

AGO Chapter Message

December 2021



Happy Holidays from AGO Sarasota-Manatee

Dear Chapter members,

We are quickly approaching Advent and one of the busiest seasons in the liturgical year for many organists. Recognizing that, we have prepared a very short, three-question survey that should take less than one minute to complete. This survey will guide the upcoming reading session from Morningstar Music at Church of the Redeemer on February 26, where your AGO membership will allow you to purchase music at a discounted rate. Take the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TXBSRZ5>.

Thanks to your poll responses in the previous newsletter, we have found that Monday, May 9th, 2022 works best for most of you. We appreciate you letting us know your availability for a May banquet and look forward to seeing you there!

In the new year, we look forward to a handbell workshop on January 22 from 9:00 am -12:00 noon at St. Boniface led by John Behnke. Whether you're a seasoned handbell choir director or have never picked up a bell before, this workshop will leave you inspired and full of creative ways to pair handbells with the organ.

Finally, before you log off for Thanksgiving, I wanted to send a quick message to let you know how much the AGO Sarasota-Manatee Chapter appreciates your membership. It's a privilege to work with skilled and diligent colleagues who support excellent music in this area, and that's something for which your Board is truly thankful. May you have a wonderful Thanksgiving and enjoy the holidays ahead.

Happy holidays,
Amy Cerniglia, Dean





Ringling Museum Restoring Aeolian Organ

If you've toured the Ca'd'Zan mansion near the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, you've no doubt seen the grand court's Aeolian Organ Opus 1559. Built in 1924, this organ once provided background music for the dinner parties of John and Mable Ringling. With a \$1.5 million grant from the Wyncote Foundation combined with \$245,000 raised from local donors during the Ringling's fundraising efforts, Parsons Pipe Organ Builders of Canandaigua, New York will perform restoration work over the next two years. Read more about this exciting restoration at [Sarasota Magazine](#).

Handbell Musicians of America Holding Florida State Festival

Handbell Musicians of America, Area 4, holds an annual Florida State Handbell Festival every Spring. This is open to full groups, partial groups and individual ringers. The 2022 State Festival will be held February 25-26, 2022 at the Warren Willis Camp & conference Center in Fruitland Park, FL. The clinician will be Stephanie Rhoades, who has served as clinician and guest conductor for numerous workshops and festivals across the country, including the Presbyterian Worship and Music conferences at Mo-Ranch and Montreat, Music & Worship Arts Week at Lake Junaluska, Distinctly Bronze East 2020, Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar, and the Greater Dallas Handbell Association Spring Festival.

Registration forms and other information can be found at:
<https://area4handbells.weebly.com/fl-state-festival-22.html>



2022 AGO Events

Saturday, January 22, 9:00 am-12:00 noon

Handbell Workshop with John Behnke at St. Boniface

This workshop will particularly focus on using handbells and organ together.

Saturday, February 26

Reading Session with Morningstar Music at Church of the Redeemer

A reading session will offer pieces at a discounted price to AGO members.

Saturday – Sunday, March 12-13

Dr. Istvan Ruppert at Christ Church, Bradenton

With both a workshop and recital free to AGO members, Dr. Ruppert will especially highlight Hungarian Organ Music.

Saturday – Sunday, March 19-20

Dr. Andrew Shenton at Church of the Redeemer

On March 19, Dr. Shenton will offer a workshop for choir directors, followed by Evensong on March 20 at 5:15 PM with music by Arvo Pärt.

April TBA

Virtual Carillon Tour

Monday, May 9

Annual Banquet