



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

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season. For us organists it is a busy time of year. My music titles are submitted to the church office and bulletins are being printed in advance. One more thing I can check off the list!



As we hustle to practice and get ready let us always remember that no matter what, our ultimate purpose is to bring peace and joy to those who come to worship through our playing. May all our music do just that.

And, may we all get some rest on the days that follow our Christmas Eve marathons and Christmas Day services! My plans for the 25th are to do nothing!

Looking ahead to January, we have an excellent program on Tuesday, January 7th at Bay Shore Community Congregational Church, UCC, in Long Beach.

Russ Litchfield will present new music for us from the following publishers; Augsburg Fortress, Concordia, GIA, Morning Star, Sacred Music Press, and Selah.

What could be more easy than having NEW music brought to YOU at a meeting? All we have to do is show up, hear some of the selections, look at the books and then order what we want. It's really quite wonderful.

I don't know about you but I really cannot shop for music online unless I'm replacing a book I've lost or worn out. For new music I need to hear it, look at the printed page, and touch the paper!

That's why I'm looking forward to this presentation at our next meeting; new ideas, fresh ideas.

Take inventory of what you need in your church repertoire; how many times have you played that particular prelude over the past year? Those offertories? Postludes? I have a few I've played more than once. My inventory of what I need is to find some shorter pieces

especially Postludes that are 3 minutes long. What is it that you need?

Come take a look at our next meeting. What a great way to start the New Year, with some new music!

Robert

New Music for Organ in January

On January 7th, Russ Litchfield will present a "baker's dozen" of new pieces for organ from these publishers, Augsburg Fortress, Concordia, GIA, Morning Star, Sacred Music Press, and Selah.

Come get some new ideas for a new year.

Tuesday, January 7th, at 7:30 P.M., at **Bay Shore Community Congregational Church, UCC, Long Beach** (note yet another change of venue). As of press time, I've been informed that dinner will be served at 6:30; see cover email about charges or reservations.

POE Donations through December 15, 2019

Thank you to our members who have supported POE through ONCARD:

Lee Lassetter
Russell Litchfield
Hyunju Hwang
Richard Metzler

Thank you to our members and friends who have given cash donations

Orange County Chapter of AGO
Jana Shields
Vernon Mouw
Margaret Armstrong
Emily Lacina
Dolly Ickler
Leslie Wolf Robb
Frederick Swann
San Diego Chapter of AGO

We're not done yet; donations are still very welcome, and can be made either via ONCARD, or by check to Jana Shields.

Looking Back at the Masterclass

Robert York, Chapter Dean

Our November meeting with Dr. Tom Mueller was exceptional, as always.

Our three performers, Russ Litchfield, Justin Sennett and Aletheia Teague brought excellent pieces and performances to the masterclass.

For me it was thrilling to observe what were very good performances transform to an even higher level of artistry in just a few moments of instruction. It also brought me joy to see how happy our performers were with the outcome.

There are multiple levels of comprehension in whatever works we are playing or learning and Tom brought the sort of insights that I am always hungry to know.

We learned by Tom's style of lecture (which is more like story-telling and more user-friendly) of how these pieces were played in their historical period, how they were registered on the organs in which they were composed, as well as the why and how of their construction.

For me it was fascinating to learn that in Buxteude's time, the Preludia was an experimental movement in which to discover the particular instrument; what was functioning, what was not, what was in tune and what was unusable. Tom brings history alive, which for me allows performance practice to really make sense.

As for the Brahms and Mendelssohn, we learned about the German instruments of the period and how that applies to registration. Tom also demonstrated the importance of the inner voices and how to find which voice is the most important in a phrase and give it attention. Knowing the historical context is key to a brilliant performance.

One concept presented that will change my playing for certain is that we cannot make everything harmonically and melodically of equal importance. We must make informed decisions about what the most important moments are in a work, and what are more episodic. I saw how this elevated the playing in the students.

All in all this was truly inspiring. Learning is uplifting as is improving our game at the organ, if you will, and this is the reason we must continue to have educational events.

Resources and Repertoire

James Lampert, filling in for Russ Litchfield

Peter Bates recently brought the AGO YouTube channel to our attention:

If you're looking for interesting and helpful information to include in an upcoming newsletter, how about sharing the AGO's You Tube page? There are interesting concerts, workshops and "how to" videos included there.

I've taken a brief look at it myself, and what I see is quite impressive. You could spend hours looking through all of it. I've created a TinyURL link to it:

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



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)

We had hoped to get at least a short December issue out the door, but circumstances dictated otherwise: by the time the news was in, preparations for Christmas were taking everybody's time.

As I type this, it's a little over half an hour into December 26th. The Second Day of Christmas. "Two Turtle Doves Day." Outside, it's pouring rain. I have laundry running. I have eleven cards going out in tomorrow's mail. There are four buckets of cookies and seven copies of the 2019 "CD of the Year" that (along with their cards) won't make it into the mail until Friday, and two more buckets of cookies, and eight more CDs, all still to be hand-delivered. But the recipients all know to "Think Liturgically": it's still Christmas until it's Epiphany. Hopefully, this newsletter will make it out the door with the mailed gifts, and you'll all think about attending the presentation Russ is preparing.

I wish you a Merry Christmas. All Twelve Days of it, and into 2020.

James H. H. Lampert



Southern California AGO Tri-Chapter Calendar

Sat Jan 4, 2020

7:30 pm Keyboards of Stan's Music Parlor

Where: Stan's Music Parlor

Dr. Harris uses video, midi sequences and live performances to demonstrate the Music Parlor's digital, pipe, Hauptwerk, and reed organs

Wed Jan 8, 2020

12:00 pm Neil Stipp, Organist

Where: St. John's Lutheran Church of Orange 185 S Center St, Orange, CA 92866

Free organ concert on the 5-manual, 150 rank R.M. Ballantyne pipe organ.

Sat Jan 11, 2020

4:00 pm Lukas Hasler, Organist

Where: Glendale City Church 610 E California Ave, Glendale, CA 91206

FWO

Sun Jan 12, 2020

4:30 pm Solemn Evensong

Where: St James Episcopal Church, 3903 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90010

Choir of St. James, James Buonemani, director. Free.

6:00 pm Joshua Stafford, Organist

Where: Saint James Episcopal Church, Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles 90010, United States

Free

Mon Jan 13, 2020

8:00 pm The Vierge Project [LA AGO]

Where: All Saints Episcopal Church 504 N Camden Dr, Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Sun Jan 26, 2020

5:00 pm Choral Evensong

Where: All Saints Episcopal Church 504 N Camden Dr Beverly Hills CA

Music of Wood, Phillips and Conte. Craig Phillips, director, Jason Klein-Mendoza, organist. Free.

7:30 pm Emil Iliev, Organist

Where: Stan's Music Parlor

Concert performed on Hauptwerk virtual pipe organs. Private residence, Lafayette Square, Los Angeles 90019. For invitation, please send email address to seh52@yahoo.com. Donation to organist.

Mon Jan 27, 2020

7:30 pm Savory Gems and Snacks - A Members' Recital [OCAGO]

Where: Tustin Presbyterian Church 225 W Main St, Tustin, CA 92780

Free. Reception to follow.

Sat Feb 1, 2020

5:00 pm James Walker, Pianist & Organist; Kyle Champion, Cellist

Where: St. Cross Episcopal Church, 1818 Monterey Blvd., Hermosa Beach

Music of Vivaldi, Bach, Fauré, Albrechtsberger, Saint-Saëns and Bruce Babcock, including the premiere of Babcock's Alternative Facts for organ solo. FWO.

Sun Feb 9, 2020

4:30 pm Solemn Evensong

Where: St James Episcopal Church, 3903 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90010

Choir of St. James, James Buonemani, director. Free.

6:00 pm Isabelle Demers, Organist

Where: Saint James Episcopal Church, Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles 90010, United States

Free

Mon Feb 17, 2020

9:00 am Presidents' Day Organ Festival [LA AGO]

Where: Exact times and locations to be announced. Visit www.laago.org for details.

Fri Feb 28, 2020

7:30 pm Yuban Niu, Organist

Where: Stan's Music Parlor

Hauptwerk virtual pipe organs. Stan's Music Parlor Private residence in Los Angeles. To receive an invitation, please email message to Stan at seh52@yahoo.com. Donation to musician.

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

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

Sat Feb 29, 2020

**7:30 pm Thomas Mellan, Composer and Organist,
Espen Aas, Clarinetist, and Orest Smovzh,
Violinist**

Where: Stan's Music Parlor

Hauptwerk virtual pipe organist, plus 2 instrumentalists, in concert. Stan's Music Parlor Private residence in Los Angeles. To receive an invitation, please email Stan at seh52@yahoo.com. Donation to musicians.

Sun Mar 1, 2020

5:00 pm Choral Evensong

Where: All Saints Episcopal Church 504 N Camden Dr Beverly Hills CA

Music of Byrd, Smith, Purcell and Moore. Craig Phillips, director, Jason Klein-Mendoza, organist. Free.

5:00 pm Evensong with the St. Wilfrid Choir [OCAGO]

Where: St. Wilfrid of York Episcopal Church 18631 Chapel Ln, Huntington Beach, CA 92646-1831

Free. Reception to follow.

Sat Mar 7, 2020

7:30 pm Nambee Han, Organist

Where: Stan's Music Parlor

Dr. Han plays her organ recital on Hauptwerk virtual pipe organs. Stan's Music Parlor Private residence in Los Angeles. To receive an invitation, please email Stan at seh52@yahoo.com. Donation to musician.

Sun Mar 8, 2020

4:30 pm Solemn Evensong

Where: St James Episcopal Church, 3903 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90010

Choir of St. James, James Buonemani, director. Free.

6:00 pm Malcolm Matthews, Organist

Where: Saint James Episcopal Church, Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles 90010, United States

Free

Sun Mar 15, 2020

5:00 pm Vaughan Williams Dona Nobis Pacem at Westwood

Where: Westwood Presbyterian Church 10822 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90024

Westwood Presbyterian Church chancel choir, soloists and chamber orchestra (Namhee Han, organist) are presenting a concert featuring these masterpieces: R.V. Williams' Dona Nobis Pacem, John Rutter's Look at the World, and John Williams' Gloria. \$15. Ample parking on site

Mon Mar 16, 2020

8:00 pm Aaron David Miller, Organist [LA AGO]

Where: First Church of Christ Scientist San Marino 1070 Huntington Dr, San Marino, CA 91108

Visit www.laago.org for details.

Sat Mar 28, 2020

2:00 pm LA Master Chorale sings Faure's Requiem, Nambee Han, Organist

Where: Walt Disney Concert Hall 111 S Grand Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90012

2 trumpets, harp, solo violin and organ. \$29-\$129.

Sun Mar 29, 2020

7:00 pm LA Master Chorale sings Faure's Requiem, Nambee Han, Organist

Where: Walt Disney Concert Hall 111 S Grand Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90012

2 trumpets, harp, solo violin and organ. \$29-\$129.

Sat May 9, 2020

4:00 pm David Wheatley, Organist

Where: Glendale City Church 610 E California Ave, Glendale, CA

FWO

Sun May 10, 2020

4:30 pm Solemn Evensong

Where: St James Episcopal Church, 3903 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90010

Choir of St. James, James Buonemani, director. Free.

6:00 pm Alcee Chris, Organist

Where: Saint James Episcopal Church, Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles 90010, United States

Free

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Wed May 13, 2020

12:10 pm Nambee Han, Organist

Where: First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica 1008 11th St, Santa Monica, CA 90403
Free mid-week half hour concert on their magnificent 4 manual pipe organ. Free.

Sun May 17, 2020

4:00 pm Choral/Organ Concert [LA AGO]

Where: Wilshire Boulevard Temple 3663 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90010
Visit www.laago.org for details.

Sat May 23, 2020

7:00 pm Officer Installation and Study Grant Recital [OCAGO]

Where: Concordia University Irvine 1530 Concordia W, Irvine, CA 92612
Free. Reception to follow.

Sat Jun 6, 2020

7:30 pm Thomas Mellan, Organist

Where: Stan's Music Parlor
Mr. Mellan plays Masterpieces of Modernism on Hauptwerk virtual pipe organs. Private residence in mid-city Los Angeles. Donation to musician. To receive an invitation, please send your email address to Stan Harris at seh52@yahoo.com.

Sat Nov 14, 2020

4:00 pm Kemp Smeal, Organist

Where: Glendale City Church 610 E California Ave, Glendale, CA 91206
FWO

Calendar content copyright © Los Angeles Chapter, AGO, 2019

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