

The Treasure Coast Chapter of The American Guild of Organists



Monthly Newsletter

May 2023

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Not that long ago, the national headquarters of the AGO was grappling with criticism that the organization was becoming too religious. The spat was that the churches were too influential within the organization. After all, church organists make up a majority of our membership.



Unless you're playing a ballgame, a silent movie, or luckily enough to play an auditorium somewhere of a major city, chances are you are a church organist.

I'm really not sure where that went with the national organization. We do have chaplains within our ranks, and here at the TCCAGO. I speak about my experiences within the

various churches I've played. Though I feel deeply that God directs my work, in no way do I suggest that you should feel the same.

Right now, the Methodists are undergoing a radical split. It's heartbreaking when you figure that churches are breaking up over social issues. What once was a church "family", now finds themselves pitted against each other. If we follow what Jesus would do, I think we would find that it's not so complicated.

When I was a kid, the church I was playing had a major scandal. Without going into detail, I remember coming home devastated. I'll never forget my mom taking me aside and explaining that people will always disappoint, but God never will. From that moment on, I began to live by those words. As a church organist, it makes going into various churches so much easier, because no matter what comes your way, you're ready to deal with it.

As I hope all of you are aware, this month is our Membership Recital. It is scheduled for 4:00 pm on May 21st at St Andrews Episcopal Church in Ft

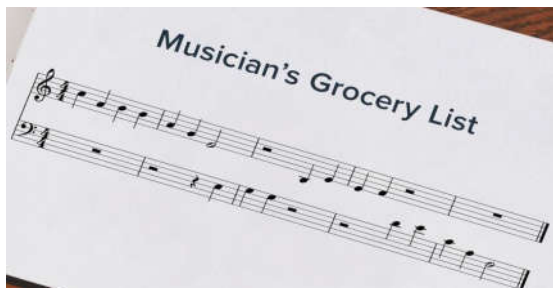
Pierce on their new A.E. Schlueter pipe organ. There will be refreshments afterwards, perhaps a light supper. This is an event you will not want to miss. And it's a chance to play the new pipe organ. Tom Goetz and the church have graciously offered to host this event. Don't forget to let me know what you're playing and don't wait to the last minute or you could lose your spot.

May is also the month that I turn over the reins of the Deanship to our Sub-Dean, Anthony Baron. It has been an honor to serve. I would have liked to have hosted board meetings, but found it wasn't possible without a home church to meet. When we meet in May, we will bring everyone up to date on the status of the TCCAGO.

While I want to thank you all, a special thanks goes out to Anthony Baron, our sub-Dean; Paul Ives, our treasurer; Neal Campbell, planning committee; Jack VanderPlate, the TCCAGO newsletter editor and my mentor on all things TCCAGO; Claire Klein, our webmaster; Rev Michael Carter, our chaplain; and last but not least, board members Jill Truax and Tom Goetz.

Keep Practicing!

Steve Giddens
Dean, TCCAGO



MEET YOUR FELLOW TCCAGOers: Tim Newby

Tim Newby is the president of Central Music. You have probably seen Tim Newby's name connected with the Central Music advertisements in the TCCAGO Directory and programs of musical events.



Tim got into the business naturally. He feels "pretty lucky" for the influence his parents were in his life. His father worked as a salesman for a musical instrument store. Tim took piano and organ lessons as a five year old from some of the musicians who worked for the store.

His father was successful as a salesman and won many manufacturer promotions, including trips to exotic destinations. It was on these trips that Tim's parents met Les Trubey, the founder of Central Music in St. Petersburg (on Central Avenue, from which the company gets its name), Florida.

Ready for retirement, Trubey asked Tim's father if he might like to buy the business. So in 1977 they moved from Illinois to Florida to get started in their new business venture.

Under his parent's and then Tim's leadership, Central Music has grown

into a large and successful business. As a boy, Tim would help out emptying garbage cans and mowing the grass around the building. Later he worked the delivery truck, and eventually on the organ Installation team.

Today Central Music is a top Dealership for Rogers Organs, #1 in 2021 and 2022. Central Music also represents the Fratelli Ruffatti Organ Company of Padua, Italy, as well as many other well-known names in keyboards, pianos, organs, speakers and accessories.



In 1989, Central Music had scheduled a performance for which the artist had to back out of his commitment. So the Newbys engaged Ted Allen Worth (a protégée of Virgil Fox) as a replacement. Worth introduced Tim to the Ruffattis, which led to Tim apprenticing in Italy at the Ruffatti factory where he learned a lot about tonal finishing.

Tim worked as an intern at Ruffatti with Francesco, who had taken him under his wing. He served as one of the “voicers” working on the new Ruffatti organ at the Church of the Epiphany in Miami, FL in 2001.

Tim was recruited to the University of Miami for Music, but ended up in the Business School, which has served him well as president of Central Music. He says with a smile he is not “an accomplished musician,” and not the guy to play a dedication recital for a new instrument.

But Tim loves music, and will sit down at the piano or organ and play for his own enjoyment. He grew up playing music by artists like Billy Joel, Elton John, Air Supply; and in the world of serious music appreciates composers such as Joseph Jongen and John Williams. During organ concerts, he especially enjoys fugal music and music with some bombast to it.

Tim grew up playing Little League baseball, and played as a safety in football while in high school. While at the UM he organized an event called “Sports Fest,” a massive three day intramural style event that draws participation from 80% of students on campus! It includes not only traditional sports but also things like Chinese Checkers, bowling and scavenger hunts for those who might not be all that coordinated. Tim also coached football for a female team in his dorm, and they won their event!

All this nurtured Tim’s natural bent toward teaching and coaching. These experiences are part of what it takes

to do sales well which, as Tim notes, "always involves teaching and coaching."

Tim has had a lot of interesting experiences and met a lot of interesting people. Most important to him is his family and his faith. He believes that what we need most right now is a much improved ability to listen to each and communicate effectively. He is happy that he very much enjoys what he is doing in life—enhancing the worship experience through music.

Asked what one thing would be that people should know about him, Tim answered that most people only think of Central Music as only a provider of digital organs. A misconception as they offer pianos and pipe organs of unsurpassed quality.

It's good getting to know something about the person behind the company. Thank you, Tim, for being a loyal part of the TCCAGO.



"Your car has been keyed. The good news is that the damage appears to B minor."

JOEY'S NEW ORGAN

The Organ Bug Bites Again: How I Became the Owner of My First Pipe Organ - by Joey Rumberger

As many of my fellow TCCAGOers may know, I have enjoyed collecting and restoring American reed organs (or pump organs, parlor organs, the list goes on) for the better part of four years.



That being said, while this particular endeavor is only one of dozens of stories I could tell about how that hobby has opened doors and created paths for me in the world of the pipe organ, it is certainly one of the most unique and (welcomingly!) unexpected blessings I have had the pleasure of experiencing.

I was first put into contact with Mr. Robert Garst in mid-January, when my organ teacher, Dr. Ray Adams, sent me a text about a one-rank Moller pipe organ that needed a new home, and Mr. Garst, having heard

about me through various AGO events I was involved in, found me a favorable candidate to pass the instrument on to. Needless to say, I was ready to go right then and there. I gave Mr. Garst a call and we discussed the instrument and some of the logistics.

But, I knew I had to play my cards right, in order to convince my family that (with permission) I *could*, in fact, fit another organ—what would be my sixth at home, plus a baby grand piano—in the house. But, in typical fashion, my mother and grandparents were enthusiastic about the prospect, and we set to preparing to get the instrument.

I visited Mr. Garst's home, where the organ was, a few weeks later, and we spent many hours of the afternoon looking at the instrument, getting to know one another, and discussing our shared interests—only one of which, among many others, was the pipe organ.

According to the history recounted to me, the rank of pipes in question was originally part of a larger, six-rank Moller that resided in a hospital in the early 20th century. Like an unfortunate number of other organs at the time, tragedy eventually struck this instrument in the form of fire.

The portion of the old organ that survives (this one wind chest and rank of pipes) owes its existence to some thoughtful souls who rushed it from the building as the flames closed in. The surviving part of the organ was cared for, and eventually returned to working condition by Mr. Garst with a

new air assembly, new electrical equipment, and a MIDI connection for playing.

So, while it wasn't going to be a restoration project, it was going to be a project to disassemble, transport back home, and return it to playability. Even so, I like a good challenge, and when was I going to get offered anything like this again?



So, the organ bug had once again bitten—my intentions were set, and I agreed to take the instrument. About two weeks later, I, my mother, stepfather, and grandfather returned with a pickup truck, a minivan, and a trailer. The organ was coming home.



Also included in the deal were a few other fun things: two keyboards from a parted-out console, two more crates full of assorted pipes, and a pristine, fully-functional 25-note set of Deagan chimes. The chimes were rescued by a young Mr. Garst and his father after

they were found in a dumpster covered in paint. Mr. Garst recounted to me how he and his father stripped off the ugly white paint, restored the chime rods and electronics, and built a new case for the whole assembly.



The extra pipes consisted of some upperwork from a pedal mixture, a few central notes from a rank of open flues (which I believe to be principals or perhaps a narrow flute), and—my favorite—a nearly complete harmonic trumpet.

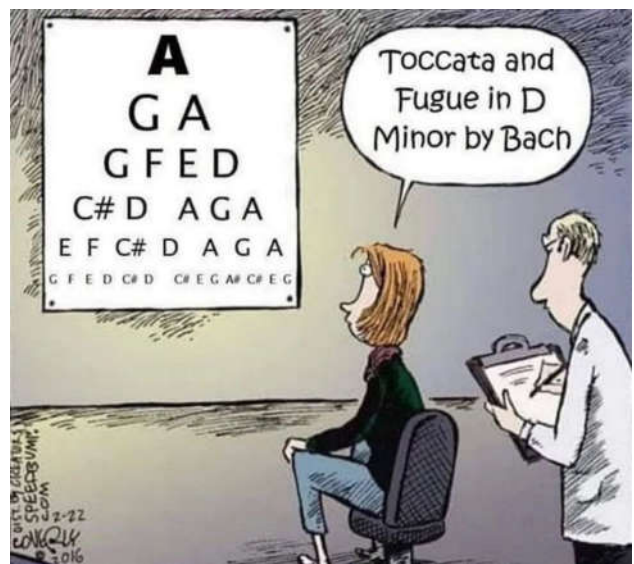
The week after the organ came into my care, I unloaded the pipes from their crates and set to work putting the wind chest on its stand and the pipes back into their proper positions. The chest only had 61 pipes, but Moller had drilled 73 wind channels to provide for an extension. So, from the old mixture pipes I sourced out these upper 12 notes to have a complete six-octave, one-rank organ. I also happened to discover that the boots of the Harmonic Trumpet are the right size and will fit in the same chest...so for anyone in the Sebastian area, it's probably not the Rapture you're

hearing.

I spent another afternoon hanging the chimes, which now reside at my church (First Baptist Church of Fells-mere) and are used weekly. They have added a whole new dimension to our worship and have already been very popular...I can't wait till Christmas.

The organ currently sits dormant until I have a good amount of time to rewire the cable and figure out the logistics of hooking up the air assembly, and until I have a few of my other ongoing projects wrapped up. Nonetheless, it has been an exciting and enjoyable endeavor, and a real blessing to make new connections and find new ways to enjoy music.

I would like to thank my mother, stepfather, and grandparents for their encouragement and enthusiasm, and Mr. Robert Garst, once again, for his generosity and encouragement. I solemnly swear that with all due diligence I will enjoy and take care of this wonderful gift.



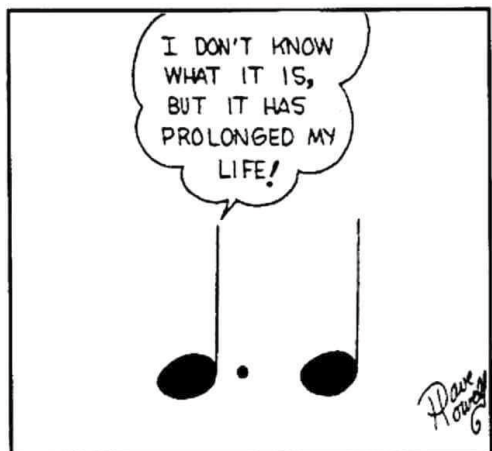
Other News About Joey Rumberger

Dr. Ray Adams, Joey Rumberger's organ instructor, will be taking Joey to the Noordbroek Organ Academy this summer. Joey auditioned and was accepted - the first high school student they have ever allowed to attend.

Dr. Adams had gone to the Academy a couple of years ago and describes it as fantastic. He looks for Joey to come back with the knowledge of early music through the Baroque Era. He will have the opportunity to play many instruments and to perform. They have also put in a request to see the famous Haarlem organ on the day before they return to the US.

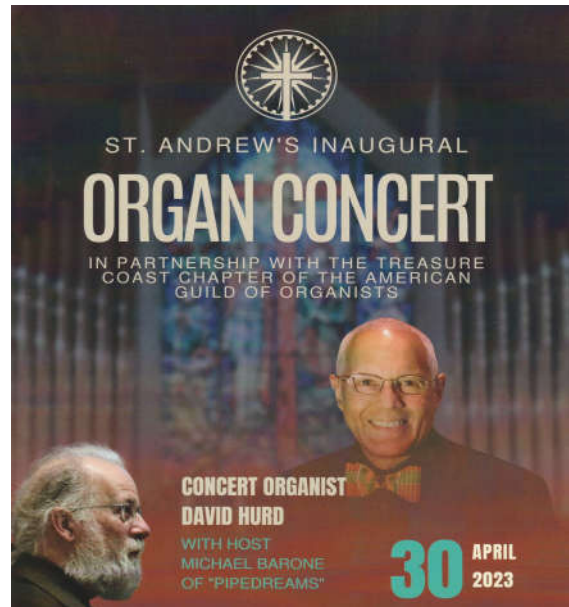
The Noordbroek Organ Academy is an annual week-long event that hosts graduate level and semi-professional organists. The Academy includes seminars, lessons and hands-on experience, and culminates in recitals performed on historic organs. These include the Schnitger organ in Noordbroek and various others close by.

We are delighted that our colleagues will experience such a rich adventure, and wish them Godspeed!



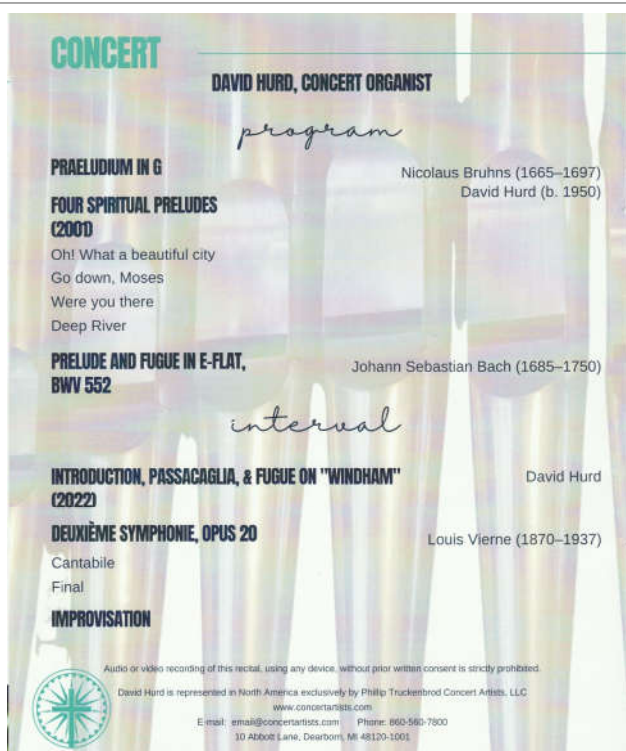
St Andrews Inaugural Concert

It was a full house on Sunday afternoon, April 30, at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. The occasion was the inaugural concert of their new A.E. Schlueter organ. The artist was David Hurd; also participating in the program was Michael Baron, the host of the radio program, "Pipedreams."



David Hurd played an impressive program of music by N. Bruhns, JS Bach, L Vierne, and two program entries of his own compositions, plus an improvisation at the conclusion of the program on the two hymns, "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today," and "Lift Up Your Voice And Sing."





Following the program, Michael Barone welcomed some of the interested youngsters who attended the event to the organ console. He introduced them to some of the organ's features, and oversaw them as they stepped on low C with the big 32' reed drawn, and tried out other stops. Perhaps a fire may have been kindled in the heart of one of those kids!



The program was followed by a reception in the church's fellowship hall, with a lovely assortment of appetizers and sweets, along with some drinks. Everyone enjoyed not only the afternoon snacks, but the lively fellowship as well.



It was a wonderful way for the community to be introduced to the Treasure Coast's newest pipe organ. We look forward to hearing the organ again on May 21, when members of our Treasure Coast Chapter of the AGO will perform the annual "Members Recital."

If you are going to perform for our Members Recital, please contact our Dean, Steve Giddens, with information about the piece(s) you will be playing so he can get the program ready.

And contact Tom Goetz for an introduction to the instrument, a dedicated memory for your use, and practice times.



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.

Correction:

The archive listing of all our "TCCAGOers of the Month" in last month's newsletter incorrectly listed Joseph Rumberger twice and omitted Joseph Parr.

You can find the article on Joseph Rumberger in the February 2022 issue, and the article on Joseph Parr in the March 2023 issue.

Organ Trivia:

Q: What pitch levels constitute a "cornet?"

A: 8', 4', 2 2/3', 1 3/5' (Flues)

The Great Musical Machine: Origins Of The Pipe Organ

(From an article in "Science Encyclopedia")

The early history of European music is well entwined with the history of Christianity. At the very center of their mutual development stands the pipe organ.

The organ and the music written for it reached a pinnacle of importance during the seventeenth century, but one must look to developments during the Middle Ages to understand how the organ came to be a part of the structure—literally—of the major Christian churches. The pipe organ was both the most important musical instrument and, along with the clock, the most complicated machine of the late Middle Ages and Renaissance.

The term "organon" was first used by Plato and Aristotle to denote any kind of tool; only later did it come to refer specifically to the well-engineered assembly of pipes and bellows that make up the musical instrument known in English as the organ.

The invention of the organ in antiquity is credited to Ctesibius, an Alexandrian engineer of the second century b.c. This instrument, and all the organs that followed, was characterized by four basic technological elements: 1) something to pressurize air, such as a lever or pulley-operated pump; 2) a vessel in which to store air; 3) a mechanism such as a keyboard to control air flow; and 4) a series of different sized pipes across which the air can be directed to produce musical tones.

Ctesibius's machine was praised in classical accounts for its impressive use of hydraulic principles, rather than for its musical qualities. However, two centuries after his invention, many references to organs and organ playing began to appear.

Organs were a common feature in Roman life, providing music for the various spectacles of theatre, circuses, banquets, and other public events. *(continued in upcoming newsletters)*



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