



The Principal

NEWSLETTER OF THE LONG BEACH CHAPTER
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The Dean's Corner

Robert York, Chapter Dean

Dear friends,

To say the least, this has been a trying period. I hope you are all staying well, safe and most of all staying happy.

We have now learned how to be recording artists, performing our hymns and postludes on camera to be broadcast.

This brings us to discuss the present and future of our AGO Chapter. We have cancelled the installation of

officers and have not yet decided how to proceed but as soon as a decision is reached I will let you know. There are several options but no decision has been made as yet.

Board members, I will be contacting you regarding a Zoom meeting soon.

We hope that our event calendar will proceed as planned in September.

As you know, we didn't have a meeting during Easter month, April, but our March meeting was great!

March was our celebration of the music of Vierne and our members did a great job of bringing his music to life. Congratulations and thanks (in alphabetical order) to Peter Bates, Marc Dickey, Kent Eggert, Hyunju Hwang, and Robert York.

I'd like to thank all of you who attended. It was a joy to see such a great turn out!

Stay well and safe,
Robert York



POE Update

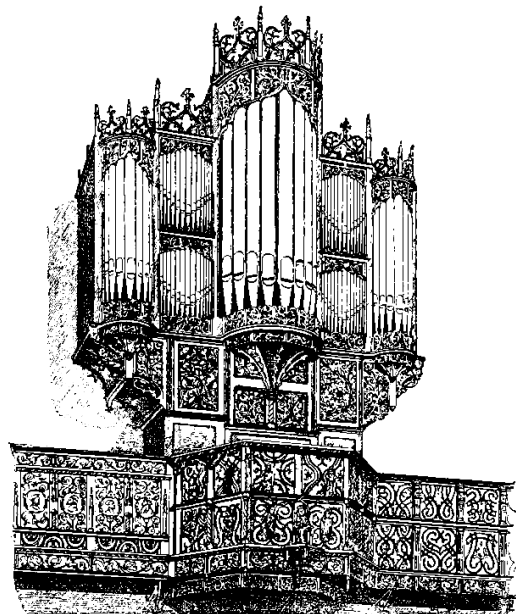
Dr. Hyunju Hwang, POE Director

The Long Beach POE Committee, in consultation with our national organization, has decided to postpone the 2020 Pipe Organ Encounter - Long Beach until next summer. The POE Committee made this decision in consideration of the safety of our students, faculty, and staff. While this is an extraordinary step, these are unfortunately extraordinary times.

The POE Committee wants to thank all those who made donations and to assure you that those donations will be applied towards next years POE. The POE Committee also wants to thank all those who worked so hard on this years POE, which would have undoubtedly been a rousing success. We have already heard from a number of this years applicants saying that they want us to keep their applications on file so they can attend next year.

Once again, thank you to everyone for your great support. Please stay safe and healthy!

Regards,
Dr. Hyunju Hwang
Director, POE-LB 2020/2021



From the District Convener:

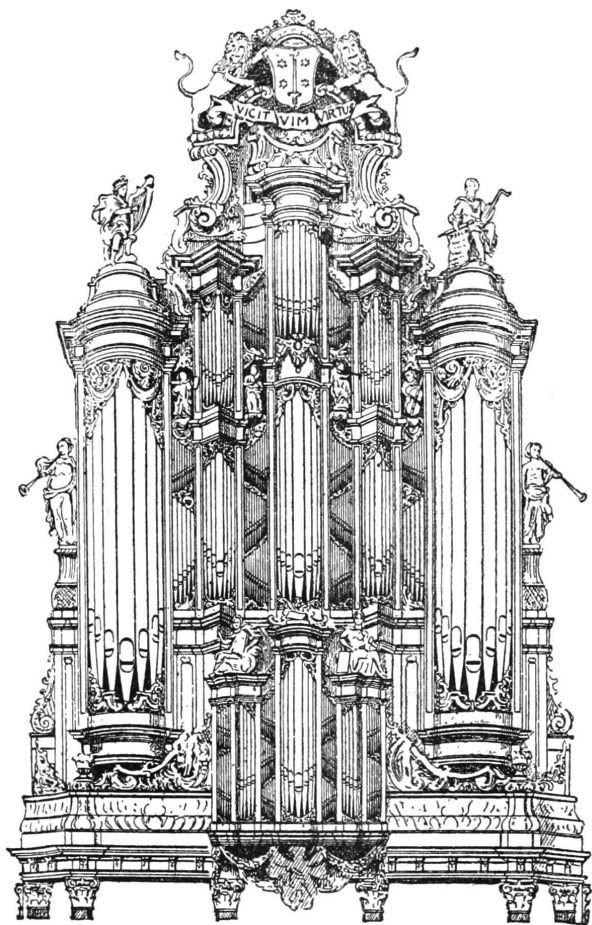
Peter Bates

I hope all of you are staying well and staying safe during this “safer at home” time. Many, myself included, are using this as a time to “reset” and “rethink”. While I am still working, keeping busy preparing a prelude, 2 hymns and three anthems for our weekly streamed services with Covenant’s clergy and quartet, as well as weekly streamed organ meditations, I’ve spent a great deal of time reading, studying, reflecting and relaxing. I hope you are finding time to refresh yourselves as well.

The National Council, the staff of the National Office and the Committee on Career Development have put together a list of resources to help struggling organists who have been adversely affected by the COVID 19 shut down. Go to the National website: AGOHQ.ORG and on the home page click on the red link for Coronavirus Pandemic. A list of resources have been compiled there for you.

Take care of yourselves and those close to you. I look forward to seeing you on the other side of this!

Peter Bates,
Southern California District Convener



Resources and Repertoire

James Lampert, filling in for Russ Litchfield

As this issue went to press, longtime PIPORG-L member Agnes Armstrong posted a link to this article, by a Dr. Heather Nelson. If your church is even *thinking* about a return to physically gathering in person for church services, at this early stage, you should probably read it.

<https://tinyurl.com/yalfj44n>

I’m sure I’m not the only one here who had a ticket for Monica Czausz’s recital at Disney Hall. While that’s obviously not going to happen, she does have a YouTube channel, and some very impressive videos, mostly on the Rice University Rosales/Fisk.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/mon3cz/videos>

Of particular interest to me was her performance of a transcription of Dvořák’s *Carnival Overture*. That piece actually appears in two separate videos: a complete performance, on the Rice Rosales/Fisk, on her YouTube channel, and the opening portion, in an entirely different performance on the same instrument, on a short promotional video she did for the University. At any rate, the piece is something you might expect to hear on the Spreckels organ, or the Wanamaker organ, or perhaps on a theatre organ, rather than on a modern tracker instrument, and yet it works supremely well on the Rice Rosales/Fisk.

Even before “American Idol” switched to at-home performances, and before the “Disney Home Singalong,” musicians in all genres had begun responding to the COVID-19 situation by uploading at-home performances to YouTube. Those of you who enjoyed Alison Luedecke’s February performance at First Congregational (and perhaps also those of you who missed it) might find Dr. Luedecke’s YouTube videos of interest. As of Friday, May 1st, she has four posted, including an archived Spreckels performance, and two harpsichord performances, one of them rather melancholy, the other more upbeat.

<https://tinyurl.com/y8vaw4qh>

(And as this very page goes to press, I’ll note that this week’s From the Top is also featuring “at home” performances. If you missed it on KUSC, I believe you can still catch it online.)

Have any of you posted any “performing from home” videos you’d like to share? If so, let me know, and I’ll see what I can do to get the word out to the rest of the Chapter.

From the Press Room

*James H. H. Lampert, Typesetting, Printing,
and Circulation*

(Note: Any opinions expressed in this column are strictly those of the author)

I think perhaps KUSC jock Brian Lauritzen said it best, near the end of the first week of “Shelter in Place,” when he declared (probably quoting somebody else), “What a *year* this week has been.” Our May issue is late, and our March and April issues were nonexistent, mainly for lack of any material. (I could have probably filled an entire issue with my own inane ramblings, but it wouldn’t have been a good use of the Chapter’s paper or postage.)

When I go to work now, I’m literally the only person in the office (and therefore even more completely isolated than I am at home): everybody else in the company is telecommuting, but I have neither the bandwidth, nor the “iron,” to work from home myself (as it is, I also go into the office to attend online church services), and besides, some of our customers are only reachable from the office IP address.

March 21st was my last organ lesson for the duration. The Printing Museum has closed to the public for the duration (allowing time for some much-needed electrical and flooring work, among other things); after my lesson on the 21st, I was there for about two and a half hours (I’d only planned on being there for 20 minutes, to pick up some things I could work on at home, but found myself doing some Linotype maintenance), and I was there again on April 18th, dropping off the finished projects and printing a batch of “Apollo 13 50th Anniversary” souvenir cards, since we would remain closed for the entire anniversary month.

I found that some of the churches I attend were live-streaming services on YouTube, while others were doing so on Facebook (I don’t do Facebook. At all. Ever.), and others were apparently just shutting down completely for the duration. Personally, I’m inclined to follow the old saying, “When life hands you lemons, make lemonade” (even though I don’t like lemons or lemonade), and so I started checking the web sites of churches I normally only visit when on vacation. And I found, to my delight, that I could live-stream services at St. Mark’s Cathedral, Seattle, and at First Church Cambridge (which I’d attended while vacationing in Boston). Then, about a week ago, I realized that while I’d attended *recitals* at The Neighborhood Church, in Palos Verdes, I’d never had a practical way to attend a *service* there, and so I checked, and sure enough, I could

live-stream their services as well. So while COVID-19 has forced me to cancel my Spring vacation plans, it has also allowed me to renew, after a fashion, my connections with churches all over the country.

The decision to reschedule the POE for next year was not an easy decision, I’m sure, but I sincerely believe it was the right one. As it happens, it mirrors a decision made by a San Francisco theatre company whose productions I’ve been attending for years, 42nd Street Moon. They had scheduled back-to-back productions in late May and early June, of Sondheim’s *Merrily We Roll Along* (one of my favorite musicals) with the 1934 Kaufman & Hart play on which it was based. Then came COVID-19. Ultimately, they ended up rescheduling for May and June of 2021, with tickets, unless canceled, good for performance dates as close to exactly one year later as possible.

I’m sure it was as difficult for them as our postponement is for us. But these are difficult times.

Stay safe; stay healthy. Don’t take foolish chances.

James H. H. Lampert
Your Humble Typesetter



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