

Stop & Reed

January 2019

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

From the Dean

I met Steve a few years ago when he returned to the Fresno area and again became active in the Guild. I remember the excitement expressed by many of our members when he moved back from Kansas, and I soon learned why. Steve was a real “go getter”. He quickly picked up the reins and volunteered to fill a vacant treasurer position in our chapter. He was impeccably organized, timely, and kept us all honest. Steve joined our Chapter in 1975 while he was working at a church in Visalia. Later he served as the Dean from 1988-1990. Steve was active throughout his many years in the guild, holding a variety of posts, playing in recitals, organizing concerts and events, and you could always count on him to bring something delicious to a social or reception.

I leaned on him heavily for his expertise of how things should be managed, executed and promoted. He was an integral part of our program planning, especially our most recent hymn festivals. Not only could I count on Steve to play and raise the roof, but to have detailed instructions about the order of introductions, interludes or key changes, marked with red pen and highlighter so that everyone involved was on the same page.

It goes without saying that all of us here were blessed by Steve’s music.... His passion for quality music and worship was obvious in everything that he played and led. From rousing gospel piano and organ, to mighty thunderous toccatas, Steve covered all the bases..... and all the keys!! I will never forget the times I had the privilege of playing duets with him, and all I could do was smile and revel in the music making.

What I admired most about his music, was that it was honest. He faithfully played and sang not for the purpose of impressing, but to exalt our Lord. I remember asking about a time he played for the Hour of Power at the Crystal Cathedral, and how exciting that must have been. His response, surprised me. Here I would imagine a grand story about the choir, organ and large crowd, instead I was humbled. He told me with all the rules, and countdowns, that it was too much “showbiz” and not enough authentic worship for him. Just as JS Bach penned on all of his music “Soli Deo Gloria”, “Glory to God Alone”, I would say this too was penned on the life of Steve Vincent.

In Harmony,
Cactus Harris

Executive Board 2018-2019

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Cactus Harris
805.591.9680

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559.930.3287

Recording Secretary

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559.658.7376

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Michael Varlas

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559.299.8276

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559.349.5162

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559.924.4741

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805.591.9680

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In Memorium Stephen Vincent

January 10, 1951-November 11, 2018



San Joaquin Valley Chapter member, colleague and friend, Stephen L. Vincent, age 67, passed away at his Palm Village home in Reedley on November 11, 2018.

He was born and raised in Riverside, California and was preceded in death by his parents, Eileen and Lloyd Vincent. He is survived by his brother, Michael, a nephew and niece, four cousins and their families, and many friends and colleagues.

Steve was an honors student in high school and attended Biola College, Whittier College, Fresno State University and Fresno Pacific University. He held academic membership in the American Guild of Organists and was also a member of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers.

Stephen's greatest loves were his Lord Jesus Christ, his family and friends, and music. He was an accomplished

organist and pianist, ordained minister, choral arranger and conductor, adjunct music faculty at Tabor College in Kansas, Kindergarten teacher, and outstanding host and cook!

He will be lovingly remembered for his many noteworthy accomplishments and his influence on so many. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends and the many people he touched through his loving friendships and his music.

A Memorial Service was held at Reedley Mennonite Brethren Church on Friday November 30 at 11:00 am. Interment was previously held in Kansas.

As a member of the SJVAGO, he will always be remembered for his willingness to step in and serve on committees and most recently as the chapter Treasurer. Steve was quick to share his organ arrangements with all of the chapter members as well as his expertise in the art of the organ. SJVAGO Dean, Cactus Harris concluded his remarks at Steve's memorial with the words to the poem The Lost Chord by Adelaine Procter, as a tribute to Steve.

*Seated one day at the organ,
I was weary and ill at ease,
And my fingers wandered idly
Over the noisy keys.*

*I know not what I was playing,
Or what I was dreaming then;
But I struck one chord of music,
Like the sound of a great Amen.*

*It flooded the crimson twilight,
Like the close of an angel's psalm,
And it lay on my fevered spirit
With a touch of infinite calm.*

*It quieted pain and sorrow,
Like love overcoming strife;
It seemed the harmonious echo
From our discordant life.*

*It linked all perplexèd meanings
Into one perfect peace,
And trembled away into silence
As if it were loth to cease.*

*I have sought, but I seek it vainly,
That one lost chord divine,
Which came from the soul of the organ,
And entered into mine.*

*It may be that death's bright angel
Will speak in that chord again,
It may be that only in Heav'n
I shall hear that grand Amen.*

Rest in God's eternal peace and love.

Chapter Events

"Twelfth Night Celebration" Family Social

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

Officer Installation

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

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

Central California Baroque Festival

Saturday, January 26, 2019
All Day event
University Presbyterian
1771 E Roberts Ave., Fresno
Dr. Kimberly Marshall will be presenting

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.

University Presbyterian 50th anniversary

Presenting Hans Hielscher, Organ concert
Thursday, May 23, 2019
University Presbyterian Church
1771 E. Roberts Ave., Fresno

Hymn Festival

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

Organ Artist Series

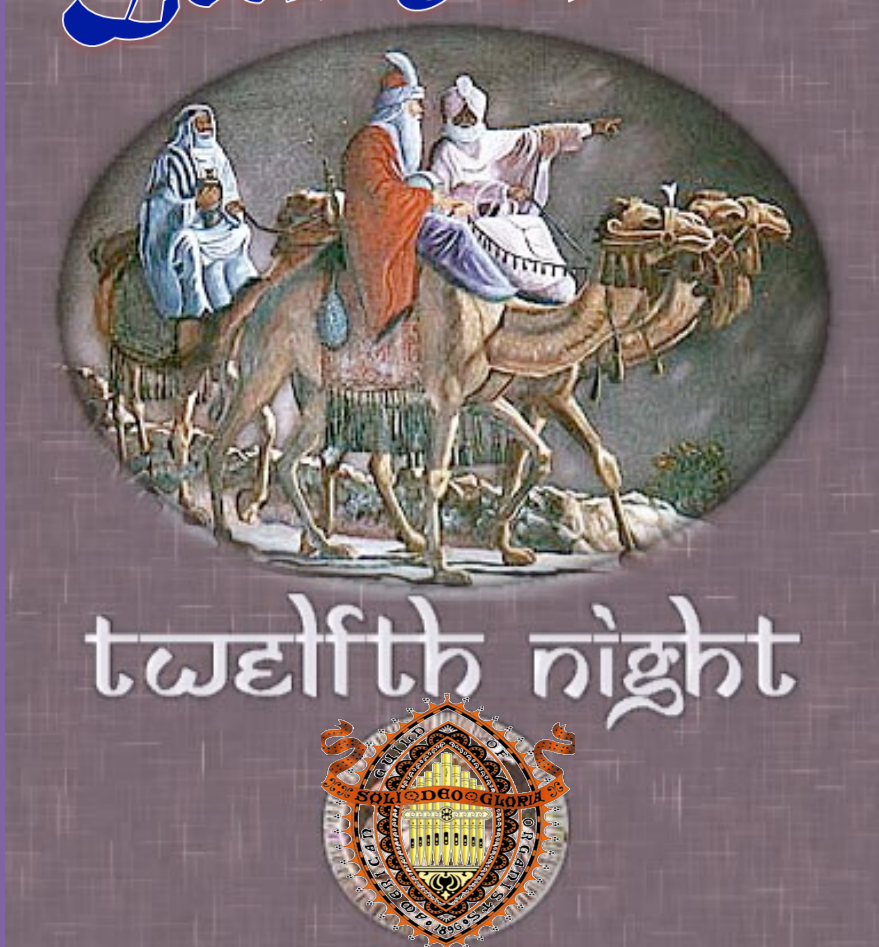
Richard Elliott, performing
Sunday, May 5, 2019
3:00 PM
First Congregational Church
2131 N. Van Ness Blvd., Fresno



**NEXT SJVAGO BOARD
MEETING:**
Tuesday, January 22, 2019
10:30 AM
University Presbyterian
Church
1771 E. Roberts Ave., Fresno

Twelfth Night

Look! A Party!



Bring the Family and join the San Joaquin Valley Chapter AGO's Annual

"Twelfth Night Celebration"

Come and enjoy an afternoon of food, fellowship, and entertainment

Let's celebrate the end of the Holiday Season!

-- Potluck -- Turkey and Ham will be provided --

--Please bring a side, salad, or dessert to share--

Rides Available!

Saturday, January 5th, 2019 1:00pm

Zentner Ranch

13828 S. Academy Ave. Kingsburg, CA

1pm!

RSVP Mike Varlas 559.930.3287 or Cactus Harris 805.591.9680