



**Boyd Jones**  
CFAGO Dean



Dear Members of the Central Florida AGO,

I am writing this note just after our CFAGO Members Bach recital in Lee Chapel at Stetson University. That was a lovely event, which we were proud to host here. I hope we will have many more collaborations such as this. It seemed to be very well received by the audience.

Now we come to a major time of work, and stress, for church musicians. I wish you all the best in making it through Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter, and hope that you are musically gratified by the events you lead during this busy season.

Please try to join us for the several CFAGO events coming up quite soon. You will find these events detailed in this and other communications from CFAGO. We look forward to all our coming events, and hope to see as many of you as possible in attendance. We continue to plan for our Centennial year events, and welcome all suggestions of recitals, workshops, and social events. All are welcome to suggest whatever they may wish, through any of your CFAGO Board members.

Have a great Easter season!

Boyd Jones, Dean, Central Florida AGO

# Rising Stars Banquet and Recital



**American Guild of Organists**

Online at: [www.cfago.org](http://www.cfago.org)

**Press Release**



**From:** Central Florida Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

**Website:** <https://cfago.org/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/CentalFloridaAGO/>

**Event:** Rising Stars Banquet and Organ Recital

**Date:** Tuesday, April 14, 2026

**Time:** 6:00 pm Banquet \$20 for dinner

7:00 pm Recital and announcement of the 2026 organ scholarship winners

**Cost:** The banquet cost is \$20 the recital is a free event

**Location:** St George Episcopal Church

1250 Paige Place, Lady Lake 32159

**RSVP here for dinner:** [Banquet RSVP](#)

**Contact phone:** 863-621-7621

**Contact email:** [CFAGO@mac.com](mailto:CFAGO@mac.com)

The Central FL Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will celebrate the awarding of the 2026 young organists scholarships with a banquet and recital featuring the young artists. Please RSVP [HERE](#) for the banquet. The recital is free and open to the public.

## Richard Elliott in Concert

First United Methodist Church Presents:

**Richard Elliot** in Concert

Friday, April 17, 2026, 7:30 pm

First United Methodist Church

142 E Jackson St

Orlando, FL 32801

Principal Organist of the Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square, Dr. Richard Elliot, will present a concert at First United Methodist Church in Orlando and the event is FREE! No tickets or reservations required. Due to Richard Elliott's popularity, it is anticipated that this will be a highly attended event. However, priority seating will be given to CFAGO members that wish to attend and reserve spots ahead of time.

To reserve seating for the event email Kai Bailey at [OLLMusicman@aol.com](mailto:OLLMusicman@aol.com) no later than 1:00 PM Wednesday, April 15 with the following information: Subject: **REQUEST FOR CFAGO ACCESS TO PRIORITY SEATING ZONE**, List your name and the number of seats requested in the body of the email. For additional information about the event, including parking, Click the information link to view the event in the CFAGO calendar

### The Program

Overture to "The Marriage of Figaro," K. 492

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
(1756-1791)  
arr. Jonathan Scott

Concerto in D Minor (after Vivaldi), BWV 596

Allegro  
Grave - Fuga  
Largo e spiccato  
Allegro

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

Reverie (1962)

William Grant Still  
(1895-1978)

Prélude, Adagio et Choral varié sur le theme du "Veni Creator," Op. 4

Maurice Duruflé  
(1902-1986)

- intermission -

*A freewill offering will be received this evening. These gifts help cover the expenses of presenting tonight's concert, and your generosity helps ensure that we can continue to offer events like this in the future. We appreciate your kindness. A QR code is available for your convenience.*



Three Hymn Settings

Fanfare-Toccata on "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" (2022)

Richard L. Elliott  
(b. 1957)

Amazing Grace

Robert Hebble  
(1934-2020)

Improvisation on "Come, Come, Ye Saints"

Richard L. Elliott  
(b. 1957)

Maestoso in C# minor (Kyrie from Messe solennelle, Op. 16)

Louis Vierne  
(1870-1937)  
arr. by Alexander Schreiner

Elegy (2016)

Brenda Portman  
(b. 1980)

Prelude on a Swedish Folk Song

Robert Cundick  
(1926-2016)

"I Got Rhythm" (2011)

Richard L. Elliott  
(b. 1957)

*Please turn off cell phones and pagers, or put in silent mode. Thank you.*

## Program Notes

Perhaps no opera overture is better suited to the music and the dramatic action that follows it than that of Mozart's opera buffa, *Le nozze di Figaro* (The Marriage of Figaro). Its nonstop movement, playfulness, and sudden mood changes mirror those of the opera itself. The contemporary British organist, Jonathan Scott, is a prolific transcriber of orchestral and vocal music for the organ, and his adaptation of Mozart's overture is a showpiece for the arranger himself as well as for the performer.

Johann Sebastian Bach was a frequent borrower of musical material, often transcribing music of other composers as well as adapting his own music for alternative instruments and ensembles. His transcription of Vivaldi's Concerto No. 11 for Strings from Op. 3, *L'estro Armonico* (The Harmonic Inspiration) is notable not only for its ingenious adaptation of string figurations to the keyboard but also for its inclusion of Bach's own instructions on suggested organ stops and keyboard designations.

The distinguished African-American composer, William Grant Still, was born in Mississippi and raised by his mother in Arkansas following the death of his father. Educated at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, he was a pioneering performer and composer who was able to break down many barriers that previously excluded African-American musicians from participation in the world of classical music. His "Reverie" for organ was commissioned in 1962 by the Los Angeles, Long Beach, and Pasadena chapters of the American Guild of Organists for a collection of preludes published in connection with the guild's national convention. While the piece is not based on a pre-existing melody, it is reminiscent of many spirituals in its use of the pentatonic scale and melancholy harmonies.

Despite having been written while the composer was only in his 20s, Maurice Duruflé's monumental "Prélude, Adagio et Choral varié sur le thème du 'Veni Creator'" displays a tremendous facility for weaving an extended work from Gregorian chant in the musical language of the French impressionistic composers Debussy and Ravel. Based on the 9th-century Pentecost hymn, "Veni Creator Spiritus," the piece opens with an extended fantasy played on softer flute and reed colors in which Duruflé masterfully spins his material from brief fragments of the chant theme. A brief "recitative" provides a bridge into the sumptuous adagio (utilizing the organ's string celeste stops), gradually building to full organ before transitioning into a chorale-like statement of the theme followed by four contrasting variations. The final variation takes the form of a toccata, ending with a powerful E-major chord to mirror the modal contour of the original chant.

Louis Vierne scored his 1899 *Messe solennelle* (Solemn Mass) for choir and two organs. It received its premiere two years later at Saint-Sulpice church in Paris, with Vierne at the choir organ and Charles-Marie Widor at the church's main organ. Alexander Schreiner, a pupil of Vierne and an organist at the Salt Lake Tabernacle for over 50 years, transcribed the opening "Kyrie" movement for solo organ and published it under the title, "Maestoso in C-sharp minor." The contrasts between the original three performing forces are recreated through the use of manual changes as well as the employment of antiphonal pipework wherever it is available (as is the case with the Cathedral of St. John's magnificent pipe organ.)

Noted contemporary American organist and composer Brenda Portman currently serves as Resident Organist at Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. Her "Elegy" was written for submission in the 2016 Twin Cities A.G.O. Composition Competition, in which it won first prize. The criteria for that year's entries specified that every submission should be "a meditative work, five to eight minutes in length, using no pre-existing melodies." The piece is in ABA form and displays Dr. Portman's gift for elegant melodies, rich harmonies, and effective pacing.

[Richard Elliott Concert Information](#)

### Other Upcoming Events:

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1250 Paige Place  
Lady Lake, FL 32159  
Dinner Tickets: \$20
- First United Methodist Church Presents:  
**Richard Elliot in Concert**  
Friday, April 17, 2026, 7:30 pm  
First United Methodist Church  
142 E Jackson St  
Orlando, FL 32801
- University of Florida Sacred Music Workshop  
May 3-5, 2026  
Click [HERE](#) for schedule and to register
- **CFAGO and Cathedral Church of St Luke Present:  
Evensong and Closing Banquet**  
Sunday, May 17, 2026, 3:30 pm  
Cathedral Church of St Luke  
130 N Magnolia Ave  
Orlando, FL 32801  
Followed by a Catered Dinner Banquet at Orlando Lutheran Towers.  
Dinner Tickets: \$25

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

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Registration is open for the 2026 AGO National Convention taking place this year in St. Louis! For more information or register, click the link below.

[AGO National Convention](#)



If you have news or events you would like to submit to the newsletter, please email Erik Richter at [knowitallbandgeek@gmail.com](mailto:knowitallbandgeek@gmail.com).

