



# NOTES FROM A LOFT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
TAMPA CHAPTER  
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

**September 2021**

Dear Tampa Chapter AGO Members,

Sylvia Chai  
*Dean*

Welcome to each one of you on this fine September day!! This year promises to be one of the best in the history of our Tampa Chapter AGO!! We are thrilled to announce that we have nearly doubled our paid membership just since last year!!!

Stephen Allen  
*Sub Dean*

Your Board has planned a fabulous year of really outstanding organ events and a most awesome kick-off event taking place on September 26, 2021 at Christ the King Catholic Church, 821 S. Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa, FL 33609. We will meet at 6pm in the McLoughlin Center located directly behind the church for a very delicious meal of a variety of tasty choices. Drinks will be provided courtesy of Van Howard. The dinner is free to all of our members and guests as a special tribute to your enduring fine work through this trying pandemic time and a welcome to our new members as well as our returning members! Please come! Feel free to invite your spouse, parents, a friend, whomever you like. Bring your mask. The room is large so we can observe social distancing without a problem. After dinner we will go into the church and upstairs to the choir loft for a champagne reception provided thanks to the generosity of Steven Banyra and Christ the King Church and Music Ministry. Organists will be able to view, tour, and try out the lovely newly expanded 4 manual organ. You don't want to miss this event! This will be the first in-person event our chapter will be having in nearly a year.

Van Howard  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

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

Please call or text Van Howard at 813-857-8800 or email to vbhoward@gmail.com by 9-22-21 to make your reservation.

Some future Tampa Chapter AGO events include:

Nov. 21, 2021 3pm - Organ Concert presented by Organists of the Diocese of St. Petersburg at Christ the King R. C. Church on S. Dale Mabry Highway in Tampa

Jan. 9, 2022 - 4pm-- Hymns Plus Program presented by Edwin Taylor at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Tampa

March 13, 2022- 3pm - recitalist Erick Sutter, former organist at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, at Peace Memorial Church co-sponsoring with the Clearwater Chapter

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

A "Favorite Wedding Music" Fun Showcase  
Plus a Young Organist Event

A most heartfelt welcome to new Tampa Chapter AGO Members: Mr. Kavin Alderman, Ms. Sunny Baik, Dr. Steven Ball, Mr. Dan Bashor, Ms. Frances Johnson, Mr. Chris Malka, Mr. Christopher Phillips, and Mr. Brandon Vennink.

In addition, we have 4 new young organists that have joined the chapter Mr. Aidan Agustines, Mr. John Rozance, Mr. Jason Thrower, and Mr. Andre Botero.

A few of our new members sent me short bios. This will whet your appetite to meet some of these new friends at our first meeting Sept 26 at Christ the King Church.

Kavin Alderman

My name is Kavin Alderman, but my middle name is Sam, and it is what I'm used to being called. I am a student at the University of Oklahoma right now, but I was born and raised in Tampa, Florida, and I studied organ with Dr. Hebert and Dr. Mardirosian at the University of Tampa during my undergrad years.

My undergraduate degree is a B.A. in Music, but now I'm completing two master's degrees simultaneously. I'm the first student at the University of Oklahoma to pursue an M.M. in Piano Performance and Pedagogy at the same time as an M.M. in Organ Performance (with a concentration in church music). To me, it is strange that I'm the first, and that others haven't done something similar.

Dr. Steven Ball



Current artistic involvement in the Tampa Bay Area includes having accepted an Artist in Residence position at the historic Tampa Theatre in addition to currently teaching Sacred Music at Tampa Jesuit and serving as the Organist and Interim Director of Music at All Saints Episcopal Church in Lakeland, FL. I have known the region for a long time, first having visited about 15 years ago during the time that I was finishing my Doctorate at the University of Michigan to conduct research here and interview Rosa Rio regarding her early professional work in motion picture theatre (this was also my introduction to the Tampa Theatre). Since her passing at the age of 107 in 2010, I had become good friends and took over for her silent film performances.

Previous appointments have included several prominent churches and public institutions across the country over the years including as Organist and Director of Outreach (now Emeritus) for the world's largest pipe organ in Atlantic City, at the Cathedrals of Detroit and Philadelphia as well as previously having been on the faculty of the Organ Department at the University of Michigan.

All of my students there are embarking on a very special project this year celebrating the Vatican designated Ignatian Year May 20, 2021 – July 31, 2022 which is a commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Conversion of St. Ignatius and the 400th Anniversary of the Canonization of St. Ignatius of Loyola. As a part of this work, the students have been granted access to a very special collection of scores from the Archive Musical Chiquitos of Concepcion Bolivia which preserves a large body of recently discovered music by Domenico Zipoli--the namesake of the competitive organ scholarship currently offered to students at Jesuit. All of the musical material and directed study covered this academic year will feature prominently as a part of the spring Sacred Music Concert this coming March 30, 2022 at 7:00 PM. This is the first event of its kind on that campus in the exceptionally beautiful and reverberant Italianate Chapel.

Andre Botero

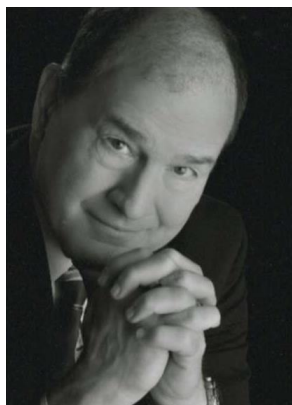
Hello, my name is Andre Botero, and I am a young organist joining the Tampa Chapter for Organists. I am 16 years old, and I attend Jesuit High School in Tampa, FL. Through Jesuit High School's Scholarship Program, I was accepted, both this year and last year, as a Zipoli Scholar, which means that I was hand-selected to learn how to play the organ under Mr. Philip Jakob (last year) and Dr. Steven Ball (currently). In addition, I play for school masses and Sunday masses, accompany the orchestra, and perform at an organ recital every semester.

This is my second year playing the organ, and I have played the piano for 10 years under Mrs. Suzanne Herman, receiving 10 consecutive superiors both in piano solo, and in theory from the National Federation of Music. Last year, I also participated in the Solo and Ensemble for piano in the orchestral category, where I received a superior. I am excited to join the Tampa Chapter of Organists because I will be able to become involved in the local organist community, and I will meet many other amazingly talented musicians. Thank you for giving me this opportunity, and I look forward to my future involvement in the Tampa Chapter of the AGO.

Christopher Phillips

Retired from a career in journalism. He divides his time between and Upper East side Manhattan and Florida. Christopher is returning to his love of organ music by studying for CAGO Certification. Although he will be in NYC on Sept. 26 he will meet us all in person soon.

Dan Bashor, President/CEO - Church Organ Works



Founder, Dan Bashor, began formal piano instruction at the age of 5 and the organ at 9, began playing organ professionally and composing at the age of 13, and continued study of Piano and Organ Performance under a full creative and performing arts scholarship at Colorado State University. Dan became a composer/arranger of choral and orchestral works and producer/director of touring projects and was involved in various radio and television and recording projects.

In 1985 he founded DB Production Services Inc, which became a nationally recognized production company and AV provider of substantial quality for large corporate events in the US and remained as CEO and Head Audio Designer and Engineer for over 30-years. In 2009 he founded Church Organ Works Inc. Along with providing tonal design and voicing for new organs, the company also designs and builds custom speaker systems specifically for the digital organ industry. Because of their extensive skills, the Church Organ Works team are expert in all manner of organ solutions for their customers.

Joined by Josh Bashor, Josh brings his extensive industry-recognized expertise in video and audio recording and editing, pipe organ sampling, computer systems design and control, speaker system design and DSP control, audio/video and live event lighting design, rigging, and CAD design specialties. Josh is highly skilled in project and team management. As the past Chief Operations Officer of DB Production Services Inc, Josh's leadership and customer interaction are invaluable to the success of Church Organ Works Inc, its customers' satisfaction, and the quality of the organ installations, and service support provided.

Brandon D Vennink

I am a board member for the Clearwater Chapter...but excited to see what is happening in Tampa. I would love to be involved with your activities when I can.



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Please call or text Van Howard at 813-857-8800 or email to [vbhoward@gmail.com](mailto:vbhoward@gmail.com) to make your reservations for our Sept. 26th meeting at Christ the King R.C. Church!!

*Sylvia Chai*

Sylvia Chai, Dean  
Tampa Chapter AGO