

The Treasure Coast Chapter of The American Guild of Organists



Monthly Newsletter

March 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

As I write this, I'm preparing to play two Ash Wednesday services, one at 7:30 am and the other at 6 pm.



Growing up in the Baptist church, all I knew about Ash Wednesday was people running around with a black cross on their foreheads. But Ash Wednesday is a day of repentance, when Christians confess their sins and profess their devotion to God. The ashes represent mortality and penance for their sin. A priest might say a small blessing: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return".

This week I was able to reach out to a priest that taught me the Catholic mass. I didn't know where he transferred to and every Christmas

for several years now I would write his previous church and ask for him. Finally, I was given his contact info and sent him an email and he responded immediately.

His encouragement and patience are what I remember so vividly. I remember him telling me that after a while the mass will seem like "second nature" and I wouldn't even have to think about it. But I do think about it.

Today, if I were to ask someone in church if the "Kyrie" was spoken or sung, they'd have no idea. Why? Because they've heard the mass all their lives and it has become second nature.



For me, I'm listening hard for cues as to when I'm to come in with the next passage. In doing so, I enjoy the mass every time I hear it. Every

priest does it slightly differently, making it even more meaningful. I told this priest that it was he who taught me the mass and the hymns. These are meaningful when they touch one's heart.

TCCAGO members, when you are playing a prelude, hymns or a postlude in your respective churches, are you touching people's hearts? If not, perhaps you'll think about rekindling your repertoire.

The next event on April 30th is at 4 pm at St Andrews Episcopal Church in Ft Pierce. Our board member, Tom Goetz is the organist and choirmaster there and has invited us to the inaugural performance of the new A.E. Schlueter pipe organ.



Michael Barone, host of "Pipedreams" will provide commentary and Dr David Hurd will be the performer. This event has so many things that had to be worked out with all the participants, so it didn't make it into our original line up of events for the year.

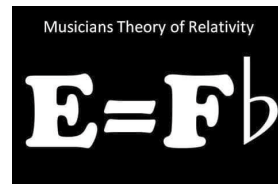
There's a lot of moving parts: a new organ, lining up M. Barone and D. Hurd, Tom Goetz beginning his appointment at St Andrew's Church, but it's coming together. The important thing is that we support

Tom and this event. I will remind you again next month, but please put it on your calendar. If you'd like to donate to support this event, send your contributions to St Andrews Episcopal Church, 210 S. Indian River Blvd, Ft Pierce, FL 34950 and mark "April 30 Organ Concert" on the check. Address your envelope "Attention: Deacon Sharon Britcher".

Tom has written me that the TCCAGO Members Recital will also be held at St Andrew's on their new A.E. Schlueter pipe organ in May. To you who revere only pipe organs, this event is for you. You know who you are.

Keep practicing!

Steve Giddens
Dean TCCAGO



MEET YOUR FELLOW TCCAGOers **Joseph T. Parr**

Joseph Parr grew up in a very musical household. Joseph's father, Gary, graduated from The Ohio State University with a Masters in Music. His mother minored in music and along with her husband, Gary, and has been a church musician for Joseph's entire life.

Going into music was something that Joseph himself decided to do. He feels incredibly lucky that his parents supported him every step of the way. Each time he took on a new

instrument they would always double check with him to be sure that he really wanted to do it, and would leave it completely up to him. He remembers hearing the organ at the church connected to his school when he was nine years old, and pretty much decided, "I want to do that."



Joseph is happy that his parents and teachers were always "super supportive and instrumental in forming my ideas on musicality." His friends at Stetson similarly have stimulated his musical aspirations. He says that the people he has the honor of working with are some of the most talented people he has ever encountered. He has learned a great deal from them just by talking about music, and what music means to them.

Because the viola is one of his secondary instruments he plays in the orchestra. He says that knowing a lot about string technique and interpretations of orchestral pieces has allowed him to get better as an organist.

Joseph is very thankful that he has not encountered many discouraging influences. When he does, he tries to "work harder just to prove people

wrong." He feels that he loves music so deeply that even people who may be discouraging will never force him out of the field.

This past semester's student recital with the last movement of the Guilmant Organ Sonata in D Minor was incredibly gratifying to Joseph. It was the culmination of the work he had put in over the summer, not just with that piece but with music generally. As he concluded the piece "the satisfaction and enjoyment that went through my body is why I got into music."

Though he plays several instruments, his favorite instrument is organ. Joseph says he has "hyper-fixations" about the music he studies that change every couple of weeks. His current hyper-fixation is the motet on "Lobet den Herrn, alle Heiden" by Bach (although he probably didn't write it). He describes the middle slow section as "incredibly beautiful."

Joseph doesn't recall much of the actual process of becoming a scholarship student with TCCAGO as he was about eleven years old at the time. He remembers playing for "Phantasies and Phugues" and the next thing he knew he had a scholarship. Joseph says that the scholarship "definitely helped to encourage me to really pursue organ and to take it seriously."

He would like to see the TCAGO facilitate an event over a day or two in which all of the music directors could get together to schedule their concerts, evensongs, etc., so that there would be as little overlap as possible. Joseph has noticed that some of the TCCAGO's events over the years have seen less attendance

because of another more established event going on at a place close by. If we could find a way to have less of that kind of overlaps, it would definitely help our chapter in the long run.

Joseph enjoys reading books about politics and history and watching anime when he has some free time.

If he were to pursue something other than being a musician, he would likely be a high school teacher of math or history. Education has always held a special place in his heart and he loves teaching, especially in those subject areas.

But Joseph wants to be a church music director first and foremost. He looks forward to creating a program that strives to do big things. He is also been toying with the idea of forming a professional early music ensemble if he finds a position with a large church. He also wants to discover new composers and help put their works into the standard canon.

In fact, Joseph is forming an early music ensemble of Stetson students called "Delphi 421." They will be presenting a concert on April 2nd at 7:00pm at St. Thomas in Eustis. Delphi 421 will be performing Bach's cantata – "Aus der Tiefen rufe ich" BWV 131, along with other solo and chamber baroque works. Joseph was happy to get some of the best musicians at Stetson together for this concert, and is excited to see how it will all turn out.

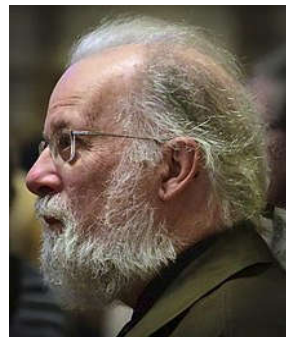
TCCAGO is delighted to have been a part of Joseph's musical development and with him look forward to further accomplishments and joy in making music. All the best to you, Joseph!

Inaugural Concert at St. Andrew's Episcopal in Fort Pierce

David Hurd will perform the Inaugural Recital April 30 at 4:00 pm on the new A. E. Schlueter pipe organ at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Fort Pierce.



Michael Barone will host the program, commenting on the literature, the organ, and the music of Dr. Hurd.

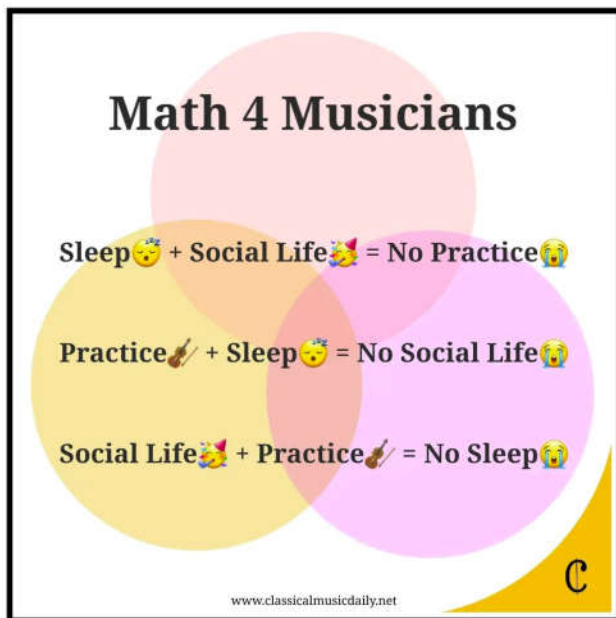


The church invites persons who wish to support this program financially to send a check to: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 210 S. Indian River Dr., Fort Pierce, FL 34950. Please note "Organ Concert" in the memo line on the check.

Donors at the \$100.00 level and above will be listed in the program if the gift is received prior to April 17. Please enclose a note as to how your name should be listed, or if you wish to remain anonymous.

St. Andrew's Church thanks you in advance for your support of this milestone in the church's history, and for the generous support from the Treasure Coast Chapter. The program is free and open to the public. Be sure to mark the date on your calendar! Thank you for being a part of this special event for the Treasure Coast.

--Thomas Goetz, DMus, CAGO



TCCAGO's Members Recital

Plan now to play some your favorite music for this year's Member's Recital. It will be held at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Fort Pierce.

The date is May 21 and the time is 4:00 pm. St. Andrew's Church is thrilled to have TCCAGO make good use of their new Schlueter organ.

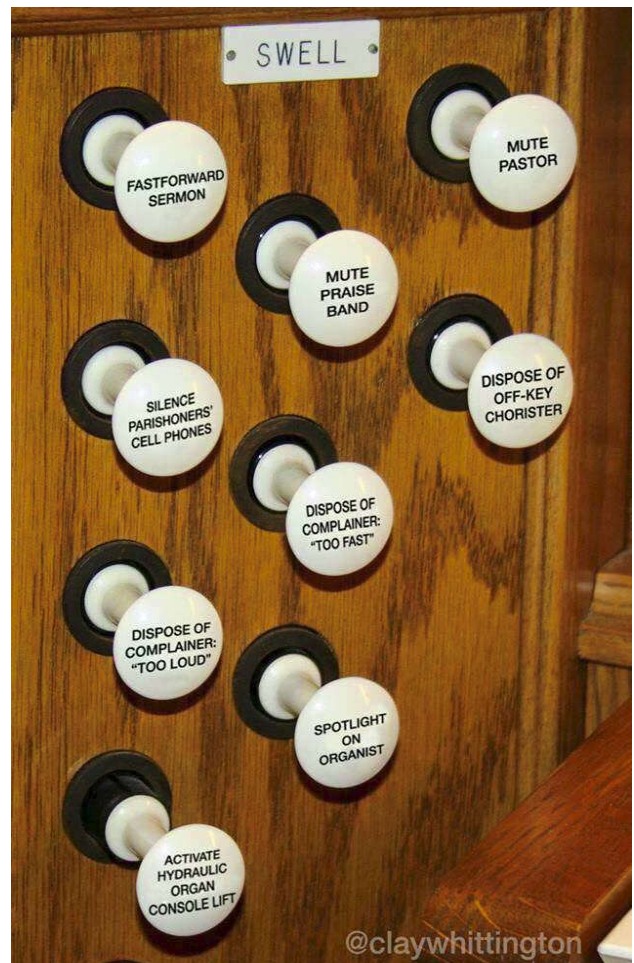
It is not too early to call the dean, Steve Giddens, and let him know that you intend to play. Early communication makes planning and logistics that much easier for all!

MUSICAL EVENTS OF INTEREST AT THE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF VERO BEACH

"Organ and Poetry" is presented each Thursday at noon at The Community Church of Vero Beach (CCVB) through the season of Lent. A freewill offering is received.

On Monday, March 20 the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center performs music by Arensky and Brahms. The concert begins at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$35.

The Chancel Choir and Orchestra of CCVB presents the "Requiem" by Kim Andre Amensen on Friday, April 7 at 7:00 pm. A freewill offering will be received.



A Note From the Editor

Born on March 1 1810, Frédéric Chopin was a pianist of unmatched virtuosic technique in his day. His piano compositions still charm music lovers with their simple elegance and fiery bravura.

My Aunt May gave me a year of piano lessons when I was very young. I did not advance enough to play any Chopin back then. But Aunt May did play a lot of Chopin, and she played it very well. I fell in love with the unique "voice" of his music as she played. A few years later my folks took me to hear Arthur Rubenstein who was playing a concert in Miami. I still remember that his interpretation of Chopin took my breath away!

I am getting older, so my fingers don't work as well as they used to, and my brain does not retain what I learn during rehearsal sessions nearly as well as in younger years.

Nonetheless, on those sleepless nights when my brain won't shut off, I find that playing some of Chopin's lovely and quieter nocturnes or preludes (along with some other music) calms me down. Fortunately my wife, Judy, loves it when I play at 3:00 in the morning

I am increasingly grateful for the gifts that past generations have bequeathed to us in their life's work: theology, history, science, medicine, composers, and creators of instruments. The list goes on and on. The greats who came before us have given us countless blessings, and it is good to take note of them.

For whom are you most grateful?

June 18-21, 2023

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