

# *The American Guild of Organists*

*Windline—June 2021*

**Clearwater (FL) Chapter**

[www.clearwaterago.org](http://www.clearwaterago.org)

Shawn Thomas, Dean  
Thomas D. Huffman, *Windline* Editor

## *DEAN'S MESSAGE*

Dear Chapter Members and Friends,

I am thrilled to begin this 2021-2022 program year as your Dean. It has been an honor to serve on the board for the last several years under Bradley Swope's leadership. What a hard act to follow! On behalf of the entire Chapter, I extend our thanks to the nominating committee: Priscilla Ortoski, Cheryl Brouette, and Kevin Johnson. In only a couple weeks they assembled a board comprised of folks from all corners of Pinellas and Hillsborough counties.

Last Sunday in worship, I had a good chuckle during the reading of the Pentecost story. It begins this way: *When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.* I thought to myself: how funny and how sad that, in spite of all the bizarre things happening in Acts 2, this is the single verse that caught my attention. Your Chapter board will take part in a planning retreat later this summer to plan for next season's events. Coming out of the pandemic, we might be hesitant to be *together in one place*, but I believe it is important for us to begin gathering in-person again. While our financial support of the Guild is crucial, our Chapter's success depends on the energy of being present together. I look forward to seeing you at Chapter events this fall!



*Shawn Thomas, Dean*

# ***NEW OFFICERS INSTALLED***

Members of the Clearwater Chapter gathered for an in-person event at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Largo on Sunday, May 16. Parish Musician and newly installed Dean, Shawn Thomas, led members of the Prince of Peace choir in Evening Prayer with a message by Prince of Peace pastor, Joe Glymph. Out-going Dean, Bradley Swope led the Installation of Officers portion of the evening. An added bonus was an organ music “give-away” from the library of member Joe Wiessinger. Noteworthy is that six of the installed officers have not previously served the Clearwater Chapter in their new role.



(L-R) Carol Alexander (class of 2022), Bradley Swope (past dean), Brandon Vennink (class of 2024), Tom Hoehn (class of 2023), Mark Prater (class of 2022), Timothy Belk (sub-dean), Shawn Thomas, (dean). Not pictured: Peggy Beville (secretary), Bob Booth (treasurer), Bobbie Hoopes (class of 2023), Keith Rasmussen (class of 2023).

## ***In Memoriam***

***Denny Smith***

***1939-2021***

Chapter Friend and former Clearwater Chapter Secretary, Denny Smith, died on Sunday, May 2, 2021. Denny was a well-known organist and vocalist in the area. He sang in the Master Chorale of Tampa Bay and the Clearwater Bach Choir for many years. A full obituary can be found [here](#). No services are planned at this time. His husband, Bret can receive cards at:

Bret Giachetti  
3603 N. Tampa St.  
Tampa FL 33603





## EMPLOYING MUSICIANS IN RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

A Handbook for Committees and Candidates

Prepared by  
American Guild of Organists  
Committee on Career Development and Support  
October 2020

## EMPLOYING MUSICIANS IN RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS A Handbook for Committees and Candidates

The Guild has produced a new document reflecting the settlement with the FTC that guides both job seekers and committees regarding hiring practices, determining salaries, and more. This 36 page booklet is free by simply downloading from the national website [agohq.org](http://agohq.org). [Click here](#) to go right to it.

From the Preface: *Guidelines will help religious leaders and congregations conduct an effective search and make appropriate choices of personnel. It is important that employers clearly*

*define their needs and expectations regarding the available position(s). A religious institution's development of a compensation "package" must reflect the time requirements of the position and skill level of the candidate. It is our hope that this booklet will be useful to religious institutions and musicians.*

## Free Membership AGO Year of the Young Organist July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022

The AGO National Council is committed to membership recruitment, retention, and growth within our organization. During the Year of the Young Organist, July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022, any individual under the age of 30 can become a member or renew her/his membership for **FREE** as part of this program.

The Year of the Young Organist will provide opportunities for both personal and professional development. Programs will include master classes and webinars on a wide variety of topics including: Organ Maintenance, Insurance, Retirement and healthcare, Conducting, Video recording, and Vocal pedagogy.

*Presented by the American Guild of Organists*



# AGO ORGANFEST 2021

*beauty endures*

**JUNE 27-JULY 2, 8PM EASTERN**

Join us for an exciting lineup of performances featuring individuals from all seven AGO regions:

## **RECITALS**

- 📍 Christine Clewell
- 📍 Monica Czausz
- 📍 Nathaniel Gumbs
- 📍 Ahreum Han
- 📍 Jaebon Hwang
- 📍 Christopher Jacobson
- 📍 Nicole Keller
- 📍 Peter Krasinski
- 📍 Kevin Kwan
- 📍 Aaron David Miller
- 📍 Raúl Prieto Ramírez
- 📍 Kris Rizzotto

Plus, this year's virtual festival takes audience engagement and interaction to a new level with these offerings:

## **WORKSHOPS**

- 📍 Organ Improvisation: Developing Skills and Techniques
- 📍 OrganPlus: Chamber Music

## **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS**

- 📍 American Organbuilding: Present Trends and Future Predictions, moderated by Jonathan Ortloff
- 📍 Diversity and Equity: Widening our Repertoire in Sacred Music, Teaching, and Performing, moderated by Janet Yieh

## **PIPETALKS**

- 📍 The 100th Anniversary Death Year of Camille Saint-Saëns
  - 📍 The Organ Music of Florence Price
  - 📍 Leo Sowerby at St. James Cathedral, Chicago
- 📍 Celebrating Marcel Dupré (50 Years after Death) and Jeanne Demessieux (100 Years after Birth)
  - 📍 Meet the Editor: Oxford Hymn Settings Collection
- 📍 Meet the Editor: MorningStar African American Organ Music Anthology
- 📍 Liturgical Choral and Organ Music by Women: A Great Host of Composers and Amplify Female Composers
  - 📍 A Pastoral Conversation on the Return to Singing
  - 📍 Exploring the Hammond Organ
- 📍 Injury Prevention for Lifelong Music-Making

Attendees will have the opportunity to view the final round of the National Competition in Organ Improvisation and vote for an audience prize, mingle at Zoom after-parties, and more.

# 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](mailto: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.

Brent Douglas	(727) 459-7025 O, O/D
Herman G. (George) Fisher	(727) 339-3077 O (239) 398-4966 (cell)
Grayce Hillman	(727) 642-7322 O, O/D, V
Roberta Hoopes	(727) 560-3962 D
Tom Huffman	(727) 409-8726 O, O/D
Dr. Linda Pointer	(727) 441-1099 O, O/D
Donald Rolander	(727) 804-6314 (cell) O, O/D

## AVAILABLE FOR EVENTS—NOT SUNDAY MORNING

Stephen Allen	(813) 968-7095 O, O/D
Peggy BeVille	(727) 726-8457 O (727) 403-8166 (cell)
Cheryl Brouette	(727) 453-0317 O
Dr. Sandra Rogers	(727) 560-2376 O, O/D, V

## Clearwater AGO 2021-2022 Officers

### DEAN:

Shawn Thomas  
[shawn@poplargo.org](mailto:shawn@poplargo.org)

### BOARD MEMBERS

Carol Alexander (2022)  
Mark Prater, AAGO, ChM (2022)  
Bobbie Hoopes (2023)  
Tom Hohn (2023)  
Keith Rasmussen (2024)  
Brandon Vennink (2024)

### GROM EDUCATION FUND

### PETERSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Tom Huffman, Chair  
[hufftom@aol.com](mailto:hufftom@aol.com)

### PLACEMENT

### COORDINATOR

Priscilla Ortoski  
[tap.tortoski1@verizon.net](mailto:tap.tortoski1@verizon.net)  
(727) 845-4745

### SUB-DEAN:

Timothy Belk

### SECRETARY:

Peggy Beville

### TREASURER:

Bob Booth

### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:

Edward Peterson  
(727) 787-0922

## Looking Ahead

Sunday, October 3                      Organ and Instruments Concert  
Prince of Peace Lutheran, Largo

Sunday, October 24                      Timothy Belk, Organ  
Peace Memorial Presbyterian, Clearwater

Sunday, November 7                      Duruflé "Requiem"  
Prince of Peace Lutheran, Largo

Sunday, March 13, 2022                      Erik Wm. Suter, Organ  
Peace Memorial Presbyterian, Clearwater

