

THE COUPLER

A publication of the Southwest Florida Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

November 2021

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THE DEAN'S CORNER

It is no secret that we all live in turbulent times. Many issues, from political polarities to the pandemic and how to respond to it, continue to divide us as a nation. Even the news advises us that the shortage of truck drivers may hinder Christmas this year because merchandise may not be available in time. It is in this context that we enter the holiday season; a season that reminds us to be thankful, and to be at peace with our neighbor.



If there is one thing that has the universal power to bring us together if only for a short time, it is the power of music. As the Lebanese writer, Kahlil Gibran puts it: "Music is the language of the Spirit. It opens the secret of life bringing peace, abolishing strife". God has blessed us with the talents to bring diverse groups of people together with music. As we go to this busy season, may we be thankful for the talents that God has given us.

Soli Dei Gloria,

John Renfroe
Dean



American Guild of Organists
SW FLORIDA CHAPTER

THE YEAR OF THE YOUNG ORGANIST

The AGO National Council is committed to membership recruitment, retention, and growth within our organization. As more of our members have reached the “Special” membership category (present company included!), we recognize that new initiatives must be developed to attract and welcome younger members into the Guild. We want them to experience the wealth of benefits, professional opportunities, and camaraderie we have enjoyed during our careers. To this end, we have established the “*Year of the Young Organist*,” **July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022**. During these 12 months, any individual under the age of 30 can become a new member or renew her/his membership for free as part of this program.

The game is on! Starting July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2022, how many young organists can we recruit? At the end of the Year of the Young Organist, AGO Headquarters will run a report to see how many new members we have recruited over the past twelve months. The AGO will award one small (up to 60 members), one medium (61–125 members), and one large (126+ members) chapter with \$1000, each, based on the net increase of primary young organists they have recruited (dual memberships will not be counted, so no double dipping)! The number of members our chapter have recruited will be based on the net gain. This means that if our chapter recruited fifteen young organists but lost five, your net gain would be ten, so keeping our current young organists as members is equally important!

CONCERTS & EVENTS

Sunday, November 7 | 4 p.m.

Trinity-by-the-Cove Episcopal Church’s first concert of the their 2021-2022 season features the new Director of Music of Trinity-by-the-Cove, internationally acclaimed organist Dexter Kennedy. He is winner of the 241th Grand Prix d’interprétation at the *2014 Chartres International Organ Competition*. Dexter Kennedy will present a varied program of organ favorites from several musical eras on the Casavant organ, including Bach’s monumental Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor.

This event is free and open to the public.



Sunday, November 7 | 4 p.m.

The first performance of the 40th anniversary of Moorings Presbyterian Church’s Hyacinth Concert Series will feature Naples Philharmonic Co-Concertmaster Emerson Millar, principal cellist Adam Satinsky, and pianist Alexandra Carlson to perform an exciting program of romantic piano trios. The debut performance of this virtuoso ensemble is not to be missed!

This event is free and open to the public.



Sunday, November 14 | 2 p.m.

Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church will feature James Kealey, Associate Director of Music and Organist at Third Presbyterian Church in Rochester, New York. Kealey was awarded the 2020 Cochran Prize for best organ recital of the year at the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester. He will play a varied program including works by Bach, Franck, Widor and Vierne. Don’t miss this rising star in the organ world!

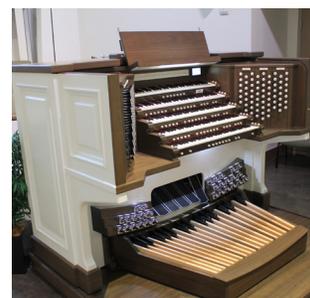
This event is free and open to the public.



Wednesday, November 24 | 6:30 p.m.

New Hope Presbyterian Church in Fort Myers will present a special Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service for the community. Director of Traditional Music and Worship Benjamin Ball will lead the service music on the impressive five-manual Allen hybrid organ.

This event is free and open to the public.



More details and future events can be found on our website: agoswfl.org/events

CHAPTER NEWS

THE PASSING OF A DEAR FRIEND



As you may know, a few weeks ago we received notification that Sandra Averhart, a dear friend to many and a long-time participant in our chapter, had passed away. Sandra Lee Averhart, age 73, passed away on Wednesday,

October 20, 2021. Sandra was born on April 28, 1948.

At the time of this publication, public services for Sandra have not been scheduled. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.neptunesociety.com/location/fort-myers-cremation for the Averhart family.

MEETING OF THE CHAPTER OFFICERS



At the end of October, your Board of Chapter Officers met together to discuss the 2021-2022 season. It was a very productive meeting, and the Board has some wonderful things in store for our chapter, including

chapter parties, organ crawls, OrganFest, and more!

Keep an eye on your email for the official announcement of these events!

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Port Charlotte | Pilgrim Church (United Church of Christ)

Pilgrim Church is seeking a part-time, year-round Organist/Pianist. The Organist/Pianist is responsible for organ and piano accompaniment for scheduled worship services and special services in support of the music ministry of the Pilgrim Church United Church of Christ. The schedule is flexible to be shared with other accompanist(s) if desired. Participation is expected at the traditional Sunday worship services, season choir rehearsals (once choir resumes), and other special services, including (but not limited to) Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Easter. The organist/pianist may be asked to provide services for funerals, memorial services, and weddings with additional compensation. All resumes, inquiries, and questions regarding this position may be directed to the Office Administrator, Cat Foster (office@pilgrimonline.org, 941-629-2633).



Pilgrim Church, A Congregation of the United Church of Christ
24515 Rampart Boulevard
Port Charlotte, FL 33980

Naples | Lely Presbyterian Church

Lely Presbyterian Church is searching for a part-time Organist and Choirmaster. This position will work directly with and report to the pastor, Dr. Ed Brandt. All resumes, inquiries, and questions regarding this position may be directed to the Chairperson of the Search Committee, Cherie Millsom (cheriemillsom@gmail.com, 239-774-6151).

Lely Presbyterian Church
110 St. Andrews Boulevard
Naples, FL 34113



Naples | First Church of Christ, Scientist

First Church of Christ, Scientist is seeking a permanent organist for their 10am Sunday services and 7:30pm Wednesday services. Three hymns will be pre-selected. The organist will need to supply a prelude, offertory, and postlude, and accompany one solo on Sundays (No choir). There is also a service with solo on Thanksgiving Day. All resumes, inquiries, and questions regarding this position may be directed to the Music Chairman, Merry Coolidge at merrynaples@gmail.com.



First Church of Christ, Scientist
649 Central Avenue
Naples, FL 34102

Concert Series

2021-2022

Sunday, October 24, 2021—3:00 pm

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" (A Festival of Hymns)

Wednesday, November 24, 2021—6:30 pm

Community Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

Sunday, December 5, 2021—3:00 pm

Traditional Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols

Wednesday, December 15, 2021—6:30 pm

Songs of the Christmas Season led by guest organist Rudy Lucente

Saturday, January 29, 2022—7:00 pm

"Sing Out" Symphonic Chorale Concert

Sunday, February 27, 2022—3:00 pm

Saxophonist Eirinn Abu

Sunday, March 20, 2022—3:00 pm

Organist John Renfroe

New Hope Presbyterian Church
10051 Plantation Road
Fort Myers, Florida 33966



Faithfully Christmas

Christmas Concert & Sing-along

Featuring
Members of the Naples Philharmonic Brass Quintet
J. Matthew Swingle, organ

December

10

6 p.m.



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

All newsletter publication submissions are due by the **25th of every month**. Concert announcements, chapter news, items for sale, positions available, etc. are all welcomed inclusions to our publications. Please submit all newsletter submissions to our email, agoswfl@gmail.com.

For a full listing of available substitutes and lessons teachers, please visit our website at: agoswfl.org/substitutes/.

To submit a request for an email blast to the chapter requesting a substitute, please visit our website at: agoswfl.org/email-request/.



Something for everyone!
AGOYO virtual program year 20-21

FRIDAYS AT NOON EST

videos will be premiered at:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/GuildofOrganists>

August 14- Organ crawl: West Point Chapel

September 11- Workshop:

Church musicians and technology

September 25- Panel: Organists of colors

October 9- Panel: The Global Organist

November 13- Organ crawl: Longwood Gardens

December 11- Organ factory tour: Austin Organ Co.

January 8- Webinar:

Young conductors/organists guide to church music

February 12- Organ crawl: Wanamaker

March 12- Panel:

Board positions in the guild/serving in leadership roles

April 9- Organ factory tour: Taylor & Boody

May 7, 14, 21, 28- Young organist recitals



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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AGOYoungOrganists>

Follow us on Instagram at:

[ago_young_organists](https://www.instagram.com/ago_young_organists)

Email us at:

conveneragoyo@gmail.com

<https://www.agohq.org/ago-young-organists/>