

The American Guild of Organists

Windline—September 2019

Clearwater (FL) Chapter

www.clearwaterago.org

Bradley Swope, Dean

Thomas D. Huffman, *Windline* Editor

More Fun Than a Barrel of Monkeys!

Here we are again, ready to launch a new season of AGO programs! Last year was remarkable for increased attendance, strong financial support and the excellent quality of our monthly events. I hope this year continues that trend.

We begin on Saturday, **September 28 at 7:30 pm** with another silent film presentation by Tom Hoehn at First United Methodist Church of Clearwater. This year, the movie will be “The Circus” by Charlie Chaplin. It is a 74 minute comedy from 1928 which won a special Academy Award for “versatility and genius in writing, acting, directing and producing.” Those who wish can eat together at O’Keefe’s Restaurant before the show. We have a reservation for 5:30 pm this year so that there is no rush to make it to the church on time. Those of you who have heard Tom accompany a silent film know that this is truly his “superpower.” It is an event not to be missed.



On a serious note, I imagine your church has probably had a few “church security” meetings over the last couple years as attacks at places of worship have become more common. It can be upsetting to have to think about and talk about these things, but if your employer hasn’t initiated this type of planning, I encourage you to bring up the topic. We now have room numbers posted inside each room of my church so that persons can identify their location over the phone to police or family members. We have discussed how to quickly evacuate the sanctuary and fellowship hall under different scenarios. These preparations are important for other types of emergencies too, such as a fire. As musicians, we understand the importance of thorough preparation and practice.



All the best to you as the fall season begins. Take a deep breath, smile, and thank God for your ability to make music and worship a powerful force in your community.

Bradley Swope, Dean

Calendar of Area Events

(Clearwater Chapter events highlighted)

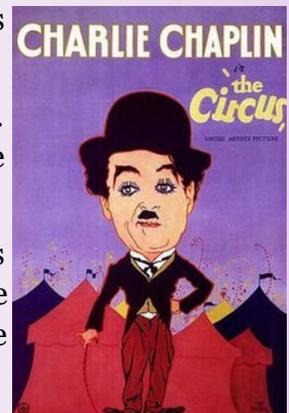
- Sunday, September 15 St. Pete AGO Chapter Fall Gathering and Party
RSVP to agostpete@gmail.com by September 1
- September 27,28,29 FL Orchestra
- Saturday, September 28 Chapter opening event, silent movie “The Circus”
with Tom Hoehn accompanying
7:30 p.m. First United Methodist, Clearwater
- Sunday, September 29 Dr. Ryan Hebert, Organ (*see page 6*)
3:00 p.m. St. Andrew’s Episcopal, Tampa
- Tuesday, October 22 Organ Workshop on registration and MIDI by Cathy Blanchard
7:00 p.m. St. Catherine of Sienna Catholic, Clearwater
- Monday, October 28 Pipescreams
7:00 p.m. First Presbyterian, Dunedin
- Saturday, November 23 Chapter Picnic
1:00 p.m. Philippe Park, Safety Harbor

Silent Movie “The Circus”

On Saturday, September 28 we will gather for our chapter’s opening program this season at First United Methodist Church, 411 Turner St., Clearwater to hear Tom Hoehn accompany the 1928 silent film classic “The Circus.” The show will start at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary with the church’s IV/96 Wicks/Ruffatti, Rodgers organ. This is open to the public so all are welcome to invite guests.

Chapter members and friends may meet for dinner at 5:30 p.m. at O’Keefe’s Restaurant (1219 S. Ft. Harrison) before heading to the church.

At a circus midway the penniless and hungry Tramp (Chaplin) is mistaken for a condemnable pickpocket and chased by both the police and the real crook. Running away, the Tramp stumbles into the middle of a performance and unknowingly becomes the hit of the show.



Positions Available

Chapel by the Sea, Clearwater Beach

Organist/Choir Director at Chapel by the Sea, 54 Bay Esplanade, Clearwater Beach FL 33767

Part-time position, \$25,000—\$30,000 depending on experience and qualifications. Bachelor of Music required, advanced degrees preferred. Skill in conducting, organ and piano, familiar with traditional church music literature.

Direct adult choir of volunteer and paid musicians with a high level of musical training and experience. Church has electronic organ and grand piano. Wednesday night rehearsal, and Sunday a.m. rehearsal with soloists. One Sunday a.m. service with special services on occasion.

Contact church office at (727) 446-0430 for complete job description and application process.

Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church, downtown Clearwater, is seeking a full-time Director of Music Ministries to provide musical leadership to the current worship services, as well as help grow the program in new and creative directions! Peace Memorial is blessed with many musical assets:

- The sanctuary is blessed with some of the best acoustics in the entire Tampa Bay region!
- 4 manual, 62 rank, Casavant Pipe Organ
- Schulmerich and White Chapel handbells
- Baldwin full concert grand piano in Sanctuary, and baby grand in Fellowship Hall
- Well-established concert series (six per year) featuring varied artists and genres
- Adult choir accustomed to singing a varied choral repertoire
- Dedicated choir room, office, and extensive music collection

“We are looking for an open, creative, and joyful individual to work as part of the wider worship team of the church.” Major responsibilities include: serving as the primary musician at our current traditional style service; helping in the establishment and oversight of a second worship service in an alternate style; leading the various choirs and ensembles of the church.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Degree in music, advanced degree work preferred
- Experience serving in a church setting, including work as a student intern
- A spirited Christian faith with an understanding of Reformed worship and practice
- Strong keyboard skills, both organ and piano, is essential
- Choral conducting ability, especially from the console
- Experience in a variety of musical styles and genres

Hours/Compensation:

This is a full-time salaried position commensurate with educational background and experience, with full benefits, including: medical, pension, vacation, continuing education, and moving expenses.

To apply: Please send resume and a video of a recital piece, hymn, and praise song by August 31 to:

Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church
Attn: Music Director Search Committee
110 S. Fort Harrison Ave.
Clearwater FL 33756
or email peacememorialmusic@gmail.com



Reflections on the Convention

From Steve Allen to the Board:

Thank you for the financial support you provided to help cover expenses for the Southeast Regional Convention in Myrtle Beach SC, June 9-12. It was a wonderful experience filled with superb recitals and concerts, workshops,

and fellowship with colleagues. The instruments we heard were diverse—from an 1876/2001 William and Johnson & Son organ at Trinity Anglican Church to the Allen “organ” at First Presbyterian Church. The program by Charles Tompkins and his son Gregory (on violin) at St. Paul’s Angli-



can Church in Conway SC was the highlight of the convention for me (Casavant). Instruments by Zimmer and Schantz with additions by Ontko & Young were played by various gifted artists. Again, my thanks for helping

me afford such a wonderful convention! Should anyone desire to look over my convention program book, let me know. It is filled with recital programs and bios of all the performers.

—Stephen L. Allen, Past Dean



(photos by S. Allen)



When my wife Michelle and I began planning our summer travels shortly after Easter this year, it didn't take much convincing to settle on the AGO regional convention in Buffalo, NY. Upon our arrival in 80° Buffalo at noon on July 1, I knew we had made a good decision.

That evening's program featured Nathan Laube at St. Joseph Cathedral. Nathan's recital was nothing short of stunning. I was left speechless after hearing the 1877 90-stop Hook and Hastings organ. Installed as a showpiece for the 1876

Centennial celebration in Philadelphia, the organ was acclaimed as the

"dictionary of American organs." Nathan's program highlighted the eclectic orchestral sound of this era. He played music of Franck and Whitlock, who composed for that very concept. His interpretation of Olivier Latry's *Salve Regina* (originally improvised at the University of Kansas) took me right to the nave of Notre-Dame de Paris. Nathan saved the best for last with his transcription of Wagner's *Tannhäuser Overture*. It was a natural pairing, repertoire and instrument, as *Tannhäuser* premiered but 15 years before this organ was built.



On Tuesday, we attended in a Festival of Psalms at Temple Beth Zion, one of the largest Reform synagogues in the nation. This featured Cantor Penny Myer and Ball State University organist (and Buffalo native) Stephen Price. The organ (a mid-sized Casavant from the early 80s) wasn't anything special, but the room was replete with powerful symbolism. The ten scalloped walls symbolizing the ten commandments, each side bowing outward representing outstretched arms.

The ominous, brutalist concrete building serves as an affront to the fire which destroyed the original temple in 1961. Hundreds of exposed formwork holes in the concrete symbolize the unfinished work of God.



Wednesday featured a choral recital through the liturgical year featuring the music of Roland Martin. Martin is organ professor at the University of Buffalo, and publishes choral music through St. James Music Press (sjmp.com—a valued resource for me at Prince of Peace!). I also attended a workshop on new music facilitated by Carson Cooman, and a refreshing workshop on hymn playing and free improvisation led by Bruce Neswick. Katelyn Emerson's varied program on the Fisk organ at the U. of Buffalo was a breath of fresh air. So many convention recitals lean heavily on commissions and obscure composers, while Katelyn flawlessly performed music of Bach, Mozart, Franck, Vierne, and Messiaen.

Michelle and I took some time to ourselves on Thursday, July 4. Enjoying the overcast day at the riverfront and meeting up with some good friends close by. We made it back in time for Bruce Neswick's hymn festival, where we experienced in real-time many of the techniques he had just taught in his workshop. The closing recital was performed from memory by David Higgs at Westminster Presbyterian (IV/80 Aeolian-Skinner) and opened with the Reger variations on *God Save the King* (My Country 'Tis of Thee)...a perfect ending to the Fourth.



I am truly thankful to the Clearwater AGO for affording me this opportunity. I would not have been able to attend this wonderful week if it weren't for our supportive chapter board. We finished the week exhausted, but refreshed. We then spent the next ten days driving out to Portland, Maine and down to Boston...visiting over forty craft breweries. But that's another story!

Photos by S. Thomas:

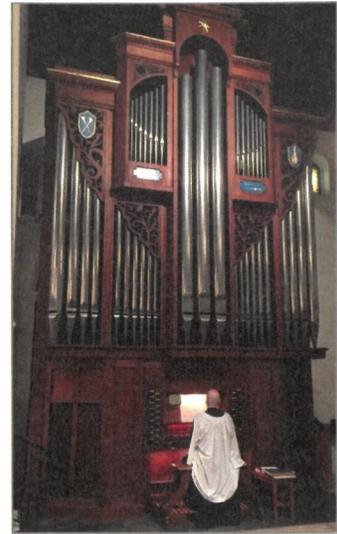
1. Nathan Laube on the Hook and Hastings at St. Joseph Cathedral
2. Katelyn Emerson on the Fisk at the University of Buffalo
3. Westminster Presbyterian Stained glass (St. Mark's Venice, Westminster Abbey, Albert Schweizer, Schroeder, Martin Luther, etc)
4. Temple Beth Zion

ST. ANDREW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH 



invites you to a recital
presented by

Dr. Ryan Hebert,
Organist/Choirmaster



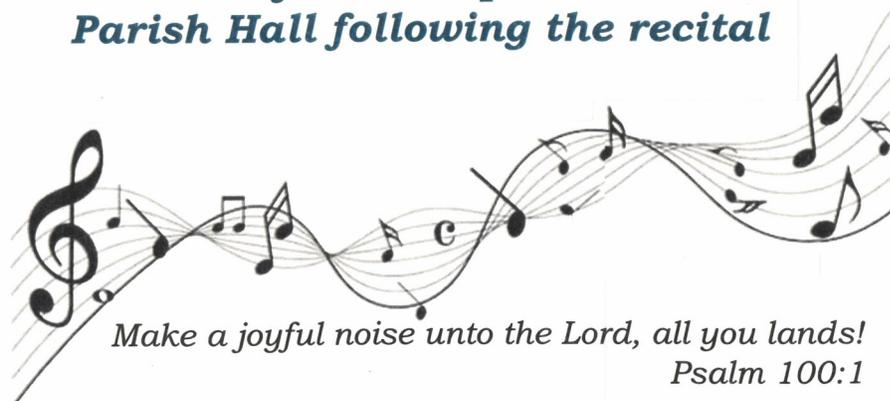
in celebration of the
25th Anniversary
of our beloved Fisk Pipe Organ opus 105

Sunday, September 29, 2019
three o'clock in the afternoon

at

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Corner of Marion & Madison Streets
Tampa, FL

***Join us for a reception in the
Parish Hall following the recital***



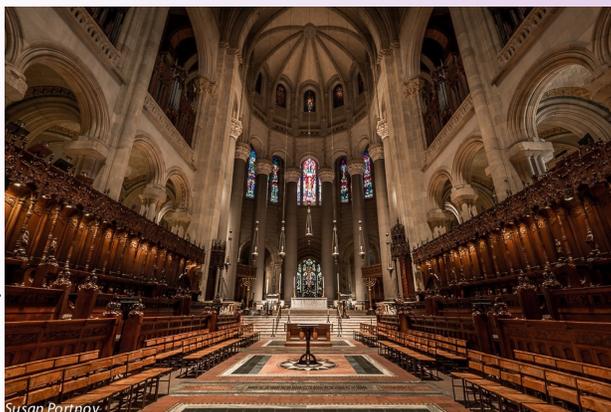
*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all you lands!
Psalm 100:1*

Cathedral of St. John the Divine

Most all are aware of the tragic fire at the Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris, however this note from organist Frederick Hohmann tells us of another fire the day before the Paris blaze:

“Many have been unaware that the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City suffered a fire on the morning of April 14, 2019, Palm Sunday. Several weeks ago, I was informed by Douglass Hunt, curator of the Great Organ at the Cathedral, that the Palm Sunday fire was located in a portion of the Cathedral crypt in an area not normally open to the public. While (this) fire was small in scope when compared with the much more devastating fire that occurred in December of 2001, the April 2019 fire was still serious, and it brought forth some damage..

While the cathedral remains open for worship services, visitors and tourists, the thin layer of soot and debris that made its way into the air in the Cathedral Great Choir and Nave area led to a decision to shut down the Great Organ, pending a more thorough assessment of the damage by the Cathedral’s organ curator and its insurer, and pending a proper cleaning and restoration of the Great Organ.....a digital organ from Walker Technical Company has been installed and...is in service at this time.”



Clearwater AGO

2019-2020 Officers

DEAN:

Bradley Swope
bswope@tampabay.rr.com

SUB-DEAN:

Shawn Thomas

SECRETARY:

Dr. Linda Pointer

TREASURER:

Bob Booth

BOARD MEMBERS

Cheryl Brouette, CAGO (2020)
Bobbie Hoopes (2020)
Tom Huffman (2021)
Don Rolander (2021)
Carol Alexander (2022)
George Fisher (2022)

Board Meetings are usually held on the first Wednesday of each month at 9:00 AM at: First United Methodist Church of Clearwater, 411 Turner St.

Next Board Meeting:

Wednesday, Sept 4—9:00 a.m.

GROM EDUCATION FUND PETERSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Tom Huffman, Chair
hufftom@aol.com

PLACEMENT COORDINATOR

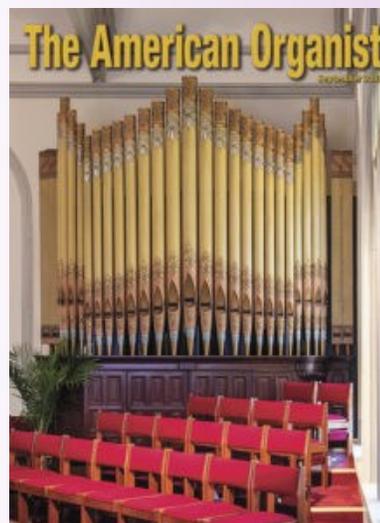
Priscilla Ortoski
tap.tortoski1@verizon.net
(727) 845-4745

Welcome New Member

Brandon Vennick, BFA, MM

Dunedin FL
BDVennick@aol.com
(508) 208-7774

Brandon has transferred from the Worcester MA Chapter.



September 2019 issue

SUBSTITUTES AVAILABLE

(O=Organist only; O/D=Organist/Director; D=Director only; V=Vocalist)

Please send updates or corrections for this list to Placement Coordinator Priscilla Ortoski by call (727) 845-4745 or emailing tap.tortoski@verizon.net. Inclusion in the lists below does not constitute the Chapter's endorsement of skills, and thus it encourages interviews with prospective substitutes. Those listed must be a member of The American Guild of Organists.

Peggy BeVille	(727) 726-8457	O
	(727) 403-8166 (cell)	
Cheryl Brouette	(727) 453-0317	O
Brent Douglas	(727) 459-7025	O, O/D
Grayce Hillman	(727) 642-7322	O, O/D, V
Roberta Hoopes	(727) 442-8333	D
Matt Lancaster	(727) 313-5129	O
Mark Prater, AAGO, ChM	(727) 536-2698	O, O/D
Dr. Sandra Rogers	(727) 560-2376	O, O/D, V
Donald Rolander	(727) 392-4442	O, O/D
	(727) 804-6314 (cell)	
Robert Shone, CAGO	(727) 789-6527	O, O/D
	rcshone@aol.com	
Dr. Linda Pointer	(727) 441-1099	O, O/D
Herman G. (George) Fisher	(727) 339-3077	O
	(239) 398-4966 (cell)	

AVAILABLE FOR EVENTS—NOT SUNDAY MORNING

Stephen Allen	(813) 968-7095	O, O/D
Tom Huffman	(727) 409-8726	O, O/D

Next Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 4 at 9:00 a.m.

First United Methodist Church
411 Turner St..
Clearwater

William H. Longmore
&
Associates

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Today most organs, especially pipe or hybrid instruments fail to receive the detailed and high-quality maintenance required to provide long lasting reliability and service ensuring the enjoyment by current and future generations.

Whether a pipe or electronic instrument (and yes, electronic instruments are not immune to maintenance needs), you may wish to consider having a thorough and systematic inspection performed by an industry professional resulting in a detailed condition and recommendations report.

If you wish to learn more about our inspection, valuation, consultation, project management, digital augmentation and other services, please phone or email to receive additional information.

You may be surprised with what you will learn!

R. J. Rusczyk & Associates, Inc.

Church Organ Consulting and Project Management
Palm Harbor, Florida / rjrusczyk@earthlink.net / 814-440-9340

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