

# The Treasure Coast Chapter of The American Guild of Organists



Monthly Newsletter

January 2022

## A Message from the Dean

Every once in a while life's coincidences allow you to re-visit memorable moments in your life. That happened for me as I was reading the newsletter of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians.

A webinar was being offered featuring Dr. Anton Armstrong, the Tosdal Professor of Music at St Olaf College in Northfield, MN. Right away I was riveted. I had the privilege of singing with Dr. Armstrong before he moved from Calvin to St. Olaf's College. Back in the day, he was on the faculty of Calvin University (my alma mater) and also directing the Calvin Alumni Choir, the Grand Rapids Symphony Chorus and the St. Cecilia Youth Chorale.

Dr. Armstrong is an amazing person, and a consummate musician. Singing under his leadership means learning about listening very carefully. The composer intended something important enough to spend the time and energy it takes to create music that speaks through the generations. Listen for that message. And listen

to each other; the choir is an instrument—not a conglomeration of soloists—to communicate musically what words cannot do alone.



Dr. Armstrong also wanted his choirs to sing clearly. No one ever had a problem understanding the words sung by Dr. Armstrong's choirs. Articulate consonants and pure vowels were a must. He taught us how to accomplish all that with the use of our lips, teeth, tongue, palette and facial resonate chambers. He elicited some of the most sublime pianissimos I can remember singing, but he also loved and called forth the big, full-throated sound of the choir.

Dr. Armstrong is above all a man of deep faith. Everything he did was a  
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(Dean's Message)

part of his ministry and calling, not just his job. He viewed our task as musicians as speaking or playing or singing our faith to God's praise and as a blessing to those who hear.

So when I saw the advertisement in the ALCM magazine, I immediately checked my schedule and wrote in the date and time for the webinar.

**Body, Mind, Spirit, Voice:**

**Our Calling as**

**Pastoral Musicians**

**Friday, January 14**

**2:00 pm Eastern**

*Start off the new year with a free webinar featuring Dr. Anton Armstrong, Tosdal Professor of Music at St. Olaf College. Register here: <https://alcm.clickmeeting.com/body-mind-spirit-voice-our-calling-as-pastoral-musicians/register>*

Then it struck me that other TCCAGOers would also benefit from this webinar. So I called the ALCM office and asked if this webinar was only available to ALCM members, or if anyone could participate. The reply was, "Good question; let me check." He called back later to say that this event is open to anyone who is interested.

So, I'd like to encourage you to do just that. I promise you, it will be well worth your time!

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## MEET YOUR FELLOW TCCAGOers

Paul Ives, Treasurer of TCCAGO



Learning about Paul will fascinate you! He is an accomplished man, having graduated from John Hopkins University and also studied at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. His passion for the sea led him to train as a merchant marine captain and pilot, which was interrupted by a stint with the U.S. Signal Corps during the Korean Conflict.

After the war, he became a pilot with the Pilot's Association for the Bay and River Delaware. Paul piloted over 8,000 oceangoing vessels with crews of every nationality and culture, giving him many amazing experiences. He once sang Greek Christmas Carols around the Steinway grand piano, along with drinking some ouzo with the officers and crew aboard Aristotle Onassis' yacht.

Paul's father played piano, organ, and the accordion. (If you read the article about our subdean, Steven Giddens, you will remember that the accordion played a role in his interest in music as well.) Another relative who lived nearby played the violin. They would

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(Paul Ives)

get together often to play classic piano / violin duets in the evening. Young Paul loved hearing and learning this music as he went to sleep.

Having a good ear for music, young Paul would "tinker" on the piano, picking out tunes he knew. This actually became a handicap when Paul took a few years of piano lessons; once he heard a piece he could play it and so the score became a bother. After going through several piano teachers, Paul gave it up lessons as a lost cause. But he continued play by ear, and enjoyed identifying the era, the composer and often the piece his teacher played at school on the wind up Victrola.

Paul also took some lessons on the piano accordion, and learned about chords and harmony. Even today as a member of the choir, he easily hears the chords and intervals which is a useful asset in reading new music.

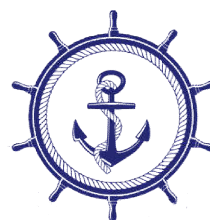
Paul remembers how the pipe organ appealed to his scientifically oriented mind at an early age. He made minor repairs and did some tuning of the organ when asked. Close to where he lived there was an old mansion with a pipe organ. He did a near complete rebuilt of the organ, and when it was completed, the owners had a small orchestra come in for a big party, and they played dance music with the pipe organ and a band. "It was pretty cool."

Paul and a friend built a rank of diapasons from old copper

downspouts they found, and used an Electrolux vacuum cleaner to wind them. The Electrolux made more noise than the pipes, so they took the home-made pipes to their church. They removed a rank of pipes and replaced them with their own to see how they would sound. Paul remembers them sounding like steamboat whistles. In the middle of this experiment, the sexton came up and said they had to quit. A wedding was being held at the church in one hour. Paul couldn't sleep that night, wondering if all the right pipes were back in the right holes!

Paul became involved with TCCAGO when he joined the First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir where Judith Taylor was then the Director of Music. It wasn't long before she found out that Paul loved the organ and asked him to serve on the TCCAGO board. Paul has been involved with TCCAGO ever since then, and presently with great dedication as our Treasurer.

Paul's mission in life is to care for his family; to be a good husband to Jerri; to be kind and caring of his neighbors; and enjoy working with people he has met from all corners of the earth during his maritime career as a pilot. We are blessed to have Paul serving TCCAGO not only as Treasurer, but also as an enthusiastic booster of the organ... and a joy to know as a friend.



## THE MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS

Our TCCAGO Christmas reprise program, "The Music of Christmas," is coming up very soon. Before all the beauty and understated glory of God becoming one with us in the flesh has passed, we will revisit some of the beloved music of the season.



"The Music of Christmas" will be held at St. Mark's Anglican Church on Tuesday, January 4, at 6:00 pm. We have an interesting and varied program of music with simple Christmas favorites and a couple of bigger stirring works on the organ. We will also hear a couple of singers, and an organ duet with an English Horn. Our expectation is that it will be a delightful evening of hearing and enjoying the music of Christmas.

A poster for this event is on the last page of this newsletter. Please print out as many as you can hand out to people you know who have an interest in music.



## Two Very Nice Online Resources For Sheet Music

Have you ever gotten too close to a service deadline and just haven't found the right music? You check out Bach's "Liturgical year," looked through the suggestions your denomination makes and rummaged through your files. But nothing you find seems right for this moment.

I discovered a group on FaceBook (FB) a few years back that has proven to be a treasure trove of wonderful music fitting the liturgical year. If you are logged into FB, go to the magnifier search button at the top left of your home page and type in "Preludes and Postludes for every Sunday." Click on that group and you will be taken to a date. You can click on that date, or use the search feature at the bottom of the group window to find other Sundays. For example, type "October" in the search bar and all available music for that month will appear.

When you find the Sunday you want, be sure to keep scrolling to see all the possibilities listed there. A real attempt is made at including things in the public domain; so you simply click on the link and download / print the music you want.

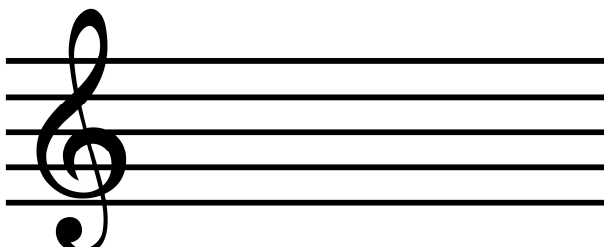
There is another FB resource I find very useful. If you enjoy organ transcriptions, search for "Amazing Organ Transcriptions" as described above. The host, Maurizio Machella, posts there quite regularly. You can

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(Online Resources)

listen to YouTubes of the various offerings and, if you like a piece, download the music at the link provided. I find that my congregation enjoys hearing good music from offerings outside the regular organ literature every once in a while – and the transcriptions take you into many musical highways and byways you might not otherwise find for organ.

If you know of other resources your fellow TCCAGOers might like, let me know and I'll include them in an upcoming newsletter.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG ADULT ORGANISTS

**(Deadlines are immanent!)**

#### **Ronald G. Pogorzelski–Lester D. Yankee Memorial Scholarships**

The AGO will award two scholarships (\$15,000 each) for the 2022–23 academic year. One scholarship will be awarded to an entering college freshman and another one to a college student currently enrolled at either the freshman, sophomore, or junior level. The online application period is January 1–February 15, 2022. Applicants must have already completed a FAFSA application for the 2022–23 academic year.

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.

### **NEW!! Organ Scholar Program**



The AGO Organ Scholar Program will offer an emerging organist the opportunity to experience a one-year internship within a significant music ministry program in the United States. This program will take place during  
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the 2022–23 and 2023–24 program years.

The program model is designed to include combined investments from AGO National Headquarters, a local AGO chapter, and a host church: \$10,000 each, for a total of \$30,000. In addition, the host church is expected to provide housing and healthcare for the organ scholar.

There will be one recipient per year for a total of two recipients in two different locations. One scholar will be hosted by Duke Chapel. The application period is January 15–February 15, 2022. The online application form and guidelines are coming soon. For more information, watch this page:  
<https://www.agohq.org/scholarships/>

### **Year of the Young Organist**



And don't forget that during the Year of the Young Organist, July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022, any individual under the age of 30 can become a member or renew for a full, free year of membership as part of this program. Events and new initiatives will be held throughout the 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



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
ON FOLLWING PAGE**

**“MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS”  
Poster / Flyer  
on last page**

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](mailto:jvdplate@gmail.com)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, January 4	6:00 pm	TCCAGO "The Music of Christmas" concert	St Mark's Anglican Church 1795 45 <sup>th</sup> Street Vero Beach	Church Office 772.563.0450
Thursday, January 6	12:30 pm	First Thursday TCCAGO Lunch at Ocean Grill	Ocean Grill 1050 Beachland Blvd Vero Beach	Contact the Dean by Tuesday, Nov 2 <a href="mailto:jvdplate@gmail.com">jvdplate@gmail.com</a>
February 27	3:00 pm	Michael Hey	Advent Lutheran	321.259.8515

If you would like to be a part of our TCCAGO's "First Thursday" Lunch – which will be on the day of Epiphany this year, January 6 - please be sure to inform the dean before Tuesday (January 4) that you will be there so reservations can be made to accommodate everyone.

Contact the dean, Jack VanderPlate, at [<jvdplate@gmail.com>](mailto:jvdplate@gmail.com)

**"Music of Christmas" Flyer is the next  
and last page of this newsletter**



# **The Music of Christmas**

Selections Performed by Members and Friends of the  
**Treasure Coast Chapter of the American Guild of  
Organist**

Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
6 p.m.

St. Mark's Anglican Church  
1795 45<sup>th</sup> Street  
Vero Beach, Florida

The Guild is a National Organization  
Dedicated to Promoting  
The Organ and Choral Music Fields

Join Us As We Celebrate  
During the 12 Days of Christmas

