

The Treasure Coast Chapter of The American Guild of Organists



Monthly Newsletter

January 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



As I write this, it's just on the cusp of 2025. I just got word that our TCCAGO founder, Don Ingram, has passed away. In tribute to our leader, I've reprinted his TCCAGO'er of the Month from last April '24. I had the privilege of sitting next to him at one of the chapter lunches at Ocean Grill. As sharp as a tack, his only limitations were getting around a little slower. He was getting ready to go north, accompanied by his partner, Eugene Tobey.

Whoever thinks that a church organist just goes out 15 minutes before services and sits at the console and plays away, then turns around and waltzes out the door, only to get paid the big bucks, needs to sit in time out for a considerable while. For me, it is spending 24/7 at the church and practicing for 3-4 hours at a stretch. I kid you not. If I thought for one moment that a regular gig was like subbing, I was sorely mistaken. It takes awhile to learn a new organ. Takes time to get in a routine with the service. Knowing the choir helps. Say hi to the pastor. Take a breath and do it again and again and again. Oh, and don't forget Christmas Eve. When my pastor asked what I did for Christmas, I said I was here, at the church.

Get ready for our second event of the season, an Epiphany Concert at St Mark's on January 5th, 2025, days away. I understand a couple of our scholarship recipients will play. Can't wait.

Happy New Year! Keep Practicing!

Steve Giddens
Dean TCCAGO

Treasure Coast Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
~ presents ~

Epiphany Organ Concert

Featuring the Music of Christmas & Epiphany

Sunday, January 5, 2025
4:00pm

Saint Mark's Anglican Church
1795 45th Street
Vero Beach, Florida

Free-will offering

Donations accepted for the A.G.O. Student Scholarship



TCCAGO Chapter Lunch

Ocean Grill Vero Beach

**The next luncheon will be
January 8, 2024 at 12 Noon**

RSVP with Steve Giddens



TCCAGO EVENT SCHEDULE

For the 2025 Season

***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 Event
Hosted by Dr Neil Campbell *Workshop/Demo
First United Methodist Church of Ft Pierce, Ft Pierce, FL**

***SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025 at 4 pm—Members Recital at Trinity
Episcopal Church, Vero Beach, FL
(followed by election of officers 2025-26)**

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

TCCAGO'ER OF THE MONTH

DON INGRAM

DONALD INGRAM was born in Hinsdale, in southwestern New York on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 1932. He took his first piano lessons at age 4½, and he began playing for Sunday School at age 9, and church (piano) at age 10. His first paying organ job was at age 12 in the Presbyterian Church, Cuba, NY.

In 1949, at age 17, he helped bring about the installation of a pipe organ at his home church, the Hinsdale Methodist Church, on the 100th anniversary of the church building. He gave a recital at that time and fifty years later performed on the newly refurbished instrument at the 150th anniversary.

While in high school, Don commuted to Buffalo, NY for organ lessons, and to Alfred University for carillon instruction. After graduating valedictorian, he was accepted at both Syracuse University and the University of Michigan. He chose Syracuse as a scholarship student and from there received Bachelor ('54) and Master of Music ('60) degrees in organ. His teacher and good friend was Dr. Arthur Poister, one of the outstanding organ professors of the twentieth century. During student days, Don also worked as Organist/Choirmaster (O/C) at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Cazenovia, NY, and while there designed the specification for a new Schlicker pipe organ which was installed in 1954.

Upon graduation, Don served as O/C at the Church of the Transfiguration in Cranston, RI, and in 1956 he was hired as Sales Manager and Staff Organist of the Schlicker Organ Co. in Buffalo where he was employed through 1963. During these years he designed specifications for a multitude of pipe organs. Over the years he has continued to serve as consultant for many new and rebuilt instruments.

As O/C at Kenmore Methodist Church from 1957-62, he prepared specifications for a new pipe organ installation in 1961 (and returned for the fiftieth anniversary recital in 2011). While at Kenmore he welcomed several guest conductors including Dr. Helen Hosmer, founder of the Crane Chorus at the Crane School at Potsdam State, Dr. Richard T. Gore from the College of Wooster, Ohio, and Robert Shaw, founder and conductor of the Robert Shaw Chorale.

Donald moved on to St. Paul's Cathedral (Episcopal), Buffalo in 1962. During his tenure there he founded the noonday organ recital series and the Buffalo Choral Society. His cathedral choir of men and boys sang at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and Trinity Wall Street, NYC, the National Cathedral in Washington, with Robert Shaw, and with the Buffalo Philharmonic under Josef Krips, and Lukas Foss. Amongst other accomplishments there, he commissioned the Harold Darke *Communion Service in A minor* (sometimes referred to as "Drake in A" at K Street).

After personnel changes in Buffalo, Don was invited in the summer of 1968 to St. Croix, US VI, but by the end of the year, he was called to Albany, NY. During his brief time in St Croix, he became a child welfare caseworker. This experience was to later help qualify him as a social worker in Massachusetts.



While O/C at St. Peter's Church, Albany from 1969-78, Don supervised the installation of two new pipe organs (Schlicker) in the choir and gallery. From 1978 to 1982 he was O/C at St. Paul's, Troy, NY (the Tiffany Church). Rather than replace or revamp the 1921 Austin at St. Paul's, however, repairs undertaken were restorative of this classic "symphonic" organ. The 1980's saw appointments at Christ Church, Baltimore, Pilgrim Lutheran Church Warwick, RI, and St. Elizabeth's, Sudbury MA. In 1989 he took the O/C position at historic Trinity Church, Newport, RI, and then in 1994 he assumed that post at Trinity Church, Vero Beach 1994-99. It was here in Vero Beach that he designed the new Harrison and Harrison pipe organ which was installed in 1997 (and thence moved to the new church in 2005).

However you wish to count, this was the fifth or sixth new organ installed in churches where he served (depending on how you count the St. Peter's installation). After fifty-five years, Don "retired" at the end of 1999 to his home on the Mohawk River in New York. **BUT**, retirement positions have included: interim at The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Trinity United Methodist Church, and First Presbyterian Church, Albany, and Trinity Church, Newport, First United Presbyterian Church, and once again at St. Paul's, Troy.

The American Guild of Organists has been a major interest and influence in Don's career. Besides being founding Dean of the Treasure Coast Chapter, he served as Dean of the Buffalo and Eastern NY Chapters. He was Region II Chairman for three terms and member of the Executive Committee of the National AGO. He was largely responsible for bringing the national AGO convention to Buffalo in 1970 and he was chair and co-chair of two Regional AGO conventions (1979, 2003) in Albany.

He gave his first recital at the Washington National Cathedral in 1957. This was followed by over four decades of recitals there. After the 1957 recital, the late Day Thorpe, then Music Critic of The Washington Evening Star, observed there had been desultory talk about the organ and replacing it: "Ingram showed an odd type of salesmanship when he made the old girl sound like a million dollars."

Don has presented recitals in 30 states, Canada, US Virgin Islands, England, Scotland, and Sweden, and has been honored by Trinity Church, Vero Beach, and St. Paul's Church, Troy, with the title Organist Emeritus.





CHRIST BY THE SEA PRESENTS 2024-2025 Concert Season

CHRIST BY THE SEA 2024-2025 CONCERT SEASON

Sunday, Nov 24, 2024 • 3 PM Two Piano Concert

Young piano star Becca Harrison will join Marcos Flores for their first two-piano performance together. Two concert grand pianos and 20 fingers will be beautifully synchronized to create double the emotion, double the excitement, and double the virtuosity display from the inspiring two-piano repertoire by great master composers of all times. Tickets available.

Saturday, Dec 14, 2024 • 4:30 and 7 PM Christmas Cantata

Please, join us to celebrate the Birth of our Savior Jesus Christ set to a full musical production with a mixed choir, a full orchestra, liturgical dancers, dramatic scenes, and uplifting narration! Featuring singers and musicians from many colleges in FL. Free will offering appreciated.

Sunday, Feb 16, 2025 • 3 PM & 7 PM Broadway Concert

World-renowned opera star Susan Neves, along with rising star soprano Diana Flores, and acclaimed tenors Edmund Nalzar and Fernando Silva will be delighting the audience with highly enjoyable music from some of the best musicals from Broadway. Marcos Flores on the piano, Pete Hengen on the bass, and Gully Shell on percussion will provide the orchestration with lights, cameras, and action for the 2 performances available for this very popular concert. Tickets available.

Sunday, Mar 30, 2025 • 3 PM Piano Quintet Chamber Concert

Violinists Henry Hutchinson and Matt Stott, violist Viera Borisova, cellist Ana Ruth Bermúdez, and pianist Marcos Flores once again will captivate our audience with beautiful, spicy and uplifting chamber music. Enjoy this exquisite international string quartet joining forces with the majestic concert grand piano for a truly memorable musical experience. Tickets available.

Saturday, Apr 19, 2025 • 4:30 and 7 PM Easter Cantata

Please, join us to experience the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ set to a full musical production with a mixed choir, full orchestra, liturgical dancers, dramatic scenes, and uplifting narration! Featuring singers and musicians from many colleges in FL. Free will offering appreciated.

**Cantatas are free admission with a free will offering appreciated.*

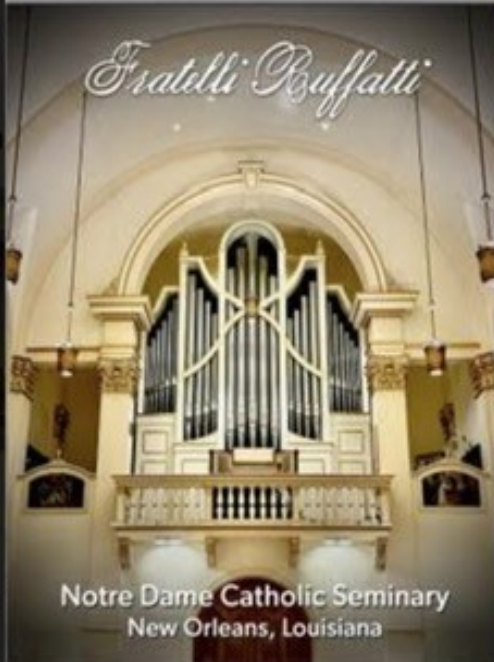
**Tickets for the concert series will be available starting on June 1, 2024 online at cbtsumc.org/concert-series, at the church office Monday-Thursday 9am-4 pm, and at the door.
\$30 adults and \$10 youth.*

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Tim Newby is a member of our chapter



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12 janvier

Emmanuel HOCDE
église Saint-Éloi, Paris -
cathédrale Sainte-Trinité, Laval

13 juillet

Benoît DUMON
cathédrale Notre-Dame
et Saint-Arnoux, Gap

9 février

Pascal VIGNERON
directeur du Festival Bach, Toul

10 août

Frédéric DESCHAMPS
cathédrale Sainte-Cécile, Albi

9 mars

**François BRULIN
& Antoine TRONQUO**
concertistes internationaux

14 septembre

Shin-Young LEE-LATRY
concertiste
international

13 avril

Pierre QUÉVAL
église Saint-Ignace, Paris
cathédrale de Nantes

12 octobre

Michaël GABORIAU
sanctuaire Sainte-Anne, Auray

11 mai

Jean-Baptiste MONNOT
abbatiale Saint-Ouen, Rouen

9 novembre

Emmanuel DUPERREY
concertiste
international

15 juin

Carolyn SHUSTER-FOURNIER
église Sainte-Trinité, Paris

14 décembre

Marc SACRISPEYRE
organiste titulaire

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Or

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 Trinity Lutheran Church of SW Florida, Port Charlotte
 Peace Lutheran Church, Dunnellon
 Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Fernandina Beach
 Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal Church, Lecanto
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From Ryan Kasten —

The first major program with the new Austin organ will be the Duruflé Requiem on All Souls' Day, and I will do the dedicatory recital probably in January 2026. The organ is to sit and get acclimated for at least 6 months before we do any more programs besides weekend masses to be sure we have worked out any kinks and subtle voicing issues.



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
Chaplain:	Rev. Michael Carter
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