

The Treasure Coast Chapter of The American Guild of Organists



Monthly Newsletter

January 2023

As I write this, it's just days before Christmas and I'm preparing for a couple of Christmas Eve Masses as well as an early Mass on Christmas Day. At the same time, I'm spending most of the day working on my piece for our Christmas event at St Marks.



By the time this is posted, we move on to our next event, a Jason Roberts concert, 3 pm, January 22nd, at Trinity Episcopal Church in Vero Beach. Trinity is hosting Jason as a first in their Music At Trinity Series under the direction of our Sub Dean, Anthony Baron. We are so fortunate that Anthony has agreed to host this

event and from all of us at TCCAGO we'd like to thank him and Trinity.

The Harrison & Harrison organ at Trinity was built in 1997, and placed behind the altar in the chancel of the old church. Six years later the church was demolished, and a new church built on the same site. The organ stands in a transept, which was designed to accommodate it without alteration. The Great and Swell Organs are at the main level, the Solo at the upper level towards the apex, and the Pedal on either side. The detached console is placed with the choir seats in front of the organ. The casework is of mahogany, and the front pipes are of spotted metal. The organ is planned for the accompaniment of the Anglican liturgy, and as a versatile instrument for solo performance, with a bias towards the romantic repertoire: hence the expressive Solo Organ on the third manual, with its strings, reeds and commanding Tuba (on 12" wind pressure), alongside wide-scaled flutes.

Our guest organist, Jason Roberts is Director of Music at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament in New York City.

He has also served at St. Bartholomew's Church in New York and at St. James's Episcopal Church in West Hartford, Connecticut.



Roberts is a winner of the American Guild of Organists National Competition in Organ Improvisation, and has been a finalist at competitions in St Albans and Haarlem. He keeps an active recital schedule and enjoys accompanying silent films.

He has served on the faculty at Westminster Choir College, and his compositions have been performed at such various venues as Princeton University Chapel in New Jersey, Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, and Westminster Abbey in London, where incidentally stands a Harrison & Harrison organ built in 1937.

At the start of the pandemic when churches were shuttered and organs were silent, I was thumbing UTube listening to organists from all over the country when I happened upon Jason's rendition of "I Am The Bread Of Life" played as a prelude and fugue. It was so impressive that I wrote to him and he was quick to write that it was an improvisation and though it wasn't written down, he offered to send me other pieces he

wrote. Later, when Neal Campbell and I met to discuss the events as the program committee, I asked whether Neal knew of Jason Roberts and he said that Jason had worked as his assistant at one time. The rest is history.

You don't want to miss this extraordinary musician. We also want to see that Trinity's music series gets off to a great start with your attendance.

Merry Christmas. And a very Happy New Year.

Keep practicing!

Steven Giddens
Dean TCCAGO



MEET YOUR FELLOW TCCAGOers:

Claire Klein

I am currently a triple-member of AGO, having a primary membership with the Space Coast Chapter, and secondary memberships with the Treasure Coast Chapter and the Suffolk Chapter of Long Island, NY.

I'm grateful that these Chapters exist and I try to support them.

My father was my earliest musical influence. He had a lively bass voice and loved to sing in the church choir. My distinct first memory of cherishing organ and choral music at a very young age was listening to an LP record that my father brought home. It was a recording of Christmas music by E. Power Biggs in 1963. In particular, there was a very charming, simple rendition of BWV 751, In Dulci Jubilo.



Our family had a beat-up old upright piano in an unheated "junk room" in the back of our house in Massachusetts. That's where I taught myself to play the piano around age six-seven, using the John Thompson books that my older sister brought home from her lessons. My father had perfect pitch, so if I was practicing and hit a clunker, he would call out the correct pitch from anywhere in the house!

I began formal piano lessons at age 10. My teacher, Louise Thibedeau, was our church organist, and she had me accompanying choir rehearsals and eventually, in high school, playing for weekday morning masses, funerals and other services.

It wasn't until college that I had an opportunity to take lessons with a

professional organist, Frank Taylor, at Wellesley College. I was also thrilled to sing many of the Masterworks for the first time in college choir and to sing in chapel choir every Sunday under the direction of Bill Herrmann. Then followed a move to New York and a career as a CPA, followed by a career as a stay-at-home mother, and several job relocations for my husband, Bob.

When I finally had time to return to organ and sacred music, I was 50! I discovered that the local AGO chapter on Long Island, NY was large and very active. I became a member of the Suffolk Chapter, and it was there that I was encouraged to pursue certification.

Once a month, Walter Hilse, who served on the AGO Headquarters' Education and Certification committees, would take a train out from Manhattan and spend the day at a member's church, giving organ lessons and certification coaching sessions to members.

What an extraordinary opportunity! After two years of coaching, I had earned both the Service Playing and the Colleague certificates.

At this time, I also assembled my own Hauptwerk Virtual Pipe Organ, with the help of a very tech-savvy teenage son. Hauptwerk was only in its "2.0" version in 2005, and it was a very exciting time to be involved with that project. My Hauptwerk VPO was and is invaluable as a practice instrument.

I began subbing for other members of the chapter and became familiar with many different liturgies and services.

There was such a large demand for subs that I was content serving in that capacity and could choose my own weekends off.

I wanted to give back to the Suffolk chapter for all the help they had given me and so I joined the Board. I began writing a monthly digital newsletter and launched a website for the Chapter in 2008. I served as Subdean and then as Dean of the Chapter from 2008 to 2012 before moving to Florida. During that time, we co-sponsored programs with Tom Trenney, Gerry Hancock, Olivier Latty, and other wonderful musicians, as well as mini-conventions with two other nearby chapters.



When my husband and I arrived in Melbourne Beach eight years ago, I joined the Space Coast Chapter and have been the Secretary for their Board ever since.

At that time I also joined the Vero Beach Choral Society and eventually Voces Vero, under the direction of Jason Hobratschk, and began to meet some of the wonderful members of the Treasure Coast Chapter.

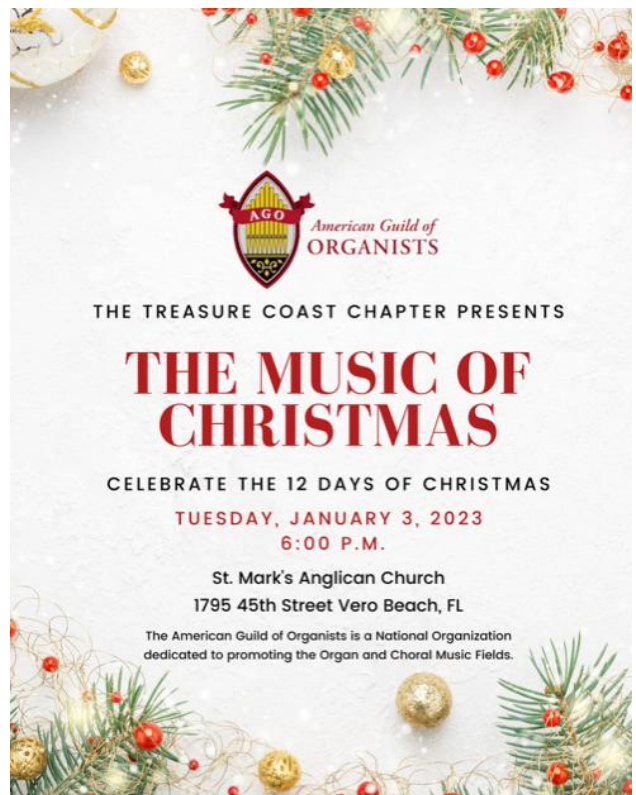
This led me to join TCCAGO as a dual member and then as an interim Member at Large during Neal Campbell's tenure as our Dean. I noted that TCCAGO didn't have its own website, so I offered to launch a website for the Chapter, which I continue to maintain.

In 2020, the pandemic brought outside activities to a halt for Bob and I for quite awhile, although I stayed connected to the Space Coast and Treasure Coast chapters through remote meetings and programs. Last year we became snowbirds and now divide our time between Florida and New York.

I look forward to re-connecting with AGO members in the coming months!

+ + +

DON'T MISS TCCAGO's "THE MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS"



AN INVITATION FROM THE SPACE COAST CHAPTER TO CRAWL

The Space Coast Chapter is planning an Organ Crawl on the Treasure Coast to St. Andrew's in Fort Pierce, and Trinity Episcopal Church, on Martin Luther King Day, January 16, starting at 10 am in Fort Pierce.

Here's a link to the Space Coast Chapter's website:

<https://www.agospacecoast.org/space-coast-events.html>



+ + +

The Community Church of Vero Beach

Tuesday, January 17 at 7:00 pm - \$35

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center

Music of Franz Schubert and Allesio Tax with pianist Gloria Chien, violinist Ben Bellman, and cellist David Requiro

Jason Roberts

Organist in Recital

Sunday afternoon, January 22, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Church

2365 Pine Avenue
Vero Beach, Fla. 32960

Sponsored by the Treasure Coast Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and the "Music at Trinity Series."

Jason Roberts is Director of Music at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament in New York City. He has also served at St. Bartholomew's Church in New York and at St. James's Episcopal Church in West Hartford, Connecticut.



He has served on the faculty of Westminster Choir College, and his compositions have been performed at such various venues as Princeton University Chapel in New Jersey, Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, and Westminster Abbey in London.

SPACE COAST CHAPTER MEMBERS' RECITAL

Sunday, February 5, 2023, time TBA

Ascension Lutheran Church
1053 Pinetree Dr.
Satellite Beach, FL 32937

The Space Coast Chapter and Ascension Lutheran Church are pleased to present Space Coast Chapter members' organ recital on the mighty pipe organ.

Residents and friends are welcome to come to an afternoon of delightful mixture of organ, piano and voice music with sounds of classical and popular music for all ages to enjoy.

The concert is free, but donations are always welcome.

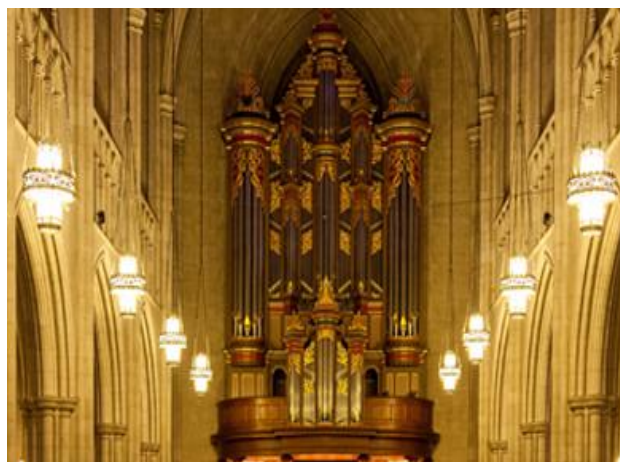
Reception to follow.

Contact information: 321-610-8613
or 321-773-1815



The 2023–24 AGO Organ Scholar Program will once again offer a one-year paid internship for a young musician at Duke University Chapel in Durham, N.C.

This gap year program between the student's undergraduate and graduate studies offers a \$30,000 stipend, housing, and health care—in addition to experience working with both professional and volunteer singers and performances on five world-class organs in the chapel and Duke Divinity School.



Applications accepted through Jan. 31. For more information go to:

<https://www.agohq.org/organ-scholar-program/>

2023 AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions for Young Organists,

Application deadline Jan. 15.

<https://www.agohq.org/performance-competitions/rcyo/>

+ + +

2023-24 Pogorzelski-Yankee Memorial Scholarship for an entering college freshman, Applications accepted Jan. 1–Feb. 15.

<https://www.agohq.org/education/pogorzelski-yankee-memorial-scholarships/>

+ + +

2023-24 Salisbury Scholarships for graduate degree candidates, Applications accepted March 15–May 15.

<https://www.agohq.org/salisbury-scholarships/>



ORGAN TRIVIA

Where is the Schantz Pipe Organ factory located?

Orville, Ohio

Happy new year everyone. The last two years have been somewhat....	
.....and all our plans have been constantly....	
...which has been....	
...for us all. Nonetheless, let's hope this year will be...	

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