

Dean's Message for September, 2016



Ah, September! Temperatures begin to fall. Schools are in session. Church choirs resume rehearsals. Snowbirds begin to trickle down from the North. Traffic increases. Personal calendars become filled with responsibilities. To Do lists get longer. Concert and Artist Series commence. And the Sarasota-Manatee Chapter of the American Guild of Organists begins its 59th season.

To open our 2016-2017 season we've arranged an event where you can peruse some used music, enjoy some snacks, greet friends and colleagues, and enjoy a program of theatre organ music.

The 1927 organ (Wurlitzer Opus 1569) was built for the Florida Theatre, Jacksonville, and was originally a 3 manual, 15 rank instrument.

In 1996 the Manatee Theatre Organ Society (MTOS), a chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society, purchased the instrument. An agreement with Grace Baptist Church, Sarasota, allowed for its installation in the sanctuary and MTOS added ranks to make the organ suitable for church use. Opus 1569 is now a four manual, 32 rank instrument.

Organist Bill Vlasac will entertain us with a program that demonstrates the variety of organ stops we don't hear on Sunday morning. Some of you may remember Bill from his days as one of the House Organists at the Roaring 20s Pizza & Pipes in Ellenton.

So, if you think a Tibia is a bone in your leg or you've never heard a Kinura, then you certainly should join us on Monday, September 19, 6:30 pm, at Grace Church, 8000 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota, for ***Pipes and Bites***.

Know a church musician who is not an AGO member? Give them a call! Bring them along!

Dwane Grace
Dean