



THE



TALLAHASSEE ORGANIST

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

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DEAN

Joseph Kraus
jkraus@fsu.edu

SUB-DEAN

Rod Gorby
roderickgorby@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Carol Marchant
sesquialt@embarqmail.com

TREASURER/REGISTRAR

Roger Ponder
rponder@fsu.edu

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Margaret-Mary Owens
mozartfanno1@yahoo.com

Patty Herrington
pherrington@fsu.edu

WEBSITE EDITOR

Rod Gorby
roderickgorby@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Patty Herrington
pherrington@fsu.edu

DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear AGO Members and Friends,

As we close the book on all of our holiday celebrations of 2015, it's a good time to give thanks for the many talented people with whom we work on a weekly basis. I was personally involved in no fewer than five Christmas programs—singing in some, playing in others—yet, rather than developing any sense of fatigue or cynicism, I felt truly invigorated as I prepared in a musical way for the birth of the Savior. Here's hoping that many of you had a similarly positive experience!

January and February are full of activity for our chapter: the annual Epiphany Party on Sunday, January 10th, at my house; the FSU Organ Studio Recital featuring Messiaen's *La Nativité* on Sunday the 17th at Trinity UMC; and the master class and recital by Prof. James Kibbie (University of Michigan) on the weekend of February 6–7 at First Presbyterian Church. See the following pages of this newsletter for complete details. Lent and Easter will arrive very early this year, hence the need to “cluster” our events during a shortened Epiphany season. We hope that you'll be able to join us for many of these activities.

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, will reflect these changes.

UPCOMING LOCAL AGO EVENTS

The Tallahassee AGO held our annual Epiphany party on **Sunday, January 10th**, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. at the home of our dean, Joe Kraus, 1324 North Duval Street. Over a dozen members and guests attended. Everyone brought a delicious hors d’oeuvre or dessert to share, and a very good time was had by all.

On **Wednesday, January 20th**, at 7:30 p.m. in Opperman Music Hall, Amy Nungesser presented her Junior Organ Recital, featuring the music of Bach, Dupré, Buxtehude, Messiaen, Pärt, and Persichetti.

On **Thursday, January 27th**, at 7:30 p.m. in Opperman Music Hall, Margaret-Mary Owens will present her Junior Organ Recital. She will perform the music of Bach, Byrd, Franck, Schumann, Messiaen, Pärt, Sweelinck, and Langlais.

On **Saturday, February 6th**, at 10:00 a.m., there will be a Performance Master Class with Dr. James Kibbie from the University of Michigan at First Presbyterian Church, 110 North Adams Street. Six organists from the Tallahassee Chapter and the FSU Organ Studio will be coached by Prof. Kibbie.

On **Sunday, February 7th**, at 3:00 p.m., Dr. James Kibbie, from the University of Michigan, will present a recital at First Presbyterian Church, 110 North Adams Street. His program consists of several works by J. S. Bach, including three chorale preludes and the Fantasia and Fugue in A minor, BWV 561, on the first half; the second half features Sonata II by Paul Hindemith as well as pieces by Hugo Distler, William Albright, and Jiří Ropek. A reception will follow the concert.

On **Sunday, April 3rd** at 6:30 p.m., there will be a presentation by Dr. Iain Quinn, Assistant Professor of Organ at FSU, at Faith Presbyterian Church, 2200 North Meridian Road. This will be a preview of his planned presentation at the AGO National Convention in Houston this coming summer. His topic is “The Higher Walks of Art: The Development of the English Organ Sonata.”

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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 First Presbyterian Church, 110 North Adams Street. Further details will follow in future newsletters.

OTHER 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.

The Tallahassee Community Chorus presents its Unity 11 Concert, *Sing for the Cure: A Proclamation of Hope*, on Saturday, January 23rd at 8:00 p.m. in Ruby Diamond Concert Hall. For tickets, visit www.tcchorus.org.

On Sunday, January 31st, the Tallahassee Bach Parley presents *J. S. Bach Cello Suites* with Greg Sauer, cellist, beginning at 1:30 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 211 N. Monroe Street. The schedule is as follows: 1:30 p.m. Suites I, II, & III; 2:30 p.m. Coffee Reception in Alfriend Hall; 3:00 p.m. Suites IV, V, & VI. This is a benefit concert for the Bach Parley String Academy Scholarship Fund. Admission is free; a \$10 donation is suggested, however. Free childcare is available. For more information, visit their website at www.tallahasseebachparley.org.

On Sunday, January 31st at 2:00 p.m. in Ruby Diamond Concert Hall on the FSU campus, the FSU College of Music presents *An Afternoon of Musical Delight* with new College of Music faculty member Ian Hobson, internationally renowned pianist and conductor.

Opening Nights presents 2CELLOS on Saturday, February 6th at 7:30 p.m. in Ruby Diamond Concert Hall, FSU. Young Croatian cellists Luka Sulic and Stjepan Hauser, together known as 2CELLOS, have achieved sensational success by taking the cello to a new level. Their playing style has broken down the boundaries between different genres of music, from classical and film music to pop and rock. 2CELLOS have no limits when it comes to performing live and are equally as impressive when playing Bach and Vivaldi as they are when rocking out AC/DC.

On Friday, February 12th at 7:00 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church will present a concert of piano, voice and organ music. The featured performers are Tatyana Hoenstine, piano; Yuliia Billa, soprano; and Viktor Billa, organ. The program will include works by J. S. Bach and W. A. Mozart.

On Saturday, February 13th, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., the Tallahassee Museum will host the Saturday Matinee of the Arts, a rich kaleidoscope of visual and performing arts featuring live music, dance, and artists stationed around the museum's historic buildings. There are special activities just for children, and the matinee is free and open to the public. The Museum is located at 3945 Museum Drive in southwest Tallahassee.

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The Artist Series of Tallahassee presents Leonardo Colafelice, piano, on Sunday, February 28th at 4 p.m. in Opperman Music Hall, FSU. In May 2014 Mr. Colafelice—18 years old at the time—was one of the six finalists at the XIV Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition in Tel Aviv, where he also received three important special prizes: best performer of a Classical concerto, best performer of a Chopin composition, and most outstanding pianist up to 22 years of age.

UPCOMING REGIONAL AGO EVENTS

The Central Florida Chapter of the American Guild of Organists presents *Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza: An Introduction to the Pipe Organ for Young People* on Saturday, January 30th, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Winter Park Presbyterian Church. For more information, visit the chapter's website: <http://cfago.org>.

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>.

On Friday, January 29th, at 7:00 p.m., the Jacksonville AGO will co-sponsor Ray and Beth Chenault, husband-and-wife duet organists, in concert at Christ Church Frederica, 6329 Frederica Rd., St. Simons Island, GA, 31522. This is part of the St. Cecelia Series of Christ Church Frederica. Tickets are \$25.00. For more information, visit their website <https://squareup.com/market/ccfss/st-cecelia-series-organ-duet-recital>.

On Sunday, January 31st, at 7:00 p.m., Matt Daniel, organist, will present an all-Bach recital at Penney Memorial Church, 4465 Poling Blvd. in Penney Farms, FL, which is just west of Green Cove Springs on State Road 16. For more information about this concert, go to the Jacksonville AGO website: www.jaxago.org/calendar-of-events.html.

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. Participating churches and times will be announced closer to the date. 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 this convention, visit the website at <http://www.jaxago.org/2017-regional-convention.html>. For news about other AGO and organ events in Jacksonville, go to www.jaxago.org.

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OTHER UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

Spivey Hall, on the campus of Clayton State College in Morrow, GA (approximately 15 miles south of Atlanta), presents the following concerts as part of its Season 25:

On Saturday, January 30th, the internationally acclaimed men's choral group *Chanticleer* will appear in concert at 7:30 p.m.

On Sunday, January 31st, Joshua Bell, violinist, will appear in recital with Sam Haywood pianist, at 3:00 p.m.

On Sunday, February 7th, the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions will be held beginning at 2:00 p.m. These auditions are for singers from North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

For more information about Spivey Hall concerts and for directions to Clayton State College, visit their website at www.spiveyhall.org/concerts.

EXECUTIVE BOARD NEWS

The Executive Board of the Tallahassee Chapter of the AGO met on Sunday, January 10th, at 5:30 p.m. preceding the chapter's annual Epiphany party at the home of Dean Joe Kraus. Members present were Joe Kraus, Rod Gorby, Carol Marchant, Roger Ponder, Patty Herrington, and Margaret-Mary Owens. Agenda items included discussion of plans for the FSU Student Recital of *La Nativité du Seigneur* by Olivier Messiaen on Sunday, January 17th at Trinity UMC. Posters were printed by FSU and sent by e-mail to those on a list furnished by COCA. Joe contacted the Tallahassee Democrat, which did a front-page spread in the Faith section on the upcoming concert and an interview with Dean Kraus. Patty Herrington distributed posters to the public libraries and Publix bulletin boards throughout the city and Rod Gorby composed the program notes. There was to have been a reception afterward, but the church was unable to accommodate one. Roger Ponder distributed the treasurer's report for the last quarter of 2015, including our year-end balance of \$3,488.12. He also passed out an updated membership roster showing that, as of January 10, 2016, we have 28 active members. Joe reported that the chapter's debit card is finally working. Plans are underway for the James Kibbie master class and recital at First Presbyterian Church on February 6th and 7th. Joe will take care of the publicity and program, and Roger and Patty will do the reception. The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m. for the Epiphany party.

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MEMBER NEWS

Student members **Amy Nungesser** and **Margaret-Mary Owens** both have junior performance recitals planned for January. For details, see Local AGO Events (above).

Former Dean of the Tallahassee Chapter, **Christian Crocker**, has been appointed Organist and Choir-master at the Episcopal Church of the Nativity in Huntsville, Alabama, beginning in January 2016. His duties will include leading several choirs—whose members range in age from 8 to 80! Nativity also sponsors a highly regarded concert series featuring organ, choral, and instrumental performances. The organ at Nativity is a three-manual Aeolian Skinner built in 1946, renovated in 1990 and again in 2009. It features almost fifty ranks of pipes and a number of digital stops which were added in conjunction with the updating of the console. We wish Christian well in his exciting new position.

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. EARLY registration rates (good through March 14th) are: Regular Members \$400, Seniors and Partners \$350, and Students only \$250. These rates will go up substantially on March 15th, so REGISTER NOW! The convention website is: www.agohouston2016.com. One of our members, Dr. Iain Quinn, will be presenting a workshop at the convention. See Local AGO Events (above) for more information on his presentation. Additional 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.

January 3rd—An Organist’s Yearbook...our annual Olde Yeare–New Year reflection, with highlights from recent recordings, concert excerpts, prize-winning performances, memorial tributes, and more.

January 10th—What’s New?...getting the New Year off to a fine start with a survey of some recent compact disc releases.

January 17th—In Concert...we explore music old and new, introduce artists youthful and revered, and revel in fiery virtuosity, all on display in “live” performances!

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January 24th—The Miller’s Tale...conversations with, plus compositions and improvisations by, the remarkably versatile Minnesota-based organist Aaron David Miller.

January 31st--The Glories of Great Britain...a selective sampler of some of the venues to be visited during the upcoming *Pipedreams Tour* in northern England and Scotland, May 16–29, 2016.

February 7th—Some Southern Sonorities...selections from performances recorded during the recent American Guild of Organists Southeastern Regional Convention in Charlotte, NC.

February 14th—Various Variants...with a good theme, variation sets provide organists and composers an exceptional opportunity to tour the tonal resources of any instrument.

February 21st—Pipedreams Live! at Broadway Baptist...a Texas-sized celebration of the 191-rank Casavant organ in Fort Worth, featuring regional soloists.

February 28th—Music in the Museum...performances on the unique 1929 Skinner pipe organ that graces the rotunda of the Cincinnati Museum Center.

March 6th—Theatre Pipes...Ken Double of the American Theatre Organ Society introduces selections recorded at ATOS conventions in Cleveland, Seattle, eastern Massachusetts, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Indianapolis, and Philadelphia.

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 March and April newsletters would be any programs for Lent or Easter that your church or other organization might be planning to present.