

**The Ocala Chapter of the American Guild of Organists  
presents**

**UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
ORGAN STUDENTS**

**of Dr. Laura Ellis, organ professor at the University of Florida**

**March 25, 2012  
Sunday at 3:00 PM**

**QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC CHURCH  
OCALA, FLORIDA**



# BIOGRAPHIES

**Matt Gender** is a third year student pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree. Matt shows strong interest in organ improvisation, and was a student of Dr. Terry Yount from Rollins College. He has studied improvisation with Herbert Buffington and David Briggs, and has attended three Pipe Organ Encounters, most recently serving as a chaperone for the 2010 POE in Columbia, South Carolina.

**Wagner Schulz** is a third-year student pursuing a Dual Bachelor's in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, as well as a Minor in Organ Performance. He began playing the organ at the age of nine under the instruction of Beth Hunter and Don Rolander in Clearwater, FL. In Gainesville, Wagner was the Associate Organist at First Presbyterian Church from 2009 to 2011. Wagner is involved in the University of Florida's Motorsports Engineering group, where he extensively researches and designs racecar aerodynamics.

**Mitchell Stecker** is in his second year studying Music in Combination with Linguistics. Though having had a love of the pipe organ since he was very young, this is his first semester of playing the instrument. Mitchell is a member of several other musical groups at UF and in the Gainesville area, including the University of Florida Basketball Pep Band, the UF Africa Choir, and participates at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in both the Holy Trinity Choir and the handbell ensemble.

**Shawn Thomas** is a first year student pursuing a Master of Music degree in Organ Performance. In May 2011, Shawn received a BA in History, and a BM in Organ Performance from the University of West Florida, in Pensacola. A life-long resident of the Florida Panhandle, Shawn was very active in the Pensacola chapter of the American Guild of Organists, and served on the executive committee from 2009-2011. Shawn is the organ studio graduate assistant at the University of Florida, associate organist at First Presbyterian Church of Gainesville, and sub-dean of the Gainesville Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.