



THE



# TALLAHASSEE ORGANIST

*The Official Newsletter of the Tallahassee Chapter of the American Guild of Organists*

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*"The deadline for newsletter submissions  
is the 25th of every month!"*

Dean's Message:

Greetings!

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Christian Crocker and I am your newly elected dean for the Tallahassee Chapter of the American Guild of Organists! I can not tell you how excited I am for this coming year's AGO program. We have decided on a program that I am very eager for you all to take part in.

We will start the year off with our Annual AGO Kick-Off party at the home of Roger Ponder! This will take place on August 26 at 6:30pm. This will be a great opportunity for everyone to socialize with other members and meet new members and officers as well! We will also discuss the program for this upcoming year.

Also, if you know of anyone who you think would be a good addition to our chapter, please forward this newsletter to them.

Christian Crocker

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## **/ Useful Websites /**

In the fall of 1992 Matthias Wendel, an engineering student who dabbled in woodworking and building electronics, took music 111 as an elective at his university. What he discovered about music theory and the piano keyboard inspired him to begin an awe-inspiring project: building his very own four octave living room pipe organ. He explains,

“With my nonexistent music abilities, and my limited budget, I couldn't justify buying myself a little Casio synthesizer or something like that. The only way I could justify owning a musical instrument was if I actually *built* it.”

He documented the project with construction sketches and specifications, pictures, sound clips and videos on this website: <http://www.sentex.net/~mwandel/organ/organ.html> .

After visiting Wendel's website, Raphi Giangiulio, a mechanical engineer who also enjoys woodworking, completed his own five stop, five rank organ project complete with a pedal board built to AGO specifications. Before this project he designed digital projectors to replace film projectors in movie theatres. He now works for Paul Fritts and Company Organ Builders. You can view pictures of every part of the organ, study the calculations he used in constructing the pipes, read the organ's specifications and watch video clips from the organ's dedication recital on his website: <http://www.rwgiangiulio.com/math/wst.htm> .

An interesting alternative to a self-built living room organ is the “pipe organ desk” built by Kagan Schaefer. The desk includes an octave of wooden organ pipes which are activated by pushing in the desk's drawers. If the correct sequence of notes is sounded, a secret compartment opens. See pictures of Schaefer's desk here: <http://www.kagenschaefer.com/pipeorgandesk.html>

If you decide to build your own pipe living room organ, let the Tallahassee AGO know!

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

AGO NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ORGAN PEDAGOGY  
TO BE PRESENTED IN COOPERATION WITH  
EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

EROI Festival 2011: Improvisation and Organ Pedagogy  
November 10–13, 2011, Rochester, N.Y.

NEW YORK CITY—The American Guild of Organists (AGO) and the Eastman School of Music are partnering to produce the 16th biennial AGO National Conference on Organ

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Pedagogy, November 10–13, 2011, in Rochester, N.Y. The conference, designed in cooperation between the AGO Committee on Continuing Professional Education and the 10th annual Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative (EROI) Festival, will present the topic of organ improvisation through a variety of compositional techniques and styles. Complete information, including online registration, is available at . Early registration discounts are available through August 15.

“The goal of the AGO’s pedagogy conferences is to address various topics and issues pertaining to organ instruction in North America,” declared David Heller, director of the AGO Committee on Continuing Professional Education. “The City of Rochester and the Eastman School of Music, with its multiplicity of instruments and performing venues, will provide a superb setting in which to address the topic of improvisation from many different angles, providing information and resources that will be useful to all instructors of the organ at all levels of instruction.”

The four-day conference will present master classes featuring students at a variety of levels, panel discussions addressing the teaching of improvisation, and sessions that will provide attendees with resource material in the pedagogy of improvisation. The keynote address, *Why Is Improvisation So Difficult?*, will be given by Eastman faculty member William Porter.

A distinguished faculty of internationally renowned organists and teachers working in the discipline of organ improvisation will include Jeffrey Brillhart (Yale University), Tony Caramia (Eastman), Sophie-Veronique Cauchefer-Choplin (Royal College of Music, London), Hans Davidsson (Eastman), Michael Dodds (University of North Carolina School of the Arts), Gerre Hancock (Butler School of Music, University of Texas), David Higgs (Eastman), Denise Lanning (Denver Chapter, AGO), Rudolf Lutz (Schola Cantorum Basiliensis), William Marvin (Eastman), Bruce Neswick (Indiana University), David Peckham (Horseheads United Methodist Church, Horseheads, N.Y.), McNeil Robinson (Manhattan School of Music), Pamela Ruiten-Feenstra (author of *Bach and the Art of Improvisation*), John R. Shannon (Sweet Briar College), and Daniel Zager (Eastman).

For further information, please contact please contact EROI Festival Coordinator Annie Laver at 585-274-1564                      585-274-1564      or e-mail [anne.laver@rochester.edu](mailto:anne.laver@rochester.edu).

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#### THOMAS MURRAY HONORED BY AGO NATIONAL COUNCIL

Celebration of Brilliant Performer, Teacher, and Friend  
Raised \$30,000 in New Haven, Conn., Benefitting AGO Endowment Fund

NEW YORK CITY — The American Guild of Organists (AGO) presented its eighth annual Recital and Gala Benefit Reception on Sunday, May 15, at Yale University in

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New Haven, Conn. An estimated audience of 500 colleagues, students, and friends came together to celebrate the lifetime achievements of Thomas Murray on the occasion of his thirtieth anniversary at Yale.

The gala was sponsored by the AGO National Council and its Development Committee. Major funding was provided by the Yale Institute of Sacred Music and Pemcor Inc. of Lancaster, Pa., printer of *The American Organist*. The event raised \$30,000 to be invested in the AGO Endowment Fund in Thomas Murray's honor.

The recital, which was played by Thomas Murray on the world renowned Newberry Memorial Organ in Woolsey Hall, was introduced by Craig Whitney, New York Times assistant managing editor (retired) and author of *All the Stops: The Glorious Pipe Organ and Its American Masters*. Professor Murray's program included Bach's Toccata in F Major (BWV 540), Sonata II (1937) by Hindemith, selections from Symphony I on Gregorian Themes (1932) by Guy Weitz, and the Symphony in D Minor by Franck, transcribed by Calvin Hampton. A reception, which was attended by 125 individuals, followed in the Yale President's Room.

Established in 1994, the AGO Endowment Fund provides income to expand programs for leadership development among AGO members; educate new organists; and cultivate new audiences for organ and choral music. Tax-deductible contributions to the Endowment Fund are invested in perpetuity to produce continuing income support for essential Guild programs and educational projects.

Those unable to attend the gala will receive a copy of the souvenir program book with their contribution of \$25 or more to the Endowment Fund. Contributions in honor of Thomas Murray can be made online at [www.agohq.org](http://www.agohq.org) or by mailing a check to: AGO Endowment Fund, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1260, New York, NY 10115. All gifts will be acknowledged in *The American Organist*. For information, please call 212-870-2311 (ext. 4308) or e-mail [gala@agohq.org](mailto:gala@agohq.org). ■

## *August, September & October Concerts & Musical Events*

### **TALLAHASSEE AGO EVENT :**

#### **Annual AGO Kick-Off Party**

**August 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**

**At the home of Roger Ponder**

**1703 Semalachee Dr, Tallahassee**

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- September 4<sup>th</sup>, 4pm      Faculty Recital- Heidi Louise Williams, Piano  
at FSU's Opperman Music Hall
- September 13<sup>th</sup>, 8pm      Guest Artist Recital-  
Julia Heinen, Clarinet and Dimitri Rachmaninoff, Piano  
at FSU's Dohnányi Music Hall
- October 1<sup>st</sup>, 8pm      Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra Concert  
at FSU's Ruby Diamond Concert Hall
- October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3pm      Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra Concert  
at FSU's Ruby Diamond Concert Hall
- October 16<sup>th</sup>, 4pm      The FSU School of Music Artist Series Presents:  
Andreas Klein, Piano  
at FSU's Opperman Music Hall
- October 21<sup>st</sup>, 8pm      FSU Gospel Choir Concert  
at FSU's Opperman Music Hall
- October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 8pm      Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra Concert  
at FSU's Ruby Diamond Concert Hall