



The Principal

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

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The Dean's Corner

Dear LBAGO Friends,

Our new season is off to a wonderful start with a fantastic kick-off party at Bobbie's beautiful home on September 29. It was a joy to reconnect, share great conversations, and enjoy delicious food together. A huge thank-you to Bobbie for graciously hosting us!



Our next event is the *Rising Stars Organ Recital* on Sunday, October 20, 2024, at 4:00 PM, at

First Congregational Church of Long Beach (241 Cedar Ave, Long Beach, CA 90802). We are excited to hear performances by Emma Yim, Winston Bickhardt, Makena James, and Cecillia Haeun Kim. I hope to see you all there to support these talented musicians.

Looking ahead, in November, we will hold our Members' Recital on Sunday, November 10, 2024, with the theme of *Theme and Variation*. Music selections can include anything from hymn variations to classical compositions or even contemporary works, offering a wide range of possibilities. If you would like to perform or have any questions, please contact Kyle Black, our Program Committee Chair.

Lastly, I want to take a moment to recognize **Dolly Ickler**, who has been a dedicated member of the Long Beach Chapter since 1964 – 60 years of incredible service! Her contributions have shaped our chapter, and we are deeply grateful for her unwavering dedication and generosity. Thank-you, Dolly!

Wishing you all a wonderful October, filled with beautiful music and harmonious moments!

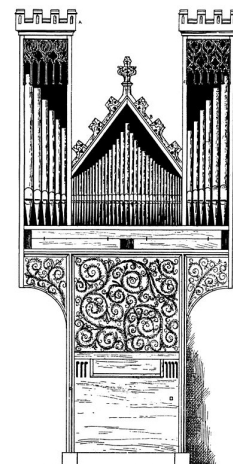
Warmly,
Dr. Hyunju Hwang
Dean, Long Beach Chapter of AGO

Rising Stars at First Congregational

I do hope you have marked your calendars for our upcoming recital program, featuring some talented young performers in the Southern California area. We have the privilege of holding our event at First Congregational Church of Long Beach where chapter member Marc Dickey presides over the Mighty Möller of five manuals and seventy ranks. Our recitalists will include several local university students and one of our two LBAGO organ scholarship recipients for 2024. The program will feature music by Bach, Theodore DuBois, and others. Try looking up one of the recitalists, Mekena James, on YouTube – a variety of videos will give you an exciting preview of what to expect. Please come and support them on October 20th at 4:00pm. (241 Cedar Ave., Long Beach, 90802), and support the mission of the American Guild of Organists: “to foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ.”

Kyle Black,
Sub-dean, LBAGO

Ed.: Also scheduled to perform (at least, as of press time) are Cecillia Haeun Kim, 2024 Scholarship winner Winston Bickhardt, and our newest Board Member At Large, Emma Yim.



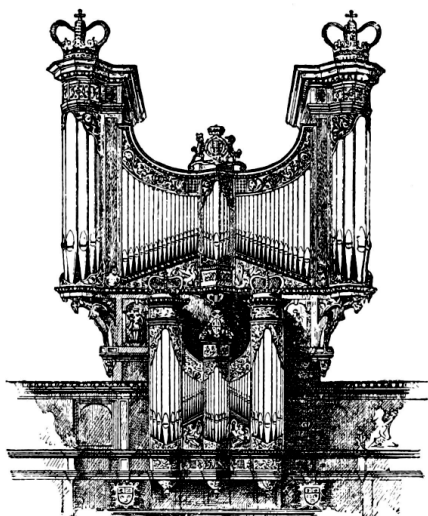
A Quick Introduction

From One Of Our Newest Members



Hi, my name is Makena James. I am an organist and high church musician. I am a master's candidate at the University of Southern California, I play organ at Manhattan Beach community Church, and I am the founder and director of "Makena's High Church Orchestra," as seen on my YouTube Channel.

[YouTube.com/@oneshotorgan](https://www.youtube.com/@oneshotorgan)



Call for Performers

We do have two Members' Recitals scheduled for this season, "Themes and Variations" on November 10th, and "Music for Occasional Celebrations" on January 26th. Since not everybody made it to the Kickoff Pot-Luck, I'll repeat the call for performers: if you're interested in performing at either one, please contact Kyle about it.

kywblack@gmail.com

LBAGO Program 2024-2025

Sunday, October 20, 2024 – 4:00pm

Recital: Rising Stars

First Congregational Church of Long Beach
241 Cedar Ave., Long Beach, 90802

Sunday, November 10, 2024 – 4:00pm

Member's Recital: Themes and Variations

Location to be determined

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

Sunday, January 26, 2025 – 4:00pm

Member's Recital: Music for Occasional Celebrations in the Church Year

Cal Heights United Methodist Church
3759 Orange Ave., Long Beach, 90807

Monday, February 17, 2025

President's Day Organ Festival – Los Angeles

Monday, March 3, 2025

Recital: BACH-A-THON

Christ Cathedral
13280 Chapman Ave., Garden Grove, 92840

Sunday, March 9, 2025 – 4:00pm

Recital

(Artist to be Determined)

The Neighborhood Church
415 Paseo Del Mar, Palos Verdes Estates, 90274

NO MEETING IN APRIL

Sunday, May 18, 2025 – 4:00pm

Guild Service and Installation Officers

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church (ELCA)
12301 Magnolia St., Garden Grove, 92841

September Was a Busy Month!

(a Press Room Special)

The final two weeks of the Hollywood Bowl subscription season were barely over before there were three Long Beach events on consecutive Sundays.

First, we had the Covenant Presbyterian event. Some time ago, the organ there was out of service for several months, for a significant console overhaul, with Nelson Denton supplying a Rodgers touring organ (meticulously voiced to match the church's own organ) as a stand-in. The plan was to celebrate the completion of the overhaul with a 2-organ duo recital, with Peter Bates and David York. Unfortunately, there were delays.

On Sunday, September 15th, the touring organ was back in place, with the "Covenant Voicing" reinstalled, for the long-delayed duo recital. The event began with Nelson Dodge explaining the context (in a good deal

more detail than I've given). Then the program began, with the Bach Prelude and Fugue in E-flat Major (BWV 552, the "St. Anne"), with the parts split up between the two instruments. This was followed by works from Michael Burkhardt, Michael McCabe, Richard Purvis, Felix Mendelssohn, and Charles Callahan. The program concluded with Sousa's *The Stars and Stripes Forever*, in an organ duet arrangement by Elizabeth and Raymond Chenault.

There were times when it was difficult to tell which instrument was which, and others when it was less so. And to answer the question that is undoubtedly on the minds of everybody who wasn't there, and didn't catch the live stream, Peter and David switched off between the two instruments.

Then, a week later (to the hour!), David hosted the South Coast Brass (along with percussionists Paul Sternhagen and Sean Dunnahoe), at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, on their "Music at 4" series. It was a *very* eclectic program, ranging from the early Italian Baroque to The Beatles. The program began with an overture from Handel's *Water Music*, and continued with Bach, Gabrieli, the traditional Shaker tune *Simple Gifts*, an instrumental version of a song by The King's Singers, then Karg-Elert's *Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals*, the hymn *Earth and All Stars*, then Alan Fernie, Tchaikovsky, Gerswin, and Paul McCartney, concluding with Craig Garner's somewhat abridged organ, brass, and percussion arrangement of the *Maestoso* from the Saint-Saëns 3rd Symphony.

Then, a week later (again, *to the hour!*), we had our annual Kickoff Pot-Luck, at the Spinnaker Bay home of one of Rich Metzler's parishioners. There was some concern with whether or not we'd be able to find the place, whether some nearby construction work might



The pot-luck attendees, along with Bobbie, who graciously opened her home to us, and Arlo, her dog.

prove to be an obstacle, and whether there would be parking problems, but everything went well, with the worst problem being a single neighbor's driveway getting blocked (which we were able to quickly remedy. Entrees included a slow-cooker full of pulled pork, a box of fried chicken, an interesting casserole involving chicken, orzo, spinach, and sun-dried tomatoes, and the return of my Nordic Turkey-Balls. Along with a variety of salads and desserts. (In hindsight, I might have also brought a boiled vegetable, and maybe a few more turkey-balls, since I did have the good fortune of going home with an empty saucepan.)

Before dinner, we had introductions, and a presentation on the upcoming events. Once again, a splendid time was had by all, and nobody was sent away hungry.



Dolly Ickler gets an orchid, in recognition of her 60 years with the Long Beach Chapter



Bobbie got an orchid, too.

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

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2025

Dolly Ickler

2026

Robert Gaylord

2027

Kent Eggert, Emma Yim, and Richard Metzler

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Acting Editor, Typesetting,
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Please submit items for publication to:

James Lampert, JHHL@toast.net