

# The Treasure Coast Chapter of The American Guild of Organists



Monthly Newsletter

October 2022

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN**

Back in November of 2020, I heard an improvisation on I Am The Bread of Life on UTube by organist, Jason Roberts. I was so impressed, having played the hymn myself many times, that I reached out to Jason at The Church of the Blessed Sacrament in New York City by email.

He immediately responded that the hymn was one of his improvisations and not written down. He offered to send me a few compositions that he did have written down. Since then, I've listened to a lot of his work and I can tell you, he's very good.

When Neal Campbell and I met to discuss and plan the events of this season, I brought up Jason and how wonderful it would be to have him come as our guest artist. Neal said that Jason had served as his assistant at one time and that he would reach out to him.

Long story short, Jason Roberts is coming to perform a recital at Trinity Episcopal Church of Vero Beach on Sunday, January 22<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm. Jason is a former winner of the AGO's National Competition in Organ

Improvisation. This is one event you do not want to miss.



Try not to miss any of our upcoming events. Your support is vital to our small chapter's success. And don't forget to reach out to those that might be interested in joining our chapter. Whether organists, pianists, or supporters of music in general, building our membership not only benefits us but brings attention to some great composers, artists, and talent in our community.

There are some great instruments in Vero Beach, Ft Pierce, Port St Lucie and Stuart and some that need attention. When Mike from Central Music was in Stuart doing some repairs, he told me that churches are once again focusing on the organ. Where at one time they were set aside in a corner somewhere, they

are now being utilized more than ever. And why not?

Whether the pendulum has swung back to traditional services or not remains to be seen. But should there be a revival of the organ, with older instruments being repaired or new ones installed in churches, I'm on board.

Keep practicing!

Cheers - Steve Giddens, Dean  
TCCAGO



## **MEET YOUR FELLOW TACCAGOers:**

### **Jack VanderPlate**

Since I'm the editor of this newsletter, it just seems super strange to write about what "he" experienced and did. I know because I tried it, and it didn't work. So this will be a first person article.

I grew up in a family that listened to music on the radio, but no one played an instrument until I started piano with my Aunt Mae at age 6. After one year, she had it with me and quit. I fooled around on the piano a lot after that, but didn't have formal piano lessons again until I was 10.

One Saturday evening, our church organist passed away and the pastor called my Dad. He said, "We need an organist tomorrow. Your boy is a good pianist. Tell him to pull stops that sound good and just connect all the notes." And that's how I became a self-taught organist at age 9. Later at a different church I was encouraged to take lessons.

Miriacha Osaka, the organist at Park Temple Methodist Church in Ft. Lauderdale taught me for about two years on their 3 manual Wicks organ and hired me as Park Temple's sub organist.

Peggy Barber, our high school music director, taught me more than any other teacher I have had. Musically I count her as a genius. And as a human being, she was an outstanding exemplar of grace and virtue. Her example of warm inclusion when our high school was integrated completely redefined all the attitudes I grew up with.



Something I will never forget was sleeping late on Easter morning when our choir was to sing the service on the beach. I was supposed to play the organ for our choir, the "Stranahan Singers."

But as it turned out the choir sang "Credo" from Mozart's "Mass in C minor", and "Halleluia" from Handel's "Messiah" a cappella. Miss Barber met me when school resumed and said not to talk with her for a few days. When we met, she told me how deeply I had disappointed her and the

choir... but, "That's behind us now. "I forgive you, and will not mention this again." And with that our relationship grew.

And I count Mrs. Osaka as another great musical influence who taught me the value of understanding the composer's intent, but also allowing some freedom of interpretation as well.

She was demanding and insisted on precision which was not my strong suit, and somehow coaxed a commitment to practice from me. Her great gift was teaching me to love music even more deeply, and how to practice efficiently and productively.

Other major influences later in my organ career were Roger Davis (the author of the red method book), and Huw Lewis, a concert artist and professor of music at Hope College in Holland, MI.

My life's calling was to be a pastor in churches of the Reformed persuasion. For 42 years, I pastored churches in Iowa and Florida, and three congregations in Michigan. Along the way I kept my hand in the musical world by performing at various functions on organ, piano and violin. In 1985 I sustained the exam for the AGO's "Colleague" certificate.

Some of my best performance memories are playing the "Wednesdays In The Park" concerts in Muskegon, MI, and the "Organ Plus One" for the Tulip Time Organ Concerts in Holland, MI. I took full advantage of a generous budget to entice some very fine talent to join

me for those concerts on trumpet, flute, violin, cello, saxophone and tympani.

Now retired, I have enjoyed serving as Director of Music and Organist at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer for eleven years. I have enjoyed meeting fellow musicians in our Treasure Coast Chapter of the AGO, and even had the privilege of serving the chapter as dean, and now the newsletter editor. I appreciate the collegial spirit among musicians in our area, and our shared commitment to excellence in music.

Were I not a pastor with a musical avocation, I would likely be a physics teacher or a stock analyst. I love physics and the elegance of mathematics. For the last twenty or so years the study of "String Theory" (physics, not violins). has fascinated me. I have also taken a keen interest in the power of using options to hedge and create income streams from stocks.

My hobbies include writing, editing for a couple of authors I have come to know and appreciate, composing music, trading stock options, tennis, pickleball, running, fishing... I enjoy almost all sports, even at my age. I also find satisfaction in mentoring at-risk teens and young adults.

Over the years I have become far less theological than I used to be, and more committed to the foundational ethic of my Christian faith. Our Lord said, "As I have loved you, so ought you to love each other." I make it my aim in life to be an encourager to

others, and one who can be trusted to handle tender personal issues with gentleness. I have taken a lot of blessing from the life God has given me, and I want to give back what I can.



My greatest treasure is the woman I met in grade school and immediately became friends with. Judy has been my wife, my greatest advocate, my strongest encourager, my most accurate but gentle critic, the one who knows all my secrets and still loves me. Our 55 years of marriage just keep getting deeper.

I am a grateful person. God has filled my life with good things.



### **Organ Trivia:**

Q: What famous composition for organ by Max Reger was dedicated to Joseph Rheinberger?

A: Fantasia and Fugue on "B.A.C.H." Op. 46.

**October Event: Sunday afternoon,  
October 23 at 3:00 p.m.**

**At the home of Ray Adams,  
3065 Buckinghammock Trail,  
Vero Beach, Fla. 32960**

Joseph Rumberger, our chapter scholarship student of Ray Adams, will discuss and perform on the reed organ he has recently restored. He is also in the process of restoring other historic reed organs, including one from the Civil War era designed to accompany services on the battlefield.

Ray's other instruments will be on display and members are welcome to try them out.



Joseph is a Junior at the Charter High School and plays regularly at the Fellsmere Baptist Church. At Charter he recently scored 100% on the Advanced Placement Theory Test. He also plays piano with the orchestra.

Light refreshments will be offered.

Space is limited to 30 persons. Please RSVP to Neal Campbell:

([nealcampbell@ymail.com](mailto:nealcampbell@ymail.com)

or 804 502 3318) as soon as possible to insure you place.



## **TAIZE SERVICE AT CHRIST CHURCH**

On Sunday, October 16, 5:30 pm, the musicians of Christ Church, with the assistance of musical guests, will offer a service in the style of Taizé.

Many of you not only know of, but actively perform the uniquely beautiful and worshipful songs of this ecumenical monastic community, which is set in a rustic rural area of central France. Founded in 1940, at the height of the Second World War, the founders embraced a vision of peace and reconciliation.



In the post-war era, it has become a destination of the world's youth, who join in a routine of teaching, dialogue, and thrice-daily worship. In order to facilitate guests of many tongues, the community composed – with the creative mind of organist, Jacques Bertier – songs characterized with short, repetitive refrains, allowing for easy learning. Most of these songs add decorative solos and various instrumental accompaniments to enhance their effectiveness.

This service will last for 45-50 minutes, in a darkened church, lighted by candles and graced by icons– a peaceful and restful end to a busy day! Please come and join us on the corner of S.R. 60 and 6th Avenue in Vero Beach, just south of the Miracle Mile shopping area.

## **THE BLESSING OF THE MUSICIANS**

On September 25, a number of area musicians met at The Community Church for “The Blessing of the Musicians.” It was a moving experience, including not only readings and music, but also a celebration of communion with our fellow musicians.

Many thanks to Jill Truax for planning this wonderful event, and to Steve Giddens for the lovely luncheon he catered.



Treasure Coast Chapter of The American Guild of Organist

**Blessing of the Musicians**

Sunday, September 25, 2022

1:00 p.m.

The Community Church of Vero Beach

1901 23rd St. Vero Beach, FL 32960

BLESSING OF THE MUSICIANS

Bold text indicates congregational participation.

MUSICAL CALL TO WORSHIP Carillon (excerpt) Jill A. Truax, organ  
 WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER Rev. Dr. Anna V. Copeland  
 MUSICAL PRAYER RESPONSE "The Lord's Prayer" Steven Olddens, piano  
 arr. Anthony Burger

COMMISSIONING SERVICE FOR MUSIC LEADERS

PRESENTATION Rev. Dr. Michael Carter

Let us recognize those who have responded to the call of God to the ministry of music in the Church. Singing, playing instruments, and directing ensembles are ministries of Christ among us. In grateful appreciation for the gifts of those ministries, we offer our loyal support and prayers.

As a leader of music that lifts praise to God, do you joyfully and willingly offer your skills and training, devotion and sensitivity to this ministry?

**I do, by the grace of God.**

Will you honor those with whom you make music, and in faithfulness to Christ, offer your best for the glory of God?

**I will, God being my helper.**

May the faith expressed by your music live in your heart, and what you believe in your heart, practice in your life. And may God give you grace to offer your music and your life in faithfulness and consecration, now, and in the world to come.

As members of the American Guild of Organists, will you support one another with your encouragement and your prayers, as together we seek to call upon and praise God?

**We will, God being our helper. May God give us all grace to offer our music and our lives in faithful service, thanksgiving, and praise.**

PRAYER Rev. Dr. Michael Carter

ANTHEM "His Eye is On The Sparrow" Rachel C. Murphy, soprano  
 arr. Jennifer Rhodes Andrew R. Galuska, piano  
 Jill A. Truax, organ

*Why should I feel discouraged, Why should the shadows come,  
 Why should my heart be lonely, And long for Heav'n and Home,  
 When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is He:  
 His eye is on the sparrow, I know He watches me.  
 "Let not your heart be troubled," His tender words I hear,  
 And resting on His goodness, I lose my doubts and fears:  
 Though by the path He leadeth, But one step I can see,  
 His eye is on the sparrow, I know He watches me.  
 I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free!  
 For His eye is on the sparrow, I know He watches me.  
 Whenever I am tempted, Whenever clouds arise,  
 When songs give place to sighing, When hope within me dies,  
 I draw the closer to Him, From care He sets me free,  
 His eye is on the sparrow, I know He watches me.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.  
 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.  
 And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.  
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power, And the glory forever. Amen**

HYMN "When in Our Music God is Glorified" Dr. Neal Campbell, organ  
 ENGELBERG

When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied,  
 How of - ten, mak - ing mu - sic, we have found  
 So has the church, in lit - ur - gy and song,  
 Let ev - ery in - strument be tuned for praise!

And a - do - ra - tion leaves no room for pride,  
 A new di - men - sion in the world of sound,  
 In faith and love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong,  
 Let all re - joice who have a voice to raise!

It is as though the whole cre - a - tion cried  
 As wor - ship moved us to a more pro - found  
 Borne wit - ness to the truth in ev - ery tongue:  
 And may God give us faith to sing al - ways:

A - men, a - men, a - men.

BLESSINGS OF THE MEAL Rev. Jack VanderPlate

BENEDICTION Rev. Jack VanderPlate

Postlude Trumpet Voluntary in D Major Kathleen Knott, organ  
 John Stanley

Please join your AGO colleagues in the Choir Room for lunch following the service.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Anna V. Copeland Rev. Dr. Michael Carter Rev. Jack VanderPlate  
 Andrew R. Galuska, organ

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: God be with you.  
**All: And also with you.**  
 One: Lift up your hearts.  
**All: We lift them up to God.**  
 One: Let us give thanks to God.  
**All: It is good to give God thanks and praise.**  
 One: ...And with all the faithful of every time and place, Who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.  
 Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF BLESSING

One: ...dedicated to your service. Great is the mystery of faith:  
 Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain!  
 One: ...send us out to be the body of Christ in the world:  
 A - men, a - men, a - men.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP



# FRENCH & FABULOUS

CHAMINADE SATIÉ SCHMITT GOUNOD MASSENET

## PIANO DUET & ARIA CONCERT

WITH  
JILL A. TRUAX  
ANDREW R. GALUSKA  
RACHEL CARTER MURPHY

OCTOBER 2 AT 4:00 P.M.  
IN GRACE CHAPEL

TICKETS \$10.00 772-778-1070

THE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF VERO BEACH  
1901 23RD ST, VERO BEACH, FL 32960

### 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 Hurg and Mat Lipman, cellist David Finckel.



**"If a drummer comes out of retirement will there be repercussions?"**



### A Riddle For Fun...

Q: What's the difference between an organ and a trampoline?

A: You take your shoes off before you jump on a trampoline.



### 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