



The Principal

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

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The Dean's Corner

Robert York, Chapter Dean

A huge thank you to our members who participated in our October meeting at First Congregational Church. Working with the church's Board of Creative Arts was a wonderful collaboration. The two groups worked together to make it a successful event.



Our host Marc Dickey, looking dapper, was an excellent and engaging M.C.

Marc, thanks again for the idea, the collaboration and all your help.

Our 4 architectural looking gargoyles perched at the edge of the balcony suddenly came to life and began to interact with the audience below in some wonderful comedy. Quasimodo scampered around the balcony. The BOCA crew transformed the sanctuary including votive candles to light all the aisles and lighting to highlight the organ pipes.

Attendance was great, and the pew cards were a success. We now have the beginnings of an email list of new people who want us to notify them of future AGO concerts and events. We will continue to collect names until we have full houses at our concerts! Dolly and Evie greeted our guests as they entered, giving them AGO brochures. Our goal was to create a fun and memorable event and to build awareness of the organ and our AGO.

Thanks to you all for making this happen.

Robert York, Dean

Member News

Phyllis Goodwin is at home, following heart valve replacement surgery on October 30th. She is doing fine, walking a bit and healing. She thanks us for our cards and prayers. We look forward to seeing her soon. Best wishes for your recovery, Phyllis!

This Month's Meeting

We are privileged to have Dr. Tom Mueller as our guest for a Master Class



Saturday, November 16, 2019 at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 607 E 3rd St, Long Beach, CA 90802. His presentations and workshops are always excellent. He will be working with several students on organ works from contrasting periods of music. His insights will be inspirational for us as we continue our careers as church musicians. Following is his impressive biography:

Tom Mueller is a Professor of Music at Concordia University in Irvine, California, where he directs academic programs in keyboard, composition, and jazz. An award-winning church musician, he serves as the Associate Organist at St. James' Church in Los Angeles, where he accompanies the acclaimed Choir of St. James' under the direction of James Buonemani. He is an active recitalist, clinician, and adjudicator.

Mueller was awarded first place in the 2014 Schoenstein Competition in Hymn-Playing, held in conjunction with the national convention of the American Guild of Organists in Boston, Massachusetts.

In 2015, he was honored by The Diapason as a member of the inaugural "20 Under 30" list of influential figures in the world of organ and church music.

He maintains an active concert schedule, and has performed across the United States and Europe. In 2010, he performed the complete organ works of J. S. Bach in a series of seventeen concerts in his native state of Maine. He has received numerous commissions for new choral and liturgical works, and performances of his compositions have been broadcast on national radio and television. Mueller is also an accomplished guitarist, and toured the country as a member of The Muellers, a nationally-recognized family bluegrass band. Their fourth album, The Muellers, was released in 2009.

Research interests include the early organ and keyboard works of J. S. Bach, the performance practice of organ continuo playing in the classical-era concerted sacred music of Germany and Austria, and the American reception of the nineteenth-century opera star Jenny Lind. He has presented workshops, masterclasses, and lectures for numerous organizations, including numerous chapters of the AGO, and has served as a faculty member for the Guild's Pipe Organ Encounter (POE) program for young organists. He currently serves on the national Committee for Continuing Professional Education (CCPE) of the AGO, as a regional president and national board member of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, and chairs the Organ Study Grant Program of the Orange County AGO.

Mueller earned the Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the Eastman School of Music, where he studied with David Higgs. He also holds degrees from the University of Notre Dame (M.S.M. in organ), and the University of Maine at Augusta (B.M. in jazz composition and piano), where he graduated summa cum laude. He resides in Orange County with his wife and two daughters.

Upcoming events

We will not have a meeting in December. Best wishes for Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and other holidays. It is a rich time for music-making. Enjoy every moment.

Our next meeting will take place Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 759 Linden Avenue, Long Beach. Russ Litchfield will present an assortment of new music for organ. A dinner will precede the program at 6:30 pm. Please make reservations with Elaine Elliott bobelaine@bobelaine.com by January 2, 2020.

Russ' Resources and Repertoire

I have been pretty busy lately, with church duties, singing with Chorale Bel Canto, practicing for our November Masterclass, and preparing a message for Sunday, November 3rd about the language we use for God, pronouns mostly. However, I have a couple of You Tube links to share with you.

Here is some music by Jazz artist, Kit Downes, that uses the organ in some adventuresome ways. I found it interesting and pleasant to listen to.

<https://youtu.be/qc3FrdXj06Q>

And here is a rendition of a less-performed Prelude and Fugue in G BWV 550 played by Harm Woltjer, a young Dutch organist on the Schnitger organ at Martinikerk in Groningen. The organ and the performance are splendid.

<https://youtu.be/XUQIngxtLPk>

I welcome any submissions you may have that would be interesting to our members: new music, recordings, or videos. Share the wealth of knowledge you possess with each other. Send items to russorgan@aol.com and I will include them in a future column.

POE Update

The Pipe Organ Encounter committee continues to meet. Work continues to take place to book venues and engage faculty to teach organ lessons, along with developing concerts and other activities for the participants. Please save the dates, Sunday, June 28 to Friday, July 3, 2020 to assist with logistics. We will have tasks, small and large, for everyone. Your monetary contributions (through ONCARD or checks sent to Jana Shields, POE Treasurer) are welcome as well.

Organ for sale

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Contact Dr. Harold Daugherty

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Southern California AGO Tri-Chapter Calendar

Sat Nov 9, 2019

5:00 pm *Kemp L. Smeal, Organist*

Where: Glendale City Church 610 E California Avenue Glendale, CA 91206
Freewill donation.

Sun Nov 10, 2019

4:30 pm *Solemn Evensong*

Where: St James Episcopal Church, 3903 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90010
Choir of St. James', James Buonemani, director.

6:00 pm *Raúl Prieto Ramírez, Organist*

Where: Saint James Episcopal Church. Free

Sat Nov 30, 2019

7:30 pm *Paul Kellogg, Organist*

Where: Stan's Music Parlor

Mr. Kellogg performs organ literature of three centuries on period-appropriate Hauptwerk virtual pipe organs. Private residence. To receive an invitation with address, please send your email address to Stan Harris at seh52@yahoo.com. Donation to musician.

Sun Dec 1, 2019

5:00 pm *Advent Lessons and Carols*

Where: All Saints Episcopal Church 504 N Camden Dr Beverly Hills CA
Music of Palestrina, Ledger, Tye, Poston, Goudimel, Phillips, Cleobury and Britten. Craig Phillips, director, Jason Klein-Mendoza, organist. Free.

Wed Dec 4, 2019

12:45 pm *Daniel Lozier, Organist*

Where: Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels 555 W Temple St, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Free parking with 90-min. Validation PRIOR to concert & after Mass, otherwise \$22. Free.

Fri Dec 6, 2019

12:15 pm *Nambee Han, Organist*

Where: 2900 W Carson St Torrance, CA
Nambee Han is organist at Westwood Presbyterian Church. Free. For more information, visit <http://www.palosverdes.com/ClassicalCrossroads>

Sat Dec 7, 2019

7:30 pm *Thomas Mellan, Composer and Organist*

Where: Stan's Music Parlor

Mr. Mellan plays a recital on virtual pipe organs. Stan's Music Parlor, Los Angeles 90019. Donation to musician. To receive an invitation, please send your email address to Stan at seh52@yahoo.com.

Sun Dec 8, 2019

4:30 pm *Advent Procession of Lesson & Carols*

Where: St James Episcopal Church, 3903 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90010
Choir of St. James', James Buonemani, director.

Mon Dec 9, 2019

8:00 pm *The Mighty Wurlitzer [LA AGO]*

Where: Founders Church of Religious Science 3281 W Sixth St, Los Angeles, CA 90020
Visit www.laago.org for details.

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As always, check the LAAGO Web Site for the most current calendar information.

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

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)

First, I would like to once again thank all those who helped me get the October *Principal* out the door a few days early, before I departed on my fall vacation. It went very well, beginning with 25 hours in Santa Barbara (the first time I actually got off the train there; long enough to see the zoo and the new Moxi Museum), and continuing with a weekend in San Jose, the better part of a week in San Francisco, a weekend in Jamestown (mostly Railtown 1897 SHP), and a week in Sacramento.

As I type this, I've just returned from our Movie Night at First Congregational. Once again, Robert has demonstrated his remarkable skills at the art of accompanying silent film. He played to a full house (including the live gargoyles in the balcony).

Of course, the adaptation, like most or all screen adaptations, was forced to take certain liberties with the original novel, most notably, *not* having Dom Claude Frollo as the villain, and instead transferring his role in the plot to his younger brother Jehan.

Seeing the film reminded me that I've had a paperback of the Walter J. Cobb translation sitting on a shelf for decades; I'd made one attempt on it, not long after I'd first received it as a gift, but gave up. This evening, I will give it another crack.

At the Printing Museum, my first weekend back was the annual Los Angeles Printers Fair (our biggest yet, with perhaps as many as 1700 people in all, over the course of two days).

James H. H. Lampert



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