

The Treasure Coast Chapter of The American Guild of Organists



Monthly Newsletter

September 2022

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

I used to ride motorcycles. Fast motorcycles. I suppose that shatters the image of a church organist. In 1989, I was hit by a distracted driver and it changed my life forever. I had to learn to walk again.



Fast forward to today and my pedaling will never be what it should but it doesn't stop me from practicing two or three hours a day. Last Sunday Mass, a lady came up to the organ and told me how she loved the prelude I did on the piano. I said thank you but I'm really trying to improve my organ skills. We don't care about that she said, just keep playing that piano. Huh? The organ is deemed THE instrument of the Catholic Church but there are some that still love the piano, so I try to accommodate both.

As summer comes to a close, we begin to look ahead to the Treasure

Coast Chapter's program for 2022-2023. My thanks to our Program Committee and the work that went into this year's events. While there are still some details to work out, here is the list of the upcoming events. Please mark your calendars now, your participation in attending and/or participating is vital to our chapter's success.

September 25, 1:00 pm

"Blessing of Church Musicians" followed by lunch at Community Church of Vero Beach.
RSVP Jill Truax by 9/17

October 23, 3:00 pm

Joseph Rumberger, our chapter scholarship student, will demonstrate and play repertoire on the reed organ he has restored, at the home of Ray Adams:
3065 Buckinghammock Trail

January 3, 6:00 pm

"The Music of Christmas" – Chapter members in a recital of Christmas music at St Mark's Anglican Church Vero Beach

January 22, 3:00 pm

Recital by Jason Roberts, former winner of the AGO National Impro-

visitation Competition, at Trinity Episcopal Church Vero Beach

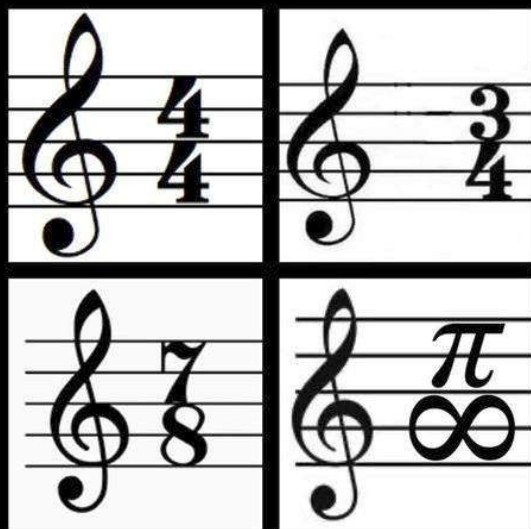
February 11, 4:00 pm

Hauptwerk Demonstration and Recital by Brady Johnson, Christ Church Vero Beach

May 21 (Tentative) 4:00 pm

Members Recital, Annual Meeting, and Dinner at St Andrew's Episcopal Church Ft Pierce

Time signatures in order of increasing difficulty



MEET YOUR FELLOW TCCAGOers:

Dr. Thomas Goetz

Thomas Goetz grew up in a musical family in central Wisconsin. His father had taken piano lessons as a child, and then later in life procured a Hammond organ. With that instrument, Tom picked up some basic organ skills on his own.

His family would sing in four-part harmony at home. Four of the six children in the Goetz household took piano lessons, and every family

member was either a volunteer soloist, chorister, pianist, organist, or even the choir director at some point in their home church.



Tom's high school had an excellent choral and instrumental program, and the school hosted outstanding choirs such as the Augsburg College Chorale and the Roger Wagner Chorale.

Singing in his high school choir, the Madrigal Singers, performing in musicals, rehearsing with the Augsburg College Chorale with Leland Sateren conducting were remarkable and formative musical influences for Tom, and combined to inspire Tom to major in music as a college freshman.

DuWayne Hansen, one of the members of Tom's church, gave piano and organ lessons to Tom at no cost when he was home on break from his studies at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. DuWayne, who was gifted and technically excellent on both instruments, went on to be chair of the music education department at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. Both the Hansen Musical Arts

Series and The Hansen Music Fellowship at BGSU are named after him and his wife, Dorothy.

Tom felt fortunate and thrilled to receive a music scholarship for his undergraduate study in Miami and then a full assistantship for graduate study in music at Northwestern University where he earned his MM and DMA degrees in church music.

As a college freshman he was surprised and delighted to learn that churches were clamoring to hire music students--and pay an actual salary--as organists, choir directors, and pianists on a part-time basis.

Tom was hired for such church to work on a part-time basis in 1971, and his church music ministry has continued 51 years to this day on either a full-time or part-time basis. Leading music in worship is one of his great loves, along with teaching music. Altogether Tom taught some 22 years as a seminary choir director, organist, and adjunct professor of music (Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary), as well as chairing the music department of a small college in Miami.

Having lived and worked in five states (Wisconsin, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, and Texas), Tom feels blessed to have known people all around the country, and to learn from the values, aspirations, and concerns of these different communities.

High points for Tom include a church youth choir growing from about 12 singers to over 40 singers in a fairly

short span of time, and another church choir with 95 singers. He conducted many choir tours over the years--church youth choir, church adult choir, and college choirs--which performed in Europe, the Bahamas, and every state east of the Mississippi River.

It was exciting for him to see our youth and adults become inspired by the places where they sang and traveled, and to open doors for young people. Some had never before flown in a plane, or seen (let alone sing in) a Gothic cathedral) or visited sites such as Bach's birthplace and the churches he served, or taken in the wonders of major cities and the countryside in the US and abroad.

Tom's most rewarding experiences include serving as organist for Sir David Willcocks for rehearsals, concert and worship service (1988); conducting his church choir in a performance at Bach's St. Thomas Church in Leipzig (1992); conducting a massed choir of over 200 singers at the Salzburg Cathedral (1992); and performing an organ recital at Coventry Cathedral (1996). Other inspirational experiences followed. And all these wonderful opportunities were the catalyst for his continuing desire to inspire others through music.

In addition to touring, Tom was been blessed to conduct major choral / orchestral concerts with college and church choirs, and professional orchestras. Among the great works were Handel's "Messiah"; the "Requiems" by Brahms, Fauré and Rutter; Lauridsen's "Lux Aeterna".

Mendelssohn's "Elijah" and "Lobg-sang," and numerous Bach cantatas.

Moving from city to city over the years, Tom collaborated with musicians from the Miami Philharmonic, Chicago String Ensemble, Louisville Orchestra, Ars Lyrica Houston, Houston Symphony, and the Naples Philharmonic.

Tom counts it an honor to have worked with outstanding musicians. He believes that singers and audiences alike are inspired through these musical experiences. "Music is one of the indispensable ways that the human spirit is encouraged and elevated. If I can in some small way contribute to that encouragement and elevation, I am thrilled."

Tom is excited in what the Treasure Coast Chapter of the AGO continues to do in the way of scholarships, programming, and education. "We need young or new organists, and our scholarship program helps students to be able to study the organ. I think that is a HUGE plus for our chapter. I think that all of our programs help us to exchange ideas and information and to inspire one another. We continue learning throughout our entire lives. It's important that the AGO is able to continue doing that."

Tom subbed in seven different churches this summer of six different denominations. His biggest surprise after retiring to Melbourne Beach in 2021 is having accepted a position as Organist and Director of Music at St.

Andrew's Episcopal Church in Fort Pierce beginning October 1. He is eager and excited to begin his ministry there.

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, their new A.E. Schlueter 3-manual pipe organ was featured on the cover of The Diapason magazine in May. They look forward to hosting an AGO program there "so that our members can hear and play this new instrument in the newly improved very resonant acoustic of St. Andrew's. *Soli Deo gloria!*"

Next to his wife and family, and his personal faith Tom cares most about continuing to be engaged in music and other arts. "I am still able to play the organ and piano (we have a new Johannus 3-manual organ coming to our home soon), conduct, and teach. I am so very grateful for those experiences and that I can continue to be thoroughly engaged in church music ministry."

His hobbies include caring for houseplants and patio flora, reading, staying fit (somewhat) at the gym, as well as attending concerts, art museums, and dining out.

We are happy to have Tom as a board member of our TCCAGO, and look forward to our continued collaboration with him.



Q: How do you get a million dollars?

A: Start off with 2 million and try to make a living playing the organ.

BLESSING OF THE MUSICIANS



Treasure Coast Chapter **Blessing of the Musicians**

An Event of the Treasure Coast
Chapter of the AGO

September 25, 2022 at 1:00 PM

The Community Church of Vero
Beach

All year long, singers, instrument-
alists, and music directors, bless the
church and the congregation with
inspirational music and leadership.
This is a rewarding position, but at
times stressful and tiring.

September is usually a start to a
new music season in our churches.
As we look forward to our choir
members returning, the busy Advent
season approaching just around the
corner, and the preparation of new
and meaningful music for the
worship experience, come and be
blessed, at a service just for you. Be
prayed for, recommit yourself to
your musical position, enjoy music,
and commune with fellow musicians.
Afterwards, enjoy fellowship with
your colleagues during a catered
luncheon.

Please contact Jill Truax at
jilltruax@bellsouth.net
or 772-538-2192 with your
intentions of attending this event.



Looking to apply for, or post a job?

The AGO maintains the largest jobs
board in the profession for organists,
choral conductors, and music
directors. One hundred jobs are
currently posted. AGO members can
search jobs and/or create an online
profile with a résumé to attract the
attention of potential employers. Go
to:

<https://www.agohq.org/careers/positions-available/> to begin.



We invite you to join our AGO Chapter!

As a member, you will have opportunities to:

- Become part of a vibrant community of organists who share knowledge, insights and inspiration.
- Enhance your skills through in-person and virtual programs.
- Stay connected online.
- Access all AGO national membership benefits including: free webinars and workshops, certifications, a subscription to the monthly magazine *The American Organist*, and our job board.

We are united in our passion for the organ. Whether you're an organist, or organ buff, a concert organist, or a beginner; have an advanced degree, or are self-taught; play a traditional pipe organ, or electronic organ; are a choral director, or simply love the organ... **you are welcome at the AGO.**

For more information please contact:

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Phone: (561) 236-9791
Chapter website: <https://tccago.org/>



Musical Events of Interest at The Community Church of Vero Beach:

Sunday Oct 2, 4:00 pm - \$10

"French and Fabulous" - Piano duets with soprano Rachel, and pianists Andrew and Jill

Sunday, Oct 30, 6:00 pm - \$10

The Hunchback of Notre Dame: Silent film with accompaniment by Andrew

Tuesday, Nov 8, 7:00 pm - \$35
Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. Music of Beethoven, Saint-Saens and Schumann with pianist We Han, violinists Paul Huard and Mat Lipman, cellist David Finckel.



Earliest Known Organs

<https://euphonicspace.com/interesting-facts-organ-music-instrument/>

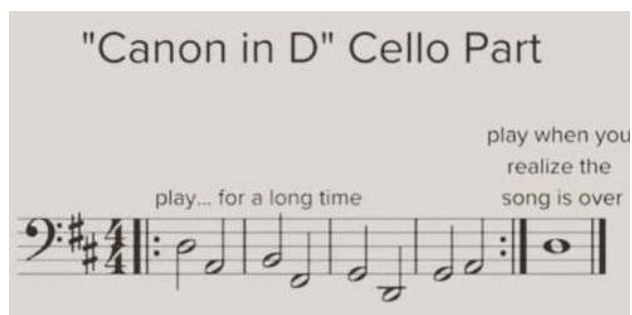
The organ has a majestic past only after the invention of first water based organ by Ctesibius of Alexandria during 222 BC. This amazing Greek invention was called hydraulis – a water organ that led the foundation of church organs and ultimately the invention of melodious pipe organs.

By end of the 17th century, the pipe organ was developed to such an extent that the instrument architecture delivered perfect soft and hard notes that may be required during an orchestra.

The earliest pipe organs were commissioned in churches and were usually played during religious ceremonies. The commercial versions

of the organs were developed very recently based needs of students and musicians.

The organ got its recognition as a musical instrument when great composer J. S. Bach laid his hands and feet on the instrument. This was the golden period for organ music instrument. Bach, who was an organist and composer, wrote many compositions that can be played on the organ in an orchestra setting.



Organ Trivia:

What is the German name of the American crescendo pedal?

Rollschweller



TCCAGO Officers For 2022-23

Dean: Steven Giddens

Subdean: Anthony Baron

Secretary/Treasurer: Paul Ives

Board Members

Class of 2023: Jill Truax

Class of 2024: Dr. Tom Goetz

Scholarship Chair: Brady Johnson

Chaplain: Rev. Dr. Michael Carter

Webmaster: Claire Klein

Newsletter: Jack VanderPlate