

## James A. May, Organist

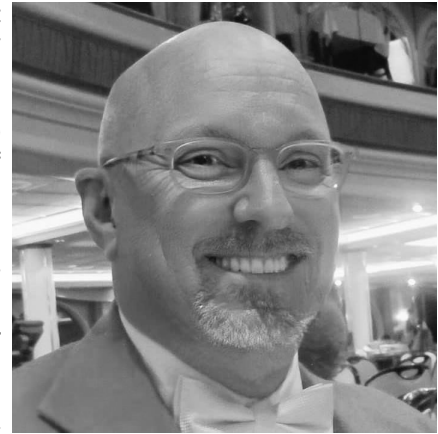
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Jim began his music career at age seven playing the piano in a local talent show in his hometown Shirley, Massachusetts. He studied piano privately with retired pianist of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Franklin Tisdale.

Jim decided he wanted to be an organist when he was eight, but being so young, his height didn't allow him to reach the pedals. By the age of eleven, the local Catholic Church needed an organist. He wanted the position more than anything, convincing his parents to contact the church. Still being a little too short to reach the pedals, the pastor stated that Jim would "grow into it", immediately offering him the position. November 1967 Jim began his organ career. The following year, he earned the confidence of the church's adult choir and was officially conducting weekly choir rehearsals. By the time he reached his senior high school year, he directed, choreographed and performed in the musical "Godspell"; earning him several awards as pianist and vocal soloist. He was the 1974 Massachusetts Music Educators Association All State Junior Guest Choral Conductor leading 350 a cappella members. His choral directorship commands conventional and unconventional techniques with steadfast results. His conductor skills were nurtured by Marion Balch, Stephen Cleobury, Wendell Purrington, and Deborah Walsh.



Jim oversaw the construction of the church's newly acquired pipe organ when he was eighteen. Working directly with the organ builders on this three-month project taught him how to maintain and tune the organ. Jim is a baritone soloist studying with dramatic coloratura mezzo-soprano Marion Balch. He served as Sub-Dean for the Monadnock Chapter of the American Guild of Organists in southern New Hampshire. The years of service have afforded opportunity to perform at hundreds of weddings, funerals, ordinations, dedications and concerts. He is a former member of the Salisbury Singers of Worcester, Massachusetts. He is a current member of the AGO Tampa Chapter, St. Petersburg & Clearwater, Florida.

### Organ studies:

Grace Buteau - Ashburnham, MA  
Luke Richard - St. Paul's Cathedral Worcester, MA  
Donna Merrill - United Congregational Church Worcester, MA  
David Brandes – Franklin Pierce College & All Saints Episcopal Church Peterborough, NH  
Bruce Adami - Brookside Congregational Church Manchester, NH  
Dwight Thomas - Cathedral of Saint Peter, St. Petersburg, FL

### Piano studies:

Franklin Tisdale - Leominster, MA

### Violin studies:

Dr. Virginia Rittenhouse - Thayer Music Conservatory, Atlantic Union College - MA  
Margi Ruell - The Bangor Symphony - Rockport, ME  
Nancy Carroll - The Bangor Symphony - Lincolnville, ME

### Voice:

Marion Horwood Balch - Groton, MA

### Organ & Director career positions:

Organist & Choir Director - St. Anthony de Padua - Shirley, MA	1967 - 1979
Organist - Union Congregational Church - Groton, MA	1979 - 1988
Sub-Dean, American Guild of Organists - Monadnock Chapter, Jaffrey, NH	1987 - 1990
Supply Organist - Cathedral of the Pines, Rindge, NH	1986 - 1992
Organist & Choir Director - Unitarian Universalist, Gardner, MA	1988 - 1991
Organist & Choir Director - Church of Our Saviour, Episcopal, Milford, NH	1992 - 1997
Organist - United Christian Church - Lincolnville, ME	2006 - 2009
Organist & Choir Director (Interim) – John Street United Methodist Church – Camden, ME	
Organist & Minister of Music - St. Episcopal Church Clearwater, FL	Present