



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,

I trust that your summer has been a time of refreshment and enjoyment! It is my pleasure to preview the schedule of events for the 2015–16 season of the Tallahassee AGO. Our Kickoff Party will be held at 6:30 PM on **Friday, August 28th** at the home of Roger Ponder.. (Please note that this is the Friday of the first week of classes at FSU, rather than the Friday before classes begin.) Bring a dish to share and a beverage, and any music that you'd like to swap with your colleagues. Among the events planned for the coming season are a report on the recent meeting of the Organ Historical Society, a student recital featuring the complete works of Nicolaus Bruhns at First Presbyterian, the ever-popular Halloween Organ Spooktacular at St. John's, a complete student performance of Messiaen's *La Nativité du Seigneur* at Trinity United Methodist, a masterclass and recital by James Kibbie (University of Michigan) at First Presbyterian, and a recital by FSU Prof. Iain Quinn. Further details about all of these events will be available on August 28th at the Kickoff Party, and we are adding them to our newly refurbished Web site (www.tallahassee.org) as dates, times and locations are confirmed. Stay tuned.

We'd also like to invite you to a special concert on Friday, August 21st at 7 PM at Trinity United Methodist Church, Tallahassee. The Summer Sinfonietta, conducted by Matthew Bishop, will perform works by Donizetti, Mozart, Britten and Saint-Saëns. The final work, the Saint-Saëns "Organ Symphony," will feature AGO member Viktor Billa, the new organist at Trinity UMC.

All the best,
 Joe Kraus
 Dean, Tallahassee AGO

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE

A reminder: AGO memberships 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. 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/>.

Earlier this 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 went out in April, reflected these changes.

UPCOMING AGO EVENTS

Friday, August 21st, at 7:00 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church in Tallahassee there will be a special concert featuring our new AGO member Viktor Billa, the new organist at Trinity UMC. He will be the soloist in the Saint-Saëns “Organ Symphony” with the Summer Sinfonietta, conducted by Matthew Bishop. The Sinfonietta will also perform works by Donizetti, Mozart, and Britten. (More information is given below.)

Friday, August 28th, at 6:30 p.m., Tallahassee AGO Chapter’s Welcome Back Kickoff Party for the 2015-16 year will be held at the home of Roger Ponder, 1703 Semalachee Drive, Tallahassee. (Please notethat this is the Friday of the first week of classes, rather than the Friday before classes begin.) Bring a dish of any kind to share, and your favorite beverage. (Iced tea and paper goods will be provided.) Also, bring any music that you might like to swap with your colleagues. For further information, or if you get lost, you may call Roger at 656-6585 or e-mail him at rponder@fsu.edu.

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

Every Sunday evening from September 6th through April 24th, 2016 (except for Sundays in December to be determined), 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.

Friday, August 21st, at 7:00 p.m. the Summer Sinfonietta presents their Season Finale at Trinity United Methodist Church, 120 W. Park Avenue in Tallahassee. The orchestra, under the direction of Matthew Bishop, is excited to feature Patrick Lin in Mozart's delightful *Violin Concerto No. 5*, John Richey and Kristin Woodward in Benjamin Britten's exhilarating *Serenade for Tenor, Horn, and Strings*, and, as mentioned above, Viktor Billa, the new organist at TUMC, in Saint-Saëns's monumental *Symphony No. 3 (the "Organ Symphony")*. Admission is free. For more information, call 850-222-1120.

Sunday, September 20th, The Artist Series of Tallahassee presents the Vienna Piano Trio in recital at 4:00 p.m. in Opperman Music Hall on the FSU campus. The trio, one of the world's most outstanding chamber ensembles, is widely acclaimed for its superb technical skill and stunning imagination, and has been proclaimed "electrifying" by *The New York Times*. The group, consisting of Stefan Mendl, piano, Matthais Gredler, violoncello, and David McCarroll, violin, will present the *Piano Trio in G, K. 496* by Mozart, Arnold Schoenberg's *Transfigured Night* (arranged by Eduard Steuermann for piano trio), and Franz Schubert's *Piano Trio in E-flat, Op. 100*. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit the website at www.theartistsseries.org, phone (850) 224-9934, or go to Beethoven & Company in Timberlane Shops on the Square, 1415 Timberlane Road. Season passports (for all five concerts) are \$99 for adults and \$89 for seniors (62+). Single tickets are \$23.00 for an adult, \$5.00 for a student over the age of 12, and free for students under 12 when accompanied by an adult.

Saturday, September 26th, the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra presents its season opener entitled "Fantastique Night" under the direction of conductor Darko Butorac, at 8:00 p.m. in Ruby Diamond Concert Hall, 222 South Copeland Avenue, on the FSU campus. Join the symphony for a Fantastique evening of dreams and dances, inspired by beautifully twisted and dark compositions. The concert begins with Modest Moussorgsky's *Night on Bald Mountain*, where the audience become spectators to a witches' Sabbath held on the evening of the feast of St. John the Baptist. Next, pianist Andre Staupe performs Franz Liszt's fiendish, highly virtuosic *Totentanz ("Dance of the Dead")*. The concert's finale enters the dream world of Hector Berlioz in his *Symphonie Fantastique*, a complicated and stirring journey of love, loss, and obsession. For tickets and more information, contact the TSO box office at (850) 224-0461 or visit their website, www.tallahasseesymphony.org/tickets.

Thursday, October 1st, the Thomasville Entertainment Foundation presents the opening concert of its 2015–16 season, "Metropolitan Opera Rising Stars." An outstanding soprano, mezzo, tenor, and baritone from the Met's young artist program will open the season with a magical evening of arias, duets, and ensembles by the opera world's greatest composers. The concert will take place at 7:30 p.m. in the Thomasville Center for the Arts (formerly the Thomasville Cultural Center). For tickets, visit www.tefconcerts.com or call the TEF box office at (229) 226-7404. Single tickets are \$38 for adults and \$15 for students. Season tickets are also available.

EXECUTIVE BOARD NEWS

The Executive Board of the Tallahassee Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, August 28th, at the home of Roger Ponder, immediately preceding the Tallahassee AGO's 2015–16 Kickoff Party.

MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to Will Scarboro and Patty Crispino, who were married on Sunday, June 21st, in a lovely ceremony in the gazebo at Dorothy B. Owen Park on Thomasville Road in Tallahassee. It was particularly nice to visit with former chapter dean Jonathan Hehn and his wife Kelly, who came up from Tampa for the event.

Our best wishes go to Bill Bess for a speedy recovery from recent surgery, and also condolences on the death of his wife Kathi from cancer on the first of May.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL AGO NEWS

The Central Florida Chapter of the AGO has sent us information regarding a free workshop and concert on the weekend of August 22–23, 2015. The organist workshop, on Saturday, August 22nd at 10:30 a.m. and the community concert on Sunday, August 23rd at 4:00 p.m. are being sponsored by Central Music, Inc., and will be held at First United Methodist Church, 125 North Lakeview Avenue in Winter Garden, Florida. The workshop and the concert will be given by Maxmillian Tenney, Organist and Director of Music for the Archdiocese of New Orleans. The organ in the church is a Rodgers Infinity 3-manual, with pipework from Fratelli Ruffatti, installed by Central Music, Inc. For more information, please visit the Central Florida Chapter's website at <http://cfago.org>, or the music company's website at www.centralmusic.biz.

For your planning information, the next National Convention of the American Guild of Organists will be held July 19–23, 2016, in Houston, Texas. The 2018 National Convention will be hosted by the Kansas City, Missouri, chapter of the AGO.

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.

August 23rd – John Scott, In Memoriam...a tribute to the artistry of English-born organist and choral conductor John Scott, who died unexpectedly at age 59 on August 12, 2015.

August 30th – Organ and Orchestra at Disney Hall...an iconic instrument, fiery conductor, iconoclastic soloist, and probing new score make for memorable listening.

September 6th – Norwegians Would!...another exploration of the organ art as practiced in distinctive fashion by soloists and composers from Norway.

September 13th – Prominent Pipes...classic repertoire, improvisations, and an unusual concerto provide opportunities for soloists on the mighty Royal Albert Hall organ at the BBC Proms in London. .

September 20th – Our Father...one of the world's best known texts provides us with glimpses into the composer's craft and the organ builder's art.

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 fall newsletters would be any programs for the seasons of Harvest, Thanksgiving, and Advent that your church or other organization might be planning to present. Thank you.