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Newsletter of the
Sarasota-Manatee Chapter
of the American Guild of Organists

February, 2019

Save the Date!

January 25-26, 2020

Participate in the Festival Chorus with
Nationally Acclaimed Clinician Tom Trenney



Both the rehearsal and the **Festival of Sacred Music** program will be held at First Church, 104 S. Pineapple Avenue, Sarasota.

The Mass choir rehearsal is on **Saturday, 10:00 am-12:30 pm**

The **Festival of Sacred Music** program is on **Sunday at 4:00 pm**

To learn more about Tom visit his website at: tomtrenney.com/

From the Dean

Nancy Siebecker

We are excited to tell you more about our **Festival of Sacred Music** planned for the weekend of January 25 and 26, 2020 which will be led by the nationally known pastoral, multi-talented **Tom Trenney**.

Upon visiting his website tomtrenney.com/ you will see and hear what Tom has been involved in as a performer, improviser, teacher, composer and choral director (note appearances at ACDA conventions). I participated in two of his presentations at the national AGO convention in Kansas City last summer, and they were both informative and inspirational.

Our Festival will offer an excellent opportunity for all participating singers to enjoy, learn, and together with the congregation, to be lifted up by the joy of making sacred music together.

We are now in the process of determining the shape of the Festival with Tom so that information can be given to our organists, accompanists, choir directors, singers and congregations soon!

AGO Chapter Programs for February

Jim Walton, Sub-Dean

1. Sunday, February 10, 4:00 pm at Christ Church in Bradenton, concert organist **Stephen Hamilton** will play a program of French music by Franck, Durufle, Alain and Dupre.

2. Monday, February 11, 7:00 pm in Gillespie Hall at Church of the Redeemer in Sarasota,

Richard Benedum will give a lecture presentation on **Mozart's Magic Flute**. He will give historical background, and briefly summarize the opera and introduce its characters, illustrated with selected recorded excerpts. He will also address the question of Masonic symbolism embedded in the plot and in Mozart's music.



Remaining AGO Chapter Events for 2019

Sunday February 10, 2019 @ 4:00 PM

Organist Stephen Hamilton

Christ Church, (Episcopal)
4030 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34205

Monday Feb 11, 2019 @ 7:00 PM

Lecture presentation

The Magic Flute, Richard Benedum

Gillespie Hall, Church of the Redeemer
222 South Palm Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34236

Sunday March 10, 2019 @ 4:00 PM

Organist Gail Archer

Christ Church, (Episcopal)
4030 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34205

Sunday May 5, 2019 @ 4:00 PM

Organist Nathan Laube

St. Boniface Church
5615 Midnight Pass Road
Sarasota, FL 34242

Monday May 6, 2019 @ 6:00 PM

Annual Banquet and Installation Service

Faith Lutheran
7750 S Beneva Road
Sarasota, FL 34238



Community Events for February 2019

Check our chapter website for the very latest updates for local church-sponsored concerts and services [here](#).

Friday February 8, 2019 @ 12:00 PM

***Duo Piano Concert with Dr. Gloria Cook of Rollins College,
Dr. Cynthia Lawning of Davidson College***

Northminster Presbyterian Church
3131-61st Street
Sarasota, FL 34243

Saturday February 9, 2019 @ 6:00 pm

Musicians of First Church: Seasons of Love

First Church, United Methodist
104 South Pineapple Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34236

Sunday February 10, 2019 @ 4:00 PM

***Organ Recital, Stephen Hamilton,
Organist***

Christ Church, (Episcopal)
4030 Manatee Avenue W.
Bradenton, FL 34205

**Sunday February 10, 2019 @ 4:00 pm
& 5:30 PM**

***Jazz at First Church: Pete
BarenBregge,
saxophone/flute/clarinet, with the
First Church Jazz Trio***

First Church, United Methodist
104 South Pineapple Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34236

Sunday February 10, 2019 @ 4:00 PM

New Orleans Nighthawks Jazz Band

Roser Community Church
512 Pine Avenue
Anna Maria, FL 34216



Stephen Hamilton, Organist

Monday February 11, 2019 @ 7:00 PM

Lecture: Mozart's "The Magic Flute" with Richard Benedum

Church of the Redeemer
222 South Palm Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34236

Saturday February 16, 2019 @ 3:00 PM

Pianist David Berry, Orchestra conducted by Jamal Sarikoki, works by Beethoven & Gershwin

Venice Presbyterian Church
825 The Rialto
Venice, FL 34285

Sunday February 17, 2019 @ 2:00 PM

Elizabeth Gerberding, Harpist

Christ Church of Longboat Key
6400 Gulf of Mexico Drive
Longboat Key, FL 34228

Sunday February 17, 2019 @ 4:00 PM

Piano Recital, Brice Hamilton, pianist

St. Boniface Episcopal Church
5615 Midnight Pass Road
Sarasota, FL 34242

Sunday February 17, 2019 @ 5:15 PM

Solemn Evensong, Magnificat & Nunc Dimitis-Vaughan Williams

Church of the Redeemer
222 South Palm Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34236

Friday February 22, 2019 @ 12:00 Noon

The Blue Herron Sextet, Harry Miedema, Director

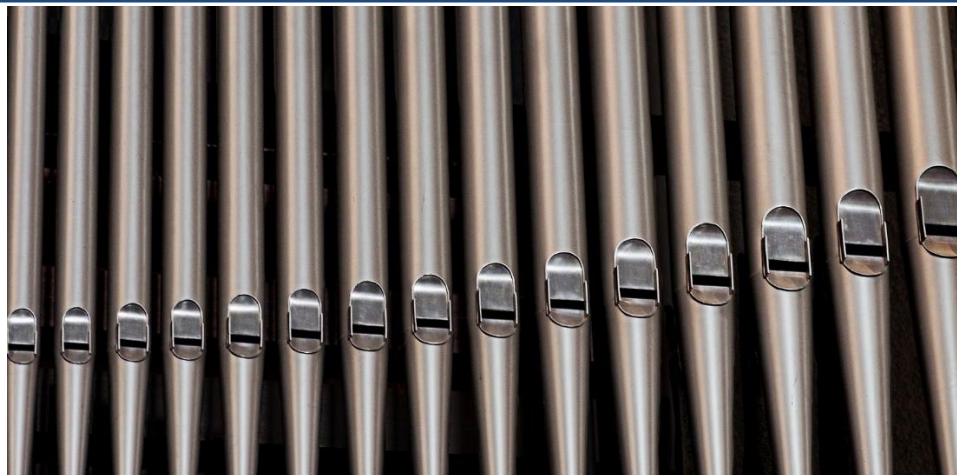
Northminster Presbyterian Church
3131 61st Street
Sarasota, FL 34243

Friday February 22, 2019 @ 7:00 PM

Discover, Experience & Share, Svetlana Smolina-Piano

Church of the Redeemer
222 South Palm Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34236





Saturday February 23, 2019 @ 7:00 PM

Voci Virili, Professional Men's Choral Ensemble of Singers and Conductors from East Tennessee, Harv Wileman Director (former Sarasota resident)

Siesta Key Chapel
4615 Gleason Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34242

Sunday February 24, 2019 @ 4:00 PM

The Divas, Divas through the decades, a tribute to female vocalists in American Pop Music

First United Methodist Church
603 11th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34205

Sunday February 24, 2019 @ 5:00 PM

The Syrian Project-Lecture and Concert, Mariela Shaker, Violin To Benefit Syrian Refugees and misplaced persons in aftermath of war relief

Church of the Redeemer
222 South Palm Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34236

Sunday February 24, 2019 @ 5:00 PM

Florida Southern College Chamber Singers

Pine Shores Presbyterian Church
6116 Crestwood Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34231

Monday February 25, 2019 @ 7:00 PM

Musica Sacra-Sabat Mater by Karl Jenkins

First Presbyterian Church
2050 Oak Street
Sarasota, FL 34237



OrganistSRQ – by Amy Cerniglia

Seven Tips for Maintaining Keyboard Skills

After fifteen years of piano lessons, I certainly believed that all this time in study would grant me all the keyboard skills necessary to succeed as a professional musician. But as an undergraduate student, I heard about a new course called Functional Piano. Curious, I signed up for the class, and learned an entirely new skill set that just doesn't often appear as a topic in private lessons.

The Tuesday/Thursday meetings broadened my knowledge to include more practical applications. Transposition, melody harmonization, open score reading, and figured bass realization were just a few of the topics we tackled.

Since taking that class, I've approached the keyboard in a new way. Still, one class wasn't enough to grant lifelong mastery. Without regular practice, it's just a little bit harder the next time I need to polish off my ability to read figured bass.

Many of us may neglect to devote real study time to these keyboard topics, and usually brush up those skills on an as-needed basis.

Here are some ways to address the ongoing process of keeping up with the keyboard skills:

1. Keep up your memorization skills

Most organists do not have to regularly play by memory. There are many “shortcuts” that we can use to sidestep even the occasional memorization. For example, one can write in the chords to a reharmonization rather than playing from memory. If short on practice time, it can be handy to take these shortcuts, but look for opportunities to stretch your mind (and your hands), even if it’s not required.

2. Keep accountable with a friend

If you have organist friends near or far, you can ask what pieces they’ve been working on, what kind of music they’ve been using in church, and what technical exercises they might use. These ideas can inspire you to take on new challenges when you feel stuck in the same routines.

3. Watch a tutorial or workshop online

Did you know that you can watch master classes with Olivier Latry for *free*? From the comfort of your own living room or study, you can watch Dan Forrest speak to creative arranging, or listen to Brad Nix review tips for choral accompanying. Recently, I’ve enjoyed lectures by Marin Alsop, one of the forerunner female conductors of our time. If you have a good chunk of time and feel ambitious, check out Leonard Bernstein’s lectures at Harvard. The wealth of free knowledge available on YouTube is simply amazing.

4. Sight-read a new piece every day (or every time you practice)

If you’re a busy musician like me, your work may accomplish this on its own. Sight-reading is one of the most important skills for many keyboardists, whether at the organ or piano. If your jobs don’t require a great deal of reading new music, this is one of the most critical skills to hone on your own time.

5. Take a class

Look for local opportunities to enroll in a one-semester, or even shorter, class involving keyboard skills. If you’re a church pianist transitioning to the organ or returning to music-related employment after years in another career, you can greatly benefit from formal study without breaking bank.

6. Read open score

This goes especially for anyone who is not already reading open score on a consistent basis for work or school. You never know how much you need your open score reading skills until the moment you sit down and realize that the Eric Whitacre score has no piano reduction. For the most difficult pieces, “fake it” by learning the feel of the chord progressions if you don’t have time to study the score in detail.

7. Play songs by ear

This builds listening skills and applies some of those hypothetical improvisation skills. You can practice coordination by singling out the tenor line with a solo instrument, or play it above the soprano melody for easy descant inspiration.

Even if none of these ideas are new to you, consider this your reminder to spend a few free minutes watching a concert organist on YouTube before you queue the vine compilations. By maintaining the keyboard skills that may feel basic, we strengthen ourselves as musicians and better approach the more advanced tasks.



For sale – price reduced: Rodgers Organ Model 578

Two manuals and pedal board, seven years old and in perfect condition. The finish is a light oak and the instrument has been used in my home since I bought it new. Google this model and discover its many features (far too many to list here). The organ is located in Bradenton, Florida. This would be a perfect addition to any music room in a home, but also to a sanctuary in a church. A brand new Rodgers that is very similar to this 578, the newer 579, has a list price of over \$40k.

I am asking \$9,999 but I'm open to reasonable offers. Please feel free to phone me at 815-531-9558 and come over with some music and try it out. You won't be disappointed.

Lew Davies

Chapter Leadership

- Nancy Siebecker, *Dean*
- James Walton, *Sub-Dean*
- Susan Crumpler, *Treasurer*
- Cynthia Roberts-Greene, *Secretary*
- The Rev. Charleston Wilson, *Chaplain*

Executive Board

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| ■ John Ferreira, Bill Holt, Charles Wolf | <i>Class of 2019</i> |
| ■ Carolyn Reynolds, Dwane Grace | <i>Class of 2020</i> |
| ■ Janet Davis, Jamal Sarikoki | <i>Class of 2021</i> |

Others

- Janet Davis, *Hospitality*
- Vacant , *Historian*
- Phyllis O'Keef, *Registrar*
- Bill Holt, *Advertising*
- Dan Crumpler, *Webmaster*
- John Ferreira, *Placement/Substitutes*
- Michael Trezise, *Newsletter*
- Paul Adams, *TAO Reporter*

Chapter Information

Website ■ agosm.org

Here you'll find the full chapter calendar of events the Dean's message, as well as the complete updated list of other concerts and events of interest planned for the wider Manatee and Sarasota county areas.

Dan Crumpler, Webmaster

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