We are your Officers and are here to serve you. When contacted in the coming year, let us know your likes and dislikes. Let us know how you are willing to serve your chapter.

Your Board will soon be completing a revision of the chapter's Operating Procedures and will plan the programs for 2023-2024. Be prepared for a variety of opportunities for you to participate!

Looking forward to the coming year, I am

Stephen L. Allen

FROM THE OUTGOING DEAN

Dear Tampa Chapter AGO Members and Friends,

Upcoming event!! *THE FLYING ACE*, Sunday June 18, 2023, at 3pm, a FREE film in celebration of Juneteenth. The film features an all-Black cast and tells a story loosely based on aviator Bessie Coleman. At the time of its release, *THE FLYING ACE* was advertised as “the greatest airplane thriller ever filmed,” and in 2021, it was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being “culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant.”

This June screening will feature an original musical score, written and performed by Dr. Steven Ball on Tampa Theatre’s Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Organ. This will be the first time in living memory that the film has been presented with LIVE accompaniment.

Secondly, our Tampa Chapter Young Organists are alive and well!

Matthew Dolan, 2022 Margaret McAlister Organ Scholarship winner has chosen to go to Providence College where he plans to major in Music focusing on Organ and Conducting. Matthew dreams of being an organist and directing orchestras. Best wishes Matthew!

Andre Botero is graduating from Jesuit High School and will be studying Neuroscience on a Premed track at Yale University. Andre plans to continue his organ study privately with Yale organ teachers and find a church where he can be involved and practice. Andre also hopes to join the Yale Symphony Orchestra as a pianist, or organist. Best wishes Andre!

Jason Thrower, will be attending the POE (Pipe Organ Encounter) event in Wheaton, Illinois hosted by the Fox Valley AGO Chapter June 18-23. Jason is really looking forward to this awesome experience.

Jack Rozance, Margaret McAlister Organ Scholarship winner in 2022 & 2023, will be going to a Southeastern Sacred Music Workshop July 28, 29 in Peachtree Corners, Georgia.

Greetings to all in Tampa from our former Dean, Preston Smith [middle) and Carl Klein [left], who preceded Preston as Organist and Choir Director at St. Andrew’s Episcopal in Tampa. We all were at the Memorial Recital for Walter Hilse at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church in The Citicorp Building in Manhattan on June 7.

Warm regards -

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



Upcoming Tampa Theatre Event

THE NORMAN STUDIOS
PRESENT
THE GREATEST
AIRPLANE THRILLER
EVER FILMED

SIX SMASHING REELS
OF ACTION!
LOVE! LAUGHS! MYSTERY!

THE FLYING ACE

WITH AN ALL-COLORED CAST

FILM TAMPA BAY
PRESENTS:

The Flying Ace

Sunday, June 18

...ED PLATT,
...WELLS, GEORGE COLVIN,
SAM JORDAN, DR. R.L. BROWN AND
STEVE REYNOLDS (PEG)

PRODUCED BY THE NORMAN STUDIOS ARLINGTON, FLA.

Pitney

Other Announcements

The Oberlin Summer Organ Institute (July 9-15) is inviting young pianists and organists to consider an experience with the "King of Instruments." Did you know that Oberlin College has one of the largest and most diverse collections of pipe organs in the United States? Even if you or your students have never played an organ, please consider joining us this summer for our academy where you can learn the foundations of how to become an organist - along with many other fun activities! For more information, please visit our website or email directly: jmoyer@oberlin.edu



Two manual Allen organ with full pedalboard and two external speakers available. Please contact Tony Sievert for details 813-751-6274.

2023 - 2024 Officers - Tampa Chapter

Dean

Stephen Allen

Sub-Dean

Steven Ball

Secretary

Michael Dougherty

Treasurer

Van Howard

Members-At-Large

Andre Botero - 2026

Sylvia Chai - 2026

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