

Stop & Reed

March 2018

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

From the Dean

What to say in the middle of Lent?

Well friends, St. Patrick's Day is fast upon us, but then we are right in the middle of Lent, so that presents a certain dilemma for me. Do I dare express the frivolity usually associated with St. Pat's day, or do I go the staid route of the Lenten season? Oh bother...I will just write what I want to. I do have to admit that I am eagerly awaiting Easter. I find it somewhat amusing that Easter Sunday falls on April Fool's Day this year. The sermon possibilities are endlessly entertaining! So anyways, this gentleman of the Emerald Isle persuasion goes into a pub and orders three ales...Oh wait, we are in Lent. I'll have to wait until next month to tell that one. It really is funny!

As we are in the Lenten season, I find that each year I tend to look inward and engage in some serious thought as to what and why I play the organ in a church. The "what" part of the discussion is actually the easier. As with my colleagues, I play that which is appropriate for the service and for the culture of the particular congregation. We always strive to do the "what we play" part to the best of our ability. That is just our nature as artists. As to the "why" in the equation, that is a bit more difficult to answer. So, let's start at the beginning of a service. The prelude-I have to confess that there is a certain amount of satisfaction in pulling off a flashy "Festival Sunday" piece. It just feels good. On the flip side, though, I also find inward peace when what I play brings my fellow worshipers to a place of reverence and communion with God. Now the main part of our playing-the hymns! This is where I derive the greatest joy. I love being able to bring out the congregation's collective voice as they express their faith in song. This is also one of the most challenging parts of being a church organist as we work corporately with the church to make worship an outward expression of our inward beliefs. It is my prayer for all of us that we find joy and satisfaction as we serve. May our guiding credo always be Soli Deo gloria!

We have started our Lenten Wednesday Noontime Concert series at St. Agnes Hospital. This is another way in which we as organists can share our gifts with the community, specifically those who are hospitalized. I know from experience that being in a hospital is not exactly the most wonderful experience in the world. That being said, a sincere "Thank You" to our organists who are bringing their musical offering to those at St. Agnes.

Of course our Hymn Sing is this Sunday. In my opinion, this is one of the best programs that we do as a chapter. I know that the audience loves having a chance to join in with others in singing the great hymns of the faith. Thanks to the players and singers for bringing this joyful experience to us.

Don't forget our upcoming OAS concert in April. Our featured artists (Duo Corgano) will be presenting a rich program of organ and horn music.

It is my prayer for all of us that we continue to touch the lives of others through giving of ourselves in music, and that by doing so, we find blessing and joy in sharing.

**Blessings Always,
Dean Michael**

sjvago.org

Executive Board 2017-2018

Dean

Michael Varlas
559.661.1343

Sub-Dean

Cactus S. Harris
805.591.9680

Recording Secretary

Catherine Walker, CAGO
559.658.7376

Newsletter Editor

Michael Varlas

Treasurer

Stephen Vincent
559.638.4705

Education Coordinator

Richard Cencibaugh
559.349.5162

Membership Coordinator

Sharon Massingill
559.924.4741

Board Members

Faye DeLong CAGO
Michal Hembd
Helga Medd
Lynda Roberts
Sharon Massingill
Tony Imperatrice

Publicity Coordinator

Cactus Harris
805.591.9680

Webmaster

Jim Gill
559.477.4210
jim@10netmedia.com

Chapter Events

Choral Workshop

Saturday, March 3, 2018

9 AM- 12:30 PM

University Presbyterian Church

1771 E. Roberts Ave., Fresno

Dr. Roy Klassen, Directing

Open to all choir members and directors. Massed choir will be singing at the Hymn Festival the following day.

Hymn Festival

Sunday, March 4, 2018

3:00 PM

University Presbyterian Church

1771 E. Roberts Ave., Fresno

Dr. Roy Klassen, Directing

Organ Artist Series Duo Corgano Concert

David Ball, Organist Christ Cathedral, Orange County

Trevor Nuckols, French Horn

Sunday, April 8, 2018

3:00 PM

First Congregational Church

2131 N. Van Ness Blvd., Fresno

Guild Sunday

Sunday, June 3, 2018

3:00 PM

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

Second Posting of the Nominating Committee's Proposed
Slate of Officers and Board Members:

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

The second posting of this slate is hereby published in the March 2018 edition of the Stop & Reed. If there are no additional nominations the slate as it stands will be elected. Procedures for making additional nominations are:

1. The nominee must agree in advance of the nomination
2. The nomination must be signed by five (5) chapter voting members in good standing
3. The nomination must be submitted in writing to Catherine Walker, 30751 Roaring River Dr., Coarsegold, CA 93614-9641 no later than April 1, 2018

If there are additional nominations a ballot will be prepared and voting members will vote for their choice.



NEXT SJVAGO BOARD MEETING:

Tuesday, March 27, 2018

10:00 AM

Lynda Robert's home
6032 N. 6th, Fresno

Hymn Festival

San Joaquin Valley Chapter of the American
Guild of Organists presents



A Sing~Along

Hymn Festival

“WE ARE GOD’S PEOPLE”

Celebrating Unity Through Song

Sunday, March 4th, 2018

3 p.m.

University Presbyterian Church
1776 East Roberts Avenue
Fresno, California

Dr. Roy L. Klassen, Choral Director

Featuring . . .

~AGO Member Organists

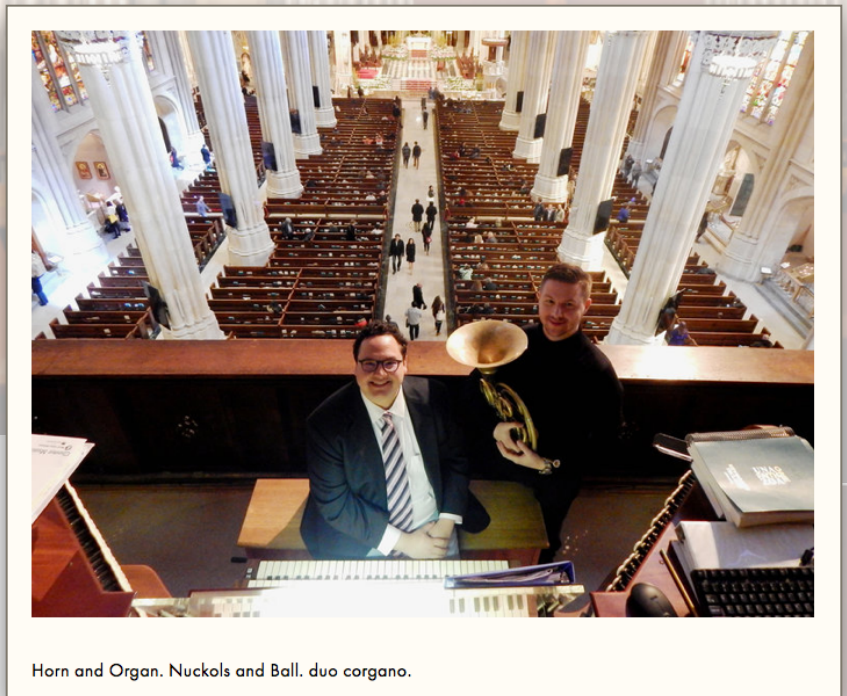
~Mass Festival Choir

~Brass Quartet

For further information, please call | Cactus Harris (559) 439-8807

Organ Artist Series

The San Joaquin Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and the First Congregational Church of Fresno present



Horn and Organ. Nuckols and Ball. duo corgano.

Duo Corgano

*In an Organ Artist Series
Concert*

Sunday, April 8, 2018 at 3:00 PM
First Congregational Church of
Fresno
2131 N. Van Ness Blvd.

Admission Free-Freewill Offering to
benefit OAS concerts

Lenten Concerts



NOONTIME ORGAN CONCERTS

St. Agnes Hospital Chapel

Invitation to play

Lent Wednesday noon organ concerts
at St. Agnes Hospital

Open dates are March 7, 14, 21 and 28

Call or email Mike Varlas if interested

Cell 559.930.3287 or email mvarlas@yahoo.com

30 minute concerts-may be split between organists

Fresno Choral Artists

Fresno Choral Artists Present
AN AFTERNOON
 **WITH** 
RUTTER & ROSSINI
*JOHN RUTTER'S REQUIEM AND
SELECTIONS FROM GIOACCHINO ROSSINI'S
PETITE MESSE SOLENNELLE*

 Saturday, March 10th ~ 4:00 PM
Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church
39696 CA-41, Oakhurst, CA 93644
Goodwill Offering

Sunday, March 11th ~ 4:00PM
First Congregational Church
2131 N Van Ness Blvd
Fresno, CA 93704
Tickets ~ \$15 General, \$5 Students

Tickets and more information available at
FresnoChoralArtists.org