

The Treasure Coast Chapter of The American Guild of Organists



Monthly Newsletter

November 2021

A Message from the Dean

When our annual directory was sent out did you notice that we have a smaller membership than past years? There is more than one reason for that. Several members have moved. At least one member decided the chapter did not benefit him enough to pay dues. And several people have wondered aloud if just sitting it out for awhile—until the Covid situation has resolved—might not be a bad idea.

These factors present quite a challenge to our TCCAGO's leadership. Many thanks to Andrew Galuska, our departing dean, for extending his term to help me out as Covid was striking. As your incoming dean, there are three things I would very much like to promote in our chapter:

First, I would like to see us get to know one another much better than we do, and be able to enjoy more fellowship opportunities together. One way to do that is to join the group at Ocean Grill for our "First Thursday" lunches. (Be sure to

email me before Tuesday of the week of the lunch so I can make the appropriate reservation.) I am also including a "Get To Know Your Fellow TCCAGO Members" in our newsletter, featuring a new member each month. Our chapter is geographically quite large, covering Martin, St Lucie and Indian River counties. We might also want to think about trying some regional planning and events.

Second, I would like to have closer relations with neighboring chapters. We have a "Pedals, Pipes and Pizza" event coming up with the Space Coast Chapter, and I would like to encourage all piano and organ teachers to promote this event among your students. If you did not receive an email about PPP, please let me know and I will send it to you. This kind of sharing of resources will not only broaden our network, but also save all the overlap of work and planning that often occurs when each chapter has to "do it all."

Third, in keeping with the national AGO's theme—The Year of the Young Organist—I would like to emphasize reaching out musically to

(A Message From the Dean)

young people, and work to ensure that our scholarship fund will continue to help young organ students hone their skills. In addition to the "Pedals, Pipes and Pizza" event, consider promoting the very fine Festival at the University of North Carolina among young people who might be interested (cf: article on that subject in this newsletter).

Our TCCAGO is presently short on board members! One member moved to Pensacola, and another was moved to Dean of the chapter. Do you have some ideas for TCCAGO? Would you like to be involved with other officers of the chapter? If so, we would love to know about your interest. Please email the dean at <jvdplate@gmail.com>.

Communication is the life blood of healthy groups. This newsletter is one way of staying in touch. Social get-togethers such as the First Thursday lunches are another. Our chapter also has a wonderful website, <<https://tccago.org/>> which is administered by our very capable webmaster, Claire Klein. Go to the members' page to download our current directory, newsletters and more. If you have trouble signing in, or something you would like to see featured on the website, shoot an email to Claire at <treasurecoastwebsite@gmail.com>.

And finally, please feel free to email me with your ideas for our chapter.

—Jack VanderPlate, Dean TCCAGO
<ivdplate@gmail.com>

THANK YOU TREASURE COAST AGO

(A thank you note from one of those who attended the Members Recital.)

A thousand thanks for the American Guild of Organists Treasure Coast Members Recital. It was the last Sunday of the summer on the "King of Instruments" in Indian River County.

The TCCAGO artists brought their living talent and skill to make the "glory of the terrestrial" into the "glory of the celestial." "Ear has not heard...the things God has...but God has revealed them to us..." (1 Cor 2:9-10). How close it was at 4:00 pm on September 19th.

Thanks a thousand times to (Jack) VanderPlate, (Joseph) Rumsberger, (Rachel) Carter, (Andrew) Galuska, (Brady) Johnson and (Jill) Truax. Our gratitude to these maestros for their jarring recital of Dubois, Bach, Mozart, Dupre and Vierne on the mighty "King of Instruments." Did I need seatbelts? Was I close to levitation? Bravo indeed!

The TCCAGO presentation was a prelude to that "prize of the high calling of God" in Phil 3:14. Our Lord said, "Narrow is the road that leads to life and few their be that find it" (Mat 7:14). So this lively concert was "found" by too few.

Thank you again Treasure Coast AGO. What a treasure you are!

Raymond C. Huddle

MEET YOUR FELLOW TCCAGOers

Sub-dean Steven Giddens

When you walk into Steven's house, you will likely notice a lovely 3 manual Rogers organ. Steven got his musical start in life playing in an accordion band in junior high school, and also by playing the piano for a Baptist Church.

He graduated from Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, FL and went on to teach second and sixth grades in Kansas City, MO, while working on a MA degree. During those years Steven filled in as a substitute organist and pianist at various churches.

"Open concept" schooling did not appeal to Steven, and he began a catering business in California. He moved back to West Palm Beach, Florida in 1991 to be near his father who was suffering with Alzheimer's Disease, and his mother who was dealing with breast cancer. He also took over his mother's catering business until he retired in 2015 and moved to Port St Lucie.

Steven sees his role as sub-organist as a calling from God. He very much enjoys being exposed to other denominations, and he loves to meet new people. He served as organist for a year at the United Methodist Church of Port St Lucie, played for Masses at St Bernadette Catholic Church, St Elizabeth Ann Seton, St Lucie Catholic Church,

Walton Street Baptist and others. He served at St Andrews Catholic Church in Stuart most recently and has found

satisfaction in the opportunity to play "here and there" as organists take a week or two off for various reasons.

Steven is an upbeat person who believes in the power of forgiveness, and tries to live in the power of "You always get back more than you give."

He had planned on meeting fellow AGOers at the "First Thursday" lunch at the Ocean Grill Restaurant, November 4th but he has been called to play a Celebration of Life in Stuart. If you need a sub, as an organist or pianist for funerals or weddings, keep Steven in mind.

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Calling all High School Organists:

The 10th Annual University of North Carolina School of the Arts/Piedmont NC AGO High School Organ Festival & Competition will be held in Winston-Salem, NC. The Festival weekend is January 28-30, 2022, and will feature workshops, master classes, recitals, and the annual competition. This year's recitals and master classes will highlight music of César Franck celebrating the bicentennial of his birth.

The deadline to apply is Friday,
(continued)

(HS Organists)

December 17, 2021.

All High School students in the U.S. (who have not previously won First Prize) are eligible to participate and compete. All information, including the online registration form and corresponding links can be found here:

<https://www.uncsa.edu/music/events/organ-festival.aspx>

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MEMBERS' DIRECTORY ONLINE

The Members Directory is available on our Chapter website, on a newly-created **Members Only** page. This saves paper, postage, and handling by our volunteers, and keeps the Directory at your finger-

tips. Visit <https://tccago.org/> and scroll down to the middle of the Home Page. Click on the Button labeled "Sign up for Members' Page" and you'll receive simple instructions to gain access.

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TCCAGO Officers For 2021

Dean: Jack VanderPlate

Subdean: Steven Giddens

Secretary/Treasurer: Paul Ives

Scholarship Chair: Brady Johnson

Chaplain: Rev. Dr. Michael Carter

Webmaster: Claire Klein

Board Members

Class of 2022

Class of 2023: Jill Truax

Class of 2024

AREA EVENTS OF INTEREST

Friday, October 29	7:00 pm	Silent Movie "The Man Who Laughs" A Galuska, organ	The Community Church of Vero Beach 1901 23 rd St, Vero Beach	Church Office (772) 562-3633
Thursday, November 4	12:30 pm	First Thursday Luncheon at the Ocean Grill	Ocean Grill 1050 Beachland Blvd Vero Beach	Contact the Dean by Tuesday, Nov 2 jvdplate@gmail.com
Saturday, November 6	10 am – 1 pm	Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza	Advent Lutheran Church, 7550 N Wickham, Melbourne	Contact: Jerry Davidson, (321) 914-4419
Friday, Dec 17 Sunday Dec 19	7:00 pm 4:00 pm	C Franck Mass in a 1 st Pres Chancel Choir and Symphony Orchestra Vero Beach Choral Society Members of Sebastian River High School	1 st Presbyterian Church 520 Royal Palm Blvd, Vero Beach	Church Office (772) 562-9088
Sunday, Jan 9	4:00 pm	Mozart Solemn Vespers and additional choral works Vero Beach Choral Society	1 st Presbyterian Church 520 Royal Palm Blvd, Vero Beach	Church Office (772) 562-9088