

Stop & Reed

June 2018

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

From the Dean

OK folks...that's a Wrap!

Well, here it is, my final Dean's Message. I am amazed that it has been four years since you asked me to step into the leadership role of the chapter. Where did the time go? First, let me congratulate our incoming dean, Cactus Harris. I am absolutely thrilled that we will have a much younger person serving our chapter. As we continue to bring organ and choral works to our community, much of the work that needs to be done is dependent on having a good working knowledge of the technology available to spread the news (which I have to admit...I am lacking). As a chapter, we are fortunate to have several wonderful organs available for concerts and workshops. The unfortunate reality is that most of our concerts are not well attended. That lack of attendance is certainly not a reflection on the quality of the performers we have brought to town. The board chooses organists very carefully, always seeking those who are exceptional in their playing, and who will be bringing an exciting program to those who love organ music. So, to Dean Cactus, one of your tasks will be to gently nudge us in to the twenty-first century and help us to be more effective in spreading the word about our FANTASTIC programs and getting more folks to partake of them.

I would like to thank all of our board members for their unceasing devotion to this chapter. I am constantly amazed at how well we work together. I have been in other organizations and have seen what happens when those in leadership roles let their agendas and egos take charge. This has never been the case in our chapter. As dean I have been blessed to work with the most dedicated and committed group of people in the entire world...perhaps even the universe!

I want to take time to express my thanks to all of the members of this chapter. You are an amazing group of musicians who bring joy and spirituality to more people than you will ever know. I have appreciated our times together, our fellowship, our camaraderie, our collegiality and most important our mutual respect. I count it a great joy to have all of you as dear friends.

As the torch is passed, I will continue to be an active member of the AGO, and of course this chapter. I am looking forward to working with Cactus as we press forward with our programs and events. My prayer is that all of us will have a renewal of our love for organ and choral music, and will commit ourselves to sharing that love with many others around us.

Thank you one and all for giving me the great privilege of serving as your dean. It has been one of the greatest honors of my life.

**Blessings Always,
Dean Michael**

Executive Board 2017-2018

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Student Organists

Eden Van Saun

What are you going to play on Guild Sunday?

I am playing Toccata in d minor by Bach.

How have you become a better organist from learning this piece?

I have become a better organist as this piece requires a lot of technique as well as individual expression.

What is the biggest challenge for you in playing the organ?

The biggest challenge for me in playing the organ is finding adequate time to do so, as my schedule can get hectic.

What is your goal as a musician?

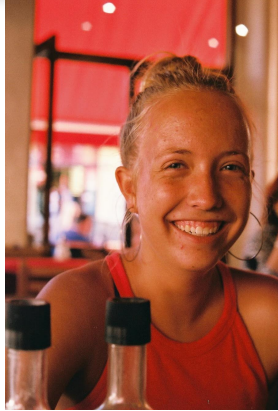
My goal as a musician is to improve my own skills as well as to keep expanding my repertoire.

What year are you in your education, and what are your future plans?

I am a junior in high school, and plan on attending a four-year university, but I am still undecided as to which, as well as a major or career choice.

How long have you been playing the organ? Did you start with the piano? Who are your music teachers, and do you play any other instruments?

I have been playing the organ for about nine years. I did begin on the piano when I was six, then added the organ when I was eight. My organ teacher is currently Laurell Huber and my piano teacher is Margaret Gallistl.



Lana Drincic

What are you going to play on Guild Sunday?

On Guild Sunday I am going to play "Prelude in Classic Style" by Gordon Young

How have you become a better organist from learning this piece?

This piece has helped me improve different aspects of my overall technique, specifically the technique I use in my hands when I play the sixteenth note passages in the piece. The focus I've put on making sure those come out clean and clear has also helped make other parts of my playing come out cleaner

What is the biggest challenge for you in playing the organ?

The biggest challenge in playing the organ for me is splitting my brain into three parts rather than two. As a piano player, I've grown used to only having to split my brain in two different places: my left and right hand. The challenge of playing organ is adding another component, my feet, into the mix.

What is your goal as a musician?

My goal as a musician, no matter what instrument or type of music I'm playing, is to express myself creatively in a way that not only will entertain my audience, but maybe contribute something to their lives that they wouldn't be able to get another way. My goal is that, the better I get, the more time I spend perfecting my craft, the better the experience will be for my listeners. I think that's generally every musician's goal.

What year are you in your education, and what are your future plans?

I'm a 10th grader. My goals past high school include going to college to major in jazz studies, and hopefully, getting a degree and becoming a professor in the same subject. Even if I don't become a professor, I'll go wherever there are
(continued on page 3)



Chapter Events

Guild Sunday

Sunday, June 3, 2018
2:00 PM
University Presbyterian Church
1771 E. Roberts Ave., Fresno



**NEXT SJVAGO BOARD
MEETING:**
Tuesday, June 26, 2018
10:00 AM
University Presbyterian
Church
1771 E. Roberts Ave.,
Fresno

This will be our planning session for next year's programs. All are welcome to attend and take part. We will be going to lunch at Eddie's Bakery following the meeting.

Elected Officer and Board Member Slate of the San Joaquin Valley AGO Chapter for 2018

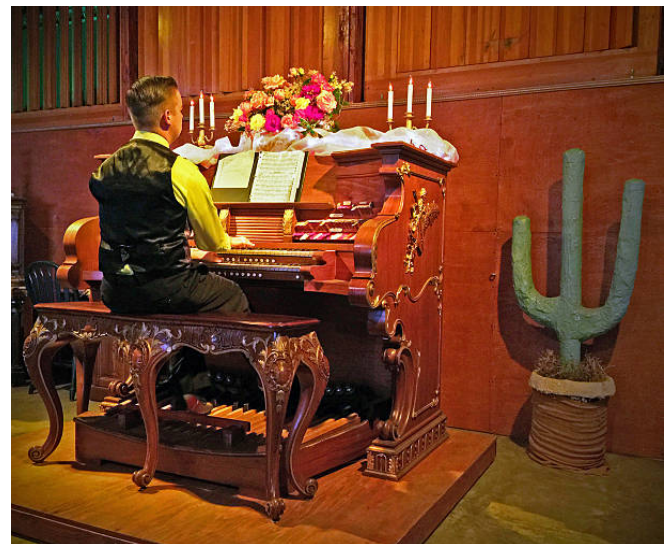
Officers Terms expiring in 2020
Dean Cactus Harris
Sub-Dean Michael Varlas
Recording Secretary Catherine Walker,
CAGO
Treasurer Stephen Vincent
Member-At-Large (Term expiring in
2021)
Michal Hembd and Helga Medd

Lana Drincic (continued)

opportunities to play as much music as I can, since that is my ultimate goal.

How long have you been playing the organ? Did you start with the piano? Who are your music teachers, and do you play any other instruments?

I've been playing organ for three years, and I started with the piano. I take lessons in organ from Jacquie Johnson, and I take lessons in jazz piano from Craig VonBerg. I've played clarinet in the FMCMEA Honor Orchestra and All-State Honor Band, taking lessons from Larry Belau, and I currently play oboe in the Kingsburg High School Wind Ensemble. I've also played piano in the FMCMEA Honor Jazz Band, as well as in my high school jazz band and combo.



Who is that organist, and what organ and where is he playing?

(First person with the right answer wins....ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!)

Guild Sunday

**SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CHAPTER
OF THE
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS**

2018 GUILD SUNDAY

**SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 2018
AT 2:00 PM
UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1776 E. ROBERTS, FRESNO**

-Installation of new Officers
-Performances by
Eden Van Saun
Lana Drincic