

The Treasure Coast Chapter of The American Guild of Organists



Monthly Newsletter

December 2021

A Message from the Dean

I'm guessing that most of us are already deep in the preparation of Christmas music. I know I am. Advent begins the "church year," and features some of the favorite music of many people in the churches we are a part of.

Don't you just love all the festivities of Christmas—the greens, the lights, the giving of gifts, and of course the music? Our sanctuary is a beautiful worship space; but when it's all done up with Christmas lights and decorations there is something almost magical about entering it.



Christian worship contains repentance, solemn moments, reflective seasons, prayerful seasons; but it also contains seasons of great

joy. Easter is the climax of that joy, proclaiming that death cannot have the last word. But Christmas is the joy of hope in the form of the Child born into a humble family two thousand years ago.

Before we come to sing "Joy To The World" we will spend quiet moments pondering the annunciation of our Lord's birth, we will consider the prophecies of that birth, we will wonder as we wander, and marvel again as angels tell shepherds watching flocks of sheep that the Savior has been born on that "Stille Nacht." And on Christmas Day God's people joyously answer the call of "O Come All Ye Faithful."

No wonder we love Christmas and its music, so full of poignancy, wonder, hope and joy.

And then it's over. Or better, the joy and festivity of the birthday is past. But before we leave this wonderful season we will have one last reprise of this music, and share that with our community. If you are willing to play one or two of your favorites for this event, please contact the dean, Jack
(continued)

(Message from the dean)

VanderPlate (jvdplate@gmail.com).

I hope you will personally enjoy “The Music of Christmas” that our chapter will present at St. Mark’s Anglican Church (Vero Beach) on January 4 at 6:00 pm. And why not invite your friends to join us to hear some of the season’s favorite music?

I hope your celebration of Christmas blesses and uplifts you. And I look forward to sharing some Christmas uplift with you through music in January.

+ + + +

MEET YOUR FELLOW TCCAGOers



Sometimes we fail to thank our parents for giving us the assets required to succeed. Dr. Jacob Craig’s father was a psychologist who required each of his three children to study an instrument (Jacob being the eldest). So Jacob began studying the piano in his rural hometown, Blairsville, GA at age five, along with his homeschooling which he enjoyed

and appreciated.

By the time Jacob was seven, his piano teacher could teach him nothing new and handed him over to Dr. David George who continued Jacob’s instruction on the piano. The Craig family is full-blooded Scots, so naturally Jacob gravitated towards bagpipes at age eight. He did well in competitions on both piano and bagpipes.

Jacob had dreams of being a military pilot (he holds a pilot’s license today), but his family said no. So he went to his next favorite thing—music. He majored in piano performance at Shorter College, a former conservatory-type school in Rome, GA. There he accompanied the choir and fell in love with the choral sound, teaching and conducting. Florida State’s marvelous music program honed his skills in conducting for a master’s degree.

From there, Jacob taught at an inner-city Title One school in Memphis, TN. Meanwhile, First Presbyterian of Vero Beach was searching for someone to lead their music program. TCCAGOers, Jason Hobratschk and Ryan Kasten, recommended that they take a look at Jacob.

Jacob had been employed to perform music on Celebrity cruise lines but decided on the offer from First Presbyterian. After about three years, with the encouragement and blessing of the church Jacob began graduate studies with the Graduate Theological
(continued)

Foundation which allowed for study at Oxford.

Jacob has been active with the TCCAGO having been a board member, and hosting TCCAGO events at First Presbyterian Church.

His vision for ministry aims at creating a connection between the church, the community, and the school. The upcoming presentation of C. Franck's "Mass in A" is one outcome of that vision. (See description of that presentation elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Having served First Presbyterian Church for nine years, Jacob remains fresh and enthused about his ministry. I think that has to do with the attitude he expressed about his work: "My aim is to be effective...to make things, and people better."

+ + + +

FIRST THURSDAY LUNCH AT THE OCEAN GRILL RESTAURANT

Reviving an old tradition for TCCAGO, several members met at the Ocean Grill Restaurant for lunch on November 4.



Left to right: Paul Ives, Kathleen

Knott, Jack VanderPlate, John Yoder, Gary Parr, Jeff Edwards.

We enjoyed each other's company, as well as sharing some delicious food, all of it enhanced by a view of the Atlantic Ocean.

Our next "First Thursday" lunch will be January 6, two days after our "Music of Christmas" event. Put a note in your calendar to join your fellow TCCAGOers for lunch at 12:30 pm.

+ + + +

COULD YOUR CHURCH MAKE USE OF SOME HYMNALS?

Palm City Presbyterian Church has purchased new hymnals. They have 520 1986 editions, published by Word Music, to donate to a church that might be interested in them. Please contact Joanne at joanne@palmcitypres.org.

+ + + +

PRESENTATION OF CESAR FRANCK'S MASS IN A

We met Dr. Jacob Craig earlier in this newsletter. After Jason Holbratsch took on a new position in Pensacola, the Vero Beach Choral Society appointed Dr. Craig as the interim Music Director and Conductor of the Society.

In line with Dr. Craig's passion for bringing together the church, school and community, he arranged for the Vero Beach Choral Society to join with the First Presbyterian Chancel Choir and Orchestra, along with members of (continued)

(Mass in A)

the Sebastian River High School Choir to present Cesar Franck's "Mass in A" (Chorpartitur Version SATB).

There will be two performances:

--Friday December 17 at 7:00 pm

--Sunday December 19 at 4:00 pm

Both performances will be at the First Presbyterian Church of Vero Beach, located at 520 Royal Palm Blvd.

The Mass in A is not one of Franck's most famous or performed works. But it is a wonderful setting of the mass (Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus and Agnus Dei), with solos including the well-loved "Panus Angelicus" and thoughtful synergies for the lyrics and music sung by the choir.

+ + + +

OFFERINGS FROM OTHER AGO CHAPTERS

WAYS WITH HYMNS

(Shared by Dean Elizabeth Bailey – edited by JV for brevity)

On Sunday, September 19, Mr. David Enlow led a workshop the Nassau Chapter AGO at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Hicksville, Long Island, covering such things as our "mise en place," our preparation, our aims and strategy for congregational singing. He emphasized that we do not accompany hymns, we lead them; showing us how we can do this by using interesting harmonies in addition how to introduce hymns in a variety of ways.

David played examples from plainsong, the Renaissance, the Baroque era, and the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. He also suggested some models from composed literature based upon hymnology from such composers as Buxtehude, Bach, Brahms, Dupré, etc., offering a wide range of possibilities to draw from.

David was a most engaging speaker and presented this demonstration with grace, humor, and a genuine feeling of appreciation for his listeners. You can view the recording of David's workshop here:

<https://fb.watch/9kFU200CLm/>

+ + + +

ATTENTION YOUNG ORGANISTS...

The AGO is offering a free year of membership for organ students under the age of 30

Go to:

<https://www.yearoftheyoungorganist.com/>

For online education programs that include master classes, webinars on organ maintenance, planning resources for the liturgical year, resume writing, and workshops that cover insurance, health and retirement, focused on both personal and professional development, to strengthen your career pathway.

The AGO is also creating an Organ Scholar Program

(continued)

(Young Organists)

This program offers two young people the opportunity to experience a one-year internship at a significant music ministry program in the United States. This gap-year program will take place during 2022-23 and 2023-24 (one recipient per year for a total of two recipients in two different locations) and will provide \$30,000 in salary, as well as housing and health care for the organ scholar

FOR UNDERGRADUATES

Pogorzelski-Yankee Memorial Scholarships

The Pogorzelski-Yankee Memorial Scholarships are awarded for a period of up to four years to four undergraduates. One entering college freshman and one college student currently enrolled at either the freshman, sophomore, or junior level will be awarded scholarships for the 2022-2023 academic year (\$15,000 annually). Each award is renewable if requirements are met.

The online application period begins January 1st and extends to February 15, 2022. The AGO Committee on Continuing Professional Education will review the scholarship applications from February 15 to April 15, 2022 and determine two scholarship recipients.

The applicant's present performance ability is necessarily the starting point; however, applications are judged by the potential for future performance excellence at the organ,

and whether financial support will make a crucial difference in the applicant's career as an organist.

These scholarships are intended to support the education of talented young organists who will make significant contributions to the fields of organ playing and organ studies.

Applicants are expected to have existing talent and achievements in the field of organ playing and an expressed commitment to post-graduation teaching, performing, or other serious endeavor with respect to the organ. An entering college freshman scholarship will be awarded in March-April 2021.

Applicants must also demonstrate financial need and have already completed a FAFSA application for the 2022-2023 academic year.

+ + + +

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: Tom Goetz



If you would like to include your church's events in this calendar which is also available on the TCCAGO website, email the dean at jvdplate@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursdays in Advent	11:00 am	Organ and Poetry Series	Community Church of Vero Beach	(772) 562-3633
December 12	7:00 pm	Ensembles / Tapestry Brass	Community Church of Vero Beach	(772) 562-3633
December 17	7:00 pm	Franck Mass in A	1 st Presbyterian Church	(772) 562-9088
December 19	4:00 pm	Franck Mass in A	1 st Presbyterian Church	(772) 562-9088
January 4	6:00 pm	TCCAGO Music of Christmas	St Mark's Anglican Church of Vero Beach	(772) 563-0450