



American Guild of
ORGANISTS

About Us

Join Today

Presentation of Candidates for Office

Dear Colleagues,

First, I would like to remind you to RSVP for the Annual Meeting brunch. The deadline is fast approaching (May 7), so please sign up today by clicking on the signup link below this message! If you have any questions, please reply directly to this email and it will go to me.

As required by National bylaws, here is the slate of nominees for our upcoming Annual Meeting. A big thank you to James Walton and the members of the Nominating Committee for their dedicated and swift work in putting this slate of nominees together.

I have appointed Richard Benedum to be chapter secretary until the end of the current term, which ends June 30.

Please, if you haven't already, check on the status of your guild membership. We currently have 43 members who have been invoiced but not paid. And some of us have been cancelled (ha). Thanks for checking!

See you soon.

-Sam Nelson, Dean

[Sign up for our Annual Meeting Brunch here!](#)



Sam Nelson, Dean (incumbent, 1-yr appt)

Organist, conductor, and arranger Sam Nelson is from the North Shore of Boston and held his first church organist position at the age of 12. Accused of playing “not Bach” by his colleagues, he earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Organ Performance from Gordon College in 2011 under the tutelage of Dr. Roy Brunner and Mr. Douglas Marshall. In 2012 he won second prize at the Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival in Old Wethersfield, CT. After continuing intensive private study with Mr. Marshall for six years post-grad (becoming his only protégé), he completed a Master of Music degree at Boston University under the tutelage of Peter Sykes in 2018.

Sam has performed on many of the great organs in the Northeast US, including Trinity Church, Wall St; Middle Collegiate Church, East Village; Trinity Church, Copley Square; Church of the Covenant, Boston; Old South, Boston; Old West, Boston; All Saints, Ashmont; Methuen Memorial Music Hall; Park Street Church, Boston; Tremont Temple, Boston; Gordon College, Wenham, MA; Marsh Chapel at Boston University; and Boston Symphony Hall. He has also performed locally at Sykes Recital Hall, University of Tampa; St. Boniface Church, Siesta Key; Christ Church, Bradenton; First Congregational Church UCC, in Sarasota; and Church of the Redeemer, Sarasota. Since moving to Sarasota, Sam has also performed with many local arts organizations including Choral Artists of Sarasota, Chamber Orchestra of Sarasota, Key Chorale, and EnsembleNewSRQ.

Sam was the organist at Washington Street Baptist Church in Lynn, MA, from 2002 to 2013, Music Director at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Lynnfield, MA, from 2013 to 2019, and became Organist and Choirmaster at Church of the Redeemer in Sarasota in 2020 after a 1-year appointment as Assistant Organist and Choirmaster.

In 2015 and 2016, Sam was Tour Manager and Organ Technician for Cameron Carpenter and the International Touring Organ during US and Chinese tours. Sam still moonlights as an organ and harpsichord technician.

A member of the AGO since the age of 12, Sam has served on the Program Committee for both the Boston and Saramana chapters of the AGO, and has also served as Sub-Dean and Dean of the Saramana AGO.

Outside of music, Sam's other passions include computers, technology, audio engineering, video games, DIY home improvement projects, keeping his 80s Lincoln running, and raising his two young daughters with his wife, Thea Lobo.



David V. Patrick, Sub-Dean (incumbent, 1-yr appt)

As a much sought after conductor, music director, vocal coach and accompanist David has filled these roles for the Walt Disney Company, from which he retired in 2020, for more than 35 years working with such long-running shows as the “Hoop Dee Doo Revue”, “Disney’s Candlelight Processional”, “The Festival of the Lion King” and “The American Idol Experience.”

From 1998 through 2010 David was the President and Owner of Keynote Arts Associates, Inc. where he led a talented staff in the creation and production of exceptional choral events and festivals. From 1998 to 2005, Keynote co-produced the Opening Number for the annual Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, involving over 800 middle school and high school performers each year.

Prior to joining Keynote in 1998, David served as the Director of Music and Arts at First Presbyterian Church, Orlando, Florida – a 5000+ member center-city church. There he led a multi-staff department with over 500 volunteers participating in two adult choirs, a contemporary ensemble, brass and organ ensemble, handbell choirs, and a fully-graded children’s choir program.

David was a member of the adjunct faculty in the Department of Theatre and Dance at Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida, his Alma Mater, where he also served as Chapel Organist from 1999 – 2002. Before moving to Orlando, Florida, David spent two wonderful years touring the country as a singer / instrumentalist with Fred Waring and his Young Pennsylvanians.



Bryan Cordell **Chapter Secretary (1-yr appt)**

Bryan began private keyboard studies on the organ at age 6 in his hometown of Bel Air, MD. At age 9, he was actively playing in church as a substitute organist and, at age 12, he assumed his first full duties as a church organist. He continuously served in that capacity for nearly 30 years, supporting congregations in Maryland, Florida, and Ohio. Upon relocating to Virginia in 2003, he served as interim and substitute organist to multiple congregations in the Northern Virginia area including Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, and Episcopalian.

Moving to southwest Florida in May 2020, Bryan has served as organist to three congregations: Burnt Store Presbyterian, Punta Gorda (June 2020–Jan 2022), Christ Church, Long Boat Key (July–Dec 2022) and most recently at First Baptist, Venice (March 2023–present). While at First Baptist, Bryan recently oversaw the installation of a new large scale digital organ that includes design options for potential authentic pipe extensions.

Bryan is an active member of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) and is dually aligned with both the Sarasota-Manatee and Southwest Florida chapters. He is also an active member of the American Theater Organ Society (ATOS).

Bryan obtained a B.S. Degree in Computer Science from Embry-Riddle University in Daytona Beach, FL and an MBA from Loyola University, MD. He is a former U.S. Air Force officer supporting multiple large scale system acquisition efforts. After departing the Air Force, Bryan pursued a career in IT, specifically focused on software/systems development for firms including Westinghouse, KPMG, BAE Systems, and Lockheed Martin. He retired from full time employment in November 2019 to enjoy life in southwest FL, focusing on music among other interests.



John Ferreira
Executive Committee At-Large, Class of 2027

John W. Ferreira a 1970 graduate of Westminster Choir College has served in Full-Time Churches in Rhode Island, New Jersey and Connecticut before being called as Director of Music for Church of the Palms-Presbyterian in Sarasota in 1988. After building up a Music Ministry involving people from "Womb-Tomb" including Vocal Choirs, Handbell Choir, intergenerational orchestra and Creative Signers (ASL), he retired in 2013. Since 2013, he has substituted in many churches in the Sarasota area. He is about to depart from St. Paul Lutheran after 5 years as their Director of Music Ministries.



Brandon Kouri **Executive Committee At-Large, Class of 2027**

Brandon Kouri received a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from the University of Colorado at Boulder with minors in Organ, Harpsichord, and French. After having served as an accompanist for a high school choir program for four years, he became involved in church music. Brandon has been a pianist and organist for numerous churches in Colorado and Florida for the past fourteen years. He currently serves as Associate Director of Music at Roser Memorial Community Church on Anna Maria Island.



Glenn Priest **Executive Committee At-Large, Class of 2027**

Glenn Priest, musician, and concert artist is returning to mainstream music. He's come to Sarasota to join Key Chorale and its artistic director, Joseph Caulkins.

As an artist he appeared as concert pianist, organist, choral conductor, clinician, adjudicator, and national conference speaker. In Tennessee: The Knoxville Choral Society and Symphony, Local TV Network, MENC, AGO, ACDC and held the TN and Southern R/S chair for sacred music and worship and was a performer with several featured choirs. In Colorado: The Leadership Network. In Ohio: Ursuline Academy, Chorister's Guild; Cedarville University; Wright State University; Miami Valley Symphony Orchestra, Frazee Pavilion, Culture Works. In Florida: St Peter's Anglican Cathedral Series, and First Presbyterian, Sarasota. Glenn has performed master classes with conductor Leonard Bernstein, composers Aaron Copeland and Norman Dello Joio, and accompanied trumpeter Rolf Smedvig, the Empire Brass Quintet and violinist In-Hong Cha, to mention a few.

Glenn graduated Boston University with a BMus and MMus in piano. While in Boston, he studied piano with Bela Nagy, Anthony di Bonaventura, organ with Douglas Marshall, voice performance and choral conducting with Joseph Huszti and vocal accompanying with Allen Rogers.

At age 22, Glenn made his piano debut with Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops Orchestra, performing three seasons. He served as staff in BU's Young Artists Tanglewood Institute for seven years. He is also an ordained Minister of Music, with course study at Gordon Conwell Seminary.

He has several CDs of both choral and keyboard music. Glenn partnered with concert organist Christopher Garven to create their duo-organ and piano concert business entitled Musical Benches.

Glenn is a member of the national music honor society, Pi Kappa Lambda.

Annual Meeting and Brunch

When: Saturday, May 18, 2024 @ 10:30 am

Where: Christ Lutheran Church of Englewood, 701 N Indiana Ave, Englewood, FL 34223



[SIGN UP HERE!](#)

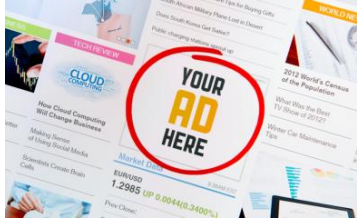
Menu:

- Savory Breakfast Egg and Sausage Casserole
- Vegetarian Spinach and Swiss Egg Casserole
- Bacon
- Home Fries
- Toast with assorted Jams and Jellies
- Seasonal Fruit Salad
- Apple Bran Muffins
- Lemon Poppy Seed Muffins
- Cinnamon Coffee Cake
- Hot Coffee
- Iced Tea
- Mimosas (orange juice and Prosecco)

The cost is \$20 per person

Please mail checks made out to Saramana AGO ahead of time to Treasurer Glen Olsen.

6060 Orchis Road
Venice, FL 34293



A Call for Advertisers!

One of the ways our chapter is sustainable to itself is through the "selling" of ad space on our website. Several vendors in the Tampa Bay area have their ads on our website (check it out!). If your church has a concert series or if your business wants to advertise, you can do so on our website fairly inexpensively. To find out more, contact Susan Crumpler.

[Email Susan](#)



American Guild of
ORGANISTS

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