

The American Guild of Organists

Winline—September 2020

Clearwater (FL) Chapter

www.clearwaterago.org



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



The Show Must Go On: *Pipescreams* to be Pre-Recorded!

No one wanted to see *Pipescreams* canceled due to COVID-19, so the officers of the Clearwater AGO approved an ambitious project to have a virtual *Pipescreams* this year. This is how it will work:

Anyone who wishes to perform will please get in contact with Stephen Allen, who will put together the program as usual.

Each performer will have their piece recorded by Shawn Thomas so that every video has a consistent look and quality. After contacting Stephen, each performer will get in touch with Shawn to set up a recording session. You may perform at First Presbyterian in Dunedin, Prince of Peace Lutheran or at your own church location. Shawn will bring everything necessary to make the recording. These recordings will occur in early October so that Shawn has enough time to edit them together into a concert video.

The video will be uploaded ahead of time and released for viewing on October 30 on our AGO webpage, the First Presbyterian Church webpage and perhaps other sites as well. We will set up a way for those watching the performance to easily text a donation to the Clearwater AGO during the broadcast.

This is an exciting project that will create a great concert video for this year as well as a performance that can remain on our website. Special thanks to Shawn Thomas for all the time and effort he has committed to this project. Please dust off those Halloween gems now and get in touch with Stephen slafl@aol.com or (813) 9997-7859 so that we can have an incredible *Pipescreams* this year.

Bradley Swope, Dean

Clearwater AGO 2020-2021 Officers

DEAN:

Bradley Swope
bradley@firstmethodistclearwater.org

SUB-DEAN:

Shawn Thomas

SECRETARY:

Dr. Linda Pointer

TREASURER:

Bob Booth

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:

Edward Peterson

BOARD MEMBERS

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

GROM EDUCATION FUND PETERSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Tom Huffman, Chair
hufftom@aol.com

PLACEMENT COORDINATOR

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

TOM HOEHN, SILENT MOVIE/THEATER ORGANIST

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center

Friday, September 4, 2020



The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, 1210 Del Webb Blvd. West, welcomes back theater organ virtuoso, **Tom Hoehn** for a September 4, 7:00 pm performance of the Buster Keaton silent movie, *Cops*, followed by an organ concert of pop music and show tunes. Hoehn will present all the organ music on the church's Rodgers Infinity organ.

Tom is a Clearwater Chapter member and Organist at First United Methodist Church, Clearwater. He has extensive training and experience as a theater organ specialist. Over the years he has appeared as the stadium organist for the Tampa Bay Rowdies, the Florida State Fair Association organist, and at the Tampa Theatre and Polk Theatre in Lakeland with The Smothers Brothers. He also composed and recorded the sound track for the puppet animation film, *Harker*, in 2005 at the Polk Theatre. Mr. Hoehn has also regularly appeared as a silent film organ artist at Vizcaya Museum and Gardens in Miami. Theatre organ is a true passion for him! The church will employ CDC recommended safety measures including masks (they can give you one if you don't have one), social distancing and 25% venue capacity, which means the first 175 persons only will be admitted.

A donation of only \$5 is requested at the door on the night of the concert.

2020 National Election Results

NATIONAL OFFICERS and NATIONAL COUNCILLORS

President: Michael Bedford, AAGO, ChM
Vice President/Councillor for Competitions and New Music: Jonathan Ryan, FAGO, ChM
Secretary/Councillor for Communications: Leslie Wolf Robb, CAGO
Treasurer/Councillor for Finance and Development: John S. Dixon, CAGO
Councillor for Education: Vincent Carr, AAGO, ChM
Councillor for Membership: Vicki J. Schaeffer
Councillor for Conventions: Nicole Marane
Councillor for Young Organists: Jillian Gardner

REGIONAL COUNCILLORS

Great Lakes Region: Caron Farmer, AAGO
Mid-Atlantic Region: Wayne L. Wold, AAGO
North Central Region: Karen Black
Northeast Region: Leslie C. Smith, CAGO
Southeast Region: Sue Mitchell-Wallace, FAGO



OrganFest 2020
Performances
Live On!

As you know, the Convention in Atlanta was canceled due to the virus however many of us enjoyed the on line event in July that replaced it. If you missed the AGO's inaugural virtual *OrganFest*, which was held July 20 – 24, 2020, details can be found at

<https://agoorganfest2020.org>

Anyone may still watch the stellar performances by some of the finest organists around.

National is continuing to accept donations to help AGO members who have suffered financial hardships and cannot afford to renew their membership. We encourage you to donate [here](#).

From the Editor:

For those of us that continue in a church or synagogue position, most have read and researched regarding the dangers of group singing during this Covid-19 time. The thoughts of many are that to re-



turn to worship without singing is almost as bad as not meeting together at all. Two recent preliminary studies give some guidance and good information and can be accessed through The Center for Congregational Singing (a division of The Hymn Society of the United States and Canada). These studies from Colorado and Munich (the second in German) give us hope that this will not be forever but cautions that now wind instruments (especially Oboe, French Horn, Tuba) as well as theatrical speech is dangerous along with singing.

A summary on the site gives us clear language to use if those in our circles of influence need convincing of the danger:

As of today, we continue to err on the side of caution, not because we are fearful but because we are faithful. We believe that the health and lives of congregations across the U.S. are more important than any single act of music-making. God calls us to love and care for our neighbors. There will be a time we can sing together in our churches again, but the two studies referenced above do not provide scientific evidence that it is safe for a congregation to do so right now. They should give us hope, but they should not give us permission. The scientists leading the studies have said as much. So please reference these studies and continue to look for updates. But do not be fooled or allow yourselves to read those studies as scientific proof that there are risk-free ways of singing together.

For more resources and updates concerning COVID-19 and Singing, please go to:

<https://thehymnsociety.org/covid-19/>



In Memoriam

Donald L. Hand

November 3, 1941—July 22, 2020



Long-time chapter member, Don Hand died in July. Don and his wife Shirley have been friends of the Clearwater Chapter for many years. Don is well-known as both a builder and player of organs and had most recently served Anona United Methodist Church in Largo FL. A graveside service for Don was held Saturday, August 8, 2020. This is the obituary as shared from the website of Dignity Memorial:

HAND, Donald Lewis, 78, of Clearwater, died July 22 after a hospitalization due to Covid-19. He was born in Glen Rock, NJ on November 3, 1941 and was a descendent of Elder William Brewster of the Mayflower Pilgrims. Don graduated Duke University with a BA in History and served in the U.S. Army from 1968-72. He was a pipe organ design engineer with Austin Organs for many years, a member of the American Guild of Organists, and an accomplished organist and carillonneur, leading choirs at the many churches he served in Connecticut and Florida. He was proud of his over 100 organ installations, particularly those at the Inter-American University Chapel in Puerto Rico, The Shiroishi White Cube Concert Hall in Japan, and his final project, First Baptist in Washington, DC. Don loved his family, was a passionate musician, reader, and history buff, and, as a man of great faith, dedicated much of his time to service of the church. He loved to experience life and traveled extensively. He was predeceased by his parents, Homer and Anna-May Hand, and his daughter, Kimberly Pearce. He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Shirley, his sister Judy Gardner (Mort), his uncle, Bill Lewis (Elaine), his sons, David, Jonathan (Allyson), Mark (Kacie), and Christopher, his daughter, Karen Young (Jeff), and his eleven grandchildren. Due to pandemic, memorial services will be scheduled later.

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

Brief Notes:

- Highly recommended to watch on YouTube: An Evening with Tom Trenney: “Will You Come and Follow Me” which was the first evening event of the 2020 Annual Conference of the Hymn Society of America: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hb95oJkeH2g>
- Your Executive Board has continued to meet (through ZOOM) and is planning with hope for the future. Plans include the annual **Pipescreams** event described on the first page by our Dean, Bradley Swope, for October 30. Also, a **Three Organ Spectacular** is scheduled for February 21 at Prince of Peace Lutheran, Largo and Organist **Dexter Kennedy** from The College of Wooster (Ohio) will be at Peace Memorial Presbyterian, Clearwater on March 14.
- The board is also exploring a future major event for young organists. More about this later.
- Free to a good home: a 40 year old Everett piano in good condition. If interested contact Tom Huffman (727) 409-8726 to be put in touch with the owner in Tampa.

