



# The Principal

NEWSLETTER OF THE LONG BEACH CHAPTER  
OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

Volume 77, Number 4

December, 2022

## The Dean's Corner



I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday, filled with family and friends, and food. We are now heading into December. We have no official events planned for this month, but I know that we will nonetheless be surrounded by the beautiful music of the season. Hopefully, it will inspire you as much as it does me.

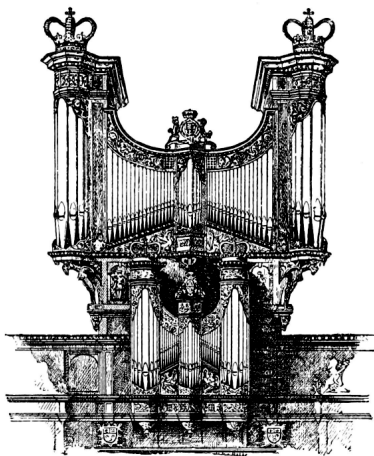
I want to congratulate Robert York, who played a superb accompaniment for the silent film event last month. I have received such wonderful feedback and compliments about Robert's performance and the overall evening.

Mark your calendar for the first event of 2023. The Members' Recital, "New Music for a New Year," will be held on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., at St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church (5306 East Arbor Road, Long Beach, CA 90808).

Google Map at:  
<https://tinyurl.com/mr2nhxsz>

Finally, may all of you experience the hope, love, peace, and joy of the Advent and Christmas season, as well as the promise and potential of a bright and prosperous New Year!

Dr. Hyunju Hwang  
Dean, Long Beach AGO



## Events in December

We have no official Chapter Event in December. The Los Angeles Philharmonic has several holiday-themed performances, but the Organ Recital series is dark until January.

But our Chapter Members have a few events that are of interest. Here they are, in chronological order

### Christoph Bull on December 2nd

Karla has informed me that Christoph Bull will be performing a holiday-themed concert on the Classical Crossroads series. According to the Classical Crossroads website

<http://www.palosverdes.com/ClassicalCrossroads/FirstFridays.htm>  
it is at 12:15 PM, on the First Fridays at First series, and he will be sharing the stage with mezzo-soprano I-Chin Lee. The concert will be live-streamed, at <https://vimeo.com/event/2623979>

Because of an uptick in COVID-19 cases in Los Angeles County, advance reservations will be required for in-person attendance, along with proof-of-vaccination and booster, and N95-level masks (provided). Email [ClassicalCrossroads@earthlink.net](mailto:ClassicalCrossroads@earthlink.net) for reservations. See the flyer for details.

### Rolling Hills UMC Christmas Concert, December 17th

Rolling Hills United Methodist Church will present its annual Christmas concert at 7:30 P.M. in the sanctuary. The concert will feature the Saint-Saëns Christmas Oratorio with additional music to celebrate the season. Charles Dickerson will conduct the choir, soloists, and the Inner City Youth Orchestra. Admission is free. The church is located at 26438 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes.

### Christmas Organ Recital and Carol Sing, December 18th

Peter Bates will be present a Christmas organ recital and Carol sing, at Covenant Presbyterian, at 4:00 P.M. The program will be presented both in-person and via live stream. See the flyer for details.

# *The General*

*James H. H. Lampert*

Sunday evening at 5 PM was our showing of *The General*, at Our Savior's Lutheran, with live organ accompaniment by our former Chapter Dean, Robert York, at the Mighty Reuter.



Probably anybody who's ever set foot in the California State Railroad Museum has at least seen clips of it (at least one scene is incorporated into the long-running orientation film, *Evidence of a Dream*, and I think it's a loop of highlights they have running in the Roundhouse Gallery). But I've never seen it all the way through.

In a nutshell, an action-adventure-slapstick comedy (with just a hint of romance) concerns locomotive engineer Johnnie Gray (Buster Keaton) and his girlfriend, Annabelle Lee (Marion Mack). When word is received of the attack on Fort Sumter, Annabelle's father and brother rush off to enlist in the Confederate Army. To please Annabelle, Johnnie tries to enlist, but is turned away, without explanation (because he's more valuable to the South as an engineer than as a soldier).

Union spies steal his locomotive ("The General"), still attached to a baggage car with Annabelle on board, and Johnnie gives chase, first on foot, then by handcar, then by bicycle, then in another locomotive (inadvertently leaving behind a flatcar loaded with troops). Over the course of the film, he rescues Annabelle (who turns out



to be not half-bad at firing and running a locomotive, for a beginner), interferes with the Union spies' campaign of sabotage, and then returns to the Southern lines, capturing a Union officer in the process, and getting a field commission as a Lieutenant.

Robert's accompaniment, like all of his silent film accompaniments, was a well-planned, well-rehearsed improvisation. It was also a triumph of both chops and endurance, involving nearly an hour and a half of nonstop playing (even a recitalist gets time to breathe between movements, and likewise, the masters of improvisation we call the Preservation Hall Jazz Band don't have to keep it up, nonstop, for over an hour). He also has a good ear for railroad sounds, not only the whistle, but also the exhaust chuffs (cluster-chords in the bass, an "orange" effect).

As to the film itself, while it was told from a Southern point of view, and accordingly romanticized that point of view, it at least didn't romanticize slavery (indeed, it essentially ignored that whole matter). Of more interest was its very accurate treatment of railroading, ancient link-and-pin couplers and all. I would not want to be a railroad brakeman in the days before George Westinghouse invented the air brake, and Eli Janney invented the automatic coupler.

The program was fairly well attended, which is not especially easy in a part of town with narrow streets and very limited parking.

## Long Beach Chapter Programs

**January 24, 2023 - 6:00pm**

*"New Music for a New Year"; Members' Recital*

*Dinner, 6:00 pm, Recital 7:00 pm*

Venue - TBA

**February 18, 2023 - 3:00 pm**

*Pedals, Pipes, & Pizza*

Venue - TBA

**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*

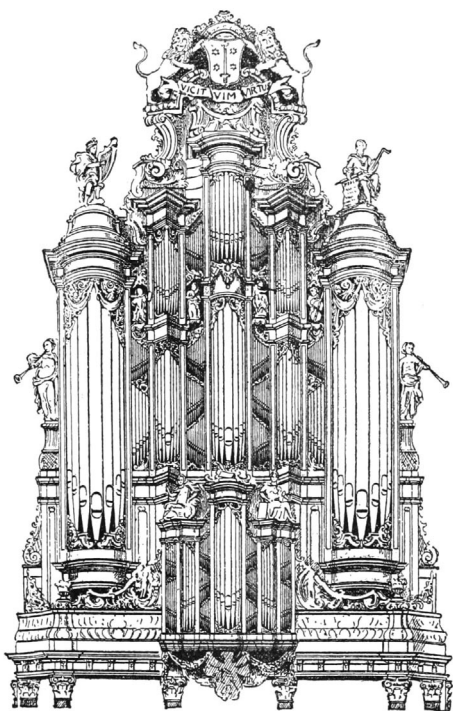
Covenant Presbyterian Church

607 E 3rd St, Long Beach, CA 90802

## Job Postings

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is hiring a Director of Music and Organist. 2 weekend services (5:00 PM Saturdays, 9:00 AM Sundays), with additional services for holidays, Advent, and Lent. Organ is a 3 manual Möller/Rodgers hybrid. \$15-25k based on experience. Questions and CVs can be sent to Patty at [goodshepherddowney@yahoo.com](mailto:goodshepherddowney@yahoo.com) (562)803-4459.

And at last report, First Church of Christ, Scientist, Palos Verdes Estates, is still seeking a regular organist on Sundays. Job entails prelude, 3 hymns, solo accompaniment, offertory, and postlude; service is from 10 to 11, with soloist's rehearsal from 9 to 9:30. They have a 3-manual Rodgers digital organ. Current pay is \$250 per Sunday. Email Helen O'Lone, Music Committee Chair, at [holone@hotmail.com](mailto:holone@hotmail.com) for more information.



## From the Press Room

*James Lampert, Production and Distribution*

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

November has been a busy month. After the rush to get the November issue out the door by the end of October, despite a nearly empty toner cartridge (and thank you very much Peter, for getting me the promotional piece and flyer on *The General*, and the coverage of Bruce Neswick's appearance so quickly, and also Dr. Hwang for getting me the Dean's Corner, the Neswick pictures, and the revisions to the event schedule) the month began with Isabelle Demers at Disney Hall, in a performance that ran a gamut from

Bach to Heiller, and included three of Alkan's *Douze études pour les pieds seulement* (which amounted to eleven minutes of non-stop spectacular pedal solos).

The following weekend brought the Chapter's November event, with our own Robert York accompanying *The General*, which I've already covered. Unfortunately, it was followed by something rather less pleasant: if you attended, you may have noticed police activity on Junipero, following the show. My car was involved: there was a hit-and-run, and my 2018 Leaf got tweaked. As I type this, it is in a body shop in Cerritos, after I had to personally move it from the body shop where it had been left, by mistake, by a tow truck driver who'd been given the wrong destination.

Then, on Tuesday evening, after delivering my car to the *correct* body shop, I attended what is almost certainly the strangest concert I've attended in many years. *Electric Fields*, a newly commissioned work for soprano, two pianos, live electronics, and live visual projections had its world premiere at Disney Hall. Strange, yet after what I'd been through over the previous five days, it was remarkably soothing.

As this issue goes to press, I find much for which to be thankful. I've got a time estimate on my car repairs, and a rental car that doesn't smell like an ashtray, and an appointment for an Omicron-optimized COVID-19 booster shot, on a day that actually works for me. And before this issue is mailed, I'll have a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Would that all the world could be so fortunate.

James H. H. Lampert  
Your Humble Typesetter





**Classical Crossroads**  
presents  
**A Holiday-Themed Concert**  
with  
**Organist Christoph Bull**  
and  
**Mezzo-Soprano I-Chin Lee**  
in the music of Bach, Händel, and others



**December 2, 2022, at 12:15 P.M.**

Admission is free. Donations are appreciated.

Advance reservations are required for in-person attendance. Email [ClassicalCrossroads@Earthlink.net](mailto:ClassicalCrossroads@Earthlink.net) at least one day in advance. Proof of vaccination and booster, and KN95-or-better masks (provided) are also required.

The concert will be simultaneously live-streamed on Vimeo, at <https://vimeo.com/event/2623979> for those unable to attend in person.

**First Lutheran Church and School**  
**2900 W. Carson Street,**  
**Torrance, CA 90503**

(on the south side of Carson Street, just east of Maple)  
For information, call Classical Crossroads, (310)316-5774  
<http://www.palosverdes.com/ClassicalCrossroads/FirstFridays.htm>



**Christmas  
organ  
recital  
and  
Carol sing**

# **Peter Bates**

**at the console of the  
Lough Memorial Organ (Aeolian-Skinner Opus 1458)**

**This program will be both in-person  
and Live-Streamed through Covenant's Website**

**[www.Covenantlb.org](http://www.Covenantlb.org)**

**Covenant Presbyterian Church  
607 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street • Long Beach, CA 90802**

**Sunday, December 18, 2022 • 4:00 pm**  
(This concert is free of admission charge – a freewill offering will be received)

The Principal  
 c/o James H. H. Lampert  
 9120 Mallard Ave  
 Fountain Valley, CA 92708

*A Publication of the Long Beach Chapter of  
 The American Guild of Organists*

**Long Beach Chapter Officers**

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Jay Rogers, Eric Nelson

**2024**

Daniel Parks and Mark Milliren

**2025**

Dolly Ickler and Susan MacKensen

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Special thanks to the International Printing Museum.

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