



NOTES FROM A LOFT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
TAMPA CHAPTER
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

February 2022

Sylvia Chai
Dean

Stephen Allen
Sub Dean

Van Howard
Secretary/Treasurer

Stephen Banyra
Dennis Douglas
Jack Rain
Tony Sievert
Edwin Taylor
Members At Large



The Hymns Plus Workshop was held Sunday, January 9, 2022, at 4 pm.

Seated: Edwin Taylor, Presenter and host at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Tampa where he is Director of Music and Sylvia Chai, Dean Tampa Chapter. Standing (l to R): Dale Kitchenmaster, Sondra Shields, Michael Dougherty, Van Howard, Fred Lane, Stephen Allen, Tim Newby, Jack Rain, Sara Kennedy.

Edwin Taylor, Tampa Chapter Board member, played a variety of his refreshing and original compositions during his talk on selecting, playing, singing, composing, and reharmonizing hymns. Edwin has composed over 31 hymn tunes, many more hymn reharmonizations and descants, and well over 350 compositions in all, mostly for the church. Edwin presented a fascinating discussion using his own compositions to illustrate his talk.

Edwin is available for commissioned work. If you have a text which you would like Edwin to set to a tune you may reach him at edwinrtaylor52@gmail.com.

NEXT EVENT AARON TAN RECITAL

Sunday, February 13, 2022, at 6:00 PM
Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church
3501 W. San Jose St. Tampa, Florida 33629

Aaron is truly a most remarkable person!! Not only is he pursuing a PhD in Organ performance from the Eastman School of Music; Aaron holds a Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering from the University of Michigan



Concert organist Aaron Tan is a leading young artist in North America. In October 2021 he was awarded First Prize at the 2021 Canadian International Organ Competition as well as several additional awards for performances of specific works at the competition (The Sir Ernest MacMillan Award for Canadian competitors, the award for best performance of a work by Marcel Dupré, and best performance of a work by a Canadian composer). Originally from the Philippines and Canada, he is an organist and pianist who enjoys multi-faceted careers as a musician and a materials scientist.

Aaron's primary musical tutelage has been with John Tuttle, David Palmer, Joel Hastings, Martin Jean, and David Higgs. His musical upbringing started on the piano and later added the violin and organ. He received his Associate (ARCT) diploma in Piano Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, Canada at the age of twelve and went on to earn his Licentiate (LTCL) and Fellowship (FTCL) diplomas in Piano Performance from Trinity College of Music, London, England, at 13 and 15 years of age, respectively. When he was 18, he also completed his ARCT diploma in violin performance.

In 2004, under the auspices of the Barwell Scholarship (awarded to pianists interested in learning the organ), he began organ studies with John Tuttle while concurrently entering as a freshman in Engineering Science at the University of Toronto. Since then, he has gone on to complete both Associate (ARCCO) and Fellowship (FRCCO) diplomas in organ from the Royal Canadian College of Organists (RCCO).

In addition, Aaron has also won numerous noteworthy competitions and scholarships including First Prize at the American Guild of Organists 2018 National Young Artist Competition in Organ Performance, the Toronto RCCO Young Organists Competition, the Osborne Organ Competition of the Summer Institute of Church Music (Ontario), the RCCO's National Organ Playing Competition, the Charlotte Hoyt Bagnall Scholarship for Church Musicians, the Lilian Forsyth Scholarship, the 2012 Poland International Piano Festival Competition, the West Chester University Organ Competition, the Arthur Poister Scholarship Competition, and the Sursa American Organ Competition.

He recently received both MM and MMA degrees in organ from Yale University. Aaron is currently pursuing doctoral studies at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester New York. Aaron also holds a Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering from the University of Michigan and worked there as a postdoctoral researcher in the University's Laboratory for Complex Materials and Thin Films Research, studying the dielectric and thermal properties of polymer thin films. Talk about talent!

Welcome to New Member Rebecca Steinke

Rebecca Steinke is the Director of Music at St. Lawrence Catholic Church on Himes Avenue. She's originally from Plant City, Fl. but has been living in San Diego for the past 25 years, where she was very involved with opera, church music, and vocal performance. Rebecca built her own website: rebeccasteinke.com and the genesisoperatheatre.com website. We are thrilled to have Rebecca join our Tampa Chapter AGO.

Thanks in large part to the generosity of the Margaret McAlister Family, our chapter can provide the **Margaret McAlister Organ Scholarship** to qualifying young organ students. If you are interested or know of a young student who could qualify, please contact **Van Howard** at 813-857-8800 or vbhoward@gmail.com for more information.

Future Events

March 13, 2022, at 3pm - recitalist Erik Wm. Suter, former organist at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., at Peace Memorial Church, Clearwater co-sponsoring with the Clearwater Chapter

February 20 at 3pm - Three Organ Spectacular! Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Largo, Fl. (see enclosed flier)

March 22, 2022 - 23rd Annual Bach Birthday Bash downtown Tampa

March 30, 2022, at 7pm - Spring Sacred Music Concert, Jesuit High School featuring Domenico Zipoli Organ Scholarship Students who are commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Conversion of St. Ignatius and the 400th Anniversary of the Canonization of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

April 2, 2022, from 11:00 am-12:30pm - "Working with Professional and Amateur Instrumentalists" Workshop

April 3, 2022, at 3pm - Seipp/Sheets Duo Trumpet & Organ Concert at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Largo (see enclosed flier)

April 30, 2022 - visit and tour the new Schoenstein organ at the Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe w/St. Petersburg AGO Chapter [to be confirmed]

May 17, 2022 - end of the year special event

**Looking forward to seeing you Sunday February 13, 2022 at 6pm for the Aaron Tan
Recital at Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church!**

Sylvia Chai

Sylvia Chai, Dean
Tampa Chapter AGO



Three Organ Spectacular!

Sunday February 20, 3pm
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
455 Missouri Ave.
Largo, FL



Seth Bott, John Lowe, and Shawn Thomas present an afternoon of music arranged for three organs including the *Tocatta and Fugue in d minor* by J.S. Bach, *Concerto Gregoriano* by Pietro Yon, and a rousing rendition of Sousa's *Stars and Stripes Forever*. Free and open to the public. A freewill offering will be received.



Seipp / Sheets Duo Trumpet & Organ

Workshop

*Perspective: Success in Working with
Professional and Amateur Instrumentalists*
Saturday April 2, 2022
11:00am-12:30pm

Concert

*Music of Bach, Handel,
Mussorgsky, and more!*
Sunday April 3, 2022
3:00pm



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
455 Missouri Ave.
Largo, FL

Co-sponsored by the Clearwater Chapter of the American Guild of Organists