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CFAGO


MIXTURE



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Newsletter

A Publication of the
Central Florida Chapter



American Guild of
ORGANISTS



Dean's Message

Boyd Jones
CFAGO Dean



Greetings to all Central Florida AGO members and friends! I hope that all of you survived the recent hurricane with as little damage as possible. The expected arrival of Hurricane Milton caused your CFAGO Board to postpone its most recent scheduled Zoom meeting. I was grateful to Sub-Dean Andre' Lash for overseeing the make-up meeting the following week, when I was involved in a rehearsal.

Our events thus far this season have been highly successful. We look forward to the coming Spooktakular in October, and other events that you will read about in this newsletter and other email contacts. As we prepare for our church work and other music making, know that your Central Florida AGO supports you in all you do, and wishes you the best in all your musical activities, and other endeavors.

My AGO Certification Journey

Charlene T. Cranmer
CAGO, AAGO

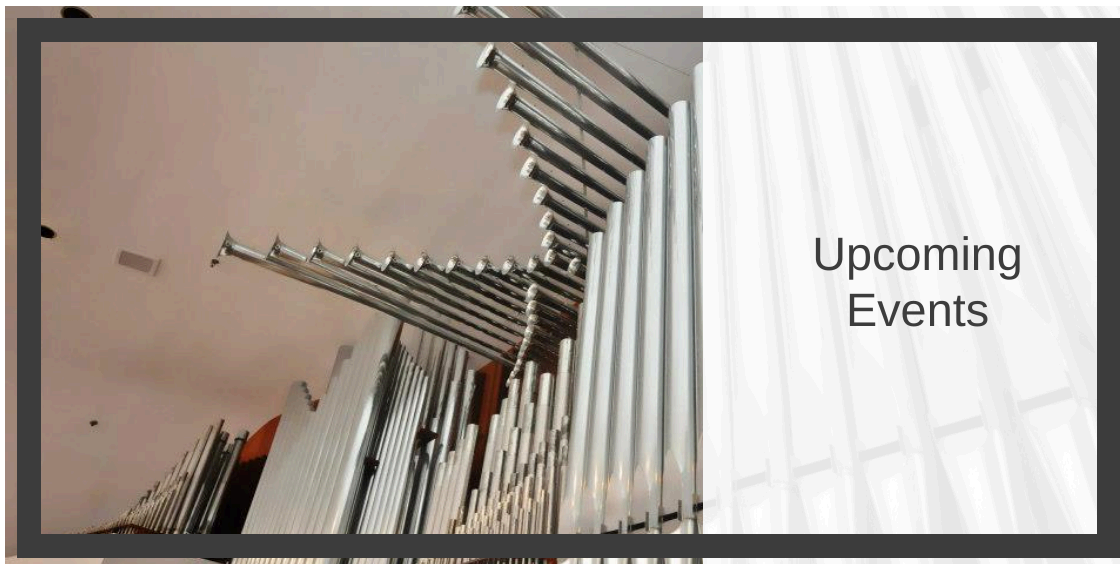


Although I had been an organ major in college (graduating in 1975) my full-time teaching job (with a one-hour commute morning and evening) did not permit a lot of time for organ practice. My small part-time church job kept me playing regularly, albeit not with very challenging music. In 2006, a member of my AGO chapter (South West Jersey) Ruth Fink AAGO, offered free certification classes, to encourage chapter members to develop the skills necessary to pass the Service Playing Certificate. I decided to try and after many hours of practice and study, I passed the SPC exam in 2007. Fast forward a few years to 2011. A few chapter members who had passed the SPC decided to study for the Colleague of the American Guild of Organists certification. Although I was very busy with my school job (January through April was the time of the high school musical rehearsals and performances) I started to consider sending in my application to AGOHQ. Another member of my chapter, Evelyn Larter CAGO, really encouraged me to try for the next level. I decided to try and passed the CAGO exam in 2012.

After retiring from teaching and moving to Florida in 2017, I was enjoying my freedom from the stress of preparation and performance!!! However, after a year or so, I started to worry that all my organ skills would be lost if I didn't continue learning and challenging myself. When the repertoire for the Associate of the American Guild of Organists exams for 2019 was given in the 2018 TAO July edition, I saw that I knew repertoire from each of the four performance categories. I contacted Dr. Boyd Jones, Head of the Organ Department at Stetson University in Deland and asked if he might be interested in coaching me for the exam. He was available for coaching and so I worked with him in the Spring of 2019. In June 2019, I took the playing portion of the exam and passed it.

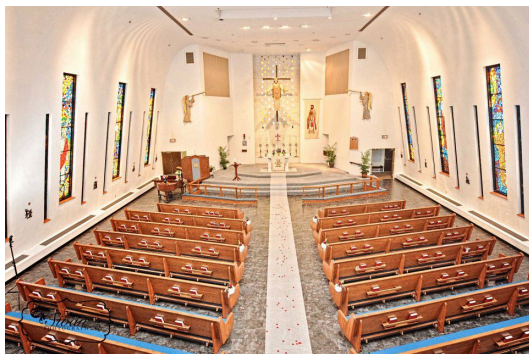
Nine months after the exam, Covid-19 shut down the entire country and with it, the churches. Along with all other church musicians, I struggled to adjust to recording church service music in an empty sanctuary. After losing my pre-Covid church job due to financial constraints at the church and then finding a new church job in 2021, I lost enthusiasm for preparing for the AAGO written exam. However, in January of 2023, I realized that time was slipping away and along with

it, the five-year window for the completion of the AAGO certification. I took the written exam in 2024, as a trial-run, knowing I would probably fail it without adequate preparation. After failing on my first try, I enlisted the help of a friend from New Jersey, Glenn Rodgers AAGO, who agreed to coach me via weekly ZOOM lessons. The result was that I passed the written half of the AAGO exam in June of 2024. Although I only passed by 6 points, I still felt a great sense of accomplishment! I believe that if I could do it at the age of 72, then any AGO member can complete one of the AGO certifications, with an adequate amount of hard work and preparation!



Plan to join us for our annual CFAGO **Halloween Spooktacular Organ Concert** on **Tuesday, October 29, 2024, 7:00 pm**

Our gracious host is:



Orlando Lutheran Towers
300 E. Church Street
Orlando, FL 32801

Upcoming Events:

- **CFAGO's Annual Halloween Spooktacular Organ Concert**
Tuesday, October 29, 2024, 7:00 pm
Orlando Lutheran Towers
300 E Church St, Orlando, FL 32801
- **All Saint's Concert**
Sunday, November 3, 2024, 7:00 pm
St. Michael's Episcopal Church
2499 N Westmoreland Dr, Orlando 32804
- **CFAGO's Workshop Smorgasbord**
Saturday, November 9, 2024, 10:00 am
All Saints Episcopal Church
338 E Lyman Ave, Winter Park, FL 32789
- **Dr. Andre Lash in Concert**
Sunday, November 10, 4:00 pm
St. George Episcopal Church
1250 Paige Pl, Lady Lake, FL 32159
- **Saint Cecilia Concert**
Sunday, November 17, 2024, 7:00 pm
St. Joseph Catholic Church
1501 N Alafaya Trail, Orlando, FL 32828
- **Dr. Micharl Unger in Concert**
Teusday, November 19, 2024, 7:30 pm
Stetson University
421 N Woodland Blvd, DeLand, FL 32723



There are few musicians who enjoy applause any more than I do. It's a thrilling moment, especially when you feel you've performed well, to have your work acknowledged by your listeners. As a performer I'd not

like to think about doing without it!

In the church, however, applause is only rarely appropriate. One of the points made very clear to me as a student at Union Theological Seminary many years ago is that musical offerings in the church are absolutely not performances; they are gifts to God. There are, I believe, two major reasons why applause may not say what we think it does--or what we want it to--in Church.

First, it makes our offerings appear to be entertainment rather than acts of worship and praise. Musical offerings in any parish that takes its worship seriously are carefully planned so that they illuminate the texts being read and sung, and help to bind the community together. Many churches today, alas, view their music as purely “crowd-pleasing” entertainment and miss a much loftier goal. Some churches are wildly successful at this—look at the TV evangelists—but it’s still a reversed cart-and-horse situation. If we want to compete with them (and I absolutely don’t think we want to) or with TV as an entertainment medium then we need to be ready to put millions of dollars behind our productions and accept the lack of close-knit worshipping community that inevitably follows.

Second, when you applaud one group or individual what does it say about other groups or individuals? We have to be very careful that our signs of appreciation do not inappropriately single out. It might be tempting to applaud the choir, for example, after a rafter-ringing, stand-up-and-cheer anthem for which they have sung their hearts out. If you do, however, think then about the Altar Guild, whose efforts are rarely publicly acknowledged or praised but who work tirelessly and well, or the acolytes, or the lectors, or the lay eucharistic ministers, or Sunday School teachers (the list goes on and on...) who will never be in a position to receive applause but who richly deserve it.

On the other hand, I believe that, in the church, applause is appropriate when acknowledging an individual or event that merits special, one-time praise. A parishioner elected to high office, a special prize won, an achievement appropriate for mention, etc., all are great opportunities for us to express corporate praise with applause.

St. Paul exhorts us that our worship be conducted “decently and in good order.” In this pursuit we must be careful that our actions and expressions in our liturgy do not cheapen either the gift or the giver.

Written by Jerry Davidson, Newsletter Editor for the Space Coast Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Reprinted with permission.

In Memoriam

Departed Members Remembered at San Francisco Convention



The passing of two active members of the Central Florida Chapter was acknowledged during the Southeast Regional meeting at the San Francisco AGO National Convention.

Gloria Travis, a friend of the Central Florida chapter, passed away on October 5, 2023. An organ enthusiast, she attended several National and Regional AGO conventions along with her daughter Candace,

who is an organist. Over the years she enjoyed the many concerts and activities the chapter hosted, especially the annual Halloween concert.

Anita Ruth Bergh, who passed away on September 7, 2022, was a graduate of St. Olaf College. She and her husband, the Rev. Johan Bergh, were married for 74 years. Anita spent many years ministering with her husband in Columbia SA and various Lutheran congregations around the United States. In addition to being a church organist, Anita was a Special Education teacher until her retirement. In retirement she was an active member of the Central Florida Chapter, particularly with the annual Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza event.

Eternal rest grant them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



Check out the latest Positions Available
in the Central Florida area at the
CFAGO **Jobs Board**.

Jobs Board LINK



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If you have news or events you would like to submit to the newsletter, please text or email Thomas Melton at 559-593-9888 or thomasm95@gmail.com.

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