



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 DEAN

Dear Colleagues:

I'd like to take this opportunity to promote an event that is not directly associated with the AGO, but one which nonetheless celebrates the organ and one of the most revered composers of organ music in history, who's birthday just happens to be this month! I'm speaking, of course, of J. S. Bach. On Sunday, March 21st, St. John's Episcopal Church will be celebrating Bach's music with a "Bach Birthday Bash," and you're invited to the party! Musicians from St. John's will present not only organ works by Bach, but several vocal solos and duets, including selections from the B minor Mass. Come on out at 4:00 on the 21st, and join us for a musical afternoon that's sure to send you "Bach" home happy!

Respectfully yours,

Elizabeth LaJeunesse,

Dean

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

Websites of interest to Organists

Free Organ Music from Robert Farrell

Greetings,

I am Robert Farrell. I'm a retired music educator, organist, composer, and choir director. Currently, I am collecting e-mail addresses of willing organists who would like to receive one of my preludes each month completely free of any charge or obligation. I simply wish my music to be performed, especially during worship. To date, I have over 100 organists all over the country who are pleased to receive my "Prelude of the Month." I hope you will consider joining my list for a "free" monthly musical gift. I simply ask that you give me the due credit as the composer if the prelude is performed. Also, feel free to share my work with any of your colleagues. Several of my 30 preludes have been published, but all are copyrighted. Yet, you have my permission to copy them and pass them on to friends if you so please. I have a web site where many of my works can be downloaded for free. Please visit www.rfarrell.net/free . There you will find a short bio about me as well. If you are interested in receiving a prelude each month, just send an e-mail to farrell39@comcast.net with your email address. Then you will be included in future mailings. The mass email will come via BCC so as not to reveal your address to others in the group. I hope to make your acquaintance.

Blessings,

Robert Farrell farrell39@comcast.net

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS AWARDED \$35,000 IN GRANTS FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

NEW YORK CITY — The **American Guild of Organists** (AGO) has been awarded two grants over the 2009 and 2010 calendar years by the **National Endowment for the Arts** (NEA). The grants, totaling \$35,000, will support the AGO National Convention in Washington, D.C., and carry a mandate that they be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources. The 2010 calendar year marks the fifth consecutive year the AGO has received funding through the NEA's "Access to Artistic Excellence" program. For its 50th biennial national convention in Washington, D.C., the AGO has commissioned new compositions by: Mary Beth Bennett, Rihards Dubra, David Hurd, Rachel Laurin, Shirley Murray, Leo Nestor, Bruce Neswick, Dorothy Papadakos, Craig Phillips, and Gwyneth Walker. The 2009 NEA grant supported these commissioned works as well as their premier performances to be held in Washington. The 2010 NEA grant supports the entire convention performance program.

"Since its founding in 1896, the AGO has commissioned more new works for organ and choir than any other organization in the world," declared AGO Executive Director James Thomashower. "The AGO also provides auspicious performances of these works by highly skilled artists. It is an honor for us to be recognized by the NEA, and we are highly grateful for the grants that will enable this tradition to continue when we meet for our 2010 AGO National Convention in the Nation's Capital." AGO President Eileen Guenther added, "The recognition by the NEA reaffirms the importance of new music commissions to increase organ and choral repertoire available to future generations, and to increase the American public's knowledge of and appreciation for contemporary classical music. The AGO is especially interested in supporting new music for the concert stage, as there are increasing numbers of American concert halls

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being constructed or renewed that contain new or rebuilt organs."

NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman announced the first round of 2010 grants, which are the first grants awarded under his leadership. In total, the NEA will distribute \$26,968,500 to support 1,207 projects, continuing its legacy of bringing arts of the highest quality to communities nationwide. Access to Artistic Excellence grants support the creation and presentation of work in the disciplines of dance, design, folk and traditional arts, literature, media arts, museums, music, musical theater, opera, theater, and visual arts. Through the Access to Artistic Excellence category, the NEA will fund 994 projects with a total of \$23,828,500.

"I am thrilled that we are able to help art work in this country through more than 1,200 projects across this country. We are supporting projects that have great works of art at the heart of them; that work to inspire and transport audiences and visitors; and that create and retain opportunities for artists and arts workers to be a part of this country's real economy," said NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman. "It is our job at the NEA to support excellence in the arts, and to connect more Americans with more art, more often. This round of grants furthers that mission."

For further information about the AGO National Convention in Washington, D.C., please visit www.ago2010.org. For further information about the National Endowment for the Arts, please visit www.nea.gov.

March Concerts & Musical Events

March 14th, 3pm Tallahassee Bach Parley Presents "The Art of the Fugue"

William Porter, organ, will perform on the Taylor and Boody organ at First Presbyterian Church located at Park Avenue and Adams St. in Tallahassee. Admission: suggested donation of \$15 for adults, \$12 for Bach Parley members, and \$5 for students and children. Reception to follow. Please read the article below or visit www.tallahasseebachparley.org for additional information.

March 25th-27th FSU Opera presents Handel's Xerxes

Performance begins at 7:30pm in Opperman Music Hall located in Florida State University's Kuersteiner Building.

April 11th Tallahassee Community Chorus Concert

The Tallahassee Community Chorus presents Beethoven's Mass in C and Choral Fantasy at 4pm at Bradfordville First Baptist Church, 6494 Thomasville Rd. Tallahassee, FL.



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.

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**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.

