

The Treasure Coast Chapter of The American Guild of Organists



Monthly Newsletter

December 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



It's December. But don't pull out the Christmas music just yet. That is unless you're of the persuasion that allows for it. No, we are in Advent.

The season of Advent in the Christian calendar anticipates the "coming of Christ" from three different perspectives: the physical nativity in Bethlehem, the reception of Christ in the heart of the believer, and the eschatological Second Coming. And I don't know

about you, but I've got scores of music that celebrates just that. Beautiful music that reflects the exciting time of Advent.

Last month, I had the opportunity to attend Marco Flores' Majestic Grand Piano Concert. It was a brilliant solo performance on his Steinway concert grand. The program included works by Bach, Beethoven, Albéniz and Chopin. The technique of Bach and Beethoven, the complexity of Albéniz and the emotion of the Chopin Nocturne and the Heroic Polonaise was extraordinary. The crowd erupted in standing ovations. Bravo Marco!

Our next event will be at St Marks Anglican Church in Vero Beach on January 2nd at 6 pm. This is a member's recital of Christmas music and the proceeds benefit the scholarship fund. Please send me your selection ASAP to secure a place on the program. Remember, there is no piano at the church. Organists, soloists, choirs and instrumentalists welcome.

This is a busy month for us. Whether you play the organ, piano, sing or lend your support, be sure you take advantage of the many programs in our community.

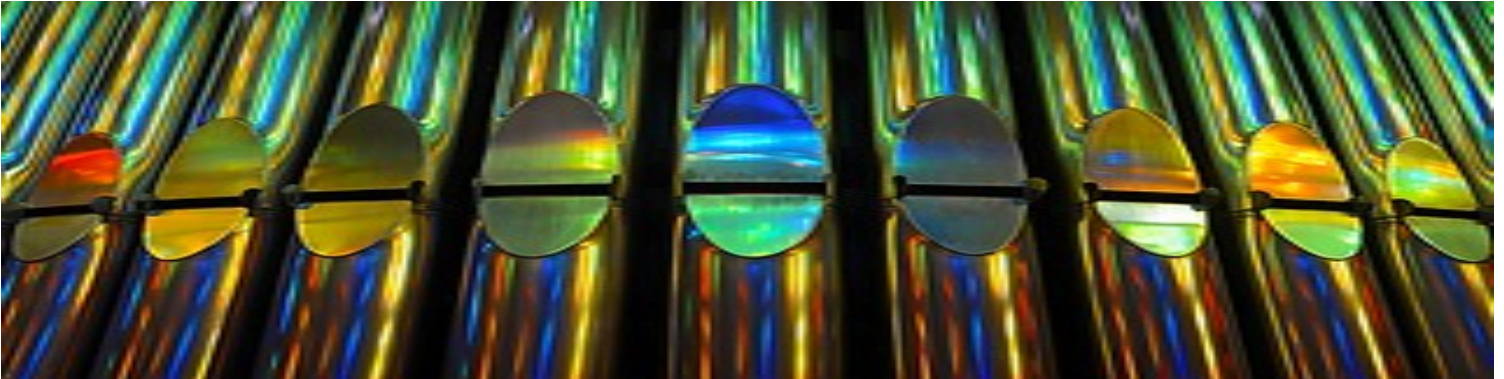
On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Treasure Coast Chapter of the AGO, we wish you and yours Holiday Blessings, Joy & Peace, Love & Warmth, Wonder & Hope, and a very Happy New Year.

Keep Practicing.

Steve Giddens
Dean TCCAGO



TCCAGO Chapter Lunch
Ocean Grill Vero Beach
Thursday, December 7th 12:00 Noon
Last Chance this year to
RSVP to scgiddens@hotmail.com



Seated Left to Right: Paul Ives, Tom Goetz, Rachel Carter Murphy & Brady Johnson

Standing Left to Right: Tom Hall & Steve Giddens

Samaritan Center Soup Bowl Function at Community Church of Vero Beach

TCCAGO'er of the Month



Rachel Carter Murphy comes from a long line of church musicians, spending her childhood in South Charleston, W. Virginia, in the Pentecostal Holiness Tradition. As soon as you could grip something or make a “c” with your hands, you were either sitting at the piano or playing guitar, so her musical exposure was early and almost exclusively sacred, including country gospel, bluegrass and traditional hymns.

After moving to Parkersburg, W. Virginia, she joined school choirs and started piano lessons in the 4th grade, exposing her to more genres of music.

When she arrived at Marietta College in Ohio, intent on studying International Business with an Asian Studies minor, she auditioned for a music department scholarship, teaching herself Cesar Franck’s “Panis Angelicus” using recordings and choral music experience to learn the Latin. During freshman registration day, as she was standing in line to register, Danel Monek, Chair of the Music Department, offered to help her register. Upon looking at her schedule she asked, “What does this have to do with International Business?” and he replied, “Oh no, you’re a music major”. The rest is history.

She finished her Bachelor of Arts in Vocal Performance and a Certificate in Vocal Pedagogy in 2009 and went on to Ohio University for a Masters of Music in Vocal Performance. Another influencer, Genady Meirson, creator, show runner, and pianist of the Russian Opera Workshop of the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia, PA.

After graduate school, Rachel spent two summers at the Academy of Vocal Arts, learning Russian Opera and Romances and singing for William Stone, Benita Valente, Mikael Eliassen, Tim Ribchester, Donald St Pierre and Laura Ward. One of her favorite moments was singing the title role of Francesca Da Rimini by Rachmaninoff. This past May, she was chosen as a semifinalist at the Classical Singer Competition in San Francisco, CA.

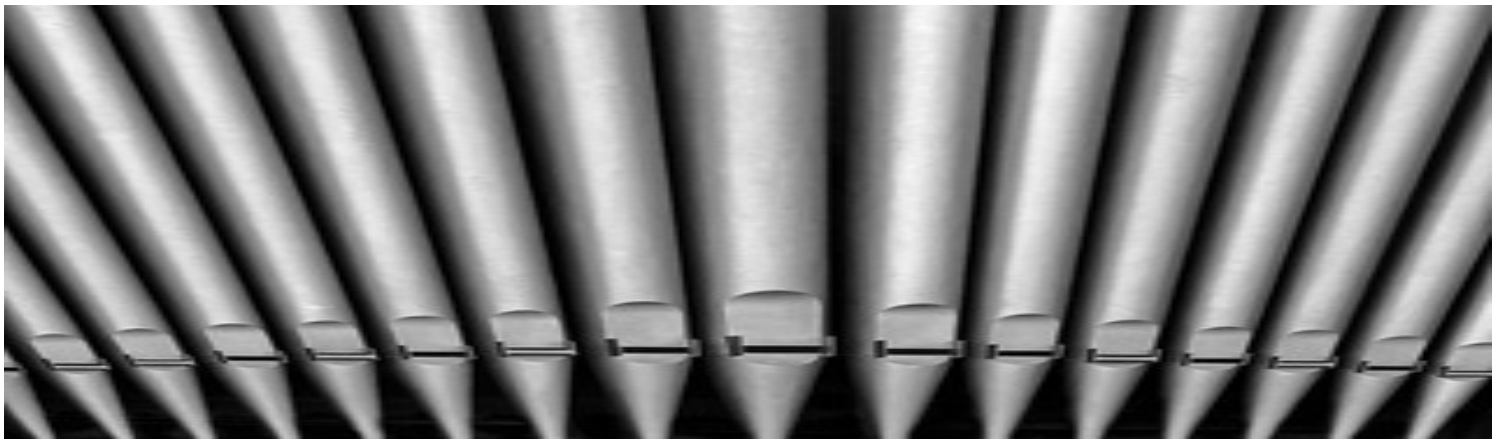
Presently, Rachel is Resident Soprano at The Community Church of Vero Beach and directs the Handbell Choir. One of her favorite musical instruments is the Erhu, a two stringed bowed instrument from China. There is a concerto written especially for the Erhu, called Butterfly Lovers. Her favorite musical piece is Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, 18th Variation. Conducting and handbell music arranging is a guilty pleasure.

Rachel would like to see the TCCAGO work to become more welcoming to "friends of organists", bring back Phantasies and Fugues, and have events off season. She feels strongly that our chapter needs to have a bigger presence in the community, so that people know who we are.

IF YOU CAN READ THIS



THANK A MUSIC TEACHER



JOB POSTING

Beginning January 2, we will be in need of an interim Music Director until we have time for the search committee to do their work toward preparing to post for interviews. Our expectation is that we will need a person or persons through April.

We are looking for an organist/pianist who can direct the chancel choir. There is one, 1 1/2 hour rehearsal weekly and warm up before the Sunday morning 10 am service. The choir anthem would be selected by the director with input by the pastor, based on the sermon/scripture for the week. Required time would be 4 - 7 hours a week.

Other areas that would be a "plus" but not required: leading 2 Handbell Choirs (5 octaves) and a brass ensemble (6 individuals). Required time would be 9 -12 hours a week for both handbell choirs, less for one handbell choir. The handbell position could be a different interim person.

We want to be as flexible as we can. Interim pay is negotiable based on the number of weeks contracted to lead music.

Rev. C. Alexis Talbott, pastor
Sebastian United Methodist Church

pastoralexistalbott@gmail.com

C - 786/301-4684

O - 772/589-5230

Advent

Poetry & Organ Series

Thursdays in Advent at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary



December 7

Sean Sexton

Poet, Rancher, Artist, Author.

Our Poetry & Organ Series curator will present brand new verse written this Summer and Fall.



December 14

"Poetry in Song"

Rachel Carter Murphy, soprano
featuring "*Weihnachtslieder*", a song cycle
with poetry and music by Peter Cornelius



December 21

Rev. Dr. Anna V. Copeland

Our Senior Minister will present poetry about
Christmas from around the world.



With

Andrew R. Galuska, organ



Our Board meets the first Monday of every month by Zoom. For minutes of our meetings, contact Dan

Peace, Hope, and Joy
A Christmas Celebration Concert

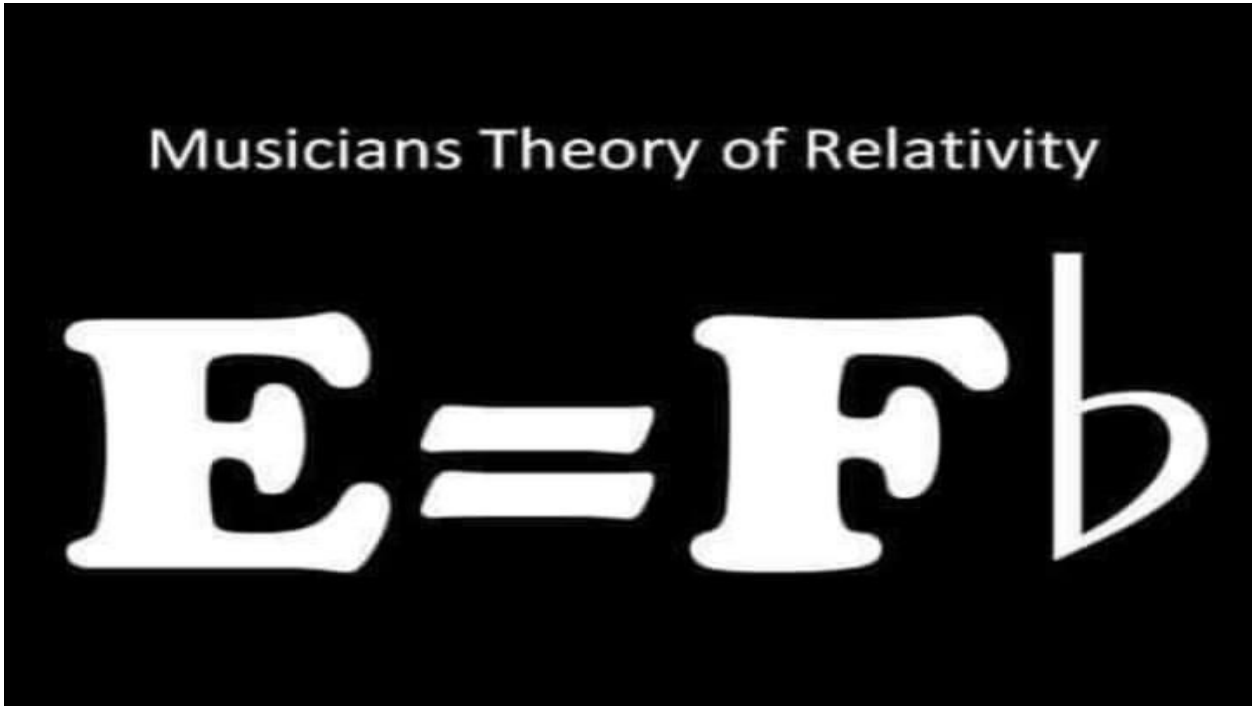
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 AT 7:00 P.M.

FREE-WILL OFFERING

Savor the Sounds of the Season with
the Music Ministry at The Community
Church of Vero Beach!

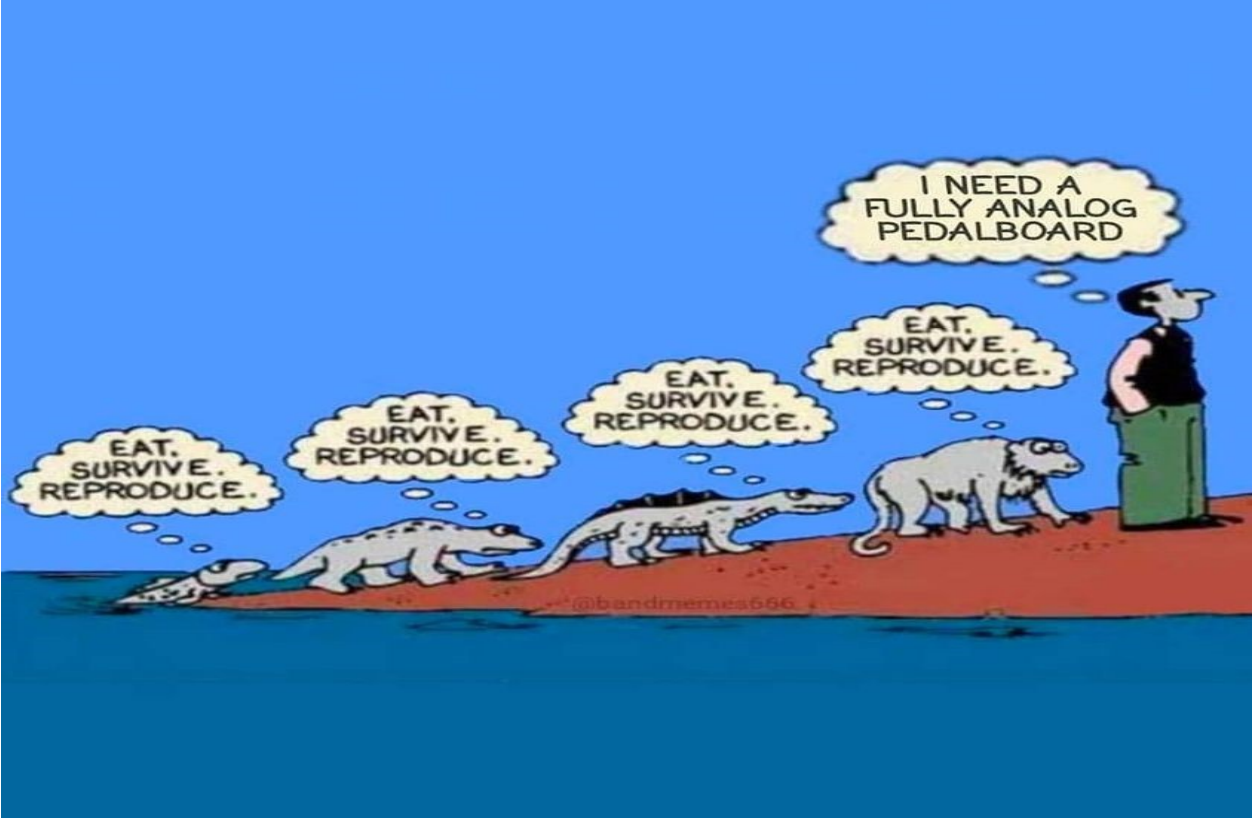


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Tuesday, January 2, 2024
6:00 PM Annual Christmas Recital
St. Mark Anglican Church of Vero Beach
Hosted by Kathleen Knott

For practice times contact Kathleen at kfknott@gmail.com
(Monday and Saturdays are best)





It's not too early to begin planning your trip to San Francisco for the 2024 National Convention! The AGO has secured a deeply discounted rate of \$169 per night at the National Convention headquarters hotel, the San Francisco Marriott Marquis in the SoMa (South of Market) district.

The hotel is now accepting reservations.

Registration for the convention will open in November.



TCCAGO Officers for 2023–2024

Dean:	Steve Giddens
Subdean:	Anthony Baron
Secretary:	Dan Kroger
Treasurer:	Tom Goetz
Board Member :	Jerry Myers
Scholarship Chair:	Brady Johnson
Chaplain:	Rev. Dr. Michael Carter
Webmaster:	Claire Klein