



The Principal

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

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The Dean's Corner

Vernon Mouw, Chapter Dean

I frequently think about the future of the pipe organ, as I'm sure you do as well. With so many venues (especially churches and schools) discontinuing the use



of their organs or even removing them to make space for something else, it makes one wonder if the age of the pipe organ is past.

Then along comes a young man named Lukas Hasler, who with his amazing talent demonstrates to an audience what a marvelous instrument the pipe organ is. What God-given talent he has as well

as the desire to develop his skills.

January 9 was a very special evening for the LBAGO at Covenant Church in Long Beach. Following a fine dinner served by the youth of the church, Lukas Hasler performed on the magnificent Aeolian-Skinner organ in the Sanctuary. The organ was in fine form and responded flawlessly to whatever Lukas required of it. He performed a varied program of traditional organ literature as well as an unfamiliar piece by Guy Bovet (*Hamburger Totentanz*). His rendition of the Schumann *Fugue on BACH* was especially noteworthy for me in that he built the organ up from a very soft beginning to a thunderous conclusion, all with imperceptible changes in registration. Lukas told me it took him over three hours to register that one piece.

I'm mentioning all this as a lead in to reminding us of the program scheduled for you on Sunday afternoon, February 18, 4:00 p.m., at First Congregational Church, 241 Cedar Ave. in Long Beach. Dr. Randall Harlow will be presenting his transcription of Franz Liszt's Transcendental Etudes on the huge Moeller organ at First Church. This is co-sponsored by the Orange County and Long Beach AGO chapters.

I hope many of you will take this opportunity to hear Dr. Harlow at First Congregational and no doubt

be inspired by "our" instrument, the organ, played by a true artist. **There will be no dinner this afternoon.** The concert is Free.

I hope to see many of you there.

Vern Mouw, Dean

LAAGO President's Day Organ Tour

Make a note on your calendar for PRESIDENTS' DAY 2018, sponsored by the LAAGO. Each year around Presidents' Day the LAAGO sponsors a tour of regional organs in the Los Angeles area. This year the tour will be on February 19 in Claremont. I'm waiting for more details which will be passed on to you. This is a wonderful day spent going to several churches and listening to fine organs. Generally three venues are visited with a box lunch provided for a modest fee. If this interests you at all, plan to attend. You will not be disappointed.

This Month's Meeting

Dr. Randall Harlow, organist and transcriber, will perform his transcriptions selected from Liszt's Transcendental Etudes on Sunday, February 18, 2018 at 4:00 pm at First Congregational Church, 241 Cedar



Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90802. Randall has recorded these transcribed works on the Pro Organs label. Before attending Indiana University for his Bachelor's degree and Eastman School of Music for his

Doctorate, Randall Harlow lived in Long Beach, California, attended Poly High School, and was a member of the Long Beach Chapter of the AGO. This concert is co-sponsored by the Orange County Chapter.

Question of the Month

In order to stimulate conversations between colleagues, I offer another question for you to ponder and discuss.

Do you play organ transcriptions of piano or orchestral works? What is your view of transcriptions vs. original works for the organ? Have you ever transcribed a piece for organ?

Looking Ahead

Service Playing Workshop

On Tuesday, March 13th at 8 pm James Walker will present a Workshop on Service Playing, focusing on hymn playing, anthem accompaniment, and conducting from the organ console. Mr. Walker has had a long and distinguished career as organist and director of music at All Saints Church in Pasadena, California. James was named Director of Music Emeritus in honor of his faithful service to that parish. He is now doing freelance work as an organist, choral director and recitalist, in addition to sharing his expertise in workshops. Here is a link to his web page:
<http://jameswalkermusic.com>.

Organ Study Scholarships

Don't forget the Long Beach Chapter Organ Study Program that will be held at Bayshore Community Congregational Church on Saturday, February 17th. An application form was included in last month's Principal. Applications must be postmarked by February 1, 2018. Contact Jana Shields at 562-773-9727 for more information.

Russ' Resources and Repertoire

Transcriptions

Here are a couple of links to transcriptions for organ. The first, perhaps a good Halloween piece, is Ken Cowan's transcription of *Danse Macabre* by Camille Saint-Saëns performed on the Quimby organ at St. Paul's Cathedral in San Diego, California.

<https://youtu.be/HtN05CBsnDI>

Here is a transcription of *Mephisto Waltz No. 1* by Franz Liszt performed by Raul Prieto Ramirez on the Goulding and Wood concert organ at Ball State University. Raul has recently been hired as the Civic

Organist for San Diego where he will serve as resident organist on the Spreckels Organ in Balboa Park.

<https://youtu.be/c4EAMia8fKs>

Here is a link to the Spreckels Organ Site:

<http://spreckelsorgan.org>

Mechanical Organs

One of my friends at church has an interest in mechanical musical instruments, particularly organs. He has built several small street pipe organs that play music via music rolls and are powered by a crank mechanism. Here are a couple of YouTube links to two of his instruments.

<https://youtu.be/1BzrEcSraR0>

<https://youtu.be/NNEU1PLQTL4>

And here is a 1905 Marengi Organ playing a familiar Queen song, *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

<https://youtu.be/JTnGI6Kw5Q>

Love Songs for February

Joey Wetzels is a 17 year old organist in The Netherlands, who has a few posts of songs played on pipe organs in various Dutch cities. Here are links to two love songs: *Can't Help Falling in Love*

<https://youtu.be/3aEL4XQYVcQ>

and *Can You Feel the Love Tonight?*

<https://youtu.be/UZt3eB6jCbc>

Here is an improvisation by Maria Scharwiess based on the Beatles song, *All You Need Is Love*.

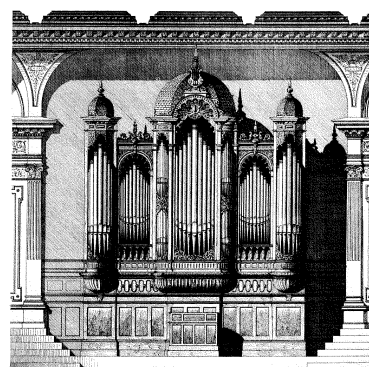
<https://youtu.be/hxeCfsGmcVc>

And here is a medley of Romantic songs played by Tom Horton on a Christie Cinema Organ in Ipswich.

<https://youtu.be/7wwPSKues5o>

Tom also has a series of video tutorials on playing songs in the Theatre style if you are curious and want a few tips.

<https://youtu.be/RAMsY1fU78o>



LBAGO Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 18, 2018 — 4:00 PM

Dr. Randall Harlow performs a transcription of Liszt's Transcendental Etudes

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

Tuesday, March 13, 2018 — 8:00 PM

James Walker, WORKSHOP ON SERVICE PLAYING

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
370 Junipero Ave., Long Beach
Catered dinner at 6:30 PM

Tuesday, April 10, 2018 — 8:00 PM

Pieces that Sound Difficult, but Aren't!

Trinity Lutheran Church
759 Linden Ave., Long Beach
Catered dinner at 6:30 PM

Sunday, May 6, 2018 — 4:00 PM

Guild Service and Installation of Officers

Torrance First United Methodist Church
1551 El Prado, Torrance

Events with Catered Dinners:

Cost for Dinner will be \$15. Please contact Elaine Elliot, bobelaine@bobelaine.com, for reservations.

Other Concerts of Interest

Monday, February 19.

LAAGO Presidents' Day Organ Festival

Claremont. Check

<https://www.laago.org/calendar>

and/or

<https://www.laago.org/events>

for details.

Sunday, February 25, 4:00 PM

Isabelle Demers, at The Neighborhood Church (UCC)

415 Paseo del Mar, Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274.
\$20 General Admission. (If you still haven't heard the Palos Verdes Rosales/Glatte-Goetz, this would be an excellent opportunity).

Sunday, May 20, 2018 — 7:30 PM

Hector Olivera at Disney Hall

there was Lukas Hasler, but since Vern has already covered his recital, I'll only say that I was particularly impressed with the *Hamburger Totentanz*. Then, this past Sunday evening, I had my first encounter with Katelyn Emerson, at Disney Hall (the recital was not all that well attended, although I did see a few familiar faces from the Chapter; those who missed it missed a spectacular performance of mostly French music running the gamut from Baroque to Contemporary, along with Rheinberger, Bach, and Sowerby).

And all that was after discovering, on Christmas Eve, that the "cute undergraduate-age kid filling in on piano" I'd noticed at one of the churches I attend was in fact the church's new keyboard player, (and as such, should have been on my Christmas list). While new to the organ, she seems very eager to learn.

That brings up the matter of Christmas. Some of you already know about my tradition of giving Christmas presents (usually CDs) to the clergy and musicians at the churches I attend. Over the years, this list has grown from three individuals to nearly three dozen. Unless a "CD of the Year" practically jumps out at me, I typically spend several weeks in the fall auditioning and evaluating CDs, looking for a recording that is (1) a new release, or a new import, or otherwise not widely available prior to that year, that prominently features an organ that is (2) predominantly or entirely real pipes, and (3) predominantly or entirely tracker key action, and that (4) has mass appeal, since not all of the recipients are necessarily "organ geeks." I'm always looking for an elusive quality I call "Tracker Action On Parade," i.e., even somebody with an untrained ear, who had never even heard of tracker action, should be able to hear how nuances of touch contribute to overall musicality.

For 2017, I ended up with two CDs on top, that were more or less evenly matched, and a somewhat more distant third. Third place went to an all-Rheinberger album, Bruce Stevens' *Rheinberger Organ Sonatas, Vol. 5*, on Bill Van Pelt's Raven label; second place went to Thomas Baugh's *Christ Church Voluntaries*, on Raven's new "Christ Church" label, and my pick for CD of the Year, for 2017, was Michael Kleinschmidt's *Recital at Saint Mark's Cathedral*, on Loft/Gothic.

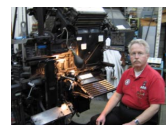
You can read more about my "CD of the Year" picks on my web site,

<http://members.toast.net/JHHL>

From the Press Room

James Lampert, Typesetter and Printer

This must be my month to encounter young people with enough "chops" to play me under the table. First,



The Long Beach and Orange County Chapters
of the
American Guild of Organists
and
The Board of Cultural Arts
of First Congregational Church
present

Randall Harlow



Performing the West Coast Premiere
of the World's First Organ Transcription of
Liszt's Complete Transcendental Etudes

Sunday, February 18, 2018, at 4:00 PM
First Congregational Church of Long Beach
241 Cedar Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90802

Admission is Free

Church Web Site: <http://www.firstchurchlb.org>
Dr. Harlow's Web Site: <http://www.randallharlow.net>

ORGAN RECITAL

Sunday, February 25, 2018

4:00pm

ISABELLE DEMERS

Concert Organist



Isabelle Demers' recital for the 2010 International Society of Organbuilders/American Institute of Organbuilders convention "left the entire congress in an atmosphere of 'Demers fever'" – something that continues unabated to this day. Possessing "bracing virtuosity" (*Chicago Classical Review*), Demers has enraptured listeners worldwide with spell-binding performances. Born in Québec and a graduate of Juilliard, Ms. Demers is Head of the Organ Department at Baylor University in Texas. Her acclaimed recordings on the Acis and Pro Organo labels have been heralded as "expressive... profound and searching" (RSCM's *Church Music Quarterly*) and they, along with her live performances, have been heard on American Public Media's PipeDreams and BBC Radio 3.

The program will include works by Buxtehude, John Williams (Harry Potter Suite), Mulet, Laurin, Mendelssohn, J.S. Bach, and Bonnet, performed on the church's 1,900-pipe Glatter-Götz organ.

Tickets are \$20. For information, call 310-378-9353, ext. 1005.

The Neighborhood Church

415 Paseo del Mar, Palos Verdes Estates CA 90274-1216

www.neighborhoodchurchpve.org

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By the 15th of the month prior to publication.