

The Treasure Coast Chapter of The American Guild of Organists



Monthly Newsletter

February 2024



With February comes Valentine's Day, and what better way to observe it but by a "love letter" from our TCCAGO'er of the month, Ursula Rosenberg. Many of you are aware that Allen Rosenberg was very active in our community, a member of the chapter and a wonderful organist. His history is outstanding. His wife, Ursula, is a terrific person; sharp, intelligent and quick witted. Recently, I sat down to lunch with her and I'm excited to share their bio with all of you. I had the honor of meeting Allen when he and Ursula attended a member's recital at Trinity Episcopal while Dr Neal Campbell served as Dean. Make no mistake about it, they were soul mates who will forever be remembered as a team.

There are two events this month that aren't to be missed. First, Jason Roberts comes to Trinity Episcopal in Vero Beach, February 8th at 3:30 pm. If you missed Jason last year, I urge you to mark this on your calendar. You will not be disappointed.

Next, we have Mark Herman coming to First United Methodist Church of Ft Pierce, February 18th at 4:00 pm. I cannot wait to hear him on their new organ. Mark adds a variety to our event season that you probably won't hear elsewhere.

The Christiaan Teeuwsen Workshop and Concert in March has been cancelled due to a family medical condition. We plan to reschedule the event for next year's season. Please, if you have concert schedules or other items you'd like me to announce, don't hesitate to send them to me. The TCCAGO newsletter is here for all of you. Each month it goes out to not only our membership, but to the community as well.

Keep practicing.

Steve Giddens
Dean TCCAGO



TCCAGO Chapter Lunch

Ocean Grill Vero Beach

Thursday, March 7th, 12:00 Noon

RSVP to scgiddens@hotmail.com

TRINITY
Episcopal Church & School

ORGANIST IN RECITAL

JASON ROBERTS

Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 3:30 p.m.

**Trinity Episcopal Church
2365 Pine Avenue
Vero Beach, FL 32960**

Free Admission



**Trinity Episcopal Church is pleased to
present this recital in collaboration with
The Treasure Coast Chapter of the
American Guild of Organists.**

For More Information
email abaron@trinityvero.org or call 772-567-1146



Mark Herman is one of America's busiest theatre organists, performing concerts and silent film presentations across the US and abroad. In 2012, he was named the American Theatre Organ Society's Organist of the Year and is the youngest person ever to receive the prestigious honor. Previously, he was overall winner of the 2004 Society's Young Theatre Organist Competition.

Mark has been featured on several episodes of American Public Media's *Pipedreams* program, and has performed for countless conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society, American Guild of Organists, and Organ Historical Society. On the international stage, he has toured in Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, & the United Kingdom.

Sunday, February 18, 2024 4:00 p.m. Mark Herman
First United Methodist Church of Ft. Pierce
Hosted By Jerry Myers



conflict resolution is
only a half step away...



TCCAGO'er of the Month

URSULA ROSENBERG



Ursula was born in Düsseldorf, Germany. She is a talented singer herself, but when she speaks of her life, her thoughts are with the love of her life, Allen Rosenberg. Allen was a musical prodigy. While studying piano, he was 12 when the priest of his Episcopal church told him he was to play a funeral on the organ. No need to play pedals. After that experience, Allen told his parents he was to study organ. His organ studies began with Duncan Phyfge at the Choate School in Wallingford, CT, at the age of 14. After military service in the US Air Force flying for the Strategic Air Command, Allen received his Bachelor of Science in Musicology at Columbia University. While teaching Music and Drama at Valhalla High School in White Plains, NY, he received a Master of Science in Music Education at the University of Western CT and completed post graduate studies at the University of Miami.

Rosenberg also attended Yale University and the Julliard School where he studied conducting with Jean Morel and Abraham Kaplan and organ with Vernon de Tar. He served as summer organist and choirmaster at St Thomas Church in New York City while completing organ studies with William Self.

Allen received his PhD in Music Theory and Composition from Hamilton University in 2005. His dissertation was on Olivier Messiaen, the French composer, organist, and ornithologist who was one of the major composers of the 20th century. Ursula met Messiaen, when Professor Almut Rössler invited her to a concert week in Düsseldorf.

While serving as summer organist at the famous St Maximilian Catholic Church in Düsseldorf, Allen presented weekly organ concerts for 17 years in addition to playing for the daily Mass. In 2007, Allen Rosenberg, along with Frederick Swann and Paul Jacobs, was invited from the US, to play at the Saint Stephan's Cathedral in Passau, Germany, on the largest church organ in the world, in a special concert marking 50 years of cultural exchanges between the US and Germany.

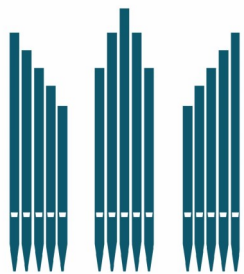
Coming from Germany, Ursula, on a visit to Naples, Florida with friends in 1986, was invited to a party at her hotel and reluctantly decided to go. While in the lobby, in came Allen, and after striking up a conversation in which he told her he was an organist, she was invited to dinner. It was love at first sight. Allen invited her to drive up to New York to attend an event at his parents' home. And the rest is history.



They married January 16, 1988 and moved to Marco Island, about 20 miles south of Naples, FL, then Naples, Miami and Weston. All the while Allen played at various churches in Miami, Ft Lauderdale and taught at Broward Community College.

After moving to the Treasure Coast, Allen served at St Andrews Episcopal Church in Ft Pierce. He was commissioned to write the Waldron Requiem for mixed chorus, organ, strings, soloists and tympani, by David Blackburn in 1992. The World Premiere of his composition was performed at St. Andrews, St Mary's, Stuart; the Lyric Theatre in Ft Pierce; St Christopher, Hobe Sound; Maltz Jupiter Theatre and in Ratingen next to Düsseldorf, Germany.

Rosenberg was the founder, conductor, and Artistic Director of the St Lucie Chorale, who were invited to sing in the Royal Albert Hall in London, England. Allen was at St Mary's for 16 years. Later he played at Amazing Grace, an Anglican church for 10 years, a time that Ursula recalls fondly. Ursula cared for Allen until his death in 2021. Living on the island in Ft Pierce, Ursula continues to support our chapter. She can be seen attending our events and has many friends here and abroad.

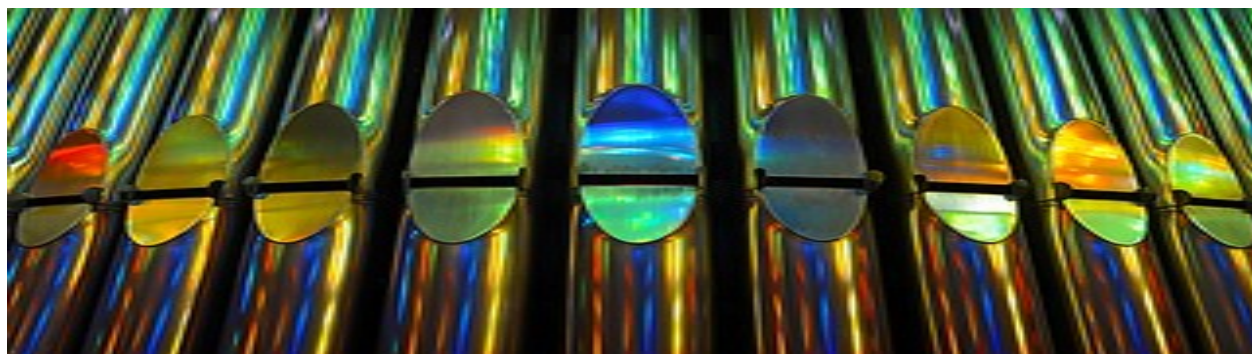


WHAT WILL YOU PLAY ON WOMAN COMPOSER SUNDAY?

The AGO will once again observe Woman Composer Sunday March 10, 2024. Members are encouraged to include music by women composers in their services and other performances on that day.

WOMAN
COMPOSER
SUNDAY

If you're not sure what you might play or are seeking new repertoire, the AGO Task Force on Gender Equity arranged for three works by women composers to be reprinted in *The American Organist*



THANK YOU FOR BEING AN AGO MEMBER

**Is your AGO membership current?
To manage your membership, renew, change your
address, find an AGO member, and more just go to
the national website:**

www.agohq.org

**If you need assistance with your membership, please
call
212-870-2310.**



For sale: Organmaster men's organ shoes size 10 M gently used for \$30. Please contact Mary Ingui at 772-581-0166.



"Always remember: the only certainties in life are death, taxes, and clapping between movements."

ADVENT LUTHERAN 2023-2024 CONCERT SERIES



7550 N. Wickham Rd.
Melbourne, 32940

BRENDA PORTMAN

Phone 321-259-8515
www.adventbrevard.org

“Award-winning Organist, Composer, Arranger”

Sunday, February 25, 2024 3:00 p.m.

Brenda Portman is a multiple-award-winning concert organist who is frequently in demand across the United States as a recitalist, teacher, and composer. She is the Resident Organist at Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, executive director of the church’s renowned Organ Concert Series, and organ instructor at Xavier University. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in organ performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, where she received a full scholarship as first prize winner of the Strader Organ Competition and served as teaching assistant for the organ department. She also has music degrees from Northwestern University and Wheaton College.

Dr. Portman has received numerous prizes in organ competitions, and in 2014 she was the only American woman to compete in the Canadian International Organ Competition in Montréal. Her performance there led to a collaboration with acclaimed Canadian composer Rachel Laurin and a recording on the 88-rank Casavant organ of Hyde Park Community UMC in Cincinnati: "Pilgrimages: Organ Music of Rachel Laurin Inspired by Sacred Themes," which was released in 2016 on the Raven label. Dr. Portman has organ and choral works published by Lorenz/Sacred Music Press, Augsburg, and others. She has won awards in several competitions for organ or choral compositions, and she has been commissioned to write new compositions for various churches, solo and duo performers, and the American Guild of Organists.

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



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.

Conference Registration open now.



TCCAGO Officers for 2023–2024

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