

The Treasure Coast Chapter of The American Guild of Organists



Monthly Newsletter

November 2022

A Message from the Dean



Do you ever pray for grace? I'm always praying for patience, whether it's driving on I-95 or waiting in line somewhere. But grace?

When I decided to sub back in 2015, one of the first calls I got was from a church in Palm Beach Gardens. I believe that when I get these calls, it's God sending me out to do his will. I don't question any church in need of a sub. In this case, it was the Metropolitan Community Church, a church open to all people, gay and straight and all in between.

I played a couple of Sundays and everyone was so welcoming and appreciative. I never forgot them. Later, the church was vandalized and the organ was damaged so badly that

they began a fundraiser to replace it. When they had their service to dedicate the instrument, I was invited back. I remember exactly what I played: A wonderful arrangement of On Jordan Stormy Banks, to great applause.

Several years later I was subbing at a Methodist Church and after several months I met with the pastor to explain that they have an organist now and it was time I move on to my next assignment. He had just preached on inclusion, as the Methodists were going through a vote whether or not to accept gays in the church. When I met him in his office, he was certain I was there to resign based on that decision. On the contrary, I felt his decision was courageous and I was proud that he took the stance he did. Years later, when he left the church, the congregation took a complete reversal and voted to exclude.

You do realize that if we exclude the LGBTQ community, there would be a lot of quiet organs, pianos, church musicians and folks from all walks of life. If we say we follow Jesus, we know He would be welcoming to all.

And as church organists, we must take a stance to support all our colleagues.

This brings me back to grace. When I Googled grace, I found this prayer:

Lord, please provide your grace through protection from the harm that seems to come physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Please give us strength to get through each day, because you are there to provide it for us. Lord, I ask that you cover everyone in grace for healing and for direction.

What a perfect prayer to begin Advent! Keep practicing.

Cheers,
Steve Giddens, Dean TCCAGO



MEET YOUR FELLOW TCCAGOers: Andrew R. Galuska

Andrew Galuska is presently serving as the Director of Music and Fine Arts at the Community Church of Vero Beach, Florida.

He earned his bachelor's degree in Organ Performance and conducting in 2000 from the Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts - Rhode Island College. He went on to add his Master's degree in Organ Performance and Choral Conducting in 2002 from Moores School of Music - University of Houston, and Doctor of Musical Arts (ABD) in Organ Performance and Conducting from Shepherd School of Music - Rice University in 2005.

Galuska has won prizes for organ performance and improvisation in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Texas and abroad.



His teachers have included Berj Zamkochian, Stephen Martorella, Robert Bates and Clyde Holloway. He studied French organ literature with Daniel Roth and Olivier Latry. He studied organ performance and conducting at the Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts, Rhode Island College; the Moores School of Music, University of Houston; and the Shepherd School of Music, Rice University.

Galuska is frequently invited to appear at conferences sponsored by organizations such as the Organ Historical Society, the American Guild of Organists. He was selected to perform at the Organ Historical Society's National Convention in 2005 in Massachusetts. In 2007 he was invited to perform at the American

Guild of Organists Regional Convention. He was awarded the Key to the City of Newport, Rhode Island at that convention.

He is also a prolific composer whose works for organ, voice and instrumental ensembles premiered in the United States and Europe.



Galuska's commercial recordings include: *Organs of New England, The Organ Works of Franz Liszt, Sleepers, Wake, Jonah and the Whale, Pipes Rhode Island, and National Convention of the Organ Historical Society.*

Andrew says that faith is an incredibly important part of his life, career and leadership/direction of his music and fine arts ministry. He couldn't always say that with fervent confidence and sincerity. During his college years he felt spiritually lost in a sea of academic agnosticism and atheism. Even as he excelled both academically and musically he felt alone, empty and searching for something more for his life and career.

It took several tough trials and tribulations to realize the call of Jesus Christ and his divine plans for his life.

He started reading and studying the Bible, praying and attending church to worship—not just play a service, give a concert or conduct a choir. He started practicing for heaven, being open-minded, openhearted, accepting and helping others navigate the waters of this life.

A passage of scripture became especially meaningful to him: "*I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11)*"

In a relatively short time all aspects his life improved. His rediscovered faith added a new depth and dimension to his music and leadership skills as well. He says, "Since my spiritual rejuvenation and awakening over 20 years ago every breath, rehearsal, concert, composition, worship service as well as the leading and development of my music ministry is for the Glory of God and making disciples for Jesus Christ through music and the fine arts."

Andrew served our chapter as dean during the tough years of covid. We value him as a colleague and friend.



RAY ADAMS' RESTORED REED ORGAN

On Sunday afternoon, October 23, members of TCCAGO met at the home of Ray Adams to see and hear his newly restored reed organ, along with his other instruments and to enjoy the fellowship of musicians together.



Joseph Rumberger, our chapter's scholarship recipient and student of Dr. Ray Adams, discussed and performed on the reed organ he restored for Adams.

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 battle field.



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.



January 3, 6:00 pm,

"The Music of Christmas"

Our TCCAGO members in a recital of Christmas music at St Mark's Anglican Church in Vero Beach.

It's not too early to prepare and sign up (email the dean)!

This event was inaugurated last year with great success, and St Marks Anglican Church has kindly agreed to host the event again. So often we finish with Christmas and put our music away for the following year and that's it for the wonderful works of the season. "The Music of Christmas" reprises many of the Christmas pieces we enjoy hearing.

To secure your place, please submit to me the title and composer, and a short summary of the work that you'd like presented as you set your stops and prepare to play. St Marks has asked I introduce each participant and your piece as a way of personalizing the event and avoiding blank spots in the program.

Kathleen Knott is the organist and music director at the church, and will assist you in setting practice times. St. Marks has a fine Allen Organ and we encourage everyone to utilize that instrument, whether you are accompanying others or performing alone.

Blessings,

Steve Giddens, Dean TCCAGO

SPC / CAGO Exams

Curtis Lanoue, from the Space Coast Chapter, has invited us to join them in the AGO Certification Exams. He writes:

I would like to get together a group of members to prepare the Service Playing Exam and/or the Colleague exam. I figure if we do it as a group with the Chapter's support, it will result in more people participating as well as more people passing.

Things to start thinking about:

Which level is right for you? All of the information can be accessed here:

<https://www.agohq.org/certification/>

but basically the service playing exam is less material to prepare and the material that is required is easier.

Here is what is required for the service playing certificate:

3 prepared pieces (from a given list),

3 hymns (from given hymnbook) with one of them transposed up/down a half/whole step,

Psalm (singer will be provided if needed),

choral accompaniment (from given list),

sight reading, and

vocal solo accompaniment.

Here is what is required for the colleague certificate: basically the same as above (with different approved prepared pieces) along with basic improvisation (there are several

options on this one), and introductions included with the hymns.

Curtiss has the hymnbook and all the required pieces laid out in a document for those interested.

Anyone who is interested, please contact Curtiss so we can start preparing. A short section of each monthly Space Coast Chapter of the AGO's meeting will be set aside to our efforts.

We thank the Space Coast Chapter for graciously inviting us to join them in this worthy endeavor. And we wish all who will be participating good success!



AREA EVENTS OF INTEREST

First Baptist Church, Vero Beach



HALLELUJAH!
2022 Handel's Messiah
First Baptist Church

Rehearsals
Saturday, October 29 (10:00 AM-12:00 PM)
Tuesday, November 15 (7:00-9:00 PM)
Monday, December 12 (7:00-9:00 PM)
Saturday, December 17 (2:30-5:00 PM)

One Performance
Sunday, December 18, 2022 at 4:00 PM

We will be performing Part One
plus the "Hallelujah" Chorus

First Baptist Church
2206 16th Avenue
Vero Beach, FL 32960
(772) 567-4341
www.fbcvero.org

+ + + + +

THE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF VERO BEACH

Each Thursday in Advent (beginning
December 1)

"Organ and Poetry" at noon.
(Freewill offering)

"Joy To The World" – A Christmas
Celebration

Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir,
Tapestry Brass, Jazz Trio

Sunday, December 11 at 7:00 pm
(\$10 suggested donation)

GO FUND ME SOLICITATION

Chapter Members,

Several of our colleagues are raising funds for Bonita Clark. Bonita was a brilliant organist and choir leader at a prominent Episcopal church in Ft Pierce. She is now living in north Florida where she is seriously ill. Her sister Anita is taking care of her.

She means so much to me personally because when I was a sub, she allowed me to practice at the church where she was serving. I'll never forget her kindness.

I'd like to think that if any of us were in need, we'd come together to help in any way possible. Whether that's financial or sending our prayers, your support is greatly appreciated. The GoFundMePage is:

[https://gofund.me/307c31f8.](https://gofund.me/307c31f8)

Blessings,

Steve Giddens,
Dean TCCAGO



TRIVIAL ORGAN TRIVIA

Q: What American wrote a concerto for organ and harp?

A: Howard Hanson.

Q: Who is said to be the "Father of Italian Keyboard Music?"

A: Marco Antonio Cavazzoni.



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Win a full-tuition music scholarship to Westminster Choir College of Rider University from the Westminster Organ Legacy Endowment Program

- » Apply for admission to Rider University by January 15, 2023 in either the Music, B.A.M. – Organ or Music Education – Organ programs
- » Auditions will be held on February 4, 2023 in Gill Memorial Chapel on the Rider University campus

Judges include Westminster artist affiliates Robert McCormick, Organist and Choirmaster, Saint Mark's Church in Philadelphia, and Clara Gerdes Bartz, renowned organ recitalist

For more information:

[RIDER.EDU/WCCORGANSCHOLARSHIP](https://www.rider.edu/wccorganscholarship)



+ + + + +

Organ Studies at Georgia State University in Atlanta

Application season is nearly here for those seeking to apply for an undergraduate or graduate program in organ. Any teachers in your chapter are also encouraged to apply!

Undergraduate students are eligible for full tuition scholarships, and graduate & certificate students receive full tuition waivers and generous stipends through our graduate assistantship program in collaboration with major Atlanta churches.

Since the program reopened in 2019, students have hailed from the US,

Korea, Russia and the Bahamas. One of the graduate students was a semi-finalist in the most recent NYACOP competition at the Seattle convention.

Students have access to and performance opportunities on the many outstanding and diverse instruments in the city of Atlanta.

Classes in service laying/improvisation and choral conducting are part of both the undergrad and graduate curricula, more information is available at

<https://music.gsu.edu/organ-performance-2/>

Teachers, high school and college students are welcome to contact Jens Korndoerfer with any questions they may have at jkorndoerfer@gsu.edu or 770-284-1119.

+ + + + +

Assumption University

Next opening: Fall 2023

Application Deadline: March 15th

Audition Date: April 14th

Assumption University provides an inimitable opportunity for graduating high school seniors who have a passion for the pipe organ and liturgical music. Every four years, the University awards a four-year, eight-semester, full tuition scholarship to an incoming student who demonstrates exemplary organ playing skills.

The awardees will have at their disposal, the 3-manual, 56 rank, Chabot Family Memorial pipe organ in the University's Chapel of the Holy

Spirit. They will be an active member of the University's Music Ministry Team and have ample opportunities to enrich the liturgy at Masses every weekend of the academic year. They will sing in the University's various ensembles and receive training in service playing, repertoire, conducting, and singing. They will declare a major in music and may also elect a double major if desired.

Due to the high expectations and volume of work required, applicants for the scholarship should have some experience in church music, a strong background in keyboard studies, and have some relative comfort with sight-reading.

The Organ Scholar Award will only be awarded to a dedicated organist who has seriously studied organ throughout high school and has strong, basic music skills. Go to:

<https://www.assumption.edu/admissions-financial-aid/undergraduate-admissions-and-financial-aid/scholarships-and-grants/organ-scholarship>



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

