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# 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,

Our 2015-16 Season is officially underway! Many thanks to those of you who attended the Kickoff Party on August 28th, and a special thanks to Roger Ponder for hosting this very pleasant gathering. I would draw your attention to two special events during the month of September that address the organ repertoire, both old and new. Student members Marissa Hall and Amy Nungesser received the E. Power Biggs Fellowship to attend the national convention of the Organ Historical Society this past June; they will present a report covering the highlights of that convention on Sunday, September 20th at 6:30 p.m. in the Cobb Library at St. John's Episcopal Church, 211 N. Monroe Street. Refreshments will be served.

Another event of interest (sponsored by the Organ Society of FSU) is a concert to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of composer Vincent Persichetti on Monday evening, September 28th at 7 p.m. in Opperman Music Hall on the FSU campus. The program will include pieces written by him for the piano as well as for the organ (further details provided below). Both of these September events offer a chance to enrich your understanding of our field and its varied repertoires.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that our refurbished Web site ([www.tallahasseeago.org](http://www.tallahasseeago.org)) contains all current information about upcoming events of interest to our members, as well as a live news feed from the AGO National Office. When in doubt, check the Web site!

All the best,

Joe Kraus  
 Dean, Tallahassee AGO

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

## **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.

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## **UPCOMING AGO EVENTS**

**Sunday, September 20th at 6:30 p.m., student members Marissa Hall and Amy Nungesser will present a report on the national convention of the Organ Historical Society this past June in Springfield, MA,** which they attended as recipients of the E. Power Biggs Fellowship. The meeting will take place in Cobb Library at St. John’s Episcopal Church, 211 N. Monroe Street. Refreshments will be served following their presentation.

**Monday, September 28th at 7:00 p.m., a concert celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of composer Vincent Persichetti** will be held in Opperman Music Hall on the FSU campus. The first half of the program consists of his Piano Sonata No. 10, Op. 67, performed by pianist Chad Spears. The second half of the program will feature two works for organ, his *Auden Variations*, Op. 136, with Margaret-Mary Owens, organist, and his *Dryden Liturgical Suite*, Op. 144, with Amy Nungesser, organist. This event is free and open to the public.

**Sunday, October 18th at 3:00 p.m., the FSU Organ Studio will present in recital the complete 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 9th; contact Dean Joe Kraus, at [jkraus@fsu.edu](mailto: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.

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

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## 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](mailto:norris.mr@gmail.com).

**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](http://www.theartistsseries.org), phone (850) 224-9934, or go to Beethoven & Company in Timberlane Shops on the Square, 1415 Timberlane Road. Tickets may also be purchased at the door on the day of the concert. 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 Mussorgsky’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.tallahasseesyphony.org/tickets](http://www.tallahasseesyphony.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](http://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.

**Sunday, October 11th, St. John’s Episcopal Church will present the first Choral Evensong and Organ Recital of the 2015-16 season, at 3:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary, 211 N. Monroe.** Guest organist for the 3:30 organ recital (preceding the service of evensong at 4:00) will be Viktor Billa, the new organist of Trinity United Methodist Church of Tallahassee. More details to follow in the October newsletter.

**Sunday, October 11th, the Artist Series presents the Prima Trio in concert at 4:00 p.m. in Opperman Music Hall on the FSU campus.** The trio, consisting of clarinet, violin, and piano, won the coveted Grand Prize at the 2007 Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition. Details of their program will be listed in the October newsletter.

**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](http://www.tallahassee-symphony.org/special-performance).

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## 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.

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## MEMBER NEWS

Welcome to new member Rod Gorby, doctoral student in organ performance and the new organist at Faith Presbyterian Church. He has also agreed (or perhaps his arm was twisted by our dean!) to take on the positions of both chapter sub-dean AND website editor! Wow! A man of many talents!

In addition to playing one Sunday a month at St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, Joe Wiley is now also playing one Sunday a month at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Tallahassee. He was also seen stacking chairs following the recent Summer Sinfonietta concert at Trinity UMC Church, where he is a member. Joe really gets around!

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# 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.

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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](http://www.pipedreams.org).

**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.

**September 27th—In Every Corner Sing...**raising the roof with soulful and sonorous scores for choirs, congregations, solo singers, and organs.

**October 4th—More Organ Plus...**intriguing combinations of other musical friends add importantly to the organ’s “public” repertoire.

**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.

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## 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](mailto: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.