

The American Guild of Organists

Windline—September 2023

Clearwater (FL) Chapter

www.clearwaterago.org

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



Dean's Message

August 15, 2023

Dear friends,

Your Executive Committee has been hard at work over the summer planning an exciting calendar of events. Our season kicks off in just a matter of days with a recital at First United Methodist Church in downtown Clearwater. This program is being presented as a fundraiser for our Scholarship Fund. In addition to performing, Timothy Belk is hosting a wonderful reception immediately following the concert.

In September, we will gather for a potluck BBQ dinner at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. The chapter will provide the meat, and a signup will go out via email. In October we will celebrate the new Casavant installation at St. Alfred's Episcopal, Palm Harbor. Chapter members are invited to a Dutch-treat dinner before the concert.

As you can see, we love to gather together and eat! Our chapter meetings provide a delightful time of hospitality, collegiality, frivolity, and more. You've paid your dues (literally!), so join us at one of our many events this fall. Chances are you won't leave hungry!

Shawn Thomas, Dean

Clearwater Chapter Fall/Winter Programs 2023

Sunday, August 20 *(see page 3)*

Timothy Belk, Organist

First United Methodist, Clearwater

6:00pm

Recital benefitting the Clearwater Chapter Scholarship Fund.

Sunday, September 17

Potluck BBQ dinner. Chapter providing entrée

Prince of Peace Lutheran, Largo

6:00pm

RSVP by September 14 at [Clearwaterago.org/potluck-dinner/](https://clearwaterago.org/potluck-dinner/)

Friday, October 27

5pm Dinner at Sonny's BBQ at Curlew Rd/US 19 (Dutch treat)

7pm Dedication Recital at St. Alfred's Episcopal, Palm Harbor.

Thomas Sheehan, Organist and Associate Director of Music, Washington Cathedral

Email/phone Bob Booth by Oct 22 to reserve your spot

Sunday, November 12

Celebrating the tricentennial of J.S. Bach's Arrival in Leipzig (1723)

December/January

Tuesday, Noon recitals: *Music of the Season*

Dec 5, St. Alfred's Episcopal, Palm Harbor

Dec 12, St. Anne of Grace Episcopal, Seminole

Dec 19, Prince of Peace Lutheran, Largo

Jan 2, Peace Memorial Presbyterian, Clearwater



The American Guild of Organists

Clearwater Chapter presents

Timothy Belk



Share a summer evening of fiery works by Bach, Elgar, Ferguson, Jongen, Liszt, and Mendelssohn...

A freewill offering will benefit the AGO Scholarship Fund. An informal gathering immediately follows with classic petit fours, fruit tartlets, and Limonata.

Sunday, August 20 - 6 p.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 411 Turner Street, Clearwater
For more information, telephone 800 | 479-8846

Time to Renew?

The easiest way to renew is to sign on to the AGO National website (agohq.org) and use the ONCARD program. Enter your username and password to access your account and members-only benefits, including the AGO Job Center and special discounts.

If you have not done it this way before, your username is the first letter of your first name followed by your last name, with no space in between. Your default password is your member ID which is found just to the left of the date on the address label of *The American Organist* magazine.

You can also renew with a credit card by calling the national office (212) 870-2310.

Summer Workshop Experience

by Peggy BeVille



Have you seen or heard of the “Freeing the Caged Bird” video? I had the privilege this summer of attending the Lister-Sink Institute 2023 Intensive Injury Preventive Keyboard Technique Workshop incorporating the Alexander Technique at Salem College in North Carolina. I was one of seventeen participants from across the US and Canada. Our experience with the keyboard ranged from a retiree who hadn’t played in fifty years and is learning to play songs for her church school to international piano and organ artists. Injury related reasons for coming that were shared included localized pain to five broken fingers on one hand.

Barbara Lister-Sink, Ed.D. C. T., led the workshop with thirteen assistants who came from five countries on three continents. Over six days we had whole group sessions, small group sessions with Dr. Lister-Sink on the Lister-Sink Method and with Susan C. Perkins, MAmSAT, on the Alexander Technique. We also had individual sessions with Dr. Lister-Sink and daily private sessions with an assistant. We learned about tools for support, both physical and technological.

My experience in a nutshell? It’s all about bio-mechanical physics. We were immersed in the most basic movements involved in playing just one note called the “Basic Stroke.” The highlight of my week? With the help of Dr. Lister-Sink, my short fingers played consecutive thirty-second note triplets across a tenth feeling light as a feather. My goal every practice session is to achieve that same awareness and lack of tension. Having had a taste of this whole new world, I look forward to continuing my studies of both the Lister-Sink Method and the Alexander Technique.



**Prince of Peace
Lutheran Church**

2023-24 Season

Sunday, October 22, 3pm

Shawn Thomas presents an afternoon of music on the Austin Organ.

Sunday, November 19, 2023, 3pm

Scott Kluksdahl and Hedi Salanki

Cello and Harpsichord duo performing music of Baroque masters including Cervetto, Hassler, de Ruvo, and J.S. Bach.

Sunday, December 10, 7pm

Advent Lessons and Carols with Santa Lucia Procession

Sunday, January 21, 3pm

Astralis Chamber Ensemble

This innovative and dynamic ensemble of flute and strings performs with much acclaim across the globe. With unique instrument pairings, the ensemble expands the repertoire available through yearly commissions and arrangements.

Saturday, February 17, 6:00 pm

Spaghetti Dinner and Hymn sing (ticket price \$15)

Sunday, February 18, 3pm

Three Organ Spectacular

Featuring Seth Bott, John Lowe, Shawn Thomas. The Festival Choir performs Louis Vierne's *Mass for Choir and Two Organs*, along with other music for three organs. Featured organs provided by Central Music (Clearwater, FL).

Sunday, March 3, 3pm

Echoing Air

A chamber ensemble dedicated to exploring and presenting music featuring singers with Baroque instruments. Features music for Lent and Holy Week by composers of France and Italy.

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.

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
Brent Douglas	(727) 459-7025 O, O/D
Tom Huffman	(727) 409-8726 O, O/D

Clearwater AGO 2023-2024 Officers

DEAN:

Dr. Shawn Thomas

shawn@poplargo.org

BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Linda Pointer (2024)

Tom Kurt(2024)

Bradley Swope (2025)

Jan Highsmith (2025)

Cheryl Brouette (2026)

Carl Gravander (2026)

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Tom Huffman, Chair

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SUB-DEAN:

Timothy Belk

SECRETARY:

Peggy BeVille

TREASURER:

Bob Booth

PLACEMENT COORDINATOR

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THE WINDLINE

Tom Huffman, editor

Submit information by the 20th

of the month: hufftom@aol.com