



THE



TALLAHASSEE ORGANIST

The Official Newsletter of the Tallahassee Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

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DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear AGO Members and Friends,

Here's hoping that your Holy Week and Easter celebrations were successful—and prayerful. Now that we all have a chance to catch our breaths, we can look back proudly on our achievements this spring. The student performance of Messiaen's *La Nativité* on January 17th at Trinity UMC was a great success and boasted a very healthy attendance. Our student and adult members played quite well for the James Kibbie master class on February 6th at First Presbyterian Church, and we certainly enjoyed Prof. Kibbie's excellent recital the following afternoon. Congratulations are certainly in order, as well as a big thank-you to Dr. Iain Quinn and to our board members, who worked diligently behind the scenes to make it all possible.

Please plan to join us for our final event of the season, a recital by FSU Professor Iain Quinn at First Presbyterian Church to benefit the FSU Organ Scholarship Fund. Cosponsored by the Tallahassee Bach Parley, Dr. Quinn will perform at 3 PM on Sunday, May 15th.

Unfortunately, a few people have allowed their memberships to lapse since they have not paid their dues. Remember that AGO dues may be paid electronically through the ONCARD system (<https://www.agohq.org/membership/join-as-a-chapter-member/>). You may also visit www.tallahasseeago.org for information about upcoming events.

All the best,

Joe Kraus
Dean, Tallahassee AGO

"The deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of every month!"

Visit your chapter website: <http://www.tallahasseeago.org/>

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Remember that new AGO memberships and renewals are now on a “rolling” yearly basis: in other words, you have twelve months of membership from the time you actually pay your dues. To take care of this, access the ONCARD system to pay electronically or to download a membership form to pay by postal mail (sent to the National AGO Office). You can search your e-mail for “It’s Time to Renew Your AGO Membership,” or go to this link online:

<http://www.agohq.org/membership/join-as-a-chapter-member/>.

Last spring, the AGO National Council announced new dues rates for all dues categories, effective with the 2015–16 membership year. The new rates are: \$100 for Regular members, \$75 for Special (Senior) members, \$40 for Students, and \$75 for Partners. This is an increase of \$3 in each category, \$2 of which will be retained by the local chapter and \$1 of which will go to National. Renewal notices, which will be sent upon expiration of your current membership dues, now reflect these changes.

UPCOMING AGO EVENTS

On Sunday, April 3rd at 6:30 p.m., there was a presentation by Dr. Iain Quinn, organ professor at FSU, at Faith Presbyterian Church, 2200 North Meridian Road. This was a preview of his planned presentation at the AGO National Convention in Houston this coming summer. His topic was “The Higher Walks of Art: The Development of the English Organ Sonata,” which was illustrated by many slides of music and composers from the 19th and early 20th centuries in England. Refreshments were served to the small but extremely attentive and interested audience. Following the program, the AGO Executive Board met to discuss the January 2017 Sacred Music Conference to be held here in Tallahassee. Details to follow.

On Wednesday, April 27th, organ students from the studio of Dr. Iain Quinn will present a recital at 8:00 p.m. in Opperman Music Hall on the FSU campus. Admission is free.

On Sunday, May 15th at 3:00 p.m., Dr. Iain Quinn, organ professor at FSU, will present a recital to benefit the FSU Organ Scholarship Fund. The program, co-sponsored by The Tallahassee Bach Parley, will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, 110 North Adams Street. Our chapter is in charge of refreshments for this event, so you may be contacted to bring something for it.

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

Every Sunday evening from September 13th through April 24th, 2016 (except for December 13th and 27th, and January 3rd), St. John's Episcopal Church, 211 North Monroe Street in Tallahassee, presents a weekly Service of Compline from 8:00 to 8:30 p.m. This ancient monastic service includes beautiful chants by the all-male choir, interspersed with scripture. Membership in the Compline Choir is open to any interested male singer by audition—contact Mike Norris at norris.mr@gmail.com.

On Saturday, April 9th, the Thomasville Entertainment Foundation presents an all-Beethoven recital by the celebrated pianist, Emanuel Axe, at 7:30 p.m. in the Thomasville Center for the Arts, 600 East Jackson Street in Thomasville, GA. Individual tickets (if available) are \$38. Call (229)226-7404 or visit their website at www.tefconcerts.com.

On Sunday, April 10th, the Tallahassee Bach Parley, under the direction of Valerie Arsenault, presents *French Baroque: Fête Parisienne* (music of Lully, Couperin, Campra, and Charpentier) at 3:00 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 200 N. Monroe Street. A donation of \$10 is suggested; free childcare is available. For further information, visit their website www.tallahasseebachparley.org.

On Saturday, April 16th, the Big Bend Community Orchestra, directed by Dr. Shelby Chipman, presents *Printemps (Springtime)*, at 4:30 p.m. in Turner Auditorium at Tallahassee Community College, 444 Appleyard Drive. Works on the program include *Printemps: Suite Symphonique* by Claude Debussy, *Pour une fête du Printemps*, Op. 22 by Albert Roussel, and *Symphonie sur un Chant Montagnard François (Symphony on a French Mountain Air)* by Vincent D'Indy, with Dr. Joanna Sobkowska-Parsons, piano. Admission to the concert is free.

On Sunday, April 17th, at 3:30 p.m., the Choirs of St. John's Episcopal Church will present the beautiful service of Evensong in the church sanctuary at 200 N. Monroe Street. The choral music will feature works by Herbert Sumsion, Kellow J. Pye, Benjamin Britten, and Herbert Howells. The pre-service organ recital by Alex Eykamp includes works by Bruhns, Reger, Locklair, and Mendelssohn. Free childcare is available and all are welcome.

On Sunday, April 17th, the Artist Series presents in concert Mischa Bouvier, baritone, with Yegor Shevtsov, piano, at 4:00 p.m. in Opperman Music Hall on the FSU campus. Tickets are \$23 for adults and \$5 for students; children under 13 are admitted free with an adult. Tickets may be purchased online at www.theartistseries.org or you may telephone (850) 224-9934.

On Sunday, April 17th, at 7:00 p.m., The Centenary Chancel Choir with members of the FSU orchestras, presents a concert of works by Cherubini (*Requiem*), Haydn, Mendelssohn, and Vasks. The concert, under the direction of Matthew Bishop and featuring soprano Heather Watson, will take place in the sanctuary of Centenary United Methodist Church, located at 206 N. Madison Street in Quincy, Florida. The concert is free and open to the public.

On Saturday, April 23rd, at 7:00 p.m., TSO Jazz presents *Pops in the Park* with vocalist Carmen Bradford in the amphitheater at Cascades Park. For further information and to purchase tickets, call the symphony box office at (850) 224-0461.

On Sunday, April 24th, the Tallahassee Community Chorus, under the direction of Dr. Andre Thomas, presents Two Sacred Works—Franz Schubert’s *Mass in E-flat Major* and Francis Poulenc’s *Gloria*, in Ruby Diamond Concert Hall on the FSU campus at 4:00 p.m. Tickets are \$22 general, \$18 seniors, and \$6 students. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to the website www.tcchorus.org. Tickets will also be available at the box office one hour prior to the concert.

The Tallahassee Civic Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Leslie Heffner, will present its spring concert entitled *English Traditions*, on Tuesday, April 26th at 7:30 p.m. in Turner Auditorium at Tallahassee Community College, 444 Appleyard Drive in Tallahassee. This concert features “Five Mystical Songs” by Ralph Vaughn Williams and the world premiere of “The Greatest Ship,” a new composition by Dr. Tucker Biddlecombe. Admission is \$9 for adults, \$7 for seniors, and \$7 for non-TCC students. TCC students, faculty, and staff are admitted free. For tickets call (850) 942-1893 or see any Chorale member. Tickets will also be sold in the lobby of the auditorium prior to the concert.

On Saturday, April 30th, the Tallahassee Symphony presents *Friends Old and New* at 8:00 p.m. in Ruby Diamond Concert Hall on the FSU campus. The program will consist of the Florida premier of a work by composer Christopher Theofanidis, *Dreamtime Ancestors*, Mendelssohn’s Symphony No. 4 in A Major, Op. 90, and Dvořák’s Cello Concert in B minor, Op. 104, with cellist Colin Carr. For further information and tickets, call the symphony box office at (850) 224-0461 or by going to www.tallahasseesymphony.org/.

The Tallahassee Youth Orchestras, under the direction of Dr. Alexander Jimenez, present their Spring Concert on Sunday, May 1st, at 3:00 p.m. in Ruby Diamond Concert Hall on the FSU campus. All tickets are \$5 and may be purchased at the door or in advance at www.tallahaseeyouthorchestras.com.

On Monday, May 2nd, at 7:00 p.m., Voces Angelorum, directed by Scott Leaman, will present a concert in the Maguire Center at the Westminster Oaks Retirement Community, 4449 Meandering Way. Admission is free and guests are welcome.

The Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra presents A TSO Family Concert, *Superhero Fortissimo Battles Dr. Dissonance!* on Sunday, May 15th, at 2:30 p.m. in Ruby Diamond Concert Hall on the FSU campus. Tickets are \$8–10, and may be reserved by calling the box office at (850) 224-0461 or by going to www.tallahasseesymphony.org/.

On Monday, May 16th, the Good Shepherd Catholic Church Men’s Choir, Women’s Choir, and Handbell Choir will present a concert in the Maguire Center at the Westminster Oaks Retirement Community, 4449 Meandering Way, at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free, and guests are welcome.

On Thursday, May 19th, at 7:00 p.m., Voces Angelorum, directed by Scott Leaman, will present a concert at First Presbyterian Church, 110 North Adams Street in Tallahassee. The concert is free and open to the public.

On Sunday, May 22nd, Voces Angelorum, a women’s chamber choir directed by Scott Leaman, will present a concert at Goodwood Museum and Gardens. The gardens will open at 2:30 p.m., the concert takes place at 3:00 p.m.; wine will be available for purchase. Tickets are \$15 per person, and

may be purchased online at www.vocestally.org/tickets or at the door on the afternoon of the event. Goodwood is located at 1600 Miccosukee Road in Tallahassee.

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

The Central Florida Chapter has several concerts and other events of interest to area organists scheduled from now through May 2016, including recitals by renowned organists Donghe Lee and Nathan Laube. For more information about these events, visit their website at <http://cfago.org>.

The Pensacola AGO Chapter is sponsoring *The Gift of Organs*, an Organ Crawl through North East Pensacola on Saturday, April 9th, 2016. The event will be followed by lunch. For other organ events in the Pensacola area, visit the chapter website: www.pensacola-ago.org/calendar.html. For *Music at Christ Church* in downtown Pensacola, visit www.christ-church.net/music-at-christ-church.

The Jacksonville, Florida, chapter of AGO is proud to announce that the 2017 Southeastern Regional Convention of the American Guild of Organists will be held in Jacksonville, June 11–14, 2017. For more information about the convention, visit the website at www.jaxago.org/2017/regional-convention.html. For news about other AGO and organ events in Jacksonville, go to www.jaxago.org.

The Atlanta, Georgia, chapter of the American Guild of Organists, is sponsoring the Southeast Regional Pipe Organ Encounter July 24–29, 2016. It is open to students ages 13–18, and will feature some of Atlanta’s finest organists and teachers who will “provide a week of intense study on a variety of grand instruments available in the Atlanta area.” For more information, go to the Atlanta Chapter’s website at <http://www.agoatlanta.org/html/POE/htm>. (A detailed brochure may be downloaded by clicking on this address.) Or visit the National AGO Website at <https://www.agohq.org/education/poe/>. The registration fee for the Atlanta POE is \$525, but Early Bird registration is \$475 if received by April 15th. Scholarships are available. The final registration deadline is June 30th.

EXECUTIVE BOARD NEWS

The Executive Board of the Tallahassee Chapter of the AGO met on Sunday, April 3rd, at 8:08 p.m. following Dr. Iain Quinn’s enlightening presentation on “The Development of the English Organ Sonata,” in the lounge at Faith Presbyterian Church. Members present were Joe Kraus, Rod Gorby, Roger Ponder, Patty Herrington, and Margaret-Mary Owens. Carol Marchant was out of town. Dean Kraus reported that the masterclass and recital presented by Dr. James Kibbie from the University of Michigan on February 6th and 7th were well received, and that Dr. Kibbie enjoyed his time with us.

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Other agenda items included discussion of plans for Dr. Iain Quinn's recital on Sunday, May 15th at 3:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, to be co-sponsored by the Tallahassee AGO chapter and the Tallahassee Bach Parley. The Bach Parley will handle publicity, Dean Kraus and Valerie Arsenault will do the program, and the AGO chapter will be responsible for the reception afterward. Joe asked Roger Ponder if he would once again make his delicious punch.

The main agenda item was a discussion of the plans underway for the 2017 Tallahassee Sacred Music Conference, tentatively scheduled for Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, February 3rd and 4th, 2017, at First Presbyterian Church and First Baptist Church. Although this event is organized by the Church Music Institute (Dallas, TX) and local church musicians, Joe has also been talking to the AGO National Office about the possibility that this event might qualify as a "January Jubilee" for our chapter, and thus would enable us to receive \$1000–2000 from the National AGO to help fund the workshop. The January Jubilee concept involves an outreach day, with the idea that it will help us to increase our membership, particularly from among current non-AGO church musicians whose churches use music in different ways in their worship. The Church Music Institute furnishes the clinicians (at present, negotiations are under way to bring Robin and David Arcus, and John Neeley). Tentative plans for workshops/sessions include Vocal Techniques for the Adult Choral Rehearsal, a Choral Reading Session, Service Playing I & II, Clergy/Musician Worship Planning, the E-Library of Choral Anthems from EMI, Adapting Music for Needs in Worship (anthems from hymns, etc.), and Involving the Congregation in Sung Improvisation.

We also talked briefly about our end-of-the-year party. Attendance has been declining in recent years, calling into question the need for this event. Joe said that it would have to be held during the last week of April (finals week) if students were to be able to participate. Nothing was decided, however. Roger did not give a detailed financial report, nothing having changed since our last meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

MEMBER NEWS

We express our sympathy to the family of Amy Nungesser (organist at First Baptist Church), whose father died tragically in an auto accident the week of March 15th.

NATIONAL AGO NEWS

For your planning information, the next National Convention of the American Guild of Organists will be held July 19–23, 2016, in Houston, Texas. Registration is now open; savings for special and student members are also available. The main convention website is www.AGOHouston2016.com. One of our members, Dr. Iain Quinn, will be presenting a workshop at the convention. More details on the convention will featured in future chapter newsletters. Let's plan to send a delegation from Tallahassee!

Enjoy organ music in its infinite variety each week with *PIPEDREAMS* from American Public Media, each Sunday 7:00–9:00 p.m. on WFSQ (91.5 FM) and on the internet at any time (24/7) at www.pipedreams.org.

April 3rd—The Phillips Factor...a visit with British well-rounded organist Margaret Phillips, including selections from her impressive Bach cycle and other examples from her extensive discography.

April 10th—On a Spring Note...as seasons come and go, who is not filled with a sense of joyous celebration at the coming of Spring!?

April 17th—Brass Tracks...whether with a single trumpet or in the context of a full brass ensemble or band, the pipe organ will prevail.

April 24th—More Winds from Aeolus...a visit with audio producer Christoph Frommen to sample some of his recent projects.

May 1st—A Houston Organ Prelude...a sampler of some of the instruments to be featured in June during the 2016 American Guild of Organists National Convention.

May 8th—Revisiting Marcel Dupré...with vintage recordings digitally reissued, we reflect on one of the great 20th-century masters of the pipe organ.

May 15th—Reger Remembered...in commemoration of the centenary of the death of Bach's greatest admirer, Johann Baptist Joseph Maximilian Reger (1873-1916).

May 22nd—Organ Plus...whether combined with saxophone, brass ensemble, chamber orchestra, or symphonic ensemble, the King of Instruments proves itself an able and amiable companion.

May 29th—New from New Mexico...premieres, performances, and first recordings feature music and musicians in Albuquerque..

June 5th—Manifold Blessings...whether with a Tudor-era recreation or contemporary commentaries on a grand tradition, communities rejoice with diversely designed and recently installed pipe organs.

ADD YOUR VOICE

If you have information about any upcoming events, news about chapter members, information about open choral or organ positions, corrections to previous newsletters that you'd like to share, or anything else of musical interest, please e-mail these items to the newsletter editor at pherrington@fsu.edu. Of special interest for the future are any programs planned for the beginning of school, Halloween, or Thanksgiving that your church or other organization might be planning to present.

Visit your chapter website: <http://www.tallahasseeago.org/>