



CFAGO

M  **XTURE**
Magic
Newsletter

A Publication of the
Central Florida
Chapter



American Guild of
ORGANISTS



Dean's Message

Boyd Jones
CFAGO Dean



Post-Easter Greetings to all CFAGO members! I hope we all survived the recent services and events we were involved in, and can now sit back and feel gratification from our musical efforts. Your board is busy planning events for next season, and will welcome you to the remaining events of this year. Those of us in academia are getting close to the end of our semesters as well, and looking forward to some time to rest and renew.

I hope you are planning wonderful things for the summer, and that organ music will be part of those plans! Please stay in touch here, and let's have a great end-of-year time with our Chapter, which is headed soon to an important anniversary!

Boyd Jones

CFAGO Scholarship Applications Due May 1st!

The deadline for applications for organ study scholarship in **the Benjamin T. Lane Scholarship of Excellence** is Thursday, May 1.

Awards will be presented at the Annual Banquet and Rising Stars Concert. See registration details below.

[Click here to apply!](#)

CFAGO's Closing Banquet & Rising Stars Recital

You are cordially invited to the CFAGO's Closing Banquet and Rising Stars Recital which is being graciously hosted this year by St. George Episcopal Church in the Villages. Dinner will be served at 6:00pm followed by the recital at 7:00pm.



Tuesday, May 13, 6:00pm
St. George Episcopal Church
1250 Paige Place
The Villages, FL 32159

To facilitate planning, **please RSVP via the link below** by Monday, **May 5**.

RSVP Now!

The Cost of the meal is \$20 per person. Payment may be made in advance by Zelle (see QR code below) or at the door with cash, check, or Zelle.

Send Money with Zelle®

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Central Florida American Guild of Organists
CFAGO@mac.com



**Pipe Organ Maintenance:
An Interview with Friedemann Buschbeck**

By: John Reilly

In recent months it has been expressed, not only in our chapter, but by others in Florida AGO chapters, about the need to find qualified and experienced pipe organ workers. At a recent executive board meeting, members indicated the need to get the word out in order to find tuners that are active in the state of Florida. It was decided that we should locate these individuals and make them known to our members and other chapters in Florida.

In this first article we will introduce you to Friedemann Buschbeck of Tampa.

He has been active in pipe organ maintenance and tuning since coming to the US after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Friedemann got his training in the Saxony area of Germany near the Czech border. He started at a young age as a carpenter and then moved to working on pipe organs. He worked for 6 years in an organ building company in Dresden, Saxony, before coming to the US. He specializes in tracker organs but he is comfortable working on direct electronic action organs and even hybrid instruments as well. When he first came to the US, he helped maintain several tracker organs in German Lutheran congregations in Texas (between Austin and Houston) built by German organ builders.

Friedemann has spent a lot of his time working on revoicing while in Florida. Some of his work was here in Orlando on the Lutheran Towers' Ruffatti organ. He did major repairs on the instrument, including cleaning the pipes and repairing dead magnets. He is thinking of writing a proposal to restore the organ one division at a time. He expressed the feeling that it is important with instruments as large as the Towers' organ to not neglect maintenance. He also mentioned that the larger the organ, the more expensive it is to maintain; but avoiding huge future issues makes the expense worth it.

Friedemann worked on several big projects in the southwest part of the state, working on organs in areas such as Marco Island. He recently worked on a project in Sarasota where a huge 16-foot bombarde collapsed, taking over the project from another organ builder who could not take on the job. He is currently getting ready to assemble a tracker organ in Gainesville and makes regular trips to Jamaica, West Indies to do tracker maintenance.

Friedemann sees a future in pipe organ maintenance for young people. There are many pipe organs and churches that are constantly looking for qualified pipe organ workers in Florida. He thinks one needs to have good carpentry skills and be trained by a tutor in the art of pipe organ maintenance. He mentioned the Ludwigsburg School of Organ Building in Germany, where he studied. This is the only school in Germany that teaches organ building. In the US there are also efforts being made by organizations like The American Pipe Organ Academy. They prepare students in the field of pipe organ maintenance while working with major US builders of pipe organs. It would seem that some universities that offer an organ degree would benefit from having a connection with these types of organ maintenance schools to enhance their degrees either through independent study or study abroad for a semester.

Friedemann has said there are three things to keep in mind with a pipe organ. First of all, the pipe organ is a unique instrument, just like the human voice. It has been around for hundreds of years and nothing can truly recreate the sound of a well-crafted instrument. It is important to have yearly maintenance to keep an organ in good playing condition. The weather and other elements can have a dramatic effect on a pipe organ. At least a once-a-year maintenance plan to keep things in good condition is important. Finally, a tuning will not be effective without a full inspection of the pipe work to see if there are any major repairs that have to be made to the pipes and associated hardware. . A church should fix the pipework and then proceed with a good tuning to prevent future issues.

For those interested in getting in touch with Friedemann here is his contact information.

Buschbeck Organ Building - Tampa

Website www.organbuilding.com

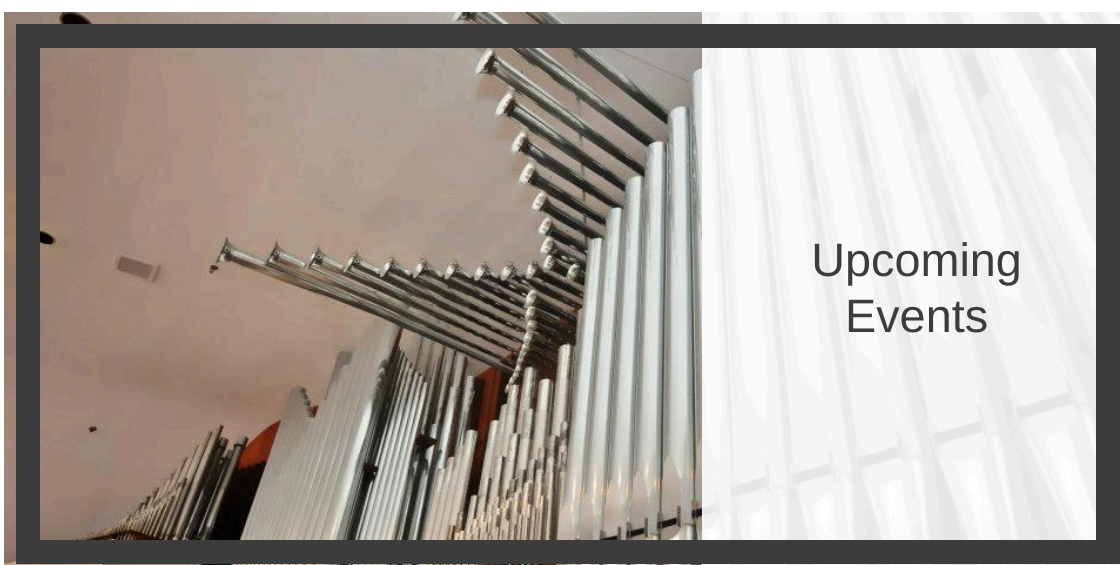
Phone: 813-766-5376

Email: mail@organbuilding.com

This information is provided to AGO chapters freely and does not imply an endorsement or favoritism to this company. We hope to continue these articles in the future to invite other Florida Pipe Organ Companies to share their businesses with our AGO Florida Community.

Picture 1: Tuning the Barkhoff organ in Giddings, Texas after installing new stainless steel tuning sliders.

Picture 2: This is the historic Barkhoff Organ from 1915, in Giddings, Texas. After restoring the tracker action I re-painted the gold stanceling.



Upcoming Events:

- University of Florida, **Sacred Music Workshop**
May 4-6
University Auditorium, University of Florida
333 Newell Dr, Gainesville, FL 32611
[REGISTER HERE](#) BY APRIL 30!
- **Ivan Kostorny**, Senior Recital
Monday, May 5, 2025, 5:00 pm


St. Andrew's Chapel
5525 Wayside Drive, Sanford, FL 32771

If you have any upcoming events you would like us to promote, please let us know!

“... praise Him with stringed instruments and organs.”

Ivan Kostorny

Senior Recital



Monday,
May 5th
At 5 p.m.

SAINT ANDREW’S CHAPEL
5525 Wayside Drive, Sanford | sachapel.com

Job Opening

If you are looking to post or apply for an open position, please see the CFAGO website to post to our Jobs Board linked below.

Jobs Board



MIXTURE Magic Newsletter

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.

Stay Connected with us online at:

CFAGO.org

