

The American Guild of Organists

Winline—May 2020

Clearwater (FL) Chapter

www.clearwaterago.org

Bradley Swope, Dean
Thomas D. Huffman, *Winline* Editor

Dean's Message

How Do We Sing the Lord's Song in a Foreign Land?

While we haven't been taken captive to Babylon, it certainly feels like we are living in a foreign land right now. It is somewhere between difficult and impossible to do the things in music that we have spent so much time and devotion learning to do. Some of us have loved ones in retirement communities and nursing homes that we can only see through windows. One in six Americans is unemployed. What we used to think of as normal life isn't going to fully return until a vaccine is developed against the novel coronavirus. Yes, there will be a homecoming to Jerusalem, but much will need to be rebuilt.

Here is an interesting and sobering article which I highly recommend. It asks 24 questions about how our churches will function when they reopen for worship. <https://kenbraddy.com/2020/04/18/20-questions-your-church-should-answer-before-people-return/> Now is the time to be planning ahead for a successful and safe resumption of worship, choirs, weddings and funerals.



I always look forward to a continuing education event during the summer months. Most years, it is hard to choose which one to attend. This summer, nearly everything has been canceled, but I can strongly recommend The Hymn Society's Online Conference, which is July 12-16. You pay only the conference fee and the annual membership dues, but there is no cost for travel, hotel or meals since you will be "attending" from home! I have never been disappointed when attending Hymn Society events. Here is the website: <https://thehymnsociety.org/>

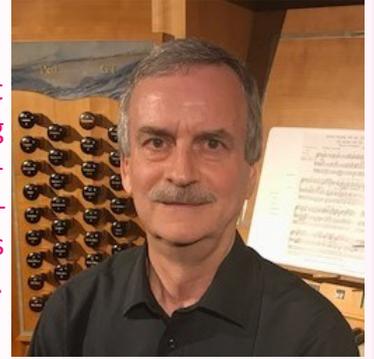
In addition to everything else, my church will change pastors on July 1. I will confess that I've lost some sleep over that news. I'm sure each of you has plenty of your own worries and concerns at this time. Local food pantries, including RCS Food Bank in Clearwater are worried about running out of food because the annual Postal Carrier food collection has been postponed. If you are able to donate non-perishable food, they would be grateful to receive it.

As John Wesley said, do as much good as you can, in any way that you can, for as long as you can.

Bradley Swope, Dean

From the Editor

Here we are in the midst of a history making age, many of us unable to do what we have spent our lives doing—making music with other people. Challenging certainly, but it does open the door to have time to focus on things that we didn't take time to do before. I'm not speaking here of spiritual or personal relationships, although those are worthy subjects to consider. I'm thinking of tasks that never seemed to get done, or professional growth through study or reading.



So I have scrubbed and polished on hands and knees 709 floor tiles in the kitchen/dining room; sorted through all the tools collected over the years (does anyone really need 78 screwdrivers); begun scanning old pictures and 35mm slides to convert to digital pictures; rereading Dickens' *Great Expectations*.

If you don't feel like scrubbing floors, may I suggest you check on the national AGO website www.agohq.org for the wealth of free materials of the highest quality. Here are a few things to check:

- Educational videos about hymn playing, improvisation, practice techniques and five videos in The Master Series featuring icons of our profession: Catharine Crozier, Marie-Claire Alain, Fred Swann, Marilyn Mason and Gerre Hancock. I have just watched the Gerre Hancock video with tears in my eyes—it is so inspiring. (When you watch that, play it with good speakers—there is great organ and choir music from St. Thomas, NY).
- An 11-chapter book *Jean Langlais Remembered* by his wife, Marie-Louise Langlais. Seven years in the making, Mme. Langlais chose to publish this book in English and on-line so that it would be accessible to more people.
- Three detailed writings are worth your while in the AGO Monograph Series written by Haig Mardirosian:
Michael Barone and Pipedreams
The Organ on Campus
The Making of an Organ Virtuoso

This will be the final *Windline* for the season. Remember to check on your friends and colleagues in this strange time. Stay safe and keep making music.

Tom Huffman

Clearwater AGO
2019-2020 Officers

DEAN:

Bradley Swope
bradley@firstmethodistclearwater.org

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.

GROM EDUCATION FUND
PETERSON SCHOLARSHIP
FUND

Tom Huffman, Chair
hufftom@aol.com

PLACEMENT
COORDINATOR

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As a result of the coronavirus pandemic AGO Headquarters Office in NYC will be closed until further notice. All staff are working remotely and can be reached by email or phone. The AGO Gala scheduled for May 8 has been postponed. We regret to inform you that the 2020 AGO National Convention has been canceled.

CLEARWATER CHAPTER SLATE OF OFFICERS 2020-2021

DEAN: Bradley Swope
SUB-DEAN: Shawn Thomas
SECRETARY: Dr. Linda Pointer
TREASURER: Bob Booth
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:
Edward Peterson
BOARD MEMBERS:

Tom Huffman, Don Rolander (2020-2021)
Carol Alexander, George Fisher (2020-2022)
Timothy Belk, Bobbie Hoopes (2020-2023)



TAO, May 2020

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.tortoski1@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

