



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,

As Spring officially makes its appearance in Tallahassee, our thoughts turn to Lenten penitence followed by Easter joy. As a special Holy Week observance, the Tallahassee Chapter of the AGO is sponsoring a presentation by Charles Brewer (FSU Professor of Musicology) at First Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, April 11th, at 7 p.m. Dr. Brewer will be speaking on the St. John Passion of Johann Sebastian Bach, in preparation for a performance of the Passion by the Tallahassee Community Chorus and the Tallahassee Bach Parley on Sunday, April 30th, at 4 p.m. (more about this later in this newsletter). This is a great opportunity to learn about a monumental work in the sacred music repertoire from an acknowledged expert, while also preparing spiritually for Christ's passion, death, and resurrection. We're all busy during Holy Week, but please try to make some time for your OWN Easter preparation!

I hope that all of your Lenten and Easter observances will be enhanced by music that is uplifting, appropriate, and—most importantly—well prepared!

All best,

Joe Kraus
Dean, Tallahassee AGO

"The deadline for newsletter submission 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 year, the AGO National Council announced new rates for all dues categories, which became 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 were sent upon expiration of your last year’s membership, reflected these changes.

LOCAL 2017 AGO EVENTS

On Tuesday, April 11th at 7:00 p.m., there will be a special presentation by Dr. Charles Brewer, musicology professor in the FSU College of Music, on the **St. John Passion** by J. S. Bach. This presentation, a fitting event for inclusion in Holy Week, will be held at First Presbyterian Church, 110 North Adams Street. The St. John Passion will be performed on April 30th, 2017, by the Tallahassee Community Chorus under the direction of Dr. Andre J. Thomas. (See below for more information on the April 30th concert.)

On Sunday, June 11th at 3:00 p.m., a recital will be given by Dr. Iain Quinn, organ professor in the FSU College of Music, to benefit the FSU Organ Scholarship Fund. This recital will be given at Trinity United Methodist Church, 120 West Park Avenue, and will be co-sponsored by the AGO and The Tallahassee Bach Parley.

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

Every Sunday evening from September 11th, 2016, through April 30th, 2017 (with the exception of December 25th and January 1st), 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 choir is open to any interested male singer by audition—contact Mike Norris at norris.mr@gmail.com.

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

On Saturday, March 25th at 8:00 p.m. in Ruby Diamond Concert Hall on the FSU campus, the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra will present *Requiem of Resistance*, a concert telling the story of prisoners at the Terezin concentration camp who gave sixteen performances of Giuseppe Verdi's Requiem in 1943 to 1944 as an act of resistance against the Nazis. Tickets may be purchased at the door one hour before the concert, by going online to www.tallahasseesymphony.org, or by calling 224-0461. Proceeds will benefit the Holocaust Education Resource Council, the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, and Temple Israel.

On Sunday, April 2nd at 3:00 p.m., the faculty of the Tallahassee Bach Parley String Academy will present a concert at St. John's Episcopal Church, 211 North Monroe Street. The faculty, which includes Valerie Arsenault, Carrie Holden, Miriam Barfield, and Zlatina Staykova, will play a wide range of 18th- through 21st-century music, including some Irish fiddling. The grand finale will include a group of students from the Academy. This concert is to introduce the String Academy faculty to the community; donations at the door will go toward scholarships for students who would otherwise be unable to afford music lessons. Suggested donation is \$10; free childcare will be available.

On Tuesday, April 4th, Opening Nights presents Anne-Sophie Mutter, violinist, and Lambert Orkis, pianist, in concert at 7:30 p.m. in Ruby Diamond Concert Hall on the FSU campus. The program will include *Clockwork* by Sebastian Currier, the Violin Sonata in A major, K. 526, by Mozart, the Violin Sonata in B minor by Ottorino Respighi, and *Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso*, Op. 28, by Camille Saint-Saens. Tickets, ranging in price from \$15-95, may be purchased online at www.tickets.fsu.edu, by phone at 850-644-6500, or in person at the FSU Fine Arts Ticket Office located in the FSU Fine Arts Bldg. at the corner of Call Street and N. Copeland Avenue—open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

On Saturday, April 8th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., The Artist Series will hold its Annual Spring Benefit honoring Dr. Andre Thomas, long-time FSU College of Music Professor and Director of Choral Activities, as the recipient of the Artist Series 2017 Merit Award. There will also be live chamber music, refreshments, and a silent auction; the event will be held at the home of Lamar and Anne Rowe, 3727 Bobbin Brook Way. Tickets are \$25 per person; for more information and to purchase tickets, go to www.theartistsseries.org or telephone 850-445-1616.

On Saturday, April 22nd at 3:30 p.m., the Big Bend Community Orchestra presents a free concert, “Celebrating Song”, directed by Dr. Shelby Chipman, conductor, and Lisa Foltz, associate conductor, in Turner Auditorium at Tallahassee Community College, 444 Appleyard Drive. Featured on the program will be works by Brahms, Gipps, Delius, Dvořák, Weinberger, Ives, Gershwin, and Vaughan Williams.

On Sunday, April 23rd, the Artist Series presents Vassily Primakov and Natalia Lavrova, duo-pianists, in concert at 4:00 p.m. in Opperman Music Hall on the FSU campus. These “two phenomenal pianists,” who individually are ranked as top-notch performers, join forces in a “dazzling display of two-piano works” by Brahms, Scriabin, Ravel, Lutoslawski, and Rachmaninov. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the Artist Series website www.theartistsseries.org, or you may telephone 850-445-1616.

On Wednesday, April 26th at 7:30 p.m., the FSU Organ Studio will present a recital in Opperman Music Hall on the FSU campus, featuring members of the organ studio under the direction of Emeritus Professor Michael Corzine (since Professor Iain Quinn is on sabbatical this term in St. Petersburg, Russia).

On Sunday, April 30th, the Tallahassee Community Chorus presents *An Evening of Bach*, at 4:00 p.m. in Ruby Diamond Concert Hall on the FSU campus. The concert will feature Johann Sebastian Bach's *St. John Passion*, sung in English and led by Artistic Director Dr. Andre J. Thomas. The orchestra will include members of the Tallahassee Bach Parley, who are guest performers for this concert, and who will also perform selections from their repertoire. Tickets may be purchased online at www.tcchorus.org/events, or by phone at 850-597-0603.

On Sunday, May 7th, the Tallahassee Youth Orchestra will present a concert entitled *Ballet 2017* at 3:00 p.m. in Ruby Diamond Concert Hall on the FSU campus.

For information about upcoming **concerts and recitals in the Florida State College of Music**, visit www.music.fsu.edu and click on "View All Events."

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

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 and St. Augustine, June 11-14, 2017. For more information about the convention and to register, visit the convention website at www.agojax2017.com. For news about other AGO and organ events in Jacksonville, go to www.jaxago.org.

The Atlanta Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will be hosting the **National Pipe Organ Encounter Technical** (POE Tech) from July 9th to July 14th, 2017. Pipe Organ Technical (POE Tech) is a program sponsored by the American Guild of Organists (AGO) and the Associated Pipe Organ Builders of American (APOBA). This program is designed for students ages 16-23 who are interested in learning the art and craftsmanship of organ-building. Interested students may have or may be seeking experience and expertise in woodworking, electrical skills, and construction.

The POE Tech course will be held in Atlanta, GA at the organ shop of Parkey Organ Builders, Phillip K. Parkey, President and Tonal Director. Students will have the opportunity to learn the history, design, construction, and maintenance of the pipe organ. Additionally, the course will offer opportunities to visit and play a variety of pipe instruments.

The registration fee for the Atlanta POE Tech course is \$525. Early Bird registration is \$475 if received by April 15, 2017. Scholarships are available. The final registration deadline is June 15, 2017. Detailed information about the July 9th–14th 2017 POE Tech course in Atlanta, GA can be found on the National AGO website at: <https://www.agohq.org/education/poe/poe-technical/>

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NATIONAL AGO NEWS

For your planning information, the next National Convention of the American Guild of Organists, entitled “Bach, Blues, and BBQ,” will be held in July of 2018 in Kansas City, Missouri. For information and to sign up to receive the convention newsletter, visit the convention website at www.agokc2018.com.

Closer to home, the 2020 National AGO Convention will take place practically in our own front yard, in Atlanta, Georgia! Let’s all plan now to attend!

EXECUTIVE BOARD NEWS

The Executive Board of the Tallahassee Chapter of the AGO will meet on Tuesday, April 11th at 6 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, immediately preceding the talk on Bach’s St. John Passion by Dr. Charles Brewer.

MEMBER NEWS

Dr. Iain Quinn, Assistant Professor of Organ at the FSU College of Music, is currently on sabbatical in St. Petersburg, Russia, where he is teaching organ lessons at the famed Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory. Prof. Quinn will return to the United States on May 31st.

Margaret-Mary Owens graduated from the FSU College of Music at the end of the Fall 2016 semester with her Bachelor of Music degree in Organ Performance. She is currently living in Tampa and applying to Master of Music programs for Fall of 2017. We’ll keep you posted about her future plans!

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.

March 12th—Concerts at the Kimmel Center...in celebration of the 10th birthday of the Fred J. Cooper Memorial Pipe Organ in Philadelphia’s Verizon Hall.

March 19th—The Three “B”s (I)—J. S. Bach (b. 3/21/1685) ...discoveries, authentications, arrangements, and acknowledged masterworks by the greatest of all composers for the pipe organ.

March 26th—The Three “B”s (II) –Ludwig van Beethoven (d. 3/26/1827)...he studied the organ in his youth, but then ignored the instrument throughout his career. We’ll fix that!

April 2nd—The Three “B”s (III)—Johannes Brahms (d. 4/3/1897)...youthful masterpieces inspired by Bach, his last compositions, and other surprises.

April 9th—Miscellanea Organistica...with so many intriguing items slipping between the cracks of our awareness, we thought we might share some overlooked treasures here.

April 16th—An Easter Bouquet...music of profound introspection and overt rejoicing for the Christian Resurrection festival.

April 23rd—For the Joy of Music! ... a 35th-anniversary tribute to Diane Bish, First Lady of the Pipe Organ in the U.S.A.

April 30th—In the Spivey Spirit...celebrating the 25th anniversary season of the Ruffati pipe organ in one of America’s pre-eminent recital venues, Spivey Hall at Clayton State University in Morrow, GA.

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 would be any programs planned for Mother’s and/or Father’s Day, Independence Day (Fourth of July), or the beginning of Fall, Halloween, and/or Thanksgiving that your church or other organization might be planning to present.