



THE



TALLAHASSEE ORGANIST

The Official Newsletter of the Tallahassee Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

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"The deadline for newsletter submissions is the 25th of every month!"

ASHLEY PIATEK- NEWSLETTER EDITOR

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR
SUB-DEAN**

Dear Colleagues:

In this month's Newsletter we are both reflective and forward-looking.

Reflection: Our annual January Epiphany Party was once again hosted by Fred Boska at his comfortable home in Indianhead Acres, Tallahassee, seemingly built to surround his fantastic Allen digital theater organ. Several of Fred's theater-organ friends were in attendance, and we appreciate their support of our AGO chapter and our mutual interaction. A large and lively group tried out memorable musical favorites played on both the "theater" and the "church" sides of the versatile instrument. As always, the food, drink, and fellowship were in abundant supply. We are all most appreciative of Fred's annual hosting of this party and for his generosity of time and preparations for the event.

Forward: Our February program is "The Organ and Friends," our members' recital held this year at Faith Presbyterian Church on Sunday, February 14 at 3:00 p.m. "Friends" include singers, instrumentalists, and chapter friends as well. The program features a variety of music and performers in various styles; please promote this event in your churches and places of work to ensure great attendance! We appreciate Faith Presbyterian and their organist Judith Ofcarcik's hosting this event.

Michael Corzine
Sub-dean for Programs

Visit your chapter website: <http://www.tallahasseeago.org/>

Websites of interest to Organists

This February, fall in love with the King of Instruments and its repertoire all over again by browsing through these informative databases.

<http://organsociety.bsc.edu>

This website includes a list of pipe organs organized by city or by maker. The list includes cities in both US and Canada. Enter "Tallahassee" into the search and prepare to be astounded!

<http://www.organstops.org>

"Organstops" is an encyclopedia of organ stops which contains both sound clips, pictures, alternate names, and information on construction and use of stops ranging from common to exotic.

<http://www.organfocus.com>

This website is a great idea, although it is a bit difficult to navigate. It is a listing of organ recitals-worldwide, organized by time and date... which is excellent for organ enthusiasts with private planes.

http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/pipes_spectacular/

Recommended by a Tallahassee Chapter AGO member, this website is a yahoo group that describes themselves as a place for organists to share midi and sibelius document files as well as, "one of the most comprehensive collections of photos of organists/composers on the internet."

Bach's Organ World Tour: Dresden, Leipzig, Berlin and More www.concept-tours.com

Not all that long ago we were all confident we knew what the "Bach-organ" was. Then the Wall came down, and 18th-cent. organs (a surprising number still survive) began to be restored. Those organs make it clear that the stereotypical image of the "Bach-organ" needs major revising. Imagine organs with many colorful 8' stops, including strings and even celestes—Principal celestes! Organs with plentiful winding (with "good lungs," to quote Bach!) and lots of 16's, even 32's. That style of organbuilding hasn't caught on in the U.S. (or in Europe, for that matter!). It's largely confined to central Germany—Bach-territory. If you want to hear Bach's music played on the instruments he knew and championed, then you have to travel to central Germany—a treasure trove of magnificent organs of all types.

That's the purpose of the Bach's Organ World Tour this coming July 19-30: to hear and play, to become familiar with the startling sounds and infinite range of colors those organs offer—to hear and play the music of Bach and his contemporaries on the organs they played and loved.

Quentin Faulkner

**Tallahassee Bach Parley Guest Artist Concert: William Porter, organ
J.S. Bach "The Art of The Fugue"**

The Tallahassee Bach Parley, Tallahassee's baroque music ensemble that performs on period instruments, continues their concert season with guest artist William Porter, organ, performing J.S. Bach's "The Art of the Fugue." William Porter has a distinguished performing and teaching career of organ, harpsichord, and improvisation and currently teaches at the Eastman School of Music and McGill University. Mr. Porter will perform "The Art of the Fugue" on the Taylor and Boody organ at First Presbyterian Church, 110 North Adams Street. **The concert will be held at 3 PM on Sunday, March 14.** There is a suggested donation of \$15 for adults, \$12 for Bach Parley members, and \$5 for students and children. Membership information will be available at the concert. Free childcare will be available and the concert is open to the public. The Tallahassee chapter of the American Guild of Organists will host a reception after the concert.

"The Art of the Fugue" presents Bach's music in its most distilled form, revealing the essence of his genius. Using only one short D minor theme, within the constraints of fugue and canon forms, Bach generates tremendous beauty. He took one small melody and explored every way he could develop it, such as ornamenting the theme, turning it upside down, stretching and compressing it, and incorporating mathematical proportions that the listener may only perceive unconsciously. The "Contrapunctus XIV" section was either unfinished at Bach's death, or may have been finished on a separate page that is now lost. It is a fugue that introduces a countersubject to the theme that spells out Bach's name in music notes. (Bach's son C. P. E. Bach wrote a note in the manuscript that his father died as soon as he inserted his name in the music, but scholars dispute this claim based on handwriting analysis.)

Widely known as a performer and teacher in the United States and in Europe, William Porter has achieved international recognition for his skill in improvisation in a wide variety of styles, ancient and modern. He has taught and performed at major international festivals and academies, including the North German Organ Academy, the Italian Academy of Music for the Organ, the Smarano Organ and Clavichord Academy, Organfestival Holland, the Göteborg International Organ Academy, the Dollart Festival, the Lausanne Improvisation Festival, the Festival Toulouse les Orgues, the Boston Early Music Festival, the Oregon Bach Festival, the McGill International Organ Academy, Eastman's Improvfest, and the National Convention of the American Guild of Organists. He is organ consultant for the Constellation Center, a new performing arts center to be built in the Boston area, which will house several organs in different styles. He has recorded on historic instruments, old and new, for the Gasparo, Proprius, BMG, and Loft labels. The Bach Parley will present their final concert of the season, "D'amore and More" on Sunday, June 6, 2010, at St. John's Episcopal Church. This concert will feature Parley members on period instruments and will feature Melissa Brewer playing Vivaldi's concerto for Viola d'amore as well as Kim and Evan Jones playing a Vivaldi double cello concerto.

The Tallahassee Bach Parley performs on period instruments to more closely replicate the experience of baroque music as it was performed hundreds of years ago in smaller settings. Baroque instruments are tuned to a lower pitch than modern instruments, and the string instruments use gut strings, which gives the music a more transparent sound and intimate feel. At most Bach Parley concerts commentary is provided before each piece to give the audience ideas about what to listen for in the music and to make the atmosphere more relaxed.

For additional information about the Tallahassee Bach Parley and future concerts, visit www.tallahasseebachparley.org.

February Concerts & Musical Events

**Feb. 14th The Organ and Friends: A Tallahassee AGO Member's Recital
CHAPTER EVENT!**

At **3 pm**, please join us at Faith Presbyterian Church, located at 2200 North Meridian Rd in Tallahassee, for an afternoon of musical offerings featuring, among others, chapter members Elizabeth LaJeunesse, Rob Hlebinsky, Olivia Ahyoung, Charles Witmer, Roger Ponder and Judith Ofcarcik. Please print the poster on the last page in this newsletter for this event and post it prominently!

Feb. 21 Classical Guitar Concert

At 3pm, Zachary Johnson, adjunct professor of guitar at FSU and TCC will perform music of Albeniz, Granados, Hetu, and others at St. John's Episcopal Church located at 211 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee.

Feb. 28 Organ Recital & Choral Evensong

At **3:30 p.m.**, Ruth Sisson, guest organist and former Professor of Organ at Valdosta State University, will perform music of Buxtehude, Bach, Mendelssohn, and others. At **4:00 p.m.**, there will be a Choral Evensong sung by the combined choristers of St. John's & First Presbyterian Churches and St. John's Adult Choir featuring music of William Byrd and Charles V. Stanford.



Don't see YOUR recital or concert listing? Be wise, advertise by sending the date, time, location and description of your musical event to Ashley Piatek at apiatek@jpiichs.org. Plan ahead-- the deadline for submissions is the **25th** of each month.



The Tallahassee Chapter of the American
Guild of Organists Presents:

"The Organ and Friends"

An Afternoon of Musical Offerings
Featuring the King of Instruments

Faith Presbyterian Church
2200 North Meridan Rd. Tallahassee

Sunday, February 14th
3pm

www.tallahasseeago.org