

# The Treasure Coast Chapter of The American Guild of Organists



Monthly Newsletter

April 2023

## **A LETTER FROM THE DEAN**

After almost three years, my sub position at St Andrews Catholic Church in Stuart has been filled. I've been playing Masses on Saturday and Sunday for all that time. They assured me that I'll still be playing funerals, as the fellow coming in doesn't play the organ.



When you are in a position for that long, you sometimes forget your calling. I always felt that God called me to sub. It puts me out there to meet new people, fill a very important role, and continue the practice of preparing worshipers for the service. You can be subbing for one Sunday, several Sundays, and I once played for the Methodists for a year until they found someone. You never know.

And you must be flexible to whatever comes your way. That is why you have to let go and let God direct you. Do you remember in drama class when someone falls back and relies on others to catch them? You give up control and hope that you'll be caught before hitting the ground. Likewise, in this business of church organist, if you let go and ask God for direction, He always comes through.

When I retired I thought, yikes, what if no one calls? In the case of the Methodists, I was driving along the highway and my car literally turned into the parking lot, heading to the church office. I left my name and phone number and told the church secretary if they ever need someone, give me a call. When I got the call, it was a Wednesday asking if I'd play two Sunday services. Really.

The other important thing to remember when you fulfill a commitment is to never leave unhappy or angry. Sometimes a church will make you wait it out even after they have replaced you. I always feel it's God calling me elsewhere and how can you argue that? And if your replacement falls

through, they might be calling you back. Always leave with a smile. Never burn a bridge.

As church organists, we will always have work. There's just too many positions open due to retirement and other reasons and not many available to replace them. It's one of the reasons our organization is reaching out to young people and providing scholarships.

Don't forget Tom Goetz's event on April 30th at 4:00 pm at St Andrews Episcopal Church in Ft Pierce. I can't wait to hear the new A.E. Schlueter pipe organ that everyone is talking about.

And finally, our member's recital in May, also at St Andrews in Ft Pierce. Let me know what you're playing to secure a place at the event. There will be more to say about this event next month. It's a time we can share together, hear some great music from our peers, and watch as I hand off the Deanship to our Sub Dean, Anthony Baron.

Keep practicing!  
Steve Giddens, TCCAGO Dean

non-musicians: "Wow, you're so talented!"

me: "What can I say, I'm..."



## **MEET YOUR FELLOW TCCAGOers Brady Johnson**

Brady Johnson is a native of Kalamazoo, Michigan. He grew up surrounded by pianos, as his father rebuilt pianos after hearing loss limited his ability to tune them.

His musical skills and liturgical training came through his six-year participation in the men and boys choir at his local Episcopal parish. This choir was the main choir of the church at that time: the boys rehearsed three times a week and sang every Sunday during the school year. Each boy even received a modest stipend for their efforts!

The choir also sang an annual concert, hosted a week-long summer camp. Brady remembers a highlight of those years being a trip to Washington, D.C. to sing at the Washington National Cathedral.

In addition to his singing in the choir, Brady began his piano study with his choirmaster, George Norman Tucker.

After two difficult years in a troubled junior high, Brady got the opportunity to attend the Interlochen Arts Academy in northern Michigan, near Traverse City. Interlochen was already widely recognized for being the first-of-its-kind summer arts camp, originally known as the National Music Camp (now Interlochen Arts Camp).

The Academy was just ten years old when he started there as a freshman. While the initial decision of his parents was to find a better setting for his academic development, Brady

discovered his life's vocation there, as he was exposed to an even more dynamic choral program led by a fantastic conductor named Kenneth W. Jewell.

Brady began his organ studies during his sophomore year. His organ teacher at Interlochen, Robert Murphy (or "Murph" as they all called him), was a warm and engaging teacher who patiently nurtured his basic skills. During a master class in his junior year his future teacher, the legendary concert organist, Marilyn Mason heard him play.

After a brief stint as assistant organist and interim music director of the Episcopal cathedral in Detroit, Brady left for the east coast (he humorously says that since 1982, he's never lived more than an hour from the Atlantic Ocean!).

He held positions on Philadelphia's Main Line, Northern Virginia (suburban D.C.), Newport, Rhode Island (where he first met our founding Dean, Donald Ingram!), Mount Pleasant, South Carolina (Charleston), before moving to the Treasure Coast in 1999, to become the music director at Trinity Church in Vero Beach.

In 2008, Brady moved with many church members to found Christ Church, Vero Beach, where he presently serves as Organist and Choirmaster.

Brady has performed several recitals in the Midwest, Northeast, and in Florida. Particular highlights have included recitals at St. James'

Cathedral, Toronto, and Blackburn Cathedral in the UK. He has also played two Diocese of Virginia services at Washington National Cathedral.



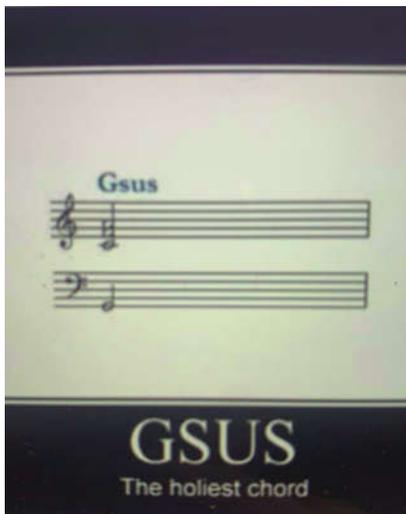
In 2011, Brady was given a six-week sabbatical. He spent a month in the UK, observing composer Simon Lowe and esteemed choral conductor David Hill. He also took a 10-day organ tour. He has arranged several Easter hymns for organ and brass, as well as an anthem setting of Robert Powell's creative tune *Herald, Sound* to Moir Waters' hymn of the same name (unpublished).

Brady married soprano Dana Clearwater in February and is looking forward to retirement in the near future. Brady has two adult daughters. Emma is an LA-based filmmaker whose full-length feature

*Balloon Animal* is scheduled for a release on Amazon Prime and other platforms in April. Lydia, works as a server in Chicago.

Brady feels privileged to have served the TCCAGO three times as Dean, highlighted by the Chapter's hosting Diane Bish at a sold-out recital at the Community Church.

He is grateful to the Almighty for bringing him here to the Treasure Coast, surrounded by sunshine and a wonderful community of faith and talented artists.



### **Organ Dedication Recital at Christ Church**

Saturday, February 11, 2023, 4:00 pm

It was my great honor to assist Brady Johnson's solo dedicatory recital, at Christ Church, Vero Beach, with commentary on the attributes of their Ahlborn-Galanti organ, as well as its use in combination with several Hauptwerk virtual organs from around the world.

While Brady is well-known throughout our chapter as a kind friend, three-time chapter dean, church musician and teacher, and we have heard him often playing in members' recitals, less well-known may be his vast artistry and craftsmanship as a complete and hugely gifted solo performer.

Dr. Thomas Goetz, representing the TCCAGO, introduced the recital program. Christ Church (Anglican) of Vero Beach acted as host, and its pastor, Rev. Keith Allen expressed special thanks to Brady, as well as for the gift of the organ to the church; and he welcomed both parishioners and those members attending from the TCCAGO to the parish for a fulfilling afternoon of music.

For the dedicatory recital, Brady treated an enthusiastic audience to some of the great organ masterworks, carefully selecting music appropriate to the style of the organ being played.

Brady got his program off to a great start with a cheerful rendition of *Prelude in a Classic Style* by Gordon Young on the Ahlborn-Galanti organ alone (without virtual supplement). Thereafter, he played each of four virtual organs, using the Ahlborn-Galanti instrument as the MIDI controller...

Playing the 1741 Albertus Hinsz organ of the Netherlands (Hauptwerk virtual sample set), Brady moved smoothly through the three movements of Bach's *Pièce d'Orgue*. His playing of this demanding score was brilliant and clear in this most difficult music by

the Master.

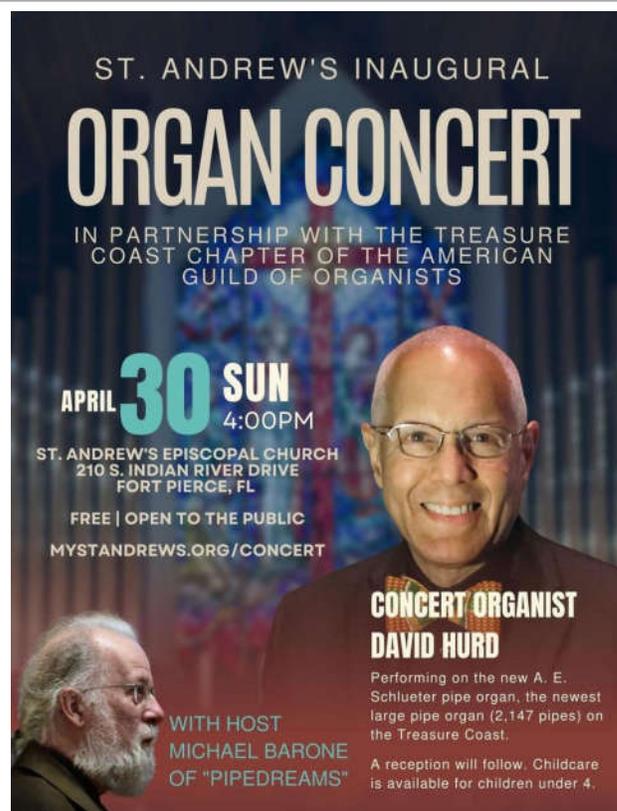
*Nimrod* from the *Enigma Variations* introduced the English romantic Hauptwerk organ, 1907 St. Anne's Brindley & Foster organ, Birmingham, England.

Particularly unique and rarely heard, Brady treated us to a wonderful rendering of Leo Sowerby's *Carillon* on what has become known as "The American Classic," the 1928 E.M. Skinner organ of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Chicago, Illinois – where he was able to use the same stops that Sowerby called for (and had used) in this one-of-a-kind composition for organ.

Brady selected one of the gigantic and delightful pieces of organ literature, from the French school to close out his program, giving a world-class performance of Louis Vierne's *Carillon de Westminster*, played on the 1902-3 Cavallé-Coll instrument from Église de Notre Dame, Metz, France.

We thank you, Brady, for so enthusiastically sharing your gifts with us!

Respectfully submitted,  
Baden Griffin, CAGO



St Andrews Episcopal Church in Vero Beach invites you to the Inaugural Concert of their new A. E. Schlueter pipe organ. Concert organist David Hurd, Organist and Choirmaster at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Times Square, NYC, will be the performer. Mr. Hurd will be joined by Michael Barone, host and senior executive producer of *Pipedreams*, the nationally distributed weekly radio program which explores the art of the pipe organ.

The doors will open at 3:30 pm. There is free parking on the north, south, and east sides of the church. A Reception in the Parish Hall will follow the concert.

We look forward to this opportunity to hear a world class performer play this exciting new organ. And we look forward to hearing and performing on

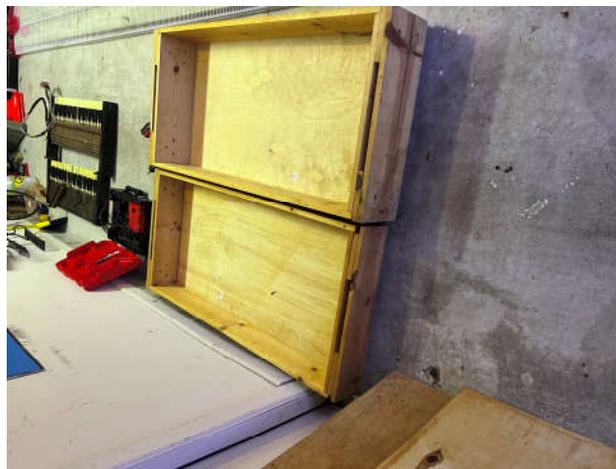
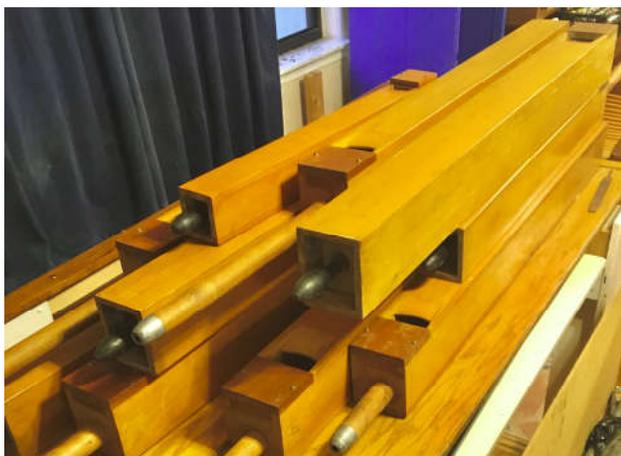
this instrument in May at TCCAGO's annual Members Recital.

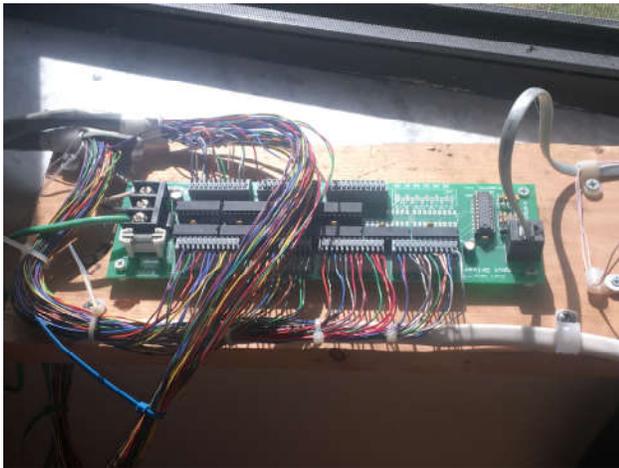


### **JOEY RUMBERGER'S NEW PROJECT**

TCCAGO's current Scholarship Student, Joey Rumberger, is busy again! Robert Garst inherited a wonderful Allen Organ that had belonged to his late father and wanted to install it in his home. That meant that the pipe organ in the living room, along with additional pipework and other assorted equipment in the garage had to go.

Joey was delighted to "have at it." He is pictured here with Robert Garst and some of the equipment he will be working on in the coming months. We look forward to a report from Joey about what he ends up creating.





## 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.

**Star Spangled Banner** F. Scott Key  
Sporting Event Version

As painfully slow as possible est. play time 20:00 milk it!



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## TCCAGO MEMBERS' PAGE

Our AGO chapter boasts a very fine webpage. A big thanks goes to Claire Klein for doing a wonderful job serving as our webmaster. There's a lot to see when you visit the site. Check it out at <[tccago.org](http://tccago.org)>.

On the "Members' Page" you can view and download our current directory.

From the homepage, click the "More" tab and you can access the archives of every newsletter produced since the initial October 2021 edition. Among other things, each issue of the

newsletter features one of our members in the "Get To Know Your Fellow TCCAGOers" department. Here's a full list of TCCAGOers we've already met:

### 2021

- 11 Steve Giddens
- 12 Jacob Craig

### 2022

- 01 Paul Ives
- 02 Joseph Rumberger
- 03 Ray Adams
- 04 Orlin Sedarov
- 05 Dan Kroger
- 06 Neal Campbell
- 07 Anthony Baron
- 08 Jerry Meyers
- 09 Tom Goetz
- 10 Jack VanderPlate
- 11 Andrew Galuska
- 12 Marg Putzke

### 2023

- 01 Claire Klein
- 02 Kathleen Knott
- 03 Joseph Rumberger
- 04 Brady Johnson



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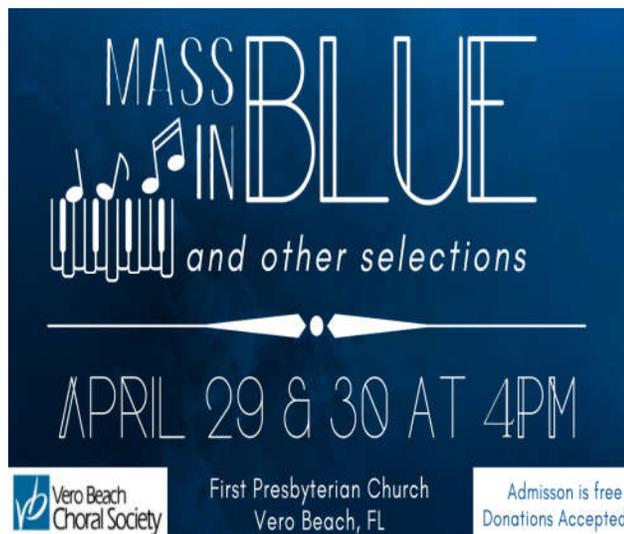
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**AREA MUSICAL  
EVENTS OF INTEREST**

**The Vero Beach Choral Society**



The Vero Beach Choral Society under the direction of Dr. Jacob Craig will perform "Mass in Blue" along with other choral works in two concerts, Saturday April 29 at 4pm, and Sunday April 30 also at 4pm.

Both concerts will be hosted at the First Presbyterian Church of Vero Beach.



Our Augusta Chapter of the American Guild of Organists looks forward to welcoming you to the Central Savannah River Area of Georgia and

South Carolina for next June's Southeast Region AGO Convention.

Join us for three days and four nights of celebrated performers playing inspiring pipe organs in live acoustics with visible consoles. Take in workshops, reading sessions and music displays. Enjoy renewing friendships in the ambience of Augusta's Marriott Hotel located on the Savannah River. Visit historic sites, play a round of golf, and relax in the beautiful communities of Augusta and Aiken, South Carolina. Bask in our old South charm and new South hospitality.

Here's hoping to see you next June!

Keith Shafer, Convention Coordinator  
712 Riverfront Drive, Augusta, GA  
706-339-7208

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA AND AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA  
OLD SOUTH CHARM. NEW SOUTH HOSPITALITY.

## Organ Trivia

Q: What organ work of JS Bach is a direct transcription of a work by Georg Telemann?

A: "Trio in G Major" (BWV 586).



Someone was complaining to me recently how terribly out of sorts our world seems to be. With the last Sunday's marvelous congregational singing still in my mind, I replied, "You know, I've never heard anyone arguing or being out of sorts when they're singing."

My companion looked at me and said, "So you'd like to teach the world to sing in perfect harmony?" mimicking the melody of the hit song from the '70s.

I said "What a good idea!"

--Jack VanderPlate, editor

The Music Department is an alternate universe where pupils are often unrecognisable from who they are outside of it. The shy become confident. The agitated become calm. The lonely become included. The quiet become heard. And the lost become found. Music reveals the real child.

## TCCAGO Officers For 2022-2023

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

