



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

Our October meeting online YouTube concert with Sebastian Heindl was a huge success, thanks to Peter Bates, James Lampert and all who brought this together.



The post-analytics were impressive; **we had 156 views, 90 from the USA but 66 worldwide!**

Words cannot express for me the talent of this young man, what an inspiration!

Coming up next on our November 15th program is what promises to be another inspiring concert, an organ and piano duo that will celebrate Beethoven's 250th Anniversary.

The program;

Suite for the Mechanical Organ, WoO 33

Sonata in A-Flat Major, Op.26

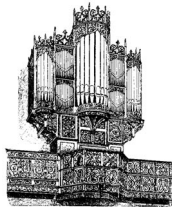
Concerto in B-Flat Major, Op.19

The Organ Suite for the Mechanical Organ will be played on the Glatter-Götz organ at the Neighborhood Church in Palos Verdes Estates.

The Piano Concerto No. 2 (First movement) has actually been arranged from the orchestra parts for organ by Hyunju and will be played at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Long Beach with 58 ranks Aeolian-Skinner Organ and a Yamaha Grand Piano.

This is going to be a magnificent program! We will send out a reminder email closer to the date with specifics on how to log into YouTube.

Robert



Happy 250th, Beethoven!

Beethoven is, of course, about as well-known for his organ works as Bach is for works specifically written for piano. But a tiny handful do exist, and the best

known of them is a cycle of five pieces, WoO 33, actually intended for a clockwork organ. And so our November program gives us three different views of Beethoven: a piano sonata, a piano concerto played with the orchestral parts transcribed for organ, and the WoO 33 pieces, performed as a suite. Hyunju Hwang is of course Rebecca Ogle's successor at The Neighborhood Church, and in previous LBAGO events, she has proven herself to be a crowd-pleaser. Althea Waites is, in addition to being one of our own, an internationally-known concert pianist, and on the faculty of CSU Long Beach (my own alma mater). What follows are her own notes on the Opus 26 Sonata and the Opus 19 Concerto.



The Sonata in A-Flat Major, Op.26, is one of Beethoven's most lyrical and expressive compositions from his middle period (1800-1801). The first movement consists of a set of five variations with the principal theme carefully hidden among challenging rhythmic and melodic patterns. Another departure from traditional form is depicted in the slow movement, a funeral march, and it is also the only sonata with this particular designation (Funeral march on the death of a hero), perhaps foreshadowing the march from the second movement of the renowned "Eroica" Symphony. The final movement is cast in a perpetual motion style and is similar to final movements in sonatas of Mozart and Schubert, where clarity without tension is often required for successful interpretation.

The Concerto in B-Flat Major, Op.19, was composed primarily between 1787-89 although it did not attain the form in which it was published until 1795. It was used by Beethoven as a vehicle for his performances as a young virtuoso with the Bonn Hofkapelle. The three movements are basically in the style of Mozart where musical clarity and precise articulation are of utmost importance. Beethoven wrote a cadenza for the first movement but it was not included in his earlier performances of the work. The 1795 version is the one that is performed and recorded today.

A Word about our First Streamed Concert

Peter Bates, Southern California District Convener

AGO chapters across the country are experiencing difficulties in the season of CovidTide. In most states members are unable to gather to hear and share music. The sense of loss is even greater when you consider that *in our own community* many of our colleagues have lost their positions with the churches they serve due to COVID restrictions and the suspension of in-person worship. Add to that the fact that artists are unable to travel at this time; and many churches where they might perform are locked down, so that even a streamed concert would not be allowed.

When the program committee for the Long Beach chapter began Zoom meetings in order to discuss plans for what has to be the most difficult season in the chapter's history, there was a short list of artists that had been suggested as possibilities should "things open up". Once the committee determined that we may be looking at next spring before life begins to resemble some form of normalcy, we began discussing alternative ways of program delivery.

Sebastian Heindl was at the top of the list of artists under consideration to perform a recital for the chapter. However, we read on Truckenbrod's website that his entire season had been cancelled due to travel restrictions. But we began to think outside the box: What if he didn't have to travel here to perform? What if he could record a recital in Germany and forward the recorded file to us? It would at least be an opportunity to perform where none had existed. I approached his manager with this crazy notion this past spring. At first, there was silence on the line for a very long moment. Then, after a brief conversation, his response: "let me contact Sebastian and get back to you".

Well, as you know, contracts were signed. Sebastian recorded a magnificent recital, which we streamed on our new YouTube channel (Long Beach Chapter AGO) on Sunday, October 11 at 4:15 (not 4:00) pm. The time change was YouTube's choice, not ours, and it appears that all future programs we may stream will also be required to begin on the quarter hour. Many thanks to Grant White (Covenant's videographer) and Pastor Susie (from Bayshore Church) for their assistance in guiding me through the YouTube hoops. Having been my first time uploading a file to YouTube, my heart-rate and blood pressure increased as the time counted down to the beginning of the streamed program. Once it began, however, I was very relaxed and enjoyed watching along with you, as well as responding to a few texts regarding his phenomenal abilities.

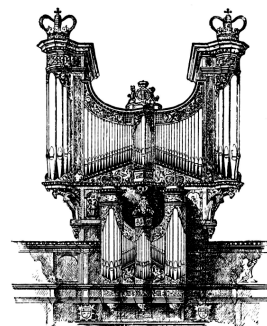
One of the things that we are able to do (to some extent) is track our audience. YouTube calls this viewer analytics. If your church is streaming services on YouTube, you are no doubt aware of this ability. But here is the information garnered from the Sebastian Heindl recital:

Total Views: 112 watched the recital on October 11. We assume that there may have been more than one person watching in many of these households. Of these 112 views, 73 were unique IP addresses. The following day, 44 persons clicked in and watched some of/or the entire recital.

Platform: The majority of viewers watched on their computer (72). Believe it or not, 41 persons watched on their smartphone, 14 watched on a tablet (iPad, etc.), 5 watched on their television, and 24 were unknown.

Geography: 90 watched from locations in the United States (including 74 in California, 16 in other states). 66 watched from outside the United States. Dean Robert York received an enthusiastic note from the past dean of the Sydney, Australia chapter, where citizens are allowed to be outside of their homes only one hour per day. This recital was a very welcome diversion that he just happened upon.

If you're doing the math, you can see that between October 11 and 12, 156 persons watched all or part of the Sebastian Heindl recital. There were 10 thumbs up comments, no negative feedback. Our agreement with Truckenbrod required us to remove the recital from our YouTube page after it ran. I asked for/and received permission, to allow the file to remain on-line until the morning of the 15th. At the time it was removed, the count had increased to 178 views. All in all, a very successful first attempt at this sort of presentation. I hope you will continue to support your chapter by watching upcoming programs in the months ahead.



YouTube Channels

Our concerts will, unless otherwise noted, be broadcast on our YouTube channel at

<https://tinyurl.com/LBAGO-YouTube>

Sebastian Heindl's other videos can be found on his YouTube channel,

<https://www.youtube.com/c/SebastianHeindl>

Celebrating Beethoven's 250th Anniversary

Althea Waites, Piano and Dr. Hyunju Hwang, Organ



Sunday November 15, 2020

4:00 pm

We will be streamed on YouTube Channel, LB ChapterAGO



Venues:

Neighborhood Church, Palos Verdes

Covenant Presbyterian Church, Long Beach

Program:

Organ Suite for the Mechanical Organ, WoO 33

Sonata in A-Flat Major, Op.26

Concerto in B-Flat Major, Op.19

2020-2021 Season

All events will be virtual. Access links will be sent by email and also posted on our website at www.lbago.org.

November 15, 2020 - Sunday, 4:00 pm

Concert - Celebrating Beethoven's 250th Anniversary

Performers: Althea Waites (Piano)
and Hyunju Hwang (Organ)

Program described on Page 1

December 8, 2020 - Tuesday, 7:30 pm

Members' Recital - Christmas Organ Music

January 12, 2021 - Tuesday, 7:30 pm

Lecture - "Imagery, Structure, and Symbolism in J. S. Bach's Orgelbüchlein"

Lecturer: Tom Mueller

February 2, 2021 - Tuesday, 7:30 pm

Celebrating Black History Month with a Spiritual Arrangement for Organ

Lecturer: James Hurd

March 21, 2021 - Sunday, 4:00 pm

Members' Recital - Celebrating Bach's Birthday

April 13, 2021 - Tuesday, 7:30 pm

Educational Event - TBA

Provider: National AGO Resources

May 9, 2021 - Sunday, 4:00 pm

Guild Service and Installation of Officers

Host: Sean O'Neal

Grow the Guild

Do you know a local organist who is not a member of the Long Beach Chapter of the AGO? There are many reasons to join, even in the time of COVID where we cannot gather to hear great music, or attend workshops. The Long Beach Chapter offers a season of outstanding virtual programs. If your friends love the organ as much as you do, they would enjoy this as well. Please forward their contact information to one of the officers listed in The Principal, or have them go to our website, <https://www.lbago.org> and click on the "Membership" tab. Most of us know at least one organist who does not belong - and should! If you are financially capable, perhaps you would consider giving a gift membership to your non-member friend. Let's all "Grow the Guild!"

From the Press Room

James Lampert, Production and Distribution

(Any opinions expressed in this column are solely those of the author)

I agree with Robert and Peter about the Heindl recital going very well, despite a few surprises, and with what we've learned, I expect the Beethoven event to go even better.

This month, our PDF edition was, if all went well, distributed via a list server I set up on Google Groups.



The Principal
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