

The American Guild of Organists

Windline—September 2022

Clearwater (FL) Chapter

www.clearwaterago.org

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

Wine & Cheese Soirée

Sunday, September 18 from 6-8PM
Bobbie Hoopes Residence
1013 Woodside Avenue
Clearwater, Florida 33756

Beverages and Heavy hors d'oeuvres provided

Please bring a choral anthem (20 copies)
for an informal reading session

Spouses or significant others are invited
If employed in a church, your pastor is also
invited to attend

RSVP to Shawn Thomas (shawn@poplargo.org)
by Monday, September 12

*American Guild of Organists
Clearwater Chapter*



From the Dean:

Fall is here! Well, you wouldn't know it as we waited out a summer deluge last Sunday following worship. Had I known folks were going to stick around an extra half hour, I would have programmed a longer postlude!



With Fall comes our season of programming. We are excited to host our September Soirée at the home of Bobbie Hoopes in just a couple weeks (see p.1). Board members are providing food and beverages. Please bring your significant other and/or your clergy. If you are so inclined, we will have an informal anthem reading session. Bring 20 or so copies of an anthem which is special to you and we will gather around the piano and sing. Do you know an organ enthusiast in your congregation or neighborhood? Bring them, too!

You'll see our Advent recital series has already been scheduled (p.4). An easy way to support the mission of the AGO is by playing on one of these thirty-minute programs. These are not limited to a single performer for each recital. Two or three organists can split a program (don't we all have 8-10 minutes of Christmas music in our back pockets?). Email me at shawn@poplargo.org if you are interested in performing.

A former classmate of mine recently polled her Facebook friends: *I don't know why, but I've never JOINED any professional groups. Why? I don't know! But I think it's time to be a joiner. What organizations are meaningful to you?* Of course, a number of folks mentioned ACDA, AGO, NATS, MTNA...singing their accolades and raising their complaints for each. But one response really struck me: *(Friend's name), it's easy to pick a non-profit to accept your money (Hint: they all will). It's harder to decide which cause is worth putting our boots on the ground and getting involved in.*

This resonated with me as I looked at our chapter calendar for the year. I believe the question we all should ask ourselves, is not "Why did I join the AGO?", but instead "Now that I've joined, how can I get involved in the AGO?." Join us on September 18 for food and fellowship. Invite a piano student you know or teach to come to the Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza on November 5. Bring a friend or neighbor to an Advent recital.

See you this fall.

Shawn Thomas, Dean

Calendar

Sunday, September 18 6:00 p.m.	A gathering at the home of Bobbie Hoopes with heavy hors d'oeuvres. Bring your favorite anthem. <i>(see cover)</i>
Friday, October 14 7:30 p.m.	Joshua Stafford, Organ 2016 Longwood Gardens Competition Winner First Presbyterian, St. Petersburg
Saturday, November 5	A Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza event
Tuesday, November 29 Dec. 6, 13, 20	Advent Recital series at noon each Tuesday in Advent <i>(see page 4)</i>
Sunday, January 8	Post-Christmas party at the home of Bobbie Hoopes with a soup, salad and dessert meal compliments of board members. Bring a non-perishable food item for RCS.
Tuesday, February 28, March, 7,14,21,28	Lenten Tuesday Noon Recital Series at various locations
Sunday, March 19	Bach-a-thon at Prince of Peace Lutheran, Largo
Saturday, April 15	Tour the Tampa Museum of Mechanical Instruments followed by lunch. (tentative)
May (date TBD)	Officer Installation and Banquet at Peace Memorial Presbyterian, Clearwater

A Note from Member Lynn Vera



On August 10, 2022 I officially became an Associate Organist at The Kentucky Theatre, and the first female organist to play there since the Silent Movie era! I presented a 30-minute program of music relevant to the classic Hitchcock movie "The Man Who Knew Too Much" (1956). The audience was very appreciative and my first-time jitters were mostly gone by the end of the third number. Next up is a program of Nino Rota movie music and Frank Sinatra tunes to precede a showing of "The Godfather" (1972). After that I'll be building up my repertoire, especially for Halloween and the winter holidays. This



has been a very fun journey, and I'm grateful to friends in the Bluegrass Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society for encouraging and teaching me. Thank you also to the management team at The Kentucky Theatre who took a chance on a new/old organist. Most of all I'm thankful for my Grandmother Marie, who brought me along to Portland (Maine) Organ Society events and Mighty Kotschmar concerts in Merrill Auditorium. Her influence was strong, and even though it took me 60+ years, I am delighted to be fulfilling one of her dreams.



Advent Recital Series

Tuesdays 12:00 p.m.

November 29

St. Ignatius of Antioch, Tarpon Springs

December 6

Good Shepherd Episcopal, Dunedin

December 13

Trinity Presbyterian, Clearwater

December 20

Prince of Peace Lutheran, Largo

Positions Available

Chapel by the Sea, Clearwater Beach, is looking for an Organist/Choir Director.

- Part-time, \$35,000 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; installing a pipe organ within one year.
- Wednesday night rehearsal, Sunday a.m. rehearsal with soloists, one Sunday a.m. service, special services on occasion.

Contact: Rev. Dr. Rhonda Blevins, Pastor. revblev@chapelbythesea.net
54 Bay Esplanade, Clearwater Beach FL 33767
(727) 446-0430

For a more detailed job description [click here](#).

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Dunedin FL would like to hire a bass section leader.

One 10 a.m. service on Sunday and occasional feast days. Rehearsals are Thursdays at 4:30-6:00 pm beginning October 13. Contact Tom Huffman, (727) 409-8726 or tom@cogsdunedin.com

Brief Notes

- Chapter member Sandra Rogers has a new phone number: 727- 539-9903
- The Executive Board has revised the rates for a business to place advertisements in this monthly publication. A [full form](#) can be found on the website. Rates are \$25 per year for a business card size ad; \$50 for 1/4 page; \$75 for 1/2 page; and \$125 for a full page. Ads would appear for a calendar year (9– 10 issues).

In Memoriam

Clearwater Chapter member **Foster H. Diehl**, 84, passed away peacefully on August 26, 2022. He was born in Elmira, NY, the fourth of five children and the only son. He demonstrated a natural gift for sound and music in primary school; and like his mother, learned to play many selections by ear. His parents encouraged his musical skills and provided lessons until he left home for college.

He held his first, professional, paid position as organist at the age of 14 for a small, country church in Utica, NY. Foster was a graduate of Trinity College of Music, London, England. In 1958 he received his A.R.C.M. in organ performance and won the highest marks awarded that year. He also holds an L. Mus. with a major in organ and a minor in church music. In

1961 he earned a Fellowship (F.T.C.L.) in organ with a minor in Gregorian Chant. Upon completion of his studies in England, Mr. Diehl returned to the United States where he was appointed organist and choirmaster to St. Joseph Catholic Church in West New York, New Jersey. He was married shortly after to his British fiancé, Clare Harwood, also an accomplished pianist.

In 1964, at the age of 26, he was appointed organist of Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago, and subsequently, assumed the position of Choirmaster, leading both the men's and boy's choirs and also Director of Music for Cathedral High School. In 1975, he, his wife and two daughters moved from the city to the western suburbs. He was appointed organist and choirmaster of St. Petronille Catholic Church, Glen Ellyn, IL. In his later years he relocated to Florida and held two more positions, at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Largo, and later at Highland Presbyterian in Clearwater, where he finally retired at the age of 75. He was notably famous in the very small world of liturgical music; but often equally notorious for being a perfectionist in performance, expecting nothing but the best from himself, his fellow musicians and choristers.

He was exceedingly outgoing, and could talk the bark off a tree; but he was loved for his personality and genuinely enjoyed meeting and befriending new people. If you were a stranger, it wasn't for long. In social settings, if there was a piano, he was playing it, as his second love after classical music was jazz. He could play anything off the cuff and loved to entertain.

Foster is survived by his daughters Renee and Erika, grandsons Cody and Cameron, great granddaughter Morgan, sister Donna and many other friends. He will be laid to rest at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Cemetery, Royal Palm Beach, FL.



Clearwater AGO 2022-2023 Officers

DEAN:

Dr. Shawn Thomas

shawn@poplargo.org

BOARD MEMBERS

Bobbie Hoopes (2023)

Tom Hoehn (2023)

Dr. Linda Pointer (2024)

Brandon Vennink (2024)

Bradley Swope (2025)

Jan Highsmith (2025)

GROM EDUCATION FUND

PETERSON SCHOLARSHIP

FUND

Tom Huffman, Chair

bufftom@aol.com

SUB-DEAN:

Timothy Belk

SECRETARY:

Peggy BeVille

TREASURER:

Bob Booth

PLACEMENT

COORDINATOR

Priscilla Ortoski

tap.tortoski1@verizon.net

(727-807-3334)

THE WINDLINE

Tom Huffman, editor

Submit information by the 20th

of the month: *bufftom@aol.com*

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 calling (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.

Brent Douglas

(727) 459-7025 O, O/D

Grayce Hillman

(727) 642-7322 O, O/D, V

Roberta Hoopes

(727) 560-3962 D

Dr. Linda Pointer

(727) 441-1099 O, O/D

Dr. Sandra Rogers

(727) 539-9903 O, O/D, V

Ron Turner

(727) 772-3268 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

Tom Huffman

(727) 409-8726 O, O/D



CHURCH ORGAN CONCEPTS
(352) 212 - 3837

CHURCH ORGAN SALE

"SAVE BIG"

NEW INSTRUMENTS
WARRANTIED - DELIVERED - INSTALLED

USED CONSOLES
USED PEDAL BOARDS
PLAY AS IS OR MIDI FOR HAUPTWERK

churchclassicorg@aol.com
(352) 212 - 3837