

Stop & Reed

November 2018

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

From the Dean

What a busy month we had! October was filled with three great events that celebrated the pipe organ. First was Scott Horton's annual Bachttober recital at the First Congregational Church. Unfortunately I was unable to attend, but from what I heard, Scott did a fantastic job per usual and that there was a good sized crowd. Thank you Scott for continuing this tradition and sharing the music of Bach!

The next event took us downtown to Warnors Theatre as we celebrated its 90th anniversary and honored Richard Cencibaugh for his many years of service playing, promoting and taking care of the Robert Morton Theatre Organ. Unfortunately the elevator that brings the organ console up was having some issues just before the show, but the organ was played and heard nonetheless.

Lastly, our AGO chapter partnered with the Fresno Community Chorus to put on a spectacular Festival of Music for Choir, Organ and Brass. With over 200 singers, this festival was one for the books! Organists Hsiao-Ching Chao, Catherine Walker, Steve Vincent, and myself participated. Thank you Mike and Tresa Varlas, and Terry and Lynda Roberts for helping provide the reception.

As we move forward with the rest of our chapter events, I hope you will find the time to come and participate. Remember, the pipe organ needs an audience!

**In Harmony,
Cactus Harris**

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Organs and Organists

First Presbyterian Church, Fresno ***Rodgers-Moller Hybrid Digital and Pipe Organ*** ***Dr. Margaret Licon, Organist***

Our featured Organ and Organist for this month is the Rodgers-Moller Digital and Pipe organ of First Presbyterian Church, Fresno and the church's organist, Dr. Margaret Licon.

If you should ever find yourself in Fresno on a Sunday morning and suddenly you see a silver streak going by at close to the speed of light, not to worry, it would most likely be Margaret Licon traveling between the three churches at which she serves as organist.

After graduating from Fowler High School she attended Fresno State where she was a piano performance major, earning a Bachelors and Masters degree. Margaret considered Dr. Bob Bennett to be a very positive influence on her studies. She also studied with Philip Lorenz.

Upon completion of her Masters, Margaret became the organist at Concordia Lutheran Church in Kingsburg. She did tell them that she was a pianist, but got the position because she was "musical." Playing at Concordia was a "happy time" as the world of recitals, Liturgy, choral and organ music was opened up for her. Organ studies with Esther Frankian and Bob Gerster followed. Margaret shared how she got over being intimidated by the organ console. Her friend, Consuela Stirlin, was organist at St. John's Cathedral and invited her to come and play the organ prior to a 5:30 Mass. As she was playing Consuela left and Margaret played the Mass-cold! Nice friend..or maybe she was...

Prior to her doctoral studies, Margaret was able to spend a summer at the Royal School of Church Music in London, England. There she visited the major cathedrals and experienced the music curriculum in organ and the Anglican choir musical instruction. It was through this program that she made the commitment to pursue a doctorate in Choral Conducting, which she did at Arizona State University. There she studied with Dr. Doug McEwen and Dr. David Stocker. Margaret also did post-doctoral studies at the University of Iowa with Dr. Timothy Stalter.

Several teaching positions followed her studies. Margaret taught Music Theory, Music History and Chorus at Glendale College in Phoenix, Arizona. She also taught at Wenatchee Valley College in Wenatchee, Washington. Both of the choirs were able to sing at Carnegie Hall under Margaret's direction.

Always a learner, Margaret has enrolled in the BYU Organ Workshop and has regular lessons done online via Skype with Organ Professor Nora Hess. The program which leads to an Organ Performance Certification is quite comprehensive covering technique, registration, hymn playing, music theory, sight reading and transposition.

For Margaret music is a very personal part of her life. There are two prominent spheres of influence for her. The first is the love of music as an amalgamation of many different disciplines, such as

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Chapter Events

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-see flier

Mountain Area Advent/Christmas Noon Organ Recitals

Friday, December 7, 14, 21, 2018
Sierra Presbyterian Church
39696 Highway 41, Oakhurst

"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



NEXT SJVAGO BOARD MEETING:
Tuesday, November 27, 2018
10:30 AM
University Presbyterian Church
1771 E. Roberts Ave., Fresno

*Please note the starting time is now
10:30 AM*

Other Events

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

Organs and Organists- continued

physics, math, language, acoustics, as well as the kinesthetic energy in performance. The second influence on her life is found in the Word of God, which for her is a personal and divine experience. Margaret finds that the marriage of the two is a unique and powerful life-changing force. For her playing has become a love of the heart, and she feels honored to be able to share her musical gifts by playing in church.

Having such a strong love for music, it is no surprise that Margaret is the organist for three different churches, each with a very different approach to worship. She plays the 8:30 traditional service at First Presbyterian Church, the 10:15 service at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church and the 1:15 service at St. James Anglican Church.



Organs and Organists-continued

The organ at First Presbyterian Church started out in life as a III/15 Moller pipe organ built in the 1950's. The organ was heavily unified. It had 73 note pipe chests which allowed the use of sub and super couplers. At some point after that it was expanded to 35 ranks with the addition of Moller pipework and the unification was no longer necessary.



During the tenure of Connie Ellenberger as organist, the church expanded the instrument by means of a Rodgers Hybrid Digital and Pipe organ. A Rodgers 3 manual console was installed and interfaced with the existing Moller pipes and chests. The Choir



division pipes were relocated and became part of the Great division. The Choir then became all electronic. Additional digital stops were added to the Great and Swell divisions. The organ can be played using either all pipes, all digital or using both configurations together.

Advent Recitals

