

The Treasure Coast Chapter of The American Guild of Organists



Monthly Newsletter

December 2022

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Are you aware that we have a Patron Saint of Pipe Organs? St. Cecilia. Actually, Saint Cecilia was a Roman martyr and is venerated in Catholic, Orthodox Anglican and some Lutheran churches, such as the Church of Sweden. This saint covers hymns, musicians, poets and pipe organs. I had to call on her recently. I'll explain.

I think I've become an organ snob. Not the kind of snob that looks down on those with little talent, those with no talent, or those who should seek another profession. No, I'm the kind for those who show little respect for the "King of Instruments".

Recently, I was asked to monitor the audio equipment at the church I'm presently serving. The couple getting married had a choir of peers sing the Mass and right away I knew this wasn't going to be easy. Our church spent a lot on the equipment and our priest said no wedding unless someone monitors the new equipment and they came to me.

It was to be piano and mics, so I thought I was ready. The rehearsal

was four hours and another three hours before the wedding, when their pianist suddenly gets on the organ and loudly rolls back the cover and roughly handles the music holder (which on a Rodgers is delicate) and was searching for the power switch when I jumped up and said NO.



But I'm an organist she exclaimed. I answered that the priest is very strict and the answer is no. That's nice to know, she snapped, unhappily. I thought later, perhaps I was harsh. But as I thought more about it, if something had happened to the organ, the sound equipment or anything else that I was hired to protect, I'd be in big trouble. Plus, it was mostly her attitude.

I know that when I sub in a church, I respect not only the sanctuary and the altar, but also the musical

instruments. I would never think of barging onto the organ bench with the organist sitting there, without asking permission. I'm known to wash my hands before I play. Ok that's OCD, but you get the picture.

Several years ago, I went back to the church I grew up in to play my father's funeral. I literally had to clean the keys because they were black. I wondered who had been playing this organ, farmers? No kidding. The ivories were black.

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So, moving on, I'm practicing for our second annual Christmas event, "The Music of Christmas," on January 3rd at St Marks Anglican Church of Vero Beach. Right hand, left hand, hands together, pedals, pedal right hand, pedal left hand. Slow, slower, etc. I've always been an excellent sight reader, growing up playing from the Baptist hymnal that people call out every month at Last Sunday Night Sing.

Sight reading is a blessing and a curse. Even my piano teacher back in the day was a terrible sight reader, and had to work hard to achieve. But once he did, he was really good. The piece I'm playing is not terribly difficult, but it is exciting and fun to play.

Will you play one of your favorite Christmas pieces for our event? It's not too early to commit and choose your piece. Remember to let me know a.s.a.p. to secure your place and piece. And please include a short description of the music that I'll use

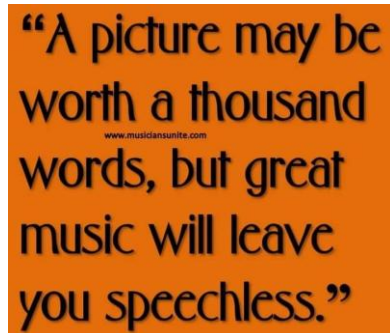
when I introduce you.

If you're a member of the TCCAGO, your participation in all our events is crucial. If you are unable to attend, please send me your regrets. Surely, we want more from our dues than a monthly magazine, as interesting as it may be.

Stir their hearts St Cecilia.

Happy Advent. Keep Practicing!

Steve Giddens
Dean TCCAGO



"A picture may be worth a thousand words, but great music will leave you speechless."

MEET YOUR FELLOW TCCAGOers: Marg Putzke

At an early age, Marg Putzke described herself as a shy person, so her parents decided she should take ballet and piano lessons. Her friends would come to the door looking for her and she would hear her mother saying, "Margie can't come out, she's practicing" and she begrudgingly finished out her hour on the bench.

Her influential aunt was the music director at her church, so she started on organ as soon as her feet could reach the pedals. As the "first born" of 10 children, Marg felt the weight of responsibility at a young age so when her aunt retired, she heard her

calling!

Marg felt a sense of accomplishment in nurturing a little Roman Catholic Church (RCC) Choir at St. Mary's of the Lake in New Buffalo, Michigan into a fine singing group.

After moving to Florida in 1981, she operated a costume shop, an interest that grew from her husband Jon's involvement in the theatre and consequent need of proper costumes. Perhaps due to her first-born sense of responsibility, Marg always follows the need.



Marg was organist and then music director for 18 years at St. Helen's RCC, and then organist for another 18 years at Holy Cross RCC here in Vero Beach. She took choir trips to Italy, and then again to the Holy Land. One fascinating memory of her trip to Italy is playing the organ at St. Peter's Basilica; she also was close enough to her favorite pope, St. John Paul II, to

reach out and touch his arm, which she did!

Marg is a graduate of Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, MI, where she studied Theatre and English, and Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI, where she earned a Masters' Degree in education. When she taught high school at her alma mater in New Buffalo, MI, she taught side by side with teachers she had as a student years earlier!

Marg not only plays the organ, but also the piano. Her favorite musical group is Mannheim Steamroller, and today is inspired by Jim Brickman, David Nevue, Michelle McLaughlin and Jeanne Cotter.

Marg has been a member of TCCAGO for over 25 years. She feels that one thing we should all strive for is welcoming and accommodating musicians of all skill levels.

Marg also describes herself as "a Jack of all trades and master of none." Nevertheless, she is proud of the achievement she and her husband see expressed in their son, Brandon, who inherited all of both parents' best traits. He was a talented percussionist in the Vero Beach High School band and then instructor, and is now teaching private percussion lessons, conducting drum circles and performing with Souljam.

For the last 50 years or so, Marg has been passionate about genealogy, "because Family and Faith are everything." She's taught classes for

the Indian River Genealogical Society in German and Polish research. This interest led to some travels to track down original sources and ancestral villages in Poland, Germany and Bohemia.



Other less demanding hobbies include baking and decorating cakes, cookies and cupcakes.

Marg's life mission appears in the signature on all of her emails: "When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and I could say, "I used everything You gave me." (Erma Bombeck) One of her big goals before her *nunc dimittis* is to organize and distribute all the records and pictures from her genealogical research.

We are so happy to have Marg in the TCCAGO for her many years of faithful service, and also her continued willingness to sub when needed. We value and appreciate Marg as a colleague and a friend.

January 3, 6:00 pm,

"The Music of Christmas"

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

The idea for this event was started last year and St Marks has kindly agreed to hold the event again. So often we finish with Christmas and put our music away for the following year and we never get to hear the wonderful works of the season.

To secure your place, please submit the title and composer to the dean, along with a short summary of the work that you'd like presented as you set your stops and prepare to play.

St. Marks has asked me to introduce each participant and your piece to avoid blank spots in the program as we get ready to play. Kathleen Knott is the organist and music director at the church, and the one to contact for practice times.

Remember that St Marks has an Allen Organ, and we encourage everyone to utilize that instrument whether you are accompanying others or performing alone.

Blessings,
Steve Giddens, Dean TCCAGO
scgiddens@hotmail.com

MUSIC TRIVIA:

Q: What did the famous cellist Pablo Casals say was the reason he kept practicing at age 90?

A: He said, "I think I am making progress."

Nunc Dimittis

We extend our condolences to one of our members, Dr. Neal Campbell, on the passing of his mother.

Neal had the blessing of a wonderful relationship with his mother, and was able to make frequent visits to see her during his years here in Florida.

We pray that God will hold all those who grieve her passing in the kind graces of his loving care.



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MEMBERS' DIRECTORY ONLINE

The Members Directory is available on our TCCAGO website, on a newly created "Members Only" page.

This saves paper, postage, and handling by our volunteers, and keeps the Directory at your fingertips.

Visit <https://tccago.org/> and scroll down to the middle of the Home Page. Click on the Button labeled "Sign Up For Members' Page" and you'll receive simple instructions to gain access.

If you are experiencing difficulty using a password to get the Directory, Dan Kroger or Claire Klein can email you a PDF copy of the Directory.



MUSICAL EVENTS OF INTEREST IN OUR AREA

VERO BEACH CHORAL SOCIETY


Members of the Vero Beach High School Choir and the First Presbyterian Church Youth Symphony

The Vero Beach Choral Society is offering a "Winter Concert" featuring holiday-themed selections including "The Minute Carol" by McAfee and Lamb, "Christmas Day" by Holst, "Candles of Hanukkah/Candles of Christmas" by Angebrannt, "The Holly and the Ivy" by Gjeilo, and "Fum Fum Fum" by Kern.

Following the Choral Society performance, Artistic Director Dr. Jacob Craig offers a collaborative performance of Antonio Vivaldi's "Gloria," featuring the Choral Society joined by the Vero Beach High School Choir and First Presbyterian Church Youth Symphonic Orchestra.

4:00 pm Sunday, December 4 at The First Presbyterian Church of Vero Beach, FL

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Holy Cross Catholic Church
is excited to welcome
The Oceanside Brass Quintet
featuring
**SOUNDS
OF THE
SEASON**
Sunday, December 4th, 4:00 p.m.

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)

COCOA AND CAROLS
December 16, 6:00 pm
A Christmas Season Carol Sing
at the home of
Robert and Christie Garst
344 Liberty Square Way, Ft. Pierce

Join neighbors and friends for hot cocoa and goodies in the park across from the Garst’s home. The Carol Sing will be accompanied by Jack VanderPlate on the Hauptwerk augmented pipe organ in their living room. Activities for children is also provided for.



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



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



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.

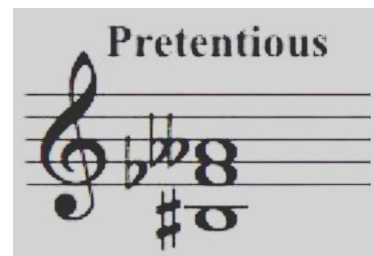
The awardees will have at their disposal, the 3-manual, 56 rank, Chabot Family Memorial pipe organ in the University's Chapel of the Holy Spirit. They will be an active member of the University's Music Ministry Team and have ample opportunities to enrich the liturgy at Masses every weekend of the academic 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