



Notes From A Loft

May 2023

The American Guild of Organists

Tampa, Florida Chapter

Celebrating 75 Years

ago-tampa.org

FROM THE DEAN

Dear Tampa Chapter AGO Members and Friends,

As my second term of office as Dean of our Tampa Chapter AGO comes to a close, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve you for these past 4 years. We lived through the covid pandemic! We had monthly board meetings and chapter events mostly via zoom for the first two years and live events for the past two years. Our membership has almost tripled! Our young organist membership has skyrocketed. We were able to award four organ study scholarship in 2022 and three organ study scholarships this year, 2023! Thank you to the family of Margaret Smith McAlister for their faithful support and for all those individuals who have donated at our chapter events this year and last year! Thank you, Grace Lutheran Church, for your donation from your Organ Recital in October, and Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church from the January Choral Festival and the April Adam Brakel Recital, and First Presbyterian Church in Lakeland for your donation from "Peculiar Pipes" at Halloween.

Remember to vote when you receive your proposed list of candidates for chapter leadership, which will be emailed to you soon!

On Sunday June 11, 5pm. we will be having a **Tri-Chapter Event!** Members of the Tampa Chapter, Clearwater Chapter, and St. Petersburg Chapter are invited to "Sizzling Summer Shades and Swells" a presentation by Elizabeth George, Chief National Membership Officer. We will have the Installation of New Officers, and a

COMPLIMENTARY DINNER -- colossal shrimp cocktail with chunky horseradish sauce, summer tamed greens, cantaloupe, shaved parmesan, diced strawberries, and blush wine vinaigrette, choice of sliced grilled chicken breast or beef tenderloin medallions, Florida key lime tartlets garnished with leafy mint; freshly squeezed lemon pineapple cocktail.

The event will be at Saint Anne Episcopal Church, 6650 113th Street, Seminole, Florida
Please RSVP by Monday June 5 to shawn@poplargo.org

Warm regards -

Sylvia Chai, Dean
Tampa Chapter AGO
813-390-0911

FROM THE SUB-DEAN

Dear Tampa AGO Members and Friends,

It has been my great honor to serve as Sub-Dean of the Tampa Chapter of the AGO for the last two years and if elected Dean in the up-coming elections I promise to continue to serve the chapter to the best of my abilities.

Your Board worked hard to plan and present a wonderful variety of programs for 2022 – 2023:

- October - “Peculiar Pipes” a Halloween recital (First Presbyterian Church, Lakeland)
- November - Members Recital (Grace Lutheran Church, Tampa)
- January - a choral Festival of Music (Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church, Tampa)
- February - a silent movie presentation at the Tampa Theater with Steven Ball at the organ
- March - the annual “Bach Bash” (Hyde Park United Methodist Church, Tampa)
- April - Margaret Smith McAlister Scholarship Auditions (St. Mark’s Episcopal, Tampa)
- April - Adam Brakel Organ Concert (Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church, Tampa)

There truly was something for everyone to enjoy. As a member of the chapter, which of these programs did you enjoy? Which were not to your liking? What programs would you like to see offered? Your Board welcomes and encourages your input. This is YOUR chapter. I urge everyone to take an active part in its operation.

How do you feel you can best serve the Tampa Chapter of the American Guild of Organists? Inquiring Boards want to know!

Looking to the future with great anticipation, I am

Stephen L. Allen
Sub-Dean



Congratulations to our 2023 Margaret Smith McAlister Organ Scholarship Recipients!!



Left to Right - Christopher Kick, Jack Rozance, Evan Mieles

Upcoming Tri-Chapter Event

June 11th, 2023, 5 pm at St. Anne Episcopal Church
6650 113th Street, Seminole

RSVP to shawn@poplargo.org by June 5th, 2023



Other Announcements

The Oberlin Summer Organ Institute (July 9-15) is inviting young pianists and organists to consider an experience with the "King of Instruments." Did you know that Oberlin College has one of the largest and most diverse collections of pipe organs in the United States? Even if you or your students have never played an organ, please consider joining us this summer for our academy where you can learn the foundations of how to become an organist - along with many other fun activities! For more information, please visit our website or email directly: jmoyer@oberlin.edu



Two manual Allen organ with full pedalboard and two external speakers available. Please contact Tony Sievert for details 813-751-6274.

2022 - 2023 Officers - Tampa Chapter

Dean

Sylvia Chai

Sub-Dean

Stephen Allen

Secretary/Treasurer

Van Howard

Members-At-Large

Steven Ball - 2025

Dennis Douglas - 2023

Thomas Ingui - 2025

Tony Sievert - 2024

Rebecca Steinke - 2025

Edwin Taylor - 2024

Rebecca Steinke, Webmaster

John Matthew Cowan, Social Media Coordinator

Please send any newsletter submission by no later than the 25th of the prior month for the next month's newsletter to Van Howard at vbhoward@gmail.com

Positions Available

Please send available positions to Van Howard at vbhoward@gmail.com along with clear contact information for any inquiries

Substitutes Available

(O - Organist, P - Pianist, O/D - Organist/Director, D - Director, V - Vocalist)

Please send updates or corrections to this list to Van Howard at vbhoward@gmail.com. Inclusion in this list does not constitute the Chapter's endorsement of skills, and thus it encourages interviews with prospective substitutes. Those listed must be a member of the American Guild of Organists.

Mr. Stephen Allen	O/D	(813) 997-7859	Mon - Sat
Mr. Timothy Belk	O/D	(704) 309-0822	Sun, Tue - Sat
Ms. Cheryl Blackwell-Cox	O/P	(813) 465-3332	Sun - Sat
Ms. Sylvia Chai	O/D	(813) 390-0911	Sun - Sat
Dr. Christopher Combie	O	(813) 990-7369	Mon - Fri
Dr. Michael Dougherty	O/D	(813) 624-6768	Mon - Sat
Mr. Dennis Douglas	O	(813) 352-4748	Mon - Sat
Mr. John (Jay) Findlater	O/P	(313) 410-6478	Sun - Sat
Ms. Jan Ellis Highsmith	O	(813) 495-8905	Sun - Sat
Ms. Frances Johnson	O/P	(813) 730-4173	Sun - Sat
Mr. Cal Leferink	O/D	(813) 850-9845	Mon - Fri
Ms. Rebecca Steinke	O/D	(619) 841-8930	Mo, Tu, Th, Fr
Mr. Edwin Taylor	O/D	(203) 947-3497	Sun - Sat
Mr. Kurt Taylor	O/D	(660) 631-9416	Sun - Sat
Dr. Shawn Thomas	O/D	(850) 316-0321	Mon - Sat
Mr. Brandon Vennink	O/D	(508) 208-7774	Mon - Fri
Ms. Sarah Whitt	O	(813) 928-2102	Sun - Sat