

# Stop & Reed

June 2015

San Joaquin Valley Chapter American Guild of Organists  
a Member Organization of the Valley Cultural Coalition

## From the Dean

### SEVENTY YEARS...in the books!

Our Guild Sunday was quite special this year, as we celebrated our SEVENTIETH year as a chapter. How fitting it was to honor our charter members for the foresight they had to start this chapter. As we reflected on our chapter, it gave us cause for joy in knowing that we have truly lived the AGO Mission Statement of “enriching lives through organ and choral music.” It was encouraging to hear words from our past deans about how the chapter came into existence, as well as hearing words of encouragement for the things we are doing today. Thank you to our organists, Cathy Walker, Faye DeLong, Cactus Harris, Dick Cencibaugh and Michael Varlas for giving us a brief look into our chapter’s musical heritage. Thank you to Andrea Belau and Cathy Walker for providing us with the many archives to look at during the reception. I think that everyone enjoyed seeing the old programs and directories. Also, thank you Lynda and Terry Roberts for taking care of the reception. All-in-all, our seventieth was a memorable occasion, one in which we were able to honor and thank our founders...and to encourage each other to work towards the next seventy plus years.

Our June Board meeting will be for planning events for our next year. As always, you are invited to attend. Info as to date, time and location are on page 3. We have a lot to plan, and always welcome fresh ideas to consider.

This past year has been one in which we have grown as an artistic community. We started off with a wonderful Gospel and Gumbo event and heard some music that may be outside of what we usually play. It was wonderful! Scott Horton performed his 10th Bachtober concert, which is quite an accomplishment, and was performed with its usual excellence. We held an Advent/Christmas workshop which included other musicians and singers as well as a couple of arrangements by Stephen Vincent. In January we were able to assist the MTA with their Central California Baroque Festival by providing the hospitality room with snacks and an exhibit of the baroque period instruments and composers. We also hosted a Choral Festival prior to the Hymn Festival. It was thrilling to hear the choir on Sunday as they performed the works they had just learned the day before. We hosted Carol Williams for our second OAS concert. She played a spectacular concert. If you missed it, she “brought it!”

As we continue into the next 70 years, I think our focus needs to be to “make the organ cool” (thank you Michal Hembd) and to make the organ more accessible to students!

**Thank you all for being a part of our chapter, and blessings to each of you,**  
Dean Michael

### Executive Board 2014-2016

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# Page Two....

## ***Copyright for Musicians —by David Rhody, Esq.*** **Committee for Career Development and Support** **American Guild of Organists**

There is so much misunderstanding of the requirements of this law, and yet it is very important to us for two reasons: long-standing abuse of copyright protection for composers and publishers plays a role in the demise of great publishing houses and the unavailability of many valued compositions; and the penalties for infringement can be so severe that every church musician needs to be aware.

This column will address only the provisions regarding photocopying of music; performance restrictions will be considered in a future issue. The law is clear and specific: without permission of the copyright-holder, you cannot copy a printed score by any method for any reason. The exceptions are few and narrow: if you have ordered a work and it has not arrived in time for performance, you may make photocopies which must then be destroyed after one performance. You can copy a page or two from a work you own to facilitate page-turning.

The excuse “It’s out of print” is not valid—someone may still own the copyright. And “It is allowed under Fair Use” is rarely correct: Fair Use is a publishers’ agreement to allow libraries and universities to copy small excerpts from a work for study in composition classes; it does not allow performance from copied scores. In my local copy-shop I recently saw a woman plop on the counter a foot-high stack of music to be copied with the announcement “I’m a piano teacher and it’s fair use.” That is not Fair Use, that is copyright infringement.

Currently copyright protection extends for the duration of the author’s life plus 70 years, thus allowing heirs to benefit. Since every life is unique, there is no clear way to determine when a work passes into public domain; today we can guess that works prior to about 1930 are in pd. But remember, you can apply to a copyright holder—usually listed at the bottom

of page 1 of a score—for permission to copy if your reason is convincing.

There are no copyright police. Infringements are discovered when an ordinary citizen, for whatever motive, contacts a publisher or an association such as ASCAP, and reports an incident. Accidental infringement usually calls for civil penalties, but repeated and systematic copying can be considered a criminal act.

Composers, your work is copyright the minute it is fixed in final form. But you can recover only lost profit unless you register with the US Copy-right Office, then you can sue for damages.

Penalties for infringement, either civil or criminal or both, can range in the millions of dollars, as a large diocese famously discovered. Everyone involved can be held liable, including the secretary who made the copies and the choir director who used them. And remember, the law exists to protect the composers whose works we use every week. So be wise and be informed!

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*Thank you to David Rhody, Director of the Committee for Career Development and Support of the AGO for permission to reprint this article. The CCDS is a new committee of the Guild, and will be sending out information regarding our profession as organists.*

*CDS Committee members are: David Lamb, CAGO, Erik Birk, FAGO, Rev. Paul Carmona AAGO, Adam Detzner, Marlene Hallstrom, CAGO, Carol Feather Martin and Director David Rhody, SPC.*

*As always, the AGO website has a lot of useful information for in the Career Development pull down menu. As information is sent to us, it will be published in the Stop & Reed.*

# Chapter Info



**NEXT SJVAGO BOARD MEETING:**  
**Tuesday, June 23, 2015**  
**10:00 AM at**  
**Peace Lutheran Church**  
**4672 N. Cedar, Fresno**  
**(Corner of Cedar and**  
**Gettysburg)**

## Planning Meeting for Next Season

The June Board meeting will be for planning our events for next season. ALL members are invited to attend and contribute to the planning session.

Lunch will be served. If you are planning to attend, please email me ([mvarlas@yahoo.com](mailto:mvarlas@yahoo.com)) or call me (559) 661-1343 so that we will have enough food.

## AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS ENTERS THE AGE OF INTERNET STREAMING

2015 AGO Southeast Regional Convention Will Offer Three Organ Recitals to the Global Audience via Live Internet Streaming. All three performances will be streamed live through the AGO website, [www.agohq.org/live](http://www.agohq.org/live):

Wednesday, July 1  
 Interview by Pipedreams Host Michael Barone at 7:30 p.m. EDT  
 Recital by OLIVIER LATRY at 8 p.m. EDT  
 Winthrop University, Rock Hill, S.C.

Friday, July 3  
 Recital by STEPHEN THARP at 8 p.m. EDT  
 Covenant Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, N.C.

Sunday, July 5  
 Recital by DEXTER KENNEDY at 7 p.m. EDT  
 Myers Park United Methodist Church, Charlotte, N.C.

*Welcome new members!*

*Dr. Carol Fry-Boblin*

*Dr. Roy Boblin*

We are glad to have you as members

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## Membership Renewal

AGO Renewals are in process at this time. You have the option of renewing online using the ONCARD system, or of printing the invoice and mailing it with your check.

This year we have added two DONATION options to the ONCARD renewal page. You can put your OAS or Scholarship donation on your credit card when you renew. It is an easy way to make your donation to the chapter.

## 1903 Steinway piano for sale



I have a Steinway model "O" Piano I need to sell. It was built in 1903 has it's original ivory keys and is in good condition over all. Original mahogany finish and new strings. I also have a set of parts for an action rebuild that are included with the sale.  
 \$8,500.00

Please call Tony Imperatrice at 559-213-6099