



THE



TALLAHASSEE ORGANIST

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DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear AGO Members and Friends,

Amid the hustle and bustle of preparing our Advent and Christmas programs, I recommend that you take a few moments to “breathe” spiritually, and to reflect on the real motivation behind all that effort—excusing the occasional headaches, miscues, and other challenges that inevitably arise at this time of the year.

Advent is often described as a time of joyful preparation. To quote Pope Francis: “The season of Advent restores ... a hope which does not disappoint for it is founded on God’s Word. A hope which does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! ... Let us think about and feel this beauty.” Perhaps an appropriate response is to resist the temptations of the “Consumer Christmas” and prepare our musical offerings as an authentic gift of beauty given with joy—and a measure of humility.

My sincere wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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, January 10, 2016 – Annual Chapter Epiphany Party

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: 1324 North Duval Street, home of dean Joe Kraus (on the west side of the street, between Sixth and Seventh Avenues)

Make plans to attend the chapter’s annual Epiphany Party, this year being hosted by chapter dean Joe Kraus. Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. Please bring an appetizer or heavy hors d’oeuvres, and your choice of drink (if not provided). Wine and soft drinks will be provided. Feel free to bring a friend or significant other also.

Parking: There is always parking further south on North Duval (toward town), and parking will also be available in the Lakeview Baptist overflow parking lot, which is across Seventh Avenue from the church building, at the southeast corner of Seventh Avenue and N. Bronough Street.

Sunday, January 17th, 2016 – FSU Organ Studio Recital

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Location: Trinity United Methodist Church, 120 W. Park Avenue

Cosponsored by FSU and the Tallahassee AGO, this recital will feature a complete performance of Messiaen’s *La Nativité du Seigneur*. Come and join us for this beautiful reflection on the mystery of the Incarnation, played on the mighty Casavant organ at Trinity.

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 Music Guild presents its 27th annual *Sing-Along Messiah* on Tuesday, December 1st at 7:30 p.m. at Faith Presbyterian Church, 2200 North Meridian Road. This year, the conductor and artistic director is Christopher Garven, with Viktor Billa, organist, and Kenneth Kronholz, trumpet. Vocal soloists are Yuliia Billa, soprano, Emily Howes, alto, Gabriel Hernandez, tenor, and Jonathan LaBarre, bass. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. You can purchase a *Messiah* score which you may keep, or, if you return it at the end of the evening, you will receive a \$5 refund. All proceeds from the concert go to scholarships for FSU and FAMU music students.

On Friday and Saturday, December 4th and 5th, the Tallahassee Symphony Society presents "*Celebrating the Season*", the annual Holiday Tour of Homes. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. For \$25, you can visit four different local mansions decorated for the holidays, admire lovely collections of art, and stroll through beautiful gardens as you listen to holiday music played by local musicians for your holiday pleasure. All proceeds go toward supporting our Tallahassee Symphony. Tickets may be purchased at Beethoven and Company, Esposito Garden Center, Native Nurseries, Tallahassee Nurseries, from any Tallahassee Symphony Society member, or by calling the TSO office at (850) 224-0461.

Saturday, December 5th, The FSU College of Music presents *A Seasonal Celebration*, a concert of music for the holiday season by all of the choral groups in the College of Music, including the Tallahassee Community Chorus. The concert will take place at 7:30 p.m. in Ruby Diamond Concert Hall on the FSU Campus. For information about this and other concerts in the College of Music, as well as to purchase tickets, visit www.music.fsu.edu/Concerts-and-Events.

Capitol Bells, Tallahassee's own community handbell choir, will perform a program of sacred and secular seasonal music at their holiday concerts, which are as follows: Saturday, December 5th, *Ring in the Season* (with other local handbell choirs), 4:00 p.m., First Baptist Church, 108 W. College Ave.; Saturday, December 5th, 6:30 p.m., and Sunday, December 6th, 5:00 p.m., *Seasonal Celebration* at Ruby Diamond Concert Hall on the FSU campus; Tuesday, December 8th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Maguire Center at Westminster Oaks Retirement Community, 4449 Meandering Way; Saturday, December 12th, 6–8 p.m. at Cascades Park (Main Stage); and Friday, December 18th, 7:00 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 2919 Miccosukee Rd.

The Florida State University College of Music Classical Guitar Studio presents its end-of-semester recital on Sunday, December 6th at 3:00 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 200 N. Monroe Street. The concert is free and all are welcome to attend.

The Tallahassee Civic Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Leslie Heffner, will present its fall concert entitled *Carols of the Season: Christmas, Hanukkah, and Winter*, on Tuesday, December 8th at 7:30 p.m. in Turner Auditorium at Tallahassee Community College, 444 Appleyard Drive in Tallahassee. Admission is \$9 for adults, \$7 for seniors, and \$7 for non-TCC students. TCC students, faculty, and staff are admitted free. For tickets call (850) 942-1893 or see any Chorale member. Tickets will also be sold in the lobby of the auditorium prior to the concert.

The Capital Chordsmen, the Tallahassee chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, will present their annual Holiday Show on Thursday, December 10th, and Tuesday December 15th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Tallahassee Senior Center, 1400 N. Monroe Street. Tickets are adults \$12.50, seniors (65+) \$10, students \$5, and may be purchased from any chorus member, at www.CapitalChordsmen.org, or by calling Robbie Brunger at 244-7729, as well as at the door (if not sold out!).

The Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra presents *Holiday Magic!* on Friday and Saturday, December 11th and 12th, at 8:00 p.m. in Ruby Diamond Concert Hall on the FSU campus. Both concerts will feature recent Concert Artist Guild winner Mischa Bouvier, baritone, and the St. John's Episcopal Church Choir, directed by Dr. Betsy Calhoun. The program will include Ralph Vaughan Williams's *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* and Gustav Holst's *Christmas Day*, along with other beloved holiday favorites. For tickets, which range in price from \$10–55, call the box office at (850) 224-0461 or go to www.tallahasseesympphony.org/holiday-magic.

The Tallahassee Youth Orchestras present their Holiday Alumni Concert on Sunday, December 13th, at 3:00 p.m. in Ruby Diamond Concert Hall on the FSU Campus. Preferred seating is available for \$15, and general admission is \$5. Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance at www.tallahasseyouthorchestras.com.

On Sunday, December 13th, the Choirs of St. John's Episcopal Church will present *A Service of Lessons and Carols* in the church sanctuary, 200 N. Monroe St., at 6:30 p.m. The service will feature music by Vaughan Williams, Bach, Purcell, and Bedford. The pre-service concert by strings and harpsichord will feature works by Bach, Corelli, and Biber. Free childcare is available. A dessert reception will follow the service.

On Monday, December 14th, the Good Shepherd Catholic Church Men's Choir and Handbell Choir will present *A Service of Lessons and Carols* in the Maguire Center at the Westminster Oaks Retirement Community, 4449 Meandering Way, at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free, and guests are welcome.

On Tuesday, December 15th, Voces Angelorum, a women's chamber choir directed by Scott Leaman, will present Martini's *Magnificat in D* at the Goodwood Museum and Gardens. The gardens will open at 6:30 p.m., the concert takes place at 7:00 p.m., and will be followed by hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and wine. Tickets for this special event are \$25 per person, and may be purchased online at www.vocestally.org/tickets or at the door on the evening of the event.

On Tuesday, December 15th, Good Shepherd Catholic Church presents *A Service of Lessons and Carols* by the Men's Choir, the Women's Choir, and the Handbell Choir at 7:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary, 4665 Thomasville Road. Admission is free and all are welcome to attend.

Voces Angelorum, directed by Scott Leaman, will present a free concert of holiday sacred and secular music on Thursday, December 17th, at First Presbyterian Church, 110 N. Adams Street, at 7:00 p.m.

St. John’s Episcopal Church will present *A Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist* on Sunday, December 27th, at 10:00 a.m. in the church sanctuary at 211 N. Monroe Street. Free childcare is available, and everyone is welcome.

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

The Atlanta Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is proud to announce the 2016 Pipe Organ Encounter to be held Sunday, July 24 to Friday, July 29, 2016 in Atlanta, Georgia. The Atlanta Chapter will accept students ages 13 to 18. Students should be interested in pipe organs with piano or organ proficiency from the intermediate to advanced level. Join them for an exciting week of study with the King of Instruments. For more information visit www.agoatlanta.org/html/POE.htm or contact Nicole Marane, POE Director at nicmarane@gmail.com .

EXECUTIVE BOARD NEWS

The Executive Board will hold their next meeting on Sunday, January 10th, prior to the chapter’s annual Epiphany party at the home of Joe Kraus, 1324 N. Duval Street.

MEMBER NEWS

Anthony Rimore has become a dual member of the Tallahassee and Atlanta chapters, since he has close friends in Tallahassee. Welcome, Anthony! He recently accepted an appointment as Organist at Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Marietta, Georgia. Anthony is assisting music director Chris Owenby, who earned the M.M. degree in Composition at Georgia State University.

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. Registration is now open, with a Super Saver rate for regular members of only \$375, which is good through December 31, 2015. Savings for special and student members are also available. The main convention website is www.AGOHouston2016.com. One of our members, Dr. Iain Quinn, will be presenting a workshop at the convention. More 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.

December 6th—Rounding Up...selected works by composers celebrating special centennial or sesqui-centennial anniversaries this year.

December 13th—An International Christmas Celebration...with greetings from England, Iceland, France, Austria, Poland, Italy, Canada, and the United States.

December 20th—Holiday Portraits...The Christmas festival is rich with pictorial implications that composers have interpreted with intriguing ingenuity.

December 27th—An American Christmas Festival...from coast to coast, musicians in the United States honor the Christmas miracle.

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.

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 January and February newsletters would be any programs for Winter, Valentine's Day, or Lent (which begins on February 10th in 2016) that your church or other organization might be planning to present.