

The Treasure Coast Chapter of The American Guild of Organists



Monthly Newsletter

June 2025



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Congratulations to all who participated in and attended the June 1 Members Recital and Dinner. It was a very delightful and successful afternoon and evening. People are still effusively praising the performers and saying how much they enjoyed the fellowship and dinner at the Bonefish Grill.

Many thanks and kudos to Neal Campbell and Anthony Baron, our gracious hosts at Trinity Episcopal Church. The church, with its Harrison & Harrison organ and Fazioli piano inspired everyone to create a wide variety of stirring and uplifting music. In addition, the event raised over \$1,300 for our Scholarship Fund, helping to ensure that our chapter can continue to train young organists for the future.

I thank you all for electing me as the Dean of the Chapter for the coming year. I will do my best to lead our chapter in reaching new milestones in music, education, and collegiality. Our other Executive officers for the 2025-26 year are: Ryan Kasten, Sub-Dean; Dan Kroger, Secretary; Neal Campbell, Treasurer; and Ray Adams, Member-at-Large. In addition, Brady Johnson will continue as Scholarship Chairperson, and Steve Giddens has graciously agreed to continue as our Newsletter Editor. I am grateful beyond words for all that Steve has done these past three years. I know that you all will raise a glass in a toast to Steve, who has done so much for our chapter. Our other outgoing officers are: Jerry Myers, Sub-Dean, and Kathleen Knott, Member-at-Large. We thank them for their leadership and support all year long.

What is coming in the 2025-26 season, you ask? Our new board will be finalizing our plans during the summer, but we have already laid groundwork for several exciting events, including:

- A visit to St. John of the Cross Catholic Church in Vero Beach to see and hear their new four-manual, 70-plus rank Austin pipe organ and meet the builder, Michael Fazio, and take part in the Blessings of the Musicians.
- Phantasies and Phugues at Christ by the Sea United Methodist Church in Vero Beach in late October.
- The Fifth Annual Christmas and Epiphany recital at St. Mark's Anglican Church in Vero Beach on January 4.

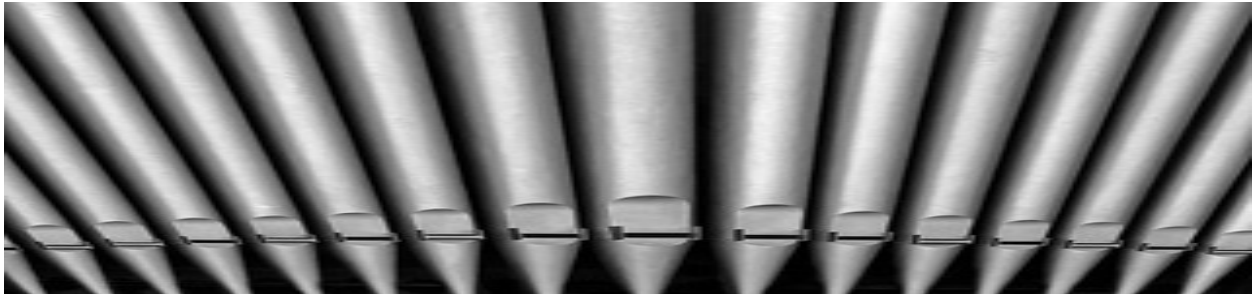
(continued from page 1)

- * A composer-themed Members' Recital (location TBA).
- * A recital by a major artist of national renown (St. John of the Cross).
- * An educational event to encourage us to continue to expand our skills and organists and directors.

And, last, but not least, we would like to continue our monthly first Wednesday lunches at Ocean Grill. I hope you can join us!

If there is something that you would like to have our board consider during our summer deliberations, please send me an email, or contact one of our new board members. Also, if you know someone who should become a member of our chapter, please encourage them to join as a CHAPTER MEMBER of the AGO online at agohq.org. All full Chapter Members must sign up online. If there is someone that you would like for me to contact, please let me know. We are eager to welcome new members, whether full, voting chapter members, or Friends of the Chapter. Friends can join by sending the \$25 annual fee to our chapter mailbox: P.O. Box 643814, Vero Beach, FL 32964. Friends receive our local newsletter, but not the national magazine, *The American Organist*, which requires a full chapter membership or an additional fee.

Tom Goetz
DMus, CAGO, Dean
goetzmusic1@gmail.com





**Treasure Coast Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
Member's Recital at Trinity Episcopal Church**

Back row (left to right)

**Joseph Rumberger, Ray Adams, Anthony Baron, Ryan Kasten,
Neal Campbell, Brady Johnson**

Front row (left to right)

**Jack VanderPlate, Marcos Flores, Tom Goetz, Steve Giddens, Gary Parr,
Dolores Mark**



Jack VanderPlate

Sunday, June 1st



Marcos Flores



Scholarship Student
Amber Schichtel

Ray Adams
and
Joseph Rumberger



Gary Parr, Conducting
Ryan Kasten, Organ



Neal Campbell

Dolores Mark, soprano
Brady Johnson, organ



Tom Goetz



Ryan Kasten

Joseph Rumberger



Steve Giddens



Anthony Baron, Baritone
Neal Campbell, Organ

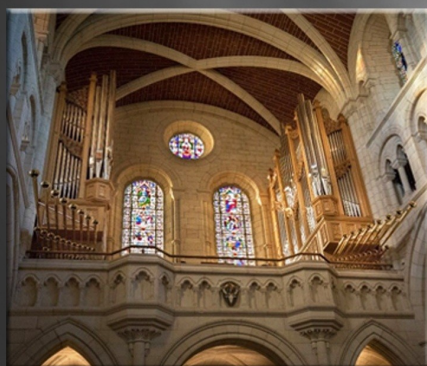
Brady Johnson



The Choir
Under the pipes of
the Harrison and
Harrison Ltd



Supporting Florida's AGO Community Since 1958



Fratelli Ruffatti

Hand-crafted, custom designed pipe organs. In-house production ensures the highest quality materials and control of the manufacturing techniques employed. It also offers limitless customization, and most of all, the best value for your budget.

Pictured: Buckfast Abbey, Devon, England



RODGERS

Since 1958 Rodgers organs have been made in Hillsboro, Oregon. Pioneers of Pipe/Digital hybrid organs, MIDI technology, stereo tone generation, and Direct Streaming technology. All organs include 10-year warranties for Parts, Labor, surge protection and software upgrades/updates.



Blüthner

Hand-made in Leipzig, Germany by the Blüthner family since 1853. Owned and cherished by many of history's most prolific musicians. "After coffee we went to one of the recording rooms where they had a Blüthner piano ... Well, it had the most beautiful singing tone I had ever found. I became quite enthusiastic and decided to play my beloved Barcarolle of Chopin. The piano inspired me. I don't think I ever played better in my life." Arthur Rubinstein, Pianist & Composer Lifetime GRAMMY Award Recipient



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2025 National Orchestra Festival



March 19-22

Atlanta, GA



The FPC Youth String Orchestra/Brevard String Academy under the direction of Jacob Craig and Erik Bryan traveled to Atlanta to compete in ASTA's 2025 National Orchestra Competition March 19-22.

Having competed against 22 other groups, they received 1st place in the Youth String Orchestra Category. Congratulations!





Shirley Ann Goodell

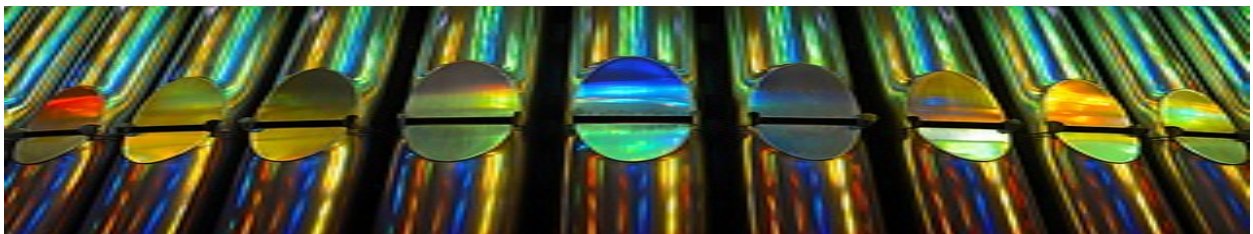
August 7, 1939—April 23, 2025

To make a donation to the Vero Beach Piano
Scholarship, mail to Vero Beach Opera,
PO Box 6912, Vero Beach, FL 32961
("piano scholarship" in the memo line)



TCCAGO Chapter Lunch
Ocean Grill Vero Beach
The next luncheon will be
in September 2025

Joan Lippincott, 89, concert organist and educator, died May 31st in Newtown, Pennsylvania. For four decades, she served on the faculty of Westminster Choir College, where she was a professor of organ and the head of the organ department.



TCCAGO EVENT SCHEDULE

For the 2025-26 Season

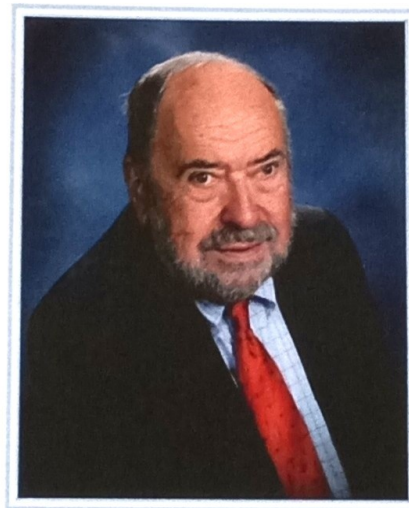
Coming Soon!

How to annoy a musician:



A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF
DONALD C. INGRAM

November 24, 1932 – December 29, 2024



May 10, 2025
10:00 A.M.



1712

St. Peter's Church
ALBANY, NEW YORK

2025



Donald Ingram Obituary

LATHAM - DONALD INGRAM was born in Hinsdale, in southwestern New York on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 1932. He took his first piano lessons at age 4½, and he began playing for Sunday School at age 9, and church (piano) at age 10. His first paying organ job was at age 12 in the Presbyterian Church, Cuba, NY.

In 1949, at age 17, he helped bring about the installation of a pipe organ at his home church, the Hinsdale Methodist Church, on the 100th anniversary of the church building. He gave a recital at that time and fifty years later performed on the newly refurbished instrument at the church's 150th anniversary.

While in high school, Don commuted to Buffalo, NY for organ lessons, and to Alfred University for carillon instruction. After graduating valedictorian, he was accepted in the music programs at both Syracuse University and the University of Michigan. He chose Syracuse as a scholarship student and from there received Bachelor ('54) and Master of Music ('60) degrees in organ. His teacher and good friend was Dr. Arthur Poister, one of the outstanding organ professors of the twentieth century. During student days, Don also worked as Organist/Choirmaster (O/C) at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Cazenovia, NY, and while there designed the specification for a new Schlicker pipe organ which was installed in 1954. Upon graduation, Don served as O/C at the Church of the Transfiguration in Cranston, RI, and in 1956 he was hired as Sales Manager and Staff Organist of the Schlicker Organ Company in Buffalo where he was employed through 1963. During these years he designed specifications for a multitude of pipe organs. Over the years he continued to serve as consultant for many new and rebuilt instruments.

As O/C at Kenmore Methodist Church from 1957-62, he prepared specifications for a new pipe organ installation in 1961 (and returned for the fiftieth anniversary recital in 2011). While at Kenmore he welcomed several guest conductors including Dr. Helen Hosmer, founder of the Crane Chorus at the Crane School at Potsdam State, Dr. Richard T. Gore from the College of Wooster, Ohio, and Robert Shaw, founder and conductor of the Robert Shaw Chorale.

Donald moved on to St. Paul's Cathedral (Episcopal), Buffalo in 1962. During his tenure there he founded the noonday organ recital series and the Buffalo Choral Society. His cathedral choir of men and boys sang at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and Trinity Wall Street, NYC, the National Cathedral in Washington, with Robert Shaw, and with the Buffalo Philharmonic under Josef Krips, and Lukas Foss. For the Cathedral's anniversary, he commissioned the Harold Darke Communion Service in A minor.

After personnel changes in Buffalo, Don was invited in the summer of 1968 to St. Croix, US VI, but by the end of the year, he was called to Albany, NY. During his brief time in St Croix, he became a child welfare caseworker. This experience was to later help qualify him as a social worker in Massachusetts.

While O/C at St. Peter's Church, Albany from 1969-78, Don supervised the installation of two new pipe organs (Schlicker) in the choir and gallery. From 1978 to 1982 he was O/C at

St. Paul's, Troy, NY (the Tiffany Church). Rather than replace or revamp the 1921 Austin at St. Paul's, however, repairs undertaken were restorative of this classic "symphonic" organ. The 1980's saw appointments at Christ Church, Baltimore, Pilgrim Lutheran Church Warwick, RI, and St. Elizabeth's, Sudbury MA. In 1989 he took the O/C position at historic Trinity Church, Newport RI, and then in 1994 he assumed that post at Trinity Church, Vero Beach 1994-99. It was here in Vero Beach that he designed a new Harrison and Harrison pipe organ which was installed in 1997. However you wish to count, this was the fifth or sixth new organ installed in churches where he served. After fifty-five years, Don "retired" at the end of 1999 to his home on the Mohawk River in New York. Retirement positions, however, included: interim at The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Trinity United Methodist Church, and First Presbyterian Church, Albany, and Trinity Church, Newport, First United Presbyterian Church, and once again at St. Paul's, Troy.

The American Guild of Organists was a major interest and influence in Don's career. Besides being founding Dean of the Treasure Coast Chapter in Vero Beach, he served as Dean of the Buffalo and Eastern NY Chapters. He was Region II Chairman for three terms and member of the Executive Committee of the National AGO. He was largely responsible for bringing the national AGO convention to Buffalo in 1970 and he was chair and co-chair of two Regional AGO conventions (1979, 2003) in Albany.

He gave his first recital at the Washington National Cathedral in 1957. This was followed by over four decades of recitals there. After the 1957 recital, the late Day Thorpe, then Music Critic of The Washington Evening Star, observed there had been desultory talk about the organ and replacing it: "Ingram showed an odd type of salesmanship when he made the old girl sound like a million dollars."

Don presented recitals in 30 states, Canada, US Virgin Islands, England, Scotland (The Fringe of the Edinburg Festival), and Sweden, and has been honored by Trinity Church, Vero Beach, and St. Paul's Church, Troy, with the title Organist Emeritus.

Donald Ingram is survived by his partner of 55 years, Eugene Tobey, and by his niece, Beverly (George) Gardner, Cambridge, MD; nephew Dave Welsh of Ocala, FL; great nieces Pamela Gardner of Walpole, MA and Julie Morris of TN; and great nephew Randy Blakeslee of FL.

He was predeceased by siblings George, William and Mary Lou (Welsh), niece Bonnie Blakeslee, and great nephew Adam Gardner.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in memory of Donald Ingram
to the

Donald Ingram Endowed Scholarship Fund at Syracuse University.

Donations may be sent to:

Syracuse University, 640 Skytop Road, 2nd Floor, Syracuse, NY 13244

Memorial Service for Donald C. Ingram (1932-2024)

On Saturday morning, May 10, several hundred people gathered at St. Peter's Church in Albany, New York, to honor the memory of Donald Ingram, founding dean of the Treasure Coast Chapter AGO. A massed choir of 70 was assembled and included St. Peter's parish choir augmented by many friends representing several churches where Don served over the years. Don's Vero Beach successor organists of Trinity Church, Brady Johnson, Jason Hobratschk, and Neal Campbell participated, as did singers Dana Johnson and Jennifer Oseroff. Jason directed the full choir and Brady and Neal participated in the preludes and service playing. The principal service organist was Daniel Romero, the current Organist and Choirmaster of St. Peter's.

St. Peter's is an architectural masterpiece in the mid-19th century Gothic style designed by Richard Upjohn and his son Richard M. Upjohn and is located near the state capitol building in downtown Albany. Those who have seen the HBO series "The Gilded Age," set in mid-19th Century New York City, may recognize it as the site used for several imposing services and weddings. The church is an outstanding example of the architectural style of the era.

Don was the Organist and Choirmaster of St. Peter's from 1969-1978. The organ is a large Schlicker which he designed and includes chancel and gallery divisions. In fact, in the HBO series the organ stands out as a distinctive, decidedly newer visual component to the otherwise authentic 19th century setting.

Prior to the service was an extended prelude of organ music, including two pieces written for Don by Alfred Fedak, and spoken remembrances from several persons. Jason Hobratschk's remarks are printed in full on the following page in this newsletter. The funeral liturgy consisted of a full choral eucharist with several hymns and anthems, and a full choral setting of the ordinary of the mass (Kyrie, Gloria, Creed, Sanctus-Benedictus, and Agnus Dei) sung to the setting in A by Harold Darke (1888-1976) which Don had commissioned for the 150th anniversary of St. Paul's Cathedral in Buffalo, New York where Don served from 1962-1968 prior to his tenure in Albany.

A handsome and complete printed order of service, fabricated by Todd Sisley, former editor of *The American Organist*, was made available, and included a full list of clergy and musician participants. Also included was a complete obituary-biography including the address where the memorial scholarship donations may be sent; this is also printed in full previously in this newsletter.

—Neal Campbell (June 5, 2025)

Jason Hobratschk's remarks at Don's memorial service

I first met Don Ingram in the Spring of 2010. I had arrived to interview at Trinity Church, Vero Beach, where Don had installed the exquisite Harrison organ. After making our introductions, Don left me to practice for my audition. In short order, I managed to lock myself out of the church. I had to call Don, who was practically home already – and obviously inconvenienced – to come back to let me in once again. From such inauspicious beginnings, a wonderful relationship grew, and I had the privilege of knowing Don as a consummate musician, an honest mentor, a gracious host, and a dear friend.

Don very much had a way with words. Some time ago, I thought it a good idea to jot down a few “Don-isms.” These range across a variety of topics from music in general to organs to church architecture to liturgy. I don't whether you're aware, but Don had opinions on all the above. So, to give you a glimpse of the Don I knew, I thought I'd invite you along on a hypothetical church-tour-day and dinner with Don and Gene – with commentary. We arrived at the parish church of St. Cletus the Lesser shortly before the noon Eucharist. The service was simple and lovely; the reader, rather lackluster. After all but we had departed and the church was quiet, Don remarked, “Well, he had a way of reading so that the words really stayed right on the page.” We proceeded to tour the church, taking in the organ installation, the furnishings, and the stained-glass windows.

“You know,” said Don, “the best thing they could do for that window... is to board it up.” I tried the organ, only to be interrupted by the practice of the parish carillonneur. I said, “I didn't even know they had a carillon,” to which Don replied, “Oh, yes. They have a carillon. Well, it isn't really a very good carillon. They have more potsherds than bells.” On our way out of the church, we noticed an advertisement for the Saturday evening prayer service. Evidently, this service was rather more charismatic than Don would have liked. “Oh, Gawd...,” said he, “Saturday night prayer service. Bring your own snake.”

We spent the afternoon edifying ourselves, and soon it was time to return to the seafoam-green flamingo-bedecked double-wide for the evening. As I sat, taking in the “flamingobilia” – only slightly saddened that my singularly offensive flamingo windchime had since been donated to the park-wide rummage sale – Don raised his Tanqueray martini in his Jefferson cup and toasted, “Good to be drinking from tin cups with you.” After a cocktail and some lovely New York sharp cheddar cheese, Don asked me to kindly heave the salad. Which I did, noting that there was no kale in said salad. “Well,” said Don, “I find kale to be marginally comestible at best.” Thanks being given, the dinner of roast lamb expertly prepared by Gene – or was it lobster unceremoniously freed from the wok in which it had been steamed by the use of a heavy wooden spoon... well, anyway, dinner was, as ever, accompanied by a tasty malbec, vibrant conversation, and yards and yards of laughter, inseparable from the tears which accompanied them.

That day, which the Lord so gave us, had ended. The dawn has led on another day. And we all look forward to gathering once again at a table in that place where “the voice of prayer is never silent, nor dies the strain of praise away.”

THANK YOU FOR BEING AN AGO MEMBER

**Is your AGO membership current?
To manage your membership, renew, change your
address, find an AGO member, and more just go to
the national website:
www.agohq.org**

**Or
To become "Friends of the Chapter"*
send \$25 to TCCAGO, PO Box 643814, Vero Beach,
FL 32964**

**this special membership does not include the AGO magazine or voting
rights*



Amber Schichtel with Tom Goetz
Trinity Episcopal Church
June 1, 2025

Celebration of Freedom

A Patriotic Concert

Thursday, July 3, 2025 7:30PM

CALL FOR SINGERS

Rehearsals begin Tuesday, May 13, 2025
7:00PM-9:00PM

For more information contact Ryan Kasten, Director of Music
Cell: 772-584-9744 or Email: Music.StjohnsVero@Gmail.com



TCCAGO Officers for 2025—26

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Treasurer:	Neal Campbell
Board Member:	Ray Adams
Scholarship Chair:	Brady Johnson
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