



# MONTRÉ

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

OCTOBER 2015

## FROM THE DEAN

Florida, it is said, has two seasons: tourist and construction. Now that October is upon us, we Floridians experience our own version of a Fall color tour. It is not the trees that change color, but rather the license tags on cars. "Snowbirds" are returning from up north. This is a mixed blessing. On the one hand, our streets will be clogged as we choke in exhaust fumes. We will idle away our fuel, stuck in traffic and waiting at stoplights. On the other hand, the influx of people will add singers to our congregations and choirs.

As a rule of thumb, approximately seven percent of a church congregation may be available for all things musical. If your church has experienced a mass exodus, and the congregation has dwindled to 30 people or so, the best you can probably hope for is a pickup choir of half a dozen non-readers with very limited range. Still, you can get a decent sound from the loft with easy voice parts set to nice accompaniments. Barring factors beyond the organist-choirmaster's control, there are ways that we can help to build or rebuild a music program and hopefully increase participation. However, there is only so much that we can do as church attendance declines on a worldwide scale.

While opportunities may be fewer, there are some bright spots. If we are to keep our art and profession alive, we need to try to keep our patience and sense of humor. True, fewer young people are becoming organists. Many schools, colleges and universities have shuttered their organ departments, but there are notable exceptions. One is the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester in New York.

The October issue of *The American Organist* features an article on the Eastman School's rescue and restoration of a rare, 18th-century Italian Baroque organ. The reconstruction was the first in the Eastman School's multiyear plan to assemble a collection of new and historic organs throughout Rochester. To date, 11 organs have been installed as part of the Eastman Organ Rochester Initiative in various locations in the city. This has created a collection that is unparalleled in the United States. Of course, these and other instruments cannot play themselves. They require well-trained organists. In this regard, the Eastman School is noted for its teaching excellence.

*Soli Deo gloria. Carl Parks, Dean*

## MEMBER DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

An updated membership directory is now available. Printed copies have been distributed to attendees of the recent Chase Loomer recital. Copies will also be available at the November 14th workshop.

## UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

**Chapter-Sponsored Choral Workshop ■**  
Saturday, November 14, 2015, 9:30 a.m. at First Congregational UCC Church, 1031 S. Euclid Ave., Sarasota. Led by Dr. Joseph Holt, Artistic Director of Gloria Musicae and Artist in Residence of Faith Lutheran Church in Sarasota, this workshop presents an exciting opportunity for you and your choir members. Sing, enjoy and explore four pieces of attractive, usable and versatile choral literature. Dr. Holt will explore choral techniques such as blend, balance, diction and intonation. Contact Nancy Siebecker at 715.574.1757 or email at [Nancyds@wilsonhurd.com](mailto:Nancyds@wilsonhurd.com) for information or to register.

**Chapter Board Meeting ■**

Tuesday, November 17, 2015, at 4 pm. Redeemer Episcopal Church, 222 South Palm Avenue / Sarasota, FL 34236.

**FUTURE CHAPTER EVENTS**

**From the Sub-Dean:** As Sub-Dean and Chair of the Events Committee of our Chapter, I am pleased to announce the lineup of programs for the 2015-2016 year. A few months ago many of you graciously responded to a survey about what you wanted in the way of programs. The Events Committee looked carefully at your suggestions and planned the upcoming season accordingly. Here's what is scheduled for you. We hope that you will mark your calendar and attend as many events as possible. Additional details on these events will be forthcoming. **Dwane Grace, Sub-Dean**

**David Cherwien Hymn Festival ■**

Friday, January 29, 2016. Pine Shore Presbyterian Church, Sarasota. This is another opportunity for you and your choir members to participate in making glorious music.

**Chapter Dutch Lunch ■**

Tuesday, February 23, 2016. Casual get-together for members, spouses, friends and colleagues.

**Thomas Murray, Yale School of Music ■**

Saturday, March 18, 2016. Lunch and conversation.  
Sunday, March 19, 2016, Recital at Christ Church, Bradenton.

**A Musical Visit to Boston: 1870-1910 ■**

Tuesday, April 11, 2016. Presented by James Johnston.

**Chapter Annual Banquet ■**

Tuesday, May 23, 2016. Presentation by Fr. Fred Robinson

**ORGAN COMPETITIONS****Young Organist Competition 2016 ■**

Saturday, March 12, 2016. Sponsored by the Greater Columbia AGO Chapter, Columbia, S.C. Open to Grades 8-12. First Prize \$1,000, Second Prize \$500, Third Prize \$300, Hymn Playing Award \$250. Best Bach Performance \$250. For rules and application see "Young Organist Competition 2016" at [www.columbiaago.org](http://www.columbiaago.org).

**LOCAL CONCERTS**

Please refer to the Events section at the Chapter website: [agosm.org/community-events.html](http://agosm.org/community-events.html)

Note that non-chapter-sponsored events are not currently listed in Montre, but will be effective the next issue. To take advantage of this, simply submit — minimally two weeks prior to the event — a request to publish the event on the website by sending an email to our Community Events Chair, Dwane Grace. In doing so, the event will automatically be included in the next edition of Montre. You may also leave a follow up-message at the chapter email below. Posting your event's flyer on the web is also available for a small charge.

**CHAPTER INFORMATION**

**Website ■** [agosm.org](http://agosm.org)

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

**Email ■** [agosaramana@gmail.com](mailto:agosaramana@gmail.com)

**Mail Address ■** 3765 Summerwind Circle, Bradenton, FL 34209