

The American Guild of Organists

Windline—January 2024

Clearwater (FL) Chapter

www.clearwaterago.org

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

Merry Christmas!

As I write this in the thick of the Twelve Days, I must commend so many of our AGO friends and colleagues for a job well done. I'm certain that just about all of our members has done something organ-related this Advent/Christmas season. Whether it was accompanying, singing in, or directing a local choir or if you performed on or attended one of our four Tuesday noonday recitals, I know our membership represented well this season.



Hats off to you, our members and friends, as our chapter continues to grow and impact the Tampa Bay community at large. We continue to draw large audiences who support the work of the chapter not only with their repeat attendance but also with their financial gifts.

As 2023 draws to a close and we enter 2024, I'm pleased to recognize three gifts made to our Clearwater AGO Scholarship fund in excess of \$2,000 each:

A gift from the estate of Edward Peterson

An anonymous gift by one of our own chapter members

An anonymous gift by an attendee at one of our Advent Noonday recitals.

These gifts have been entrusted to us to further the mission of the American Guild of Organists and to train new organists. How might you join us in that work? Maybe it's encouraging a young piano student to take organ lessons through our scholarship process. Perhaps you are willing to help with a future educational endeavor (remember our chapter's successful Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza in Nov 2022?).

One of the easiest ways to support our chapter's work is by inviting a friend, neighbor, or colleague to join us. Whether they're an accomplished or amateur organist, an organ enthusiast, or simply a lover of classical music, there is room for us all in the AGO Clearwater Chapter. Invite someone to come along with you to our Twelfth Night potluck dinner on January 7. See you then,

Shawn Thomas, Dean



You're Invited to a Tri-Chapter

Twelfth Night Potluck Dinner

Hosted by the Clearwater Chapter

Sunday, January 7, 2024 at 6:00pm

Home of Jan Highsmith

212 Garden Circle

Belleair, FL 33756

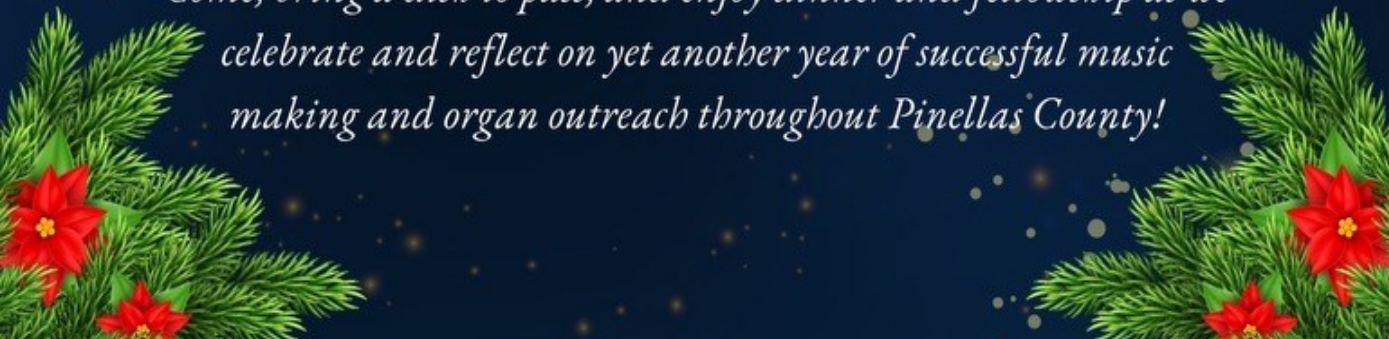
(note venue change from earlier publications)

RSVP to Peggy BeVille

bevillep@gmail.com

by Friday, January 5

*Come, bring a dish to pass, and enjoy dinner and fellowship as we
celebrate and reflect on yet another year of successful music
making and organ outreach throughout Pinellas County!*



Calendar of Events

(Chapter events in **bold**)

Tuesday, January 2

12:00 noon Music of the Season, Peggy BeVille
Peace Memorial Presbyterian, Clearwater

Friday, January 5

7:00 p.m. Epiphany Feast of Lights; Wassail Party to follow.
Prince of Peace Lutheran, Largo

Saturday, January 6

3:00 p.m. Amahl and the Night Visitors (*ticketed event*)
Florida Boy Choir, Brian Collar, Conductor
First United Methodist, Dunedin

January 6 (8:00 pm) Florida Orchestra (Mahaffey)

January 7 (7:30 pm) Florida Orchestra (Ruth Eckerd)
Mozart, Respighi and Bernstein

Sunday, January 7

4:00 p.m. Bradley Hunter Welch, Organ
First Presbyterian, St. Petersburg (*see announcement on p. 6*)

Sunday, January 7

6:00 pm Tri-Chapter Twelfth Night Gathering (potluck dinner)
Home of Jan Highsmith, 212 Garden Circle, Belleair

Sunday, January 14

3:00 p.m. Bryan Hughes, Vocalist with “The Crew”
Peace Memorial Presbyterian, Clearwater

Sunday, January 14

6:00 p.m. Celebratory Farewell for the M.P. Möller Organ Preservation
Pasadena Community Church, St. Petersburg (*see announcement on p. 5*)

Jan 19 (8:00 pm) Florida Orchestra (Straz)

Jan 20 (8:00 pm) Florida Orchestra (Mahaffey)
Tchaikovsky, Barber, Silvestrov

(Calendar continued)

Sunday, January 21

3:00 p.m. Astralis Chamber Ensemble (flute and strings)
Prince of Peace Lutheran, Largo

Saturday, February 3

7:00 p.m. St. Olaf Choir (*ticket required*)
First Presbyterian, St. Petersburg

Sunday, February 11

3:00 p.m. Jacqueline Bruce, Soprano—celebrating music from Scotland
Peace Memorial Presbyterian, Clearwater

Saturday, February 17

6:00 p.m. Dinner and Hymn Sing (\$15 Spaghetti dinner with dueling pianos)
Prince of Peace Lutheran, Largo

February 17, 18

Florida Orchestra, Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue

Sat., 8:00 p.m. Mahaffey

Sun., 8:00 p.m. Mahaffey

Sunday, February 18

3:00 p.m. Three Organ Spectacular with Seth Bott, John Lowe, and Shawn Thomas
with Vierne's *Mass for Choir and Two Organs*
Prince of Peace Lutheran, Largo

February 23, 24, 25

Florida Orchestra, Beethoven and R. Strauss

Fri., 8:00 p.m. Straz

Sat, 8:00 p.m. Mahaffey

Sun., 7:30 p.m. Ruth Eckerd

Friday, March 1

8:00 p.m. The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay (*ticket required*)
First Presbyterian, St. Petersburg

Sunday, March 10

3:00 p.m. James David Christie, Organist
Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church, Clearwater

A Celebratory Farewell for The M. P. Möller Organ Preservation

Sunday, January 14 - 6 p.m.



MUSIC FOR FESTIVAL CHOIR, ORGAN AND TRUMPET

Timothy Belk, organist
Kenneth Brown, trumpeter
Cory Alexander, conductor

An informal gathering immediately follows.

PASADENA COMMUNITY CHURCH
227 70th Street S St. Petersburg, Florida

The Worship and Music Ministry of Pasadena cordially welcomes singers from surrounding churches and the community-at-large to form a festival choir for the celebration.

REHEARSAL

Sunday, January 14 - Sanctuary
4 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Concert Dress: informal black and white
Folders: black

CHORAL REPERTOIRE

Jane Marshall, *My Eternal King*
Franz Haydn, *The Creation: The Heavens Are Telling*
John Rutter, *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*
Marked scores of anthems and hymns and pencils will be provided.

HYMNS

HYFRYDOL: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
PROMISE: Hymn of Promise

LIGHT DINNER

A generous simple dinner of sandwiches, chips, sweets, and water will be provided.

FAREWELL RECITAL

The duration of the program is 60 minutes.
An informal gathering will immediately follow.

Opera for Earth & Florida BoyChoirs present

Amahl and the Night Visitors

A Christmas Opera In One Act by Gian Carlo Menotti
and a performance by the Florida BoyChoirs

David Helme, Amahl
Monica Camafreita, Mother
Malja Currie, Mother
Guillermo Lopez, King Kaspar
Won Cho, King Melchior
Alex Boyd, King Belthazar
Brett Ellis, Page
Jodi Karem, Director
Brian Collar, Conductor
Florida BoyChoirs
Chorus and Orchestra

Thursday, January 4, 2024 @ 3 pm & 7 pm
at the Friday Morning Musicales
809 Horatio Street, Tampa, FL 33606

Saturday, January 6, 2024 @ 3 pm
at First United Methodist Church
421 Main Street, Dunedin, FL 34698

\$25 Adults, \$20 Seniors, \$5 Children under age 12
Tickets available at the door and online at
FloridaBoyChoirs.com OperaForEarthCorporation.org



Bradley Hunter Welch in Concert

Sunday, January 7, 2024

4:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

701 Beach Drive Northeast, St. Petersburg, Florida



Concert organist Bradley Hunter Welch performs on the largest pipe organ in the Tampa Bay area on Sunday, January 7, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in St. Petersburg, the church of the Burning Bush window. The 99-rank Reuter pipe organ contains 4,964 pipes along with two horizontal trumpet stops at opposite ends of the building in addition to a 10-rank antiphonal organ. Renowned architect Harold Wagoner specifically designed the building for music.

Brief Notes

Dear Fellow Organist:

My name is Tony Carson and I am a Doctor of Ministry student at United Seminary of the Twin Cities in St. Paul, Minnesota. I am currently in the dissertation writing stage of the program. The question I am researching and writing about is:

“What practical knowledge and skills do church organists need to know in order to meet the music ministry needs in their congregational setting?”

Who better to answer such a question than those playing for church each Sunday. In addition to the “knowledge and skills” I would ask that you include information about your training, experience and career (if other than being a professional organist). Please indicate your willingness to participate in a follow up interview. My contact email is: dtony1964@msn.com. Thanks for your consideration and indulgence in this effort,

Tony Carson,

BME (1988) University of South Carolina; MCM (1993) Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; SPC, AGO 2004;
D.Min. (in progress) United Seminary of the Twin Cities

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The AGO will once again observe Woman Composer Sunday on **Sunday, March 10, 2024**. Members are encouraged to include music by women composers in their services and other performances on that day.

If you're not sure what you might play or are seeking new repertoire, the AGO Task Force on Gender Equity arranged for three works by women composers to be reprinted in *The American Organist* magazine: *Largo*, 1857, by Elizabeth Stirling (Jan.); *Children of the Heavenly Father*, 1964, by Roberta Bitgood (Feb.); and *Let Us Break Bread Together*, 2020, by Martha Sobaje (March).

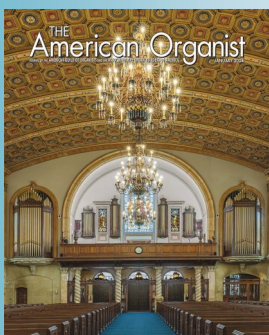
The Task Force will also present a webinar on Monday, February 12 that will highlight further repertoire and explore the legacy of the president, Dr. Roberta Bitgood (1975-81)

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Thank you for being an AGO Member. [Click here](#) to manage your membership: renew, change your address, find an AGO member, and more. If you need assistance with your membership, please call (212) 870-2310.

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January 2024 issue of *The American Organist*
See p. 22 for obituary notice of chapter member
Theresa Hoopingarner who died October 5, 2023

Obituary



Dr. Charles Edmund Callahan Jr., 72, died Christmas Day December 25, 2023 at the University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington. He was born September 27, 1951 in Cambridge, MA the son of Charles E. Callahan Sr. and Margaret Mary (Leary) Callahan. Dr. Callahan was a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, PA; his graduate degrees are from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

He moved to Orwell VT in 1988. Dr. Callahan holds the Associate and Choirmaster certificates of the American Guild of Organists. In 2014 he was honored with the Distinguished Artist Award of the A.G.O. He is a member of the Cosmos Club of Washington D.C.

Dr. Callahan has taught at Catholic University, Middlebury College, Baylor University, Rollins College and The Bermuda School of Music. He has served as organist and music director for churches in Pennsylvania, Washington D.C., New York, Vermont and his native Massachusetts. He was often consulted on design of new organs, and restoration and improvements on

existing instruments. His two books on American organ building history, *The American Classic Organ* and *Aeolian-Skinner Remembered*, have become standard reference works on 20TH century American Organ history.

Dr. Callahan was a prolific composer; Callahan's compositions include commissions for Papal visitations to the United States and from Harvard University. His four-movement orchestral work, *Mosaics* premiered at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, MO, and other works have been performed at Harvard, Yale and Princeton Universities.

Per his wishes he will be laid to rest with his parents in Cambridge, MA. A memorial contribution in his memory may be made to the Music Programs at St. Mary's Catholic Church 326 College Street Middlebury, VT 05753 or Cornwall Congregational Church Music Program at 2598 Route 30 Cornwall, VT 05753.

From the editor:

In 1991 when I was dean of the chapter, we commissioned Charles Callahan to compose a piece with three ideas in mind. That it be 3-5 minutes in length, not based on a hymn tune or otherwise known melody, and that it be accessible to most all organists in regard to level of difficulty. Within a few weeks he sent a handwritten copy of "Prelude in C" which certainly fit our requests and was subsequently published by MorningStar. We selected a date and most members who had church positions premiered it on what we called AGO Sunday, March 10, 1991. We invited Charles to be our guest speaker at the closing banquet that year—he was interesting, funny and humble about his great talent. For several years after that, he would send me manuscript copies of "about to be published" things with notes like "hope you like this" and "this one's coming out soon." A great talent gone too soon.

—Tom Huffman

Clearwater AGO 2023-2024 Officers

DEAN:

Dr. Shawn Thomas
shawnt@poplargo.org

BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Linda Pointer (2024)
Tom Kurt(2024)
Bradley Swope (2025)
Jan Highsmith (2025)
Cheryl Brouette (2026)
Carl Gravander (2026)

**GROM EDUCATION FUND
PETERSON SCHOLARSHIP
FUND**

Tom Huffman, Chair
hufftom@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: *hufftom@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.

Rhonda Griffin	(618) 409-3143 O
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