



# NOTES FROM A LOFT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
TAMPA CHAPTER  
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

**March 2022**

Dear Tampa AGO Members and Friends,

Sylvia Chai  
*Dean*

Stephen Allen  
*Sub Dean*

Van Howard  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

Stephen Banyra  
Dennis Douglas  
Jack Rain

Tony Sievert  
Edwin Taylor  
*Members At Large*

**Fantastic News!!** We are bringing back two of our most popular and noteworthy chapter events, our **Annual Bach Birthday Bash** and our **Margaret McAlister Organ Scholarship Program!** Our Bach Birthday Celebration was on hold during the pandemic and we had no applicants for our Scholarship Program during that time.

**Our 21st Annual Bach Birthday Bash will be held on Sunday March 27, 2022 at 3:30pm at Hyde Park United Methodist Church, 500 W. Platt St. Tampa, FL 33606.** We are looking forward to a WONDERFUL musical event! If you are willing to play, know a choir, soloists, or instrumentalists who would like to participate, please contact Sylvia Chai at 813-390-0911, or email her at: [agio@aol.com](mailto:agio@aol.com).

**Margaret McAlister Organ Scholarships** are available to young people 21 years of age and under. Please see the attached forms to the newsletter distribution to get the guidelines and application. The information can also be found on our website at [www.ago-tampa.org](http://www.ago-tampa.org). You will see a cover letter for teachers and one for applicants. Please download and read them. **Deadline for applications is Monday March 28, 2022.** The **audition for applicants will be Friday night at 7pm April 1, 2022,** at Hyde Park United Methodist Church, 500 W. Platt St. Tampa, FL 33606. We have 15 Young Organists on our Membership roster and most of you are eligible to apply. Send your questions and **applications** to Van Howard at [vbhoward@gmail.com](mailto:vbhoward@gmail.com)

**We are getting noticed!!** Our hard work over the last year and a half has garnered the recognition of national leadership. Our AGO National Membership Chairman, **Elizabeth George** is very impressed that our Tampa Chapter has more than doubled its membership!! Elizabeth is coming to visit our chapter and Board Meeting on Sunday April 3!!! Welcome Elizabeth George! Elizabeth will also be attending the Organ and Instruments Workshop Saturday at 11am-12:30pm at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 455 Missouri Ave. Largo, FL (See the attached flier) and the concert at 3pm on Sunday April 3 also at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. If you would like to meet and greet Elizabeth George, please introduce yourself at the workshop or concert and tell her you are from the Tampa Chapter.

**Saturday March 5, 2022, at 10 am - What the [Choir] World Needs Now is Love** "Implementing Singer Focused Strategies in our Choral Ensembles" presented by Matthew David Clear & Jack Rain, First Presbyterian Church Choir Room, 701 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL. (See attached flyer.)

**March 13, 2022, at 3pm - Erik Wm Suter** is performing an all-Bach program at **Peace Memorial Church**. 110 S Fort Harrison Ave., Clearwater, FL 33756. We are helping to sponsor this wonderful event. Erik Wm Suter served as organist at Washington National Cathedral in Washington, DC for nearly ten years. He has degrees from Oberlin and Yale University where he studied with Haskell Thomson and Thomas Murray. Besides winning many first-place prizes in piano and organ competitions worldwide, he has performed in major organ recital venues around the world. Mr. Suter is a flight instructor as well as a pilot for Southwest Airlines, besides his illustrious organ concert career. For additional information on this concert, please visit [www.peacememorial.org/concerts](http://www.peacememorial.org/concerts).

**Saturday March 26, 2022, at 7pm - Soli Deo Gloria: To God Alone Be the Glory. Lenten Music by J.S. Bach** presented by the Chancel Choir; organist, Jim Sawyers; soprano, Lisa Watson; and Bass-Baritone, Christopher Holloway, at **Grace Lutheran Church**. 3712 W. Linebaugh Ave. Tampa. Call 813-961-8747 or go to [www.gracetampa.org](http://www.gracetampa.org). for more information. (See attached flyer.)

**Sunday March 27, 2022, at 3:30pm - Our 21st Annual Bach Birthday Bash will be held at Hyde Park United Methodist Church, 500 W. Platt St. Tampa, FL. 33606.** Come and invite your friends. (See attached flyer.)

**Wednesday March 30, 2022, at 7pm - A Concert Exploring Jesuit Composers of the Bolivian Baroque Period** in the Chapel of Jesuit High School, 4701 N. Himes Ave. Tampa, FL. The Intermediate Chorus, Advanced Chorus, Chamber Orchestra, and Band will present newly discovered compositions of Domenico Zipoli (1688-1726). Zipoli, who was born in Italy, studied with Scarlatti, and served the Jesuit Church in Rome before becoming a missionary to South America. He became the foremost composer of beginner and intermediate level keyboard and choral music that was designed to teach the most basic building blocks of Western music to the indigenous population, and ultimately create the musical forces to perform the music of the church throughout present day Argentina, Paraguay, and Bolivia.

**Saturday April 2, 2022, from 11:00 am-12:30pm - "Working with Professional and Amateur Instrumentalists" Workshop**  
**Sunday April 3, 2022, at 3pm - Seipp/Sheets Duo Trumpet & Organ Concert at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Largo** (See attached flyer.)

**Saturday April 30, 2022 - visit and tour the new Schoenstein organ at the Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe w/St. Petersburg AGO Chapter**

**May 17, 2022 - end of the year special event**

**A warm welcome to our new Tampa Chapter AGO member Sondra Shields!** Sondra attended Edwin Taylor's presentation at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in January.

### **Job Opportunities**

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church in Zephyrhills is looking for an organist to play hymns and service music. Compensation is \$100.00 per Sunday. If interested, please call Mary Helen Clauge at 813-779-2395.

Piano/organist for a 3-week fill in at First Presbyterian Church in Dade City. If interested, please call Fran O'Leary at 352-206-8240.

**For Sale** - Baldwin Studio II (fantom fingers) \$100.00 or best offer, AGO specifications, Electronic Call Lee: (727) 481-6700.

**Website:** [www.tampa-ago.org](http://www.tampa-ago.org) - Thank you **Michael Dougherty** for your work on updating our Tampa Chapter website!! Thank you also to new member **Rebecca Steinke** who will become our new webmaster! If you have not viewed our website recently, please go to [www.tampa-ago.org](http://www.tampa-ago.org) and check it out!

**Substitute List** - If you are available to substitute, please give your name and contact information to Sylvia Chai at 813-390-0911 or [agio@aol.com](mailto:agio@aol.com) so you can be added to our list.

**Tampa Chapter AGO presented Aaron Tan in a marvelous recital February 13, 2022, on the lovely Casavant organ at the beautiful Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church.**



L to R) Program Presenter Edwin Taylor, Dean Sylvia Chai, Subdean Stephen Allen, Recitalist Aaron Tan, Secretary/Treasurer Van Howard, Jack Rain, not shown Stephen Banyra.

So many wonderful, educational, and fun programs this month. Hope you can avail yourself of at least one! We also hope to see you at the Bach Birthday Bash Sunday afternoon, March 27, 2022, at 3:30pm at Hyde Park United Methodist Church!

*Sylvia Chai*

Sylvia Chai, Dean  
Tampa Chapter AGO