



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,

Autumn is officially here, and I hope that you are enjoying the pleasant change of weather that the north winds bring to northern Florida and southern Georgia at this time of year. Along with the lower temperatures and humidity, we have several enjoyable programs involving our members this month. First, we congratulate Viktor Billa for his excellent performance at St. John's Episcopal Church on Sunday afternoon, October 11th. Second, we will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Danish-German organist Nicolaus Bruhns on Sunday, October 18th, when the members of the FSU Organ Studio perform his works on the Taylor and Boody organ at First Presbyterian Church at 3 p.m. The program includes remarks by Christopher Orr concerning Bruhns's life and works. Finally, on Friday, October 30th at 7 p.m., the AGO will host its Sixth Annual Halloween Spooktacular Recital at St. John's Episcopal Church; it's particularly enjoyable to see so many young people in costume at this fun event, which is followed by refreshments in Alfriend Hall. The Sundays after Pentecost need not be "ordinary"—as proven by this excellent series of recitals!

Remember that AGO dues may be paid electronically through the ONCARD system, or you may download a membership form to pay by postal mail (sent to the National Office). You can go to this link online: <https://www.agohq.org/membership.join-as-a-chapter-member/>. You may also access www.tallahasseeago.org for information about upcoming events of interest to our members, as well as news about other chapters from the AGO National Office.

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/>.

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

Sunday, October 18th at 3:00 p.m., the FSU Organ Studio will present in recital the organ works of Nicolaus Bruhns at First Presbyterian Church, 110 N. Adams Street. Bruhns (1665–1697) was a Danish-German organist, violinist, and composer, who studied in Lübeck with Dietrich Buxtehude and was considered one of the most prominent organists and composers of his generation.

Friday, October 30th, at 7:00 p.m., the Sixth Annual Halloween Spooktacular will be presented by members of the Tallahassee AGO Chapter at St. John’s Episcopal Church, 211 N. Monroe Street. The deadline for signing up to play on the program is Friday, October 16th; contact Dean Joe Kraus at jkraus@fsu.edu, or at 850-509-8072. Participants should perform something “spooky” or “scary” and should also plan to wear an appropriate costume. Children and their families are invited to attend in costume; refreshments will be served afterward in Alfriend Hall.

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

Every Sunday evening from September 13th 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.

Every Tuesday in October (6, 13, 20, 27) at 12:00 noon, the St. John's Tower Bellingers Guild will present a bell concert for lunchgoers in St. John's *Lively Café*. Tours of the bell tower will be offered from 12:30 to 1:00 p.m., following the concert.

Thursday, October 15th, at 7:30 p.m., the Festival Singers of Florida present the Nairobi Chamber Chorus in concert at Trinity United Methodist Church, located at 120 West Park Avenue in Tallahassee. Also appearing on the concert will be the FSU Singers, the Trinity United Methodist Church Adult Choir, and the Leon High School Capital Singers. For more information, visit www.fsof.org/NCCTour.

Friday, October 16th, at 8:00 p.m., the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra presents its 35th Anniversary Gala with Renée Fleming, in Ruby Diamond Concert Hall on the FSU campus. This concert is not part of the regular TSO concert season. Tickets, priced from \$80–\$150, may be purchased (as long as they are available) by calling the TSO box office at 850-224-0461, or you may visit www.tallahassee-symphony.org/special-performance.

Thursday, October 22nd, at 7:30 p.m., the Thomasville Entertainment Foundation presents the Annie Moses Band: American Rhapsody. Annie Wolaver Dupre, her Juilliard-trained siblings, and guest vocalist Joshua Carswell light up the stage with a joyous celebration of American music. The band's lively program fuses familiar works by Aaron Copland and George Gershwin, Appalachian bluegrass, Irish fiddle, folk and jazz styles into a thrilling concert experience. The concert will take place in the Thomasville Center for the Arts (formerly the Thomasville Cultural Center) at 600 East Washington Street in Thomasville, Georgia. For tickets, priced at \$35 for adults and \$15 for students, call the TEF box office at (229) 226-7404, or you may visit their website: www.tefconcerts.com.

Sunday, October 25th, at 9:00 and 11:15 a.m., St. John's Episcopal Church Choirs will present *A Little Jazz Mass* by Bob Chilcott. Featured instrumentalists include Steven Phillips, director and pianist, Boyce Griffith on the saxophone, Brandon Robertson on the double bass, Leon Anderson on the drums, and Avis Berry, vocalist. For more information, visit www.saint-john.org.

Sunday, October 25th, The Florida State University College of Music presents pianist Joel Hastings in a faculty recital at 4:00 p.m. in Longmire Recital Hall. This recital is free and open to the public. For information about this and other concerts in the College of Music, visit www.music.fsu.edu/Concerts-and-Events.

Sunday, November 8th, at 3:00 p.m., the Tallahassee Music Guild presents Viktor Billa, organist, in recital at Trinity United Methodist Church. The church is located at 120 West Park Avenue in Tallahassee. Mr. Billa, the church's new organist, recently emigrated to the United States from the Ukraine. This concert is free and open to the public.

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

Our former dean, Jonathan Hehn, now Minister of Music and Arts at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and Day School in Tampa, sends us a notice that Good Shepherd will be presenting a concert by the Newberry College Singers on Wednesday, December 28th, at 7:30 p.m. Further information may be found at music@goodshepherdtpa.org

Famed organist, Hector Olivera, will be presenting two masterclasses in April 2016 at his home in Sarasota, Florida. For more information, visit the website www.hectorsfriends.com/2016-MasterClass.htm.

EXECUTIVE BOARD NEWS

The Executive Board of the Tallahassee Chapter will hold their next meeting on Sunday, October 18th, at 2:00 p.m., immediately preceding the concert of organ works by Nicolaus Bruhns at First Presbyterian Church.

MEMBER NEWS

Our dean, Joe Kraus, was recently in Moscow, Russia, where he presented a paper at the Second International Congress of the Russian Society for the Theory of Music. All sessions of the Congress were held at the prestigious Tchaikovsky Conservatory, which is celebrating the 150th anniversary of its founding with a series of special concerts, workshops and conferences. His paper was entitled “Tchaikovskian Monumentality: Emergence and Narrative Shift in the Third Movement of the Sixth Symphony.”

REGIONAL & 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. 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.

October 11th—From the Canadian International Organ Competition...performances by prize-winners of the 2014 *concours* held in Montréal last October.

October 18th—Town Hall Treasures...the tradition of grand pipe organs in civic halls seems to have been an English invention, one carried on successfully throughout the Empire and still maintained... and emulated...today.

October 25th—Quotes from Raven...recent selections from one of America's prime "organ labels," and conversations with Raven's curator William Van Pelt.

November 1st—East Texas Treasures...selections from the increasingly popular festival devoted to Aeolian-Skinner pipe organs designed by Roy Perry.

November 8th—Visiting Britain...a sampler of some of the instruments to be visited during the Spring 2016 Pipedreams Group Tour in northern England and Scotland.

November 15th—Prizewinners Perform...talented and aspiring young soloists show their promise as winners of various national and regional competitions sponsored by the American Guild of Organists.

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

Thank you.