

The Principal

Newsletter of the Long Beach Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

Volume 77, Number 7

March, 2023

The Dean's Corner

Greeting to All!



It's already March, and only three more months remain in our 2022-23 season. Our next event will be the Members' Recital taking place on Sunday, March 19, 2023, at 4:00 pm, at St. Luke's Episcopal Church 525 E 7th Street, Long Beach, CA 90813. Google Map:

https://maps.app.goo.gl/zBtMQAEcKJazhhXt8?g_st=ic

I want to give special thanks to Darita Seth who is hosting the event and also to our four performers. We have great pieces lined up and come and hear Kent Eggert, Anna Ferraro, Lee Lasseter, and Sean O'Neal.

Lastly, registration for the 2023 Regional AGO Convention in Portland, OR (July 10-13, 2023) will open soon. However, you can book a hotel now at https://book.passkey.com/event/50476462/owner/4381/home

For more information about the convention, go to:

http://www.agowest2023.com

Wishing you blessings as you prepare for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter!

Dr. Hyunju Hwang Dean, Long Beach Chapter AGO



Our March Event: A Members' Recital at St. Luke's

James H. H. Lampert, Acting Editor

Our March Members' Recital will feature four of our Chapter Members on the St. Luke's Austin (which hasn't been heard in any Chapter events for quite a few years). It's an instrument with a personal connection for me, as it's the organ on which I first began lessons.

At press time, we know that Lee Lassetter plans to perform two hymn-based pieces by the late Frederick Swann, one on *Amazing Grace*, the other on *St. Anne* ("O God Our Help in Ages Past"), Sean O'Neal plans to perform Denis Bedard's *Suite Pater Noster*, and Anna Ferraro plans to perform the Bach *Fantasie in C*, the Franck *Offertoire*, and her own *sunday shine*. Of course, all programs are subject to change, and all artists have the final say on those programs, and on how much is to be announced in advance.

St. Luke's is of course a landmark in Long Beach, located at the corner of 7th and Atlantic (just a few blocks north of another landmark church, Covenant Presbyterian). The Recital will be at 4:00 P.M., on Sunday, March 19th.

AGO West Regional Convention, July 10-13, 2023

The Portland, Oregon Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is thrilled to host the AGO West Regional Convention July 10-13, 2023, with the theme, "Let's Dance." Headline artists include Kimberly Marshall, Pamela Decker (whose program will include the world premiere of a new work by Dr. Decker herself), Susanna Valleau, Seung Min Oh, Jonas Nordwall, and the vocal ensemble Cappella Romana. Featured Presenters include Rod Eichenberger, Paul Klemme, and George Ritchie.

A Celebration of the Life of Frederick Swann

July 30, 1931-November 13, 2022

Peter Bates

Service held on January 25, 2023 at 10:30 am in St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Palm Desert, California

The Los Angeles Times dubbed him, "The Prince of the Organ". He was mild-mannered, kind, and humble to a fault. But he was a giant in the organ community! Frederic Lewis Swann, honorary member of the Los Angeles chapter left this life at the age of 91 on November 13, 2022. A beautiful celebration of his life was held at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Palm Desert on Wednesday, January 25, 2023; attended by hundreds of his friends and colleagues, as well as members of his parish family and his partner, George Dickey. He touched so many lives in his time here on earth. During the homily, the rector of St. Margaret's told the assembly that in addition to those sitting within the walls of the church, there were over 200 persons joining virtually.

Fred was a stickler about time and staying on schedule. Those attending were warned to be in their seats by 10:30 am for the organ prelude. People who were able to attend came to the desert from all over the country in order to be there and say "goodbye" to our dear friend.

Organist Nathan Laube played a 30 minute prelude to the service, including: *Trumpet Tune* - Frederick Swann, *Prelude on 'Rhosymedre'* - Ralph Vaughan-Williams, *Scherzo - Cats (American Suite)* - Jean Langlais, and *Choral No. 1 in E-Major* - César Franck.

Following the opening anthems and collect, spoken by the Rector, organist Todd Wilson led the congregation and choir in the singing of *Guide me, O thou great Jehovah* [CWM Rhondda]. The Epistle reading was read by James Thomashower, the Executive Director of the American Guild of Organists followed by the St. Margaret's choir singing *How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place* from Brahms' *German Requiem* under the direction of Dr. Douglas Leightenheimer, music director and organist of the church with Mr. Wilson accompanying.

Fred's dear friend Mark Lively, the President of Lively-Fulcher Organbuilders, gave a very touching remembrance of Fred, which at times filled the room with laughter, and other times had many wiping tears from their eyes.

Following the singing of the hymn *The King of Love my Shepherd Is* [St. Columba], Sarah McFarlane Polly, daughter of Karen McFarlane Holtkamp (and Fred's

God-daughter) read a remembrance written by her mother, who was present, but physically unable to speak. Karen was Fred's secretary at the Riverside Church and later his long-time concert manager until her retirement.

The Rev. Butler, referring to the Gospel reading from Matthew (the "Sermon on the mount") said, "The word for today is 'blessed', for we are all blessed for having known Fred." He suggested that had Jesus looked up and seen Fred, he may have added one more beatitude, "Blessed are the music-makers, for they shall ", inviting each person to "fill in the blank". He reminded us that silence is not the opposite of sound. Silence is the space between the notes and that space holds energy. Space is never a void, not in life and not in death. The music of Fred's life did not end in his death. We stand in the space between the notes. The music of Fred's life is now in a different key and we must learn to listen in a new way. Quoting songwriter Irving Berlin, he said, "The song has ended, but the melody lingers on."

Following the intercessions, two of Fred's colleagues from the University of Redlands, Cindy Snyder, vocal instructor and Kyle Champion, cello instructor joined Mr. Wilson at the organ for the *Pie Jesu* movement from the Duruflé *Requiem*, followed by the commendation.

The choir then sang Ach Herr, lass dein lieb Engelein from the St. John Passion by J. S. Bach followed by Toccata (from Suite #5) by Duruflé played by organist David Higgs. Following the dismissal, Todd Wilson returned to the organ console for the recessional hymn, For All the Saints [Sine Nomine].

In checking the church's YouTube channel 26 hours following the service, the counter indicates that over 2,100 people have viewed the service since it was first streamed. Well done, thou faithful servant.

Long Beach Chapter Programs

March 19, 2023 - 4:00 pm Members' Recital St. Luke's Episcopal Church 525 E 7th St, Long Beach, CA 90813

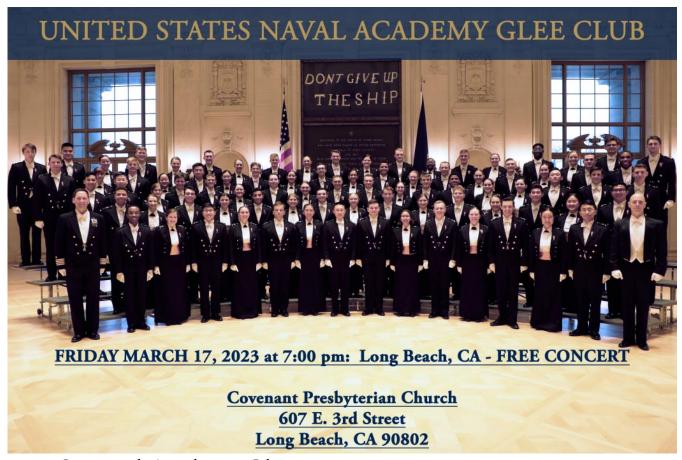
May 21, 2023 - 4:00 pm

Guild Service & Installation of Officers

Host: Peter Bates

Covenant Presbyterian Church

607 E 3rd St, Long Beach, CA 90802



U.S. Naval Academy Glee Club at Covenant Presbyterian

Friday evening, March 17th, Covenant Presbyterian Church will be hosting a free concert by the United States Naval Academy Glee Club.





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President's Day Organ Festival Recap

Gerald Dahlin, DDS

The 15th Annual Presidents' Day Organ Festival took place on February 20. Jointly sponsored by the LA AGO and the LA Theatre Organ Society, the event took place in three churches in Beverly Hills that were very close to each other and included four organs. The compositions performed covered a broad time period, from Heinrich Scheidemann (b. 1595) to the present, including a piece by Dr. Tom Mueller of Concordia University, Irvine. The warm weather permitted a leisurely walk from one church to another, two of which are next-door neighbors!

The day started at Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church with performances by Emma Yim and Scott Anderson on the MP Möller 3M/31 rank organ. Emma is a fourth-year student at UCLA. Sean O'Neal made a few remarks regarding the organ, which he services.

We then walked next door (literally) to the Chapel of All Saints Episcopal Church for a performance by Sook Hyun Kim on the 2M/16 rank Abbot & Sieker organ, followed by a performance by Collin Boothby in the Main Church on the Casavant Fréres Ltée organ and also on a portable 1M/3 stop (no pedals) Winfried Banzhaf organ.



Lunch was had at All Saints, along with tables of free music.

The afternoon started with performances at the Church of the Good Shepherd by Terry Hicks and Charles Raasch on the 2M/33 rank Noack organ. We then returned to the Main Church at All Saints Episcopal, where Manuel Rosales made some comments about the changes to the Casavant instrument over the years. We were then treated to a

performance by Raúl Prieto Ramirez which included several improvisations. A reception with wine made a wonderful ending for the festival.

A wonderful day of organ music! Next year's setting will be in Palos Verdes and Torrance on February 19, 2024.

David York and George Bullock at St. Gregory's

St. Gregory's Music at Four concert series presents organist David York, with special guest cellist George Bullock, in a Lenten recital featuring music by J.S Bach, Mendelssohn, Saint Saens and Parry.

Sunday, March 26, 4:00 PM St. Gregory's Episcopal Church 6201 East Willow St., Long Beach



Princeton University Chapel Choir in Huntington Beach

On Saturday, March 18 at 7:00 PM, and Sunday March 19 at 3:00 PM, the Orange County Women's Chorus will be presenting the Princeton University Chapel Choir at St. Wilfrid's Episcopal Church, in a new work by Andrea Clearfield.

https://ocwomenschorus.org

Job Listing: St. Paul's Lutheran

Minister of Music

Qualifications:

- Rostered as LCMS Director of Parish Music (not necessary, but preferred)
- Excellent Musician (Piano and/or guitar; vocalist required)
- Experienced & confident leader of contemporary worship services.
- Knowledge of music/vocal theory
- Love for relevant and modern worship music
- Philosophy of Ministry that "fits" St. Paul's
- Personal integrity that is "above reproach" (First Timothy 3:2)
- Leadership & administration skills (able to lead a complex and multi-faceted ministry)
- Able and willing to work in a team ministry
- Winsome personality
- Enthusiastically supportive of the ministry of Lutheran Schools
- Experience with Planning Center and Google software (Docs, Sheets, Calendar, etc.) helpful

Specific Areas Of Responsibility:

I. Worship Leadership

- Serve as the lead musician of all Sunday morning contemporary services.
- Serve as the lead musician of weekly elementary school chapel services.
- Serve as musician at weddings & funerals, as scheduled.
- Be aware of new worship music being released and regularly introduce new songs to congregation.
- Oversee and manage the aesthetics of the worship space.

II. Administration

- Provide administrative leadership for all St. Paul\u2019s worship services and musical events.
- Ensure a full ensemble of high-quality singers and musicians at all contemporary worship services & lead all rehearsals.
- Ensure all technology positions are filled for all contemporary worship services (sound, lights, ProPresenter & livestream cameras)
- Develop and manage the annual worship and music budget.
- Oversee maintenance of organ and pianos at church and school campuses.
- Oversee the maintenance of all music & worship technology
- Work with the school music director to schedule school musical groups in weekend worship services.

III. Staff Leadership

- Oversee the part-time director of traditional worship.
- Oversee the volunteer handbells director.

IV. Other duties as assigned by the Senior Pastor

 The specific areas of responsibilities shown above are not intended to be a comprehensive list of everything the Minister of Music will do. Specific job duties may be added and shifted based on the ever-changing needs of the ministry and the unique gifts and talents of the Minister of Music.

Accountability:

• The Minister of Music is accountable to the Senior Pastor. https://stpaulsorange.org

From the Press Room

James Lampert, Production and Distribution

(Any opinions expressed here are solely those of the author.)

First, a production note: I will be on my Spring Vacation this month, from the 18th through the end of March. Now that I once again have a working DOSbook, however, I should be able to have the April issue ready to go to press on Saturday evening, April 1st, and in the mail by Monday morning, April 3rd. I'll be spending my time in the Bay Area, and visiting All Saints' Episcopal, Palo Alto, and St. Mark's Lutheran, San Francisco. This, of course means that I'll be missing the Members' Recital, the Naval Academy Glee Club, and David York's recital.

I'm sure you've noticed that, for what is, to the best of my knowledge, the first time since at least April of 1999, The Principal is carrying a paid advertisement. Please note that (at least until and unless somebody else is designated to deal with Principal advertising), anybody who wishes to purchase ad space in The Principal should contact Dr. Hwang, rather than me, in order to avoid any editorial conflicts of interest. As always, however, all Chapter Members are entitled to publicize their events, regardless of whether their events are official Chapter events, or AGO events, or even organ events, without charge. All I need is a brief article, preferably in plain text, or RTF, or as the body of an email, submitted far enough in advance to give me time to find a place for it. And this goes not just for articles promoting events, but for any other articles you would like to see in print. And if you don't want to write it yourself, I can write from your outline. (I can also create flyers, if you need them.) This is, after all, your newsletter, and I am at your service.

> James H. H. Lampert Your Humble Typesetter



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