

Stop & Reed

September 2018

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

From the Dean

I am looking forward to seeing some familiar faces (and hopefully new ones!) at our September social gathering at the DeLong residence in Kingsburg. It is always a good time of sharing our summer musings, enjoying some Mexican food, and playing on their home pipe organ.

Our 2018-19 season of events is all planned and we are ready for action. With a variety of recitalists and programs, there is sure to be something for everyone.

One of my main focuses this year is on promotion and marketing. Be sure to check out our brand new up to date website, our facebook page (sjvago), and be on the look out for a mailing with all of our events. Hope to see you soon!

In Harmony,
Cactus Harris

*Reminder-please bring a salad or
dessert to the Viva Mexico party*



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Organs and organists

University Presbyterian Church, Fresno

Aeolian-Skinner, Boston, Massachusetts

Opus 1294

Cactus Harris, Director of Worship and the Arts and Organist

Our featured Organ and Organist this month is the University Presbyterian Church's Aeolian Skinner Pipe Organ and their organist Cactus Harris, who is also the Director of Worship and the Arts.

Coming to the San Joaquin Valley from Paso Robles, Cactus brings a cowboy life, complete with riding, trick-roping and whip-cracking. Cactus joined the staff at UPC in the fall of 2010 as the organist. His musical talents began to emerge as a young schoolboy learning to play the saxophone. He then taught himself to play the accordion and piano. In his sophomore year Cactus had an opportunity to play the organ for the first time. Teaching himself to play soon led to a position as organist at St. James Episcopal Church in Paso Robles playing the 1850's Williams Stevens organ.

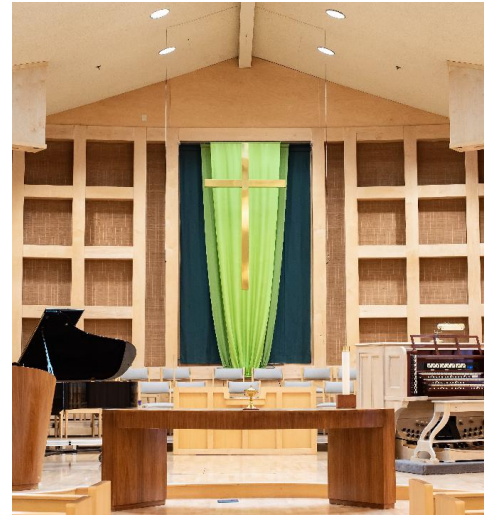
His formal music education includes a BA in Music Education and an MA in Conducting, both from CSUFresno. Organ studies were with Laurell Huber and Scott Horton. Coursework in Conducting was taught by Dr. Gary Gilroy.

Cactus has been involved in church music, having served as organist at Holy Family Episcopal Church and Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Fresno. He is in his third year at Clovis Community College where he teaches music appreciation and directs the choir. His wife Krista is in her tenth year teaching orchestra at Clark Intermediate, Clovis and Weldon Elementary schools in Clovis. Aside from all the music, Cactus has a cowboy background as well. His parents (Debby and Tom) used to rodeo professionally and they wanted their son to have a Wild West name that was a little different. The Harris family is in the horse entertainment business with everything from big draft horses, ponies and stagecoaches, to chariots. Cactus recently installed a 1920's Wurlitzer Theatre Organ at the family ranch with the goal of holding concerts and events.

Winner of the San Joaquin Valley Keyboard competition he has performed as guest organist at many events. In 2012 he was a Biggs Fellowship recipient from the Organ Historical Society. Cactus has been featured with the Fresno State Wind Orchestra on the Disney Hall concert organ, and with the Yosemite Wind Orchestra at the Sydney Opera House and Sydney Town Hall organs. He recently started his service as Dean of the San Joaquin Valley Chapter/AGO.

As Director of Worship and the Arts, Cactus is expanding the musical program at the church. They have hosted several concerts featuring a variety of vocal and instrumental ensembles. The church has also welcomed the SJVAGO for the annual Choral and Hymn Festival for the past four years.

With the opening of University Presbyterian Church in the fall of 1977, this magnificent 3 manual Aeolian-Skinner organ was assembled. Built in 1956, Opus 1294 was originally installed in Trinity Episcopal Church, Princeton, New Jersey. It was purchased and given to the church with the stipulation that the church remove, move, rebuild and reinstall it in 1977. The console is on a movable platform that allows for it to be moved for different events. All of the pipes are behind the organ grill that sits behind the choir risers. There are 56 ranks and over 3,000 individual pipes. While only three manuals, the organ is broken up into four divisions; Swell I, Swell II, Great, Positive, and of course the pedal. Richard Purvis played the dedicatory recital programming pieces by Bach, Handel and Vierne to name a few.



Chapter Events

“Viva Mexico II” Family Potluck

Saturday, September 8th
6:00 PM
Faye DeLong’s home
2504 16th Avenue, Kingsburg
RSVP 559.269.4437

Fourteenth Annual Bachtober Organ Recital

Scott Horton, performing
Sunday, October 14, 2018
3:00 PM
First Congregational Church, Fresno
2131 N. Van Ness Blvd., Fresno

Advent/Christmas Noon Organ Recitals

Wednesday, December 5, 12, 19, 2018
12:00 Noon-12:30 PM
St. Agnes Hospital Chapel
Members invited to perform

Mountain Area Advent/Christmas Noon Organ Recitals

Friday recitals
Sierra Presbyterian Church, Oakhurst
Details to follow

“Twelfth Night Celebration” Family Social

Saturday, January 5, 2019
1:00 PM
Zentner Ranch
13828 S. Academy Avenue, Kingsburg

Organ Artist Series Concert

Nathan Laube, performing
Sunday, January 6, 2019
3:00 PM
CSU Fresno Concert Hall
Maple at Shaw, Fresno
Ticket information to follow

Choral Workshop

Saturday, March 9, 2019
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 10, 2019
3:00 PM
University Presbyterian Church
1771 E. Roberts Ave., Fresno
Dr. Roy Klassen, Directing

Organ Artist Series

Richard Elliott, performing
Sunday, May 5, 2019
3 PM
First Congregational Church
2131 N. Van Ness Blvd., Fresno

Officer Installation

Sunday, June 2, 2019
Time and Location to be determined

Other Events

Choir, Brass and Organ

Sunday, October 28, 2018

4:00 PM

Hope Lutheran Church

364 E. Barstow, Fresno

Co-sponsored by Fresno Master Chorale and SJVAGO

Central California Baroque Festival

Saturday, January 26, 2019

All Day event

University Presbyterian

1771 E Roberts Ave., Fresno

Dr. Kimberly Marshall will be presenting

University Presbyterian 50th anniversary

Presenting Hans Hielscher, Organ concert

Thursday, May 23, 2019

University Presbyterian Church

1771 E. Roberts Ave., Fresno

Editor's Comments

"Allegretto ma non troppo"

Welcome back colleagues and friends. As mentioned last month, the Organs and Organists feature is making a comeback. This month we are showcasing our new Dean, Cactus Harris, and the Aeolian-Skinner organ at University Presbyterian Church. In this article the question as to how Cactus got his name is answered. Given his background, one wonders if UPC will be installing a 16' Bullwhip stop on the organ.

We have a new Website (sjvago.org). Our webmaster is now Drew Maddox. If you haven't seen the new design, please do so. It sports a very sleek look and is easy to navigate and timely information is readily available.

One thing that absolutely thrills me is the way our chapter is getting our name out into the community through co-sponsoring musical events. Two of them are listed in the left column of this page. As we work together with our other arts groups our name gets recognized and associated with quality programs. We will reap the benefits through increased attendance at our sponsored OAS concerts.

Blessings...always,

Michael Varlas



NEXT SJVAGO BOARD

MEETING:

Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2018

10:30 AM

University Presbyterian

Church

1771 E. Roberts Ave.,

Fresno

Please note the starting time is now

10:30 AM



Fox Hanford Theatre

Silent Movie Night

September 22, 2018

7:30 PM

The Waiters Ball-Fatty Arbuckle
Finishing Touch-Laurel & Hardy
Battling Butler-Buster Keaton
*Featuring Dean Mora on
the Fox Theatre Wurlitzer
pipe organ*

Donation General \$10

Seniors \$5

Children 12 and under Free

Viva Mexico II

*Come and join your Amigos and Amigas
for the SJV AGO Chapter's*

September Viva Mexico Fiesta!

When: Saturday, September 8, 2018
6 PM until the food and drinks are gone

Where: La Casa de Faye and Larry DeLong
2504 16th Ave, Kingsburg

Who: Members, spouses and significant others



Please bring a salad or dessert to share. Main dishes and drinks will be provided.

- + Come and welcome new members as well as renew old friendships
- + Try out music on the pipe organ in the DeLong home
- + Share highlights of the summer's activities-AGO National Convention
- + Great Mexican Food....Great Margarita's....AND best of all GREAT Fun!



So hitch up the ole Burro and head..
South of the Border to Kingsburg!!!

Please RSVP to Faye at: 559.879.2394 (home) or 559.269.4437 (cell)

Chamber Music

*First Congregational Church of Fresno
presents*

10th Annual
Keyboard Chamber Concert

*Join Us For An Afternoon of Music featuring
Masterworks for Piano and for Pipe Organ*

Sunday, September 23, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

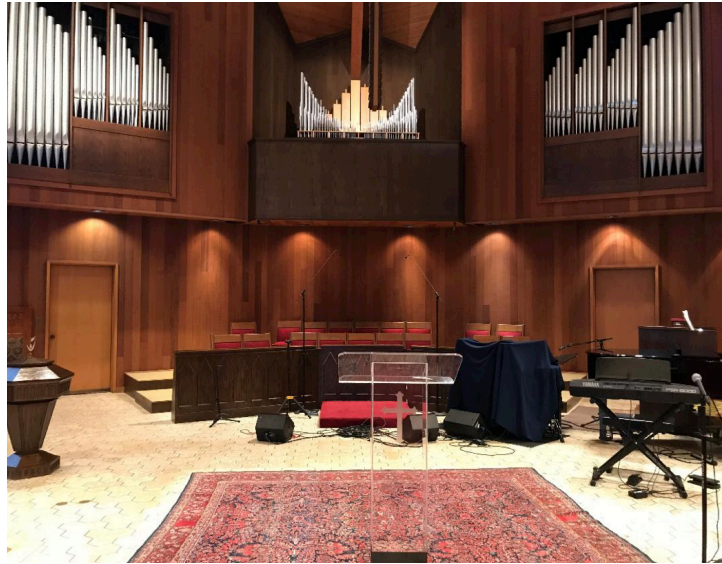
A free will offering will be collected to benefit the
First Congregational Church Casavant Pipe Organ Fund.

First Congregational Church of Fresno
2131 N. Van Ness Blvd. (South of Clinton)
For more information call 227-8489

Hymn Singing

FRIDAY

9/28



**HYMNS. ORGAN.
VIOLIN. SINGING.**

**Location: First Armenian
Presbyterian Church 430 S
1st Street, in the sanctuary.
6:30pm**

Join us for an evening of **hymn singing**, followed by light snacks and **fellowship** afterward. Mike Varlas, organist, and other musicians will lead us in **songs of praise to God**. In addition we will hear about the hymns and how they are **relevant** to us today.

For more information please call 559-237-6638, or contact us by email.

Warnors 90th



SAVE ^{the} DATE

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

For one night only, we invite you to experience the premiere documentary film, "WARNORS: A LEGACY," that showcases the theatre's rich history. Plus, we'll pay tribute to the theatre's pipe organist, Richard Cencibaugh, who has maintained and played the theatre's original Morgan pipe organ for more than 50 years.

This unique and enjoyable event supports the ongoing restoration of the theatre and will help continue to bring world-renowned entertainers to Fresno. Limited sponsorship opportunities are also available.

October
20

— Location —
**WARNORS
THEATER**

— Time —
2:00 to 4:00 PM

TICKETS ARE \$10 PER PERSON. PURCHASE ONLINE AT ETIX.COM OR AT THE BOX OFFICE MONDAY-FRIDAY, 10^{AM}-2^{PM}.