

The Treasure Coast Chapter of The American Guild of Organists



Monthly Newsletter

June 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

As I write this, we await the meeting that will elect Anthony Baron as the new Dean for the upcoming season. Anthony was unable to attend the Members Recital, so we postponed the changing of the guard. Paul Ives has been our Treasurer for many years and he has asked to retire from the position; and Tom Goetz has graciously offered to serve. All that will be voted in accordance with our bylaws at a meeting that will be announced soon. We will all want to thank Paul for his commitment to our chapter.



If you were unable to attend the Member's Recital at St Andrews Episcopal Church in Ft Pierce, you missed a memorable event. We had

about sixty attend. Tom Goetz hosted, as well as planned the order of the program. It couldn't have been better, as the program built to a rousing finale. If you'd like a copy of the program, feel free to email me and I'll send you one.

After the pandemic, it has been a really good year for our chapter. I've learned a lot serving as Dean. For one thing, I've learned patience, something I pray for daily. If I expected entire membership participation and held you all to that standard, it didn't happen. But then, we all have responsibilities with our churches and events, our families, our practice times, and still have time for ourselves. Whenever I felt the stress this year, Jack VanderPlate was always there to talk sense and for that I'm grateful. Even our southeast district leader called me recently to give support for an event she missed. That meant a lot too.

As to me, I'll continue subbing when called. Presently, I'm with the Presbyterians for three months. The Catholic Church called and asked I play while their new musician has a new baby. I've agreed to play the

Saturday Mass, an early Sunday Mass, then run down the street to the Presbyterians. This is doable.

For those of you who didn't attend the recital, I spoke of each one of us using our talents to serve. Whether you play the organ, the piano, sing, or attend the various events with your support, you are serving yourself, your community, and your Creator. Churches are in desperate need of musicians and the opportunities are there. You just have to step up to the plate.

I ended the intro Sunday with a comment I made to one of the cantors. I said "it's too bad good deeds don't get you into heaven".

And she said, "Actually the Catholics believe they do". Yeah!

Keep Practicing!

Steve Giddens
Dean TCCAGO



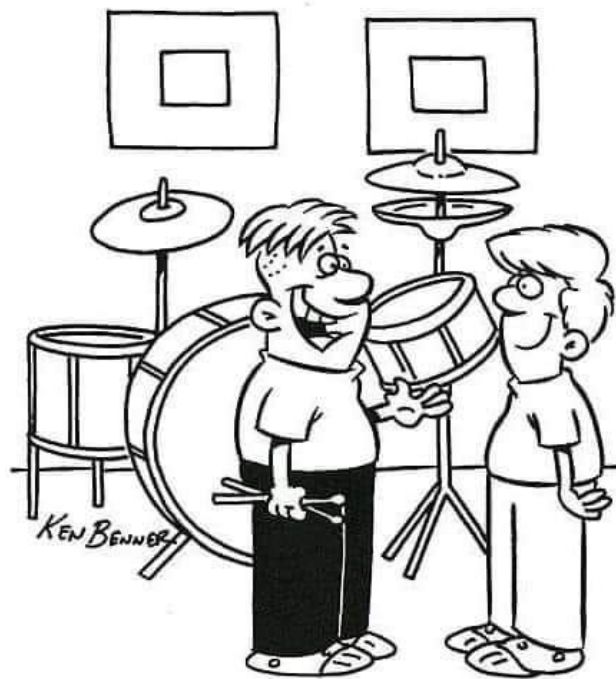
"Before I heard you play it, that used to be my favorite piece."

TCCAGOer of the Month

We are very sorry, but there is no "TCCAGOer Of The Month" this go 'round. Hopefully we can learn more about our members in upcoming newsletters.

However, the newsletter will be taking a "summer break" for the months of July and August. When the newsletter resumes again in September it will have a new editor: Steve Giddens, who is stepping down as dean but stepping up to give Jack VanderPlate a break after his two years of serving as founder and editor.

So if you have information, pictures, or events of musical interest be sure to get them to Steve so he can use them in the newsletters. He will appreciate your help!



"My dad says that I'm so good. I don't need to practice anymore."

2023 Members Recital



On Sunday, May 21, a nice crowd gathered in the sanctuary of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Fort Pierce. The occasion was the annual Members Recital of the Treasure Coast Chapter of the AGO. It was to be the second time in just a few weeks that we would hear the music coming from the church's brand new A.E. Schlueter organ. And this time, eight of us would be playing it.

I only heard one phone ringing, and fortunately it was before the recital began. And it belonged one of the women sitting right in front of me!

She started fumbling with it, and obviously didn't know how to turn it off. I gently tapped her shoulder and asked if I could help.



She handed me her phone with a sheepish look, and explained that it belonged to her husband who had just died a few months ago. I expressed condolences and asked if she wanted me to put it on "Airplane" mode. She looked puzzled until her neighbor said, "That will keep it quiet during the concert." She smiled and said, "Yes, please."

The incident served as yet another reminder to me to withhold judgment instead of assuming the worst. This woman's husband had never gotten her a cell phone, and until she inherited it knew nothing at all about how to use it. But here she was trying at an advanced age. So good for her!



The recital was, in my opinion, the best overall recital our chapter has offered to the public since I became a member some ten or eleven years ago. (I missed a few during those years, so there may be wiggle room

for some disagreement.) The colors, nuances and power of the instrument were showcased beautifully by a varied program exploring virtually all the resources of the instrument.

I found it especially enjoyable to hear the progress of the two “Joeys” who were and are TCCAGO scholarship students. We should all feel a bit of pride in the fact that our scholarships are helping talented students to move forward towards making organ performance a feasible part of the future they can imagine for themselves.

Our outgoing dean, Steve Giddens, not only performed for the recital but also catered a nice table of goodies for the reception that followed the recital.



The friends I attended with invited the Rumbergers and myself out to dinner following the recital. We had a lovely dinner with spirited conversation during which I learned a lot about Joey and his family, and came to appreciate how much they all supported each other. We had an absolutely delightful time.

When music is a part of your life, life becomes very rich indeed... on many levels!

--J VanderPlate, editor



Thank you Treasure Coast Organist Guild!

And so I sit here as May celebrated the Ascension of our Lord on Sunday, which really happened on Thursday the 18th. I recall that afternoon at 4:00 p.m. We sit in the historic Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church which first held services in 1893 in the Fort Pierce Hotel. I was given a 212 page history of the parish.

We sit before the mighty silver diapason pipes of the A.E. Schlueter pipe organ and are aghast at the splendor. The multifaceted design fully supports worship, with a facade and case that provides visual enhancements of the chancel. They say the acoustics give back to the listener what is aurally supportive of the organ.

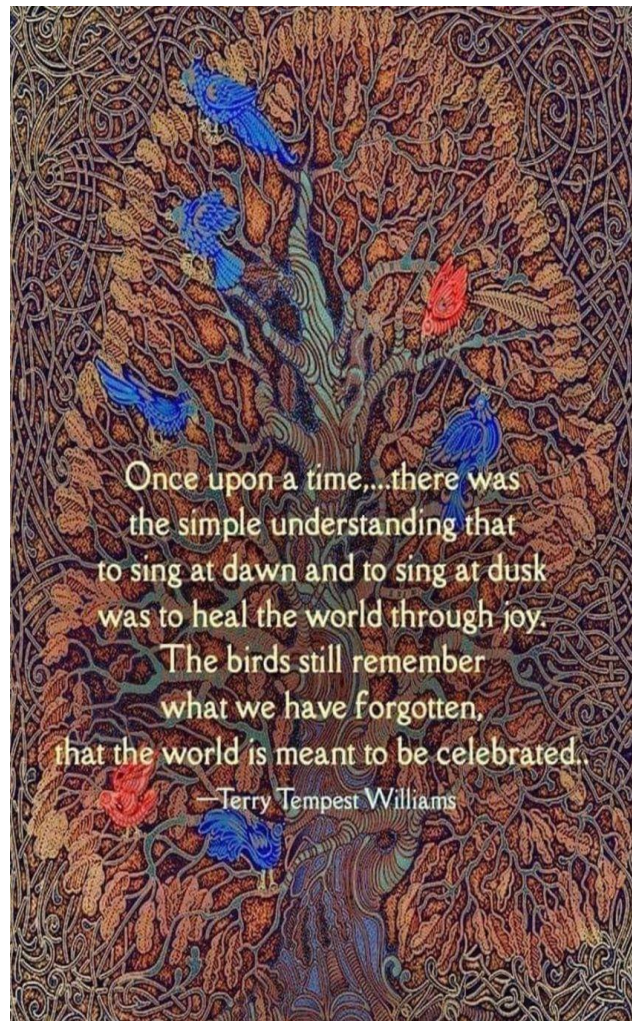
This reflection is to thank organists (in order of performance) Ryan Kasten, Jack VanderPlate, Joseph Rumberger—current organ scholar of the Treasure Coast Chapter, Steve Giddens—dean of the chapter, Brady Johnson, Ray Adams—a Vero Beach legend, Thomas Goetz—organist at St. Andrews, and young Joseph Parr for their musical gifts to the community.

One has to be present to get the "live" vibrations and feel the ecstasy of this heavenly, haunting, holy mysticism. Like magic it enters one's ear, and then the other. As the very young maestro described the last rendition, this program was "fantastic!"

How long will it be until I experience again such suites, variations,

voluntaries, fantasies, fugues, and Bach himself. Ever?

Thank you God
And thank you TCCAGO
Raymond Huddle -
a guest at the recital



News From Our Members:

Dan and Pat Kroger are happy to announce the birth of their first granddaughter, Maya Kroger, born to David and Nupur Kroger of Temple Terrace, Florida. She was born on April 26th at 6 pounds and 10 ounces. Baby, Mom and Dad are all doing well.

SO GLAD I GREW UP



DOING THIS

NOT THIS

@classicalmusic.daily



The Great Musical Machine: Origins Of The Pipe Organ

(From an article in "Science Encyclopedia;" continued from last month's newsletter)

Ctesibius's organ and other early Roman instruments used water to maintain air pressure in the pipes. But bellows became more common than water systems sometime around the second century a.d. Some fragments of Roman organs have been recovered by archaeologists, but most of our evidence about them comes from textual descriptions and numerous artistic depictions.

There is no evidence of the existence of organs in western Europe from the fifth to the eighth centuries. The Byzantine Empire centered at Constantinople, however, continued the secular use of Greco-Roman musical instruments, including the organ.

The organ was re-introduced to the West in 757 when a Byzantine leader

sent an organ as a diplomatic gift to Pepin, father of the great King Charlemagne. This organ, with an elaborate system of pipes, stops, and bellows, was celebrated as an engineering marvel, and was used for public rather than religious ceremony.

Although the historical record is incomplete, it seems that by sometime in the ninth century, organs had become a common element in Western European musical culture.

Most of these early medieval organs were used in strictly secular settings. Small, simple organs that could be carried, known as "portative" organs, appear in many illustrations from medieval manuscripts—the portative organ was often used as a symbol in such illustrations to represent music quite generally.

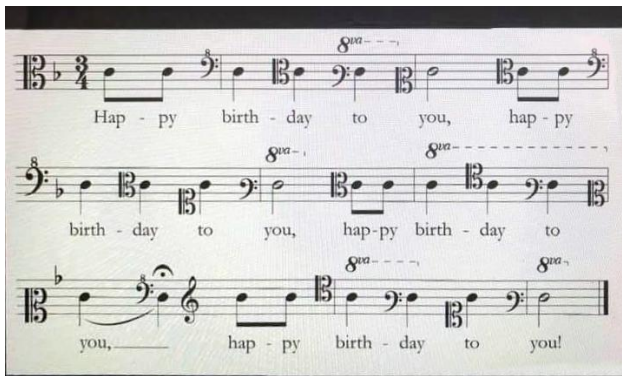


But these organs, which featured a small number of pipes and a hand-operated bellows, could play only a single melodic line and had a limited range of volume and pitch. They disappeared by the sixteenth century,

replaced by more versatile instruments for performing ensembles and accompanying secular singers.

These larger organs, called "positive" organs, were still moveable but significantly more complicated in their construction, featuring multiple rows of pipes and a keyboard. They required two players, one to operate the bellows, and one to perform the music. The bellows systems were quite complex and used an array of weights to control air pressure. Existing music manuscripts suggest that by the fourteenth century, there was a thriving tradition of chamber music written for such keyboards.

The article about the pipe organ's history will be continued in future newsletters



Organ Trivia:

Q: What piece by Virgil Thomson incorporates triple pedaling?

A: "Pange Lingua"



Correction:

The dean thanked some of the people who make the TCCAGO go in the Dean's Message of the May newsletter. He regrets that he failed to mention one who ought to be recognized. Brady Johnson is doing fine work chairing the Scholarship Committee, and we thank him for his service.

STUDIES SHOW LISTENING TO MUSIC WHILE WORKING INCREASES PRODUCTIVITY

unless

you are a musician, in which case you will be able to do absolutely nothing else but strictly analyze the music you are listening to down to the very last sixteenth note



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