

The Treasure Coast Chapter of The American Guild of Organists



Monthly Newsletter

June 2022

A Message From The Retiring Dean

On Sunday afternoon, May 22, 2022, we gathered at the First Baptist Church of Vero Beach where we enjoyed playing the organ and piano for each other and our guests, and hearing the offerings of our colleagues. For me that was a soul satisfying experience.



Music is a special gift of God that speaks directly to the heart. But for me there was even more to it than that.

To know some of the personal stories of the performers—to know something about their hearts—made listening to their music deeply soul satisfying.



Our chapter is blessed with some truly accomplished musicians. Sometimes that can lead to elitism. But I have seen just the reverse—genuine human beings who care about each other, highly gifted, yet humble, accessible, committed to their God and their craft.

It has been a pleasure to serve as Dean of the TCCAGO. I have appreciated the help and collegiality of our Subdean, now Dean, Steven Giddens. I wish Steven and our new Subdean, Anthony Baron and our Executive Board well as they take on their duties for the 2022-2023 TCCAGO season.



L to R: Paul Ives, Treasurer; Thomas Goetz, Board; Steven Giddens, Dean; Jill Truax, Board

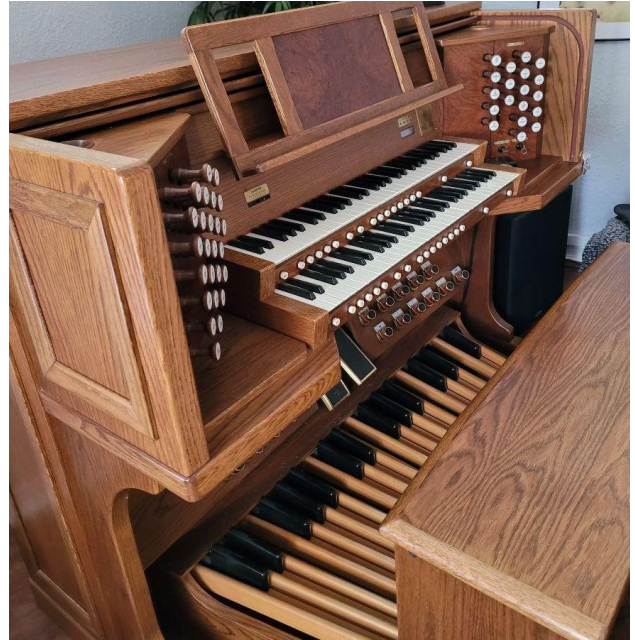


An update from Brady Johnson about the gift of the organ to his church

Christ Church (Anglican) in Vero Beach has been extraordinarily blessed by the gift of our TCCAGO member and colleague, Baden Griffin, of his 2-manual Ahlborn-Galanti organ, which resided in his home for 20 years.

What makes this gift even more special for us at Christ Church is the supplemental organ sounds from the

four virtual organs (along with ambiance of their home church buildings) provided by the exciting technology of the Hauptwerk Digital Pipe Organ, a subsidiary of Milan Digital Audio.



Baden had purchased three virtual organs: the 1741 Hinsz organ in the Bovenkerk, Kampen, The Netherlands; the 1902 Cavallé-Coll instrument in Église St. Eucaire, Metz, France; and the 1928 E. M. Skinner organ housed in the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel R.C. Church, in Chicago. These instruments were added to the 1907 Brindley & Foster organ in St. Anne's Church, Moseley, England, that came with the initial software package.

An interface out of a desktop computer into the console, allows the player to access the individual organs, either with or without the original Galanti stops. With most of the imported instruments, you can even

set the console pistons (normally limited by the number of pistons on the virtual instrument) to control the stop settings on the virtual instrument. Hearing the ambiance of the host church is the *pièce de résistance* of this software. You feel like you are transported to another country (or state!).

We moved the physical instrument in January, but between a dead speaker that needed to be fixed and the demands of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, the instrument only had its inaugural service on the Sunday after Easter Day, April 24. Mr. Tony Cavaliere, who is the Galanti rep for Florida and knows this instrument, having serviced it for many years, brought his considerable expertise to moving and installing the instrument at Christ Church.

I plan on having a dedicatory program next year, hopefully during the winter season.

Many thanks to Baden and his enthusiastic generosity!



Get To Know Your Fellow TCCAGOers: Neal Campbell

Neal was exposed to music from the get go. His father and his eight siblings all played instruments, so Neal was surrounded by music from earliest years. His father also purchased recordings of good music

for him. Neal sang in the grade school choir until his voice changed in the seventh grade, and then he became an accompanist.

While he was still very young, Neal heard the new Aeolian-Skinner organ in the Covenant Presbyterian Church in Charlotte which was across the street from the Seventh-day Adventist Church the family attended. It was the first real organ he heard, and he loved it.

When he was about 11 years old, Neal heard Virgil Fox play at National City Christian Church—an experience he calls “transformative.” The seed was planted.



While living in Washington DC (which he calls “a real Skinner town”), Neal heard a rehearsal at the National Cathedral of Dirksen’s “The Fiery Furnace” and other services. After these experiences Neal decided there was another, more interesting way to do church. During high school Neal played for a number of churches, among them: Lutheran, Baptist, Methodist, Christian Science, Jewish.

During college years he became an assistant organist at All Saints Episcopal Church, which won him over; and he was confirmed while there.

Neal counts some well-known names in the world of music as people who had a great influence on his life: Gilmour McDonald, his first piano teacher; William Watkins (a student of Virgil Fox) was his first organ teacher who, after learning of his interest in the Episcopal church, suggested that Neal should call Paul Callaway, the organist at the National Cathedral. Neal did call Callaway, had lessons, attended rehearsals often, and learned a great deal from him.

While at the Manhattan School of Music, Neal was greatly influenced by Frederick Swann and John Walker, his teachers, who were organists of Riverside. William Sloane Coffin, Jr. was the senior minister at the Riverside Church during this time and Neal recalls listening to him preach weekly on the local radio broadcasts of services, together with the outstanding choral and organ music. Coffin, who was a fine musician, even came to organ class once in a while, and often sang with the choir.

One of Neal's favorite stories recalls that Coffin married the daughter of Arthur Rubenstein, the famous pianist. Rubenstein said of Coffin that he wasn't crazy about his daughter marrying a Billy Graham type, and Coffin retorted that he wasn't much interested in having Liberace as a father-in-law either!

While competing in the AGO's national organ competition in Dallas in 1972, Watkins introduced Neal to Roy Perry, one of Aeolian-Skinner's famous tonal finishers. Another "Skinner" connection was Charles Callahan, a great friend of Neal's for 50 years who came into a collection of letters between Henry Willis and G. Donald Harrison, which became the basis of Callahan's two books. Callahan regularly sent copies of those letters to Neal as a kind of 20th century backup.

As a result of these and other contacts and experiences, Neal has an extensive knowledge of and Skinner and Aeolian-Skinner organs, and especially of the G. Donald Harrison nameplate organs, which was the subject of his two articles in "The Diapason" earlier this year. He is also a moderator and regular contributor to the "G. Donald Harrison and the American Classic Organ" FaceBook Group.



G. Donald Harrison & The American Classic Organ

Private group · 1.1K members

This is a forum for expressing appreciation of the work of G. Donald Harrison and Aeolian-Skinner instruments built...

Member since May 2020

3 friends are members

[Visit group](#)

In 1991, Neal took a leave of absence from his church job in Virginia. He had briefly considered becoming a lawyer. Instead, he went to New York to study for his doctoral degree. He moved to Vero Beach in 2015 to take up duties as the organist of Trinity Episcopal Church. He became active

in the Treasure Coast Chapter, serving several times on the Program Committee, and as Dean.

Neal enjoys Florida, and all the more because his wife, Gwynn, is from Florida, and volunteers with the Master Gardeners of Indian River County. Through her Neal has gotten to know and appreciate Florida's unique flora and fauna.

We are delighted to have Dr. Neal Campbell as a member of our chapter, and to know him not only as an accomplished musician but also as a friend.



A new Schlueter organ of 60 stops, 38 ranks, 2,147 pipes has been installed at Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church in Fort Pierce. The picture is from the cover of "The Diapason" magazine.

This is a significant organ, and our chapter will be working hard to see about hosting an event showcasing this instrument.



Director of Music Job Description

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Palm City Florida is seeking a Director of Music for our two traditional worship services (job description listed below). Interested candidates should contact Kim Shrum, worship committee chair, at kim.shrum2011@gmail.com.

1. Provide organ/piano/keyboard, and musical leadership for all traditional worship services; including Ash Wednesday, Thanksgiving Eve, produce a yearly Christmas program, Christmas Eve, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and other services as agreed upon; weddings and funerals (additional compensation).
2. Direct the choir(s) and recruit new members at the 6pm Saturday and 11:15am Sunday services (Chancel Choir, Cornerstone Singers, Bell Choir. Rehearse once weekly, or as otherwise specified.
3. In the case of illness, the Employee shall contact Lead Pastor to insure there is quality music at all services.
4. The employee will assist in hiring of substitute musicians. The fees for the substitute musicians are paid by the Employer with considerations of the yearly budget.
5. Develop the musical talents of participants including:
Instrumentalists, vocalists, drama. Schedule, rehearse, and accompany (as needed) choirs, soloists, instrumentalists and various ensembles for every traditional

service year round with emphasis on an ever growing, ever expanding, inspiring program.

6. Function under the supervision of the Pastors.

7. Be responsible for the purchase of all music for the music library and the library's maintenance and organization, music supplies, and the hiring of instrumental and vocal soloists. Expenditures in this area shall not exceed the amount provided in the church budget.

8. Provide an inspirational article church music related to the monthly newsletter.

9. Select all hymns for Services with final decisions on selection at the discretion of the Pastors.

10. Recommend a healthy relationship with the local chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

11. Report to the appropriate committee or persons condition and maintenance of musical instruments, choir robes, and all musical equipment.

12. Attend regular scheduled meetings of staff and other appropriate committees as may be necessary to attend.

13. Provide at least 30 days in advance written notice of termination of employment.

Salary

Bureau of Labor and Statistics - 75% - \$32.36/hr Median - \$43.14/hr 125% - 53.93/hr



Year of the Young Organist

In an effort to grow the community of younger musicians in the pipe organ field, the American Guild of Organists has declared this year the "Year of the Young Organist". Through the sharing of performances by young musicians and the publication of resources, we hope to bring more visibility to the new generation of musicians. Additionally, one year of free Guild membership is now available for all current, lapsed, and new members under the age of 30.



Calling All Composers!

Do you want your work performed at the 2024 AGO National Convention? Applications are open until July 1, 2022, for the AGO/ECS Publishing Award in Choral Composition and the AGO/Marilyn Mason Award in Organ Composition.



For more information and to apply, go to:

<https://www.agohq.org/agoecs-publishing-award-in-choral-composition/>

and

<https://www.agohq.org/agomarilyn-mason-award-in-organ-composition/>



Some Organ Humor

Q: Why are a organist's fingers like lightning?

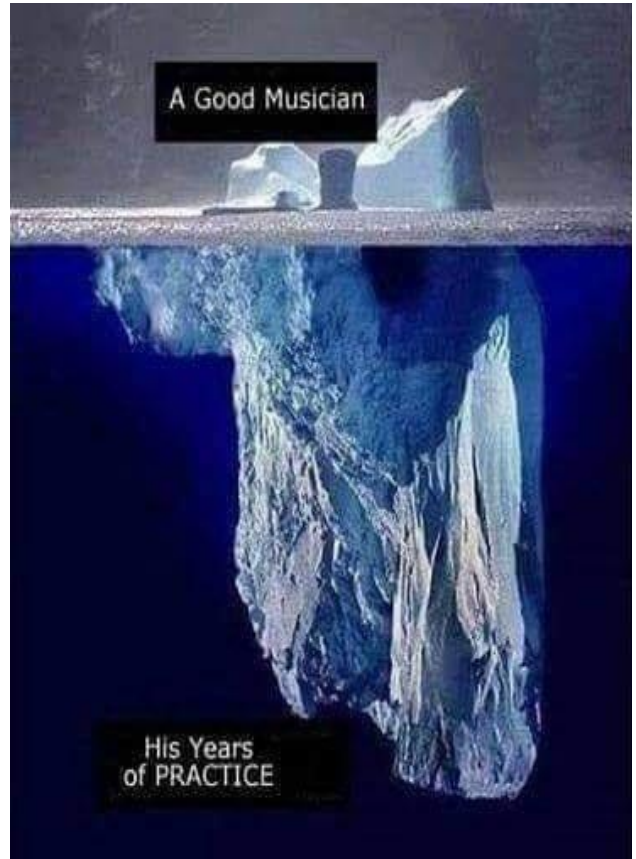
A: Because they rarely strike the same place twice.

Q: What do you get if you throw an organ down a mine shaft?

A: A flat miner.

Q: What do you get if you drop an organ on an army base?

A: A flat major.



TCCAGO Officers For 2022-23

Dean: Steven Giddens

Subdean: Anthony Baron

Secretary/Treasurer: Paul Ives

Scholarship Chair: Brady Johnson

Chaplain: Rev. Dr. Michael Carter

Webmaster: Claire Klein

Board Members

Class of 2023: Jill Truax

Class of 2024: Dr. Tom Goetz