

The Treasure Coast Chapter of The American Guild of Organists



Monthly Newsletter

October 2024



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

It's hard to believe we're into October. And with that is the announcement of our season's events. While there are some events that are to be announced when the details are ironed out, there are others that are definite.

First, the Phantasies & Phugues Event on Sunday, October 27, 2004 at 4 pm, Christ By The Sea UMC, Vero Beach, hosted by

Marcos Flores. This is an important event to us as our free will offering goes to our scholarship fund. It'll be great fun and you don't want to miss it. I'll be calling some of you.

The rest of the events are listed in this newsletter. Make note of each event and plan to attend. There are no events in November and December as we ready ourselves for the holidays.

I have friends visiting Iceland and they always send me photos of organs in their travels around the world. I've posted a picture of Hallgrimskirkja in Reykjavik, Iceland. They have two organs.

Also posted in this newsletter is a King's College Event at Bethesda By The Sea in Palm Beach, April 2025. The King's College Choir is so popular that I'd be surprised if tickets are still available. But it's worth a try!

Our TCCAGO'er of the Month is Sandra McNiff. When I became a new member and was looking for a place to practice, it was Sandy who came to my rescue and introduced me to several churches. She has been a terrific friend and knows everyone. I'll be accompanying her and Kerry Powell at the Phantasies & Phugues Event. Don't miss it!

Keep Practicing,

Steve Giddens

Dean TCCAGO

Phantasies & Phugues

Christ By The Sea UMC

3755 Hwy A1A, Vero Beach, FL 32962

Sunday, October 27, 2024 at 4:00 pm

FALL FESTIVAL!

Costumes encouraged

(please no gore or inappropriate attire)

**Donations go to the chapter's scholarship program*



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

Or

**To become "Friends of the Chapter"*
send \$25 to TCCAGO, PO Box 643814, Vero Beach,
FL 32964**

**this special membership does not include the AGO magazine or voting rights*



TCCAGO Chapter Lunch

Ocean Grill Vero Beach

The luncheon will be

October 2, 2024 at 12 Noon

RSVP with Steve Giddens

(next luncheon Nov. 6th)

TCCAGO EVENT SCHEDULE

For the 2024-25 Season

***SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2024 at 4 pm—Phantasies & Phugues
Christ By The Sea UMC, Vero Beach, FL (Oct 15th deadline)**

***SUNDAY, JANUARY 5th, 2025 at 4 pm—The Music of Christmas
St Mark's Anglican Church, Vero Beach, FL**

***SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025 at 4 pm—Charles Callahan
Hosted by Dr Neil Campbell *Workshop/Demo Membership
Recital (Jan 10th deadline)**

First United Methodist Church of Ft Pierce, Ft Pierce, FL

***March 2025 Organ Recital w/guest organist TBA**

***April 2025 Austin Organ Demo at St John of the Cross, Vero
Beach, FL TBA**

***May 2025 Members Recital at Trinity Episcopal Church, Vero
Beach, FL TBA (followed by election of officers 2025-26)**

TCCAGO'ER OF THE MONTH

Sandra McNiff

Sandy started in music at 8 years old, when she joined the church choir at St Anne's Episcopal Church in Lowell, Massachusetts. Dr. John Ogasapian was the organist and choir director and was very encouraging and enthusiastic. He taught the Junior Choir members to sing Gregorian chant which later led to the Senior Choir.

While Ogasapian was her first voice teacher, it wasn't until she was in her thirties that she studied



with the influential Charlotte Russell, using the Jo Estill technique, which has been very helpful throughout her musical journey. "She helped me discover what I could do with my voice and brought me into the world of oratorio".

Dr. Allen Rosenberg, the music director at St Mary's Episcopal Church in Stuart, Florida at the time, and his wife Ursula, became dear friends and worked with Sandy regarding sacred music performance. Mark Jones, the former music director at Immanuel Lutheran Church coached her into singing operatic arias, most significantly when she sang as the featured soprano soloist for the Verdi Requiem.

Gary Parr also taught Sandy for several years, and with him, she had the opportunity to sing at St Peter's Church in Vatican City.

While her career started in the field of speech and language pathology, presently, she is a cantor, guest singer and member of many choral groups and most proud that she's still learning. Singing has blossomed into a second career.

"As a lyricist, I've had some of my poetry set to music. Tom Mills, a former music director at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Palm City, used my poem, *God Will Comfort* and Tom Bold, former music director and organist at St Bernadette's in Port St Lucie, used my poems *Lilacs*, *Carnations* and *New England Crocus*".

It's hard to determine one favorite piece, since she likes art songs so much, but *Das Veilchen*, by Mozart, with text by Goethe, captures a wide range of emotions in three verses.

Lately, Sandy is enjoying traveling. Her son, daughter-in-law, and grandson live in Arizona, and she visits as often as possible. Her sister, brothers, and several other family members live in New England, so she tries to get there during the fall to see the colors.

"I keep working on my skills and improving with each performance. I sing for the glory of God and it's only right to use the talents God gives us".

"It's been great to have met so many people through the TCCAGO and the opportunity to have performed. I enjoy the events and listening to the talented performers".

As St Francis of Assisi said, I want to be an instrument of peace and part of that is bringing happiness to family and friends.



HALLGRIMSKIRKJA
LUTHERAN PARISH CHURCH IN REYKJAVIK, ICELAND



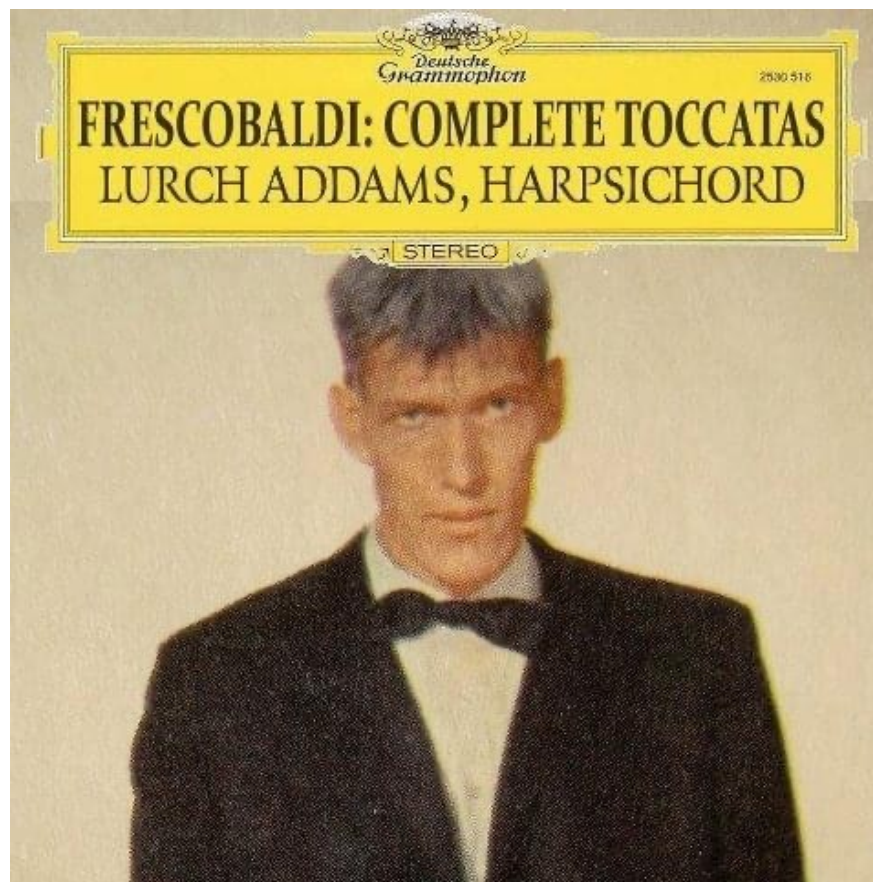


Concerts by the King's College Choir:

- **Date:** Tuesday, April 8, 2025 & Wednesday, April 9, 2025
 - **Time:** 7:00 p.m.
 - **Location:** The Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea

Open Rehearsal with Daniel Hyde and the Bethesda Choir:

- **Date:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025
 - **Time:** 10:00 a.m.
 - **Location:** The Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea





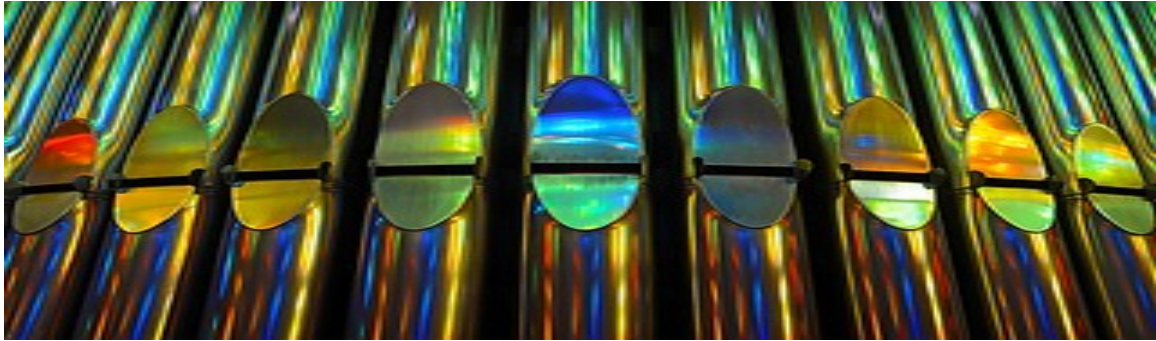
SAINT JOHN *of the* CROSS

Roman Catholic Church

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**THE EXCITEMENT CONTINUES AS WE AWAIT THE
ARRIVAL OF THE NEW AUSTIN PIPE ORGAN WITH A
DEMONSTRATION SOMETIME IN APRIL 2025**



Before coffee:

Adagio. ♩ = 84



After coffee:



TCCAGO Officers for 2024—2025

Dean:	Steve Giddens
Subdean:	Jerry Myers
Secretary:	Dan Kroger
Treasurer:	Tom Goetz
Board Member :	Kathleen Knott
Scholarship Chair:	Brady Johnson
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