

Stop & Reed

October 2019

San Joaquin Valley Chapter American Guild of Organists

From the Dean

Autumn Ambling,

Last year I attended the Fresno Community Chorus' production of Bach's "St. John's Passion", and while everything about it was excellent, there was one part that could have used a little more help. The basso continuo part was being played note perfect by cellist Dieter Wulfhorst, and keyboardist Joy Gaje, but something was off. The timbre of the keyboard was less than authentic....That got me thinking, with as many choral and instrumental ensembles as there are in the valley, there is no decent continuo organ that can be shared by the community. I took this idea to the AGO board and we thought it would be great to provide such an instrument that could be used by many.

After some brainstorming, we decided that while a small continuo organ with pipes would be nice and authentic, it wouldn't necessarily be practical. Moving it would require a lot of work, along with the maintenance involved. Not only that, but the cost of having one built would be in the tens of thousands of dollars. Therefore, the decision is to go digital, with a keyboard that is made by an actual digital organ company. One that would have sampled sounds and true organ stops, instead of a single organ patch. This would make it easy to amplify and use in many different spaces. I discovered that some other places have done this with the addition of a beautiful wooden case to house the instrument. In turn, making it look like a true continuo organ to the audience!

To kick-off the funding of this project, we have a very exciting event on October 27th at 4pm, at University Presbyterian Church. Combined with the Fresno Community Chorus, we are hosting a Festival of Music for Choir, Brass, and Organ. This community sing-along program will be lead by organ, a brass quartet, and the 60 member Coro Piccolo. Singers, choirs, and on-lookers are all encouraged to attend. We hope to fill the sanctuary with glorious music! Donations from this event will be going toward the exciting continuo organ project. See you there!

**In Harmony,
Cactus Harris**

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Chapter Events

Fifteenth Annual Bachtoper Organ Recital

Scott Horton, performing

Sunday, October 13, 2019

3:00 PM

First Congregational Church, Fresno
2131 N. Van Ness Blvd., Fresno

Choral Workshop

Saturday, February 22, 2020

9 AM- 12:30 PM

University Presbyterian Church
1771 E. Roberts Ave., Fresno

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

“Lift Every Voice and Sing” Choir, Organ and Brass Festival

Sunday, October 27, 2019

4 PM

University Presbyterian Church
1771 E. Roberts Ave., Fresno

Hymn Festival

Sunday, February 23, 2020

3:00 PM

University Presbyterian Church
1771 E. Roberts Ave., Fresno

Organ Konzert for Kids

Saturday, November 2, 2019

Redeemer Lutheran Church
1084 W. Bullard Ave., Fresno

Organ Artist Series Concert

Monica Csausz, performing

Sunday, March 8, 2020

3:00 PM

CSU Fresno Concert Hall
Maple at Shaw, Fresno

Ticket information to follow

Member Recital “Toccatas”

Sunday, November 3, 2019

3:00 PM

Episcopal Church of the Saviour
529 N. Douty St., Hanford
SJVAGO Members playing

Organ Artist Series

Performer TBD

Date and time TBD

First Congregational Church
2131 N. Van Ness Blvd., Fresno

“Twelfth Night Celebration” Family Social

Saturday, January 4, 2020

1:00 PM

Zentner Ranch
13828 S. Academy Avenue, Kingsburg



NEXT SJVAGO BOARD MEETING:

Tuesday, October 22, 2019
10:30 AM

University Presbyterian
Church

1771 E. Roberts Ave.,

Bachtober Concert

First Congregational Church of Fresno

BACHTOBER CONCERT

Featuring Baroque Masterworks of

Bach & Handel



Sunday, October 13, at 3:00 p.m.

Bachtober Festival Orchestra, and
Scott Horton, organist

Admission Free - Freewill Offering to Benefit the Pipe Organ

First Congregational Church of Fresno, U.C.C.
2131 North Van Ness Boulevard
Information: 227-8489

Bachtober Concert

BACHTOBER FESTIVAL AT BIG RED CHURCH

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2019 at 3:00

First Congregational Church of Fresno invites everyone to an afternoon of Baroque Masterworks written by Johann Sebastian Bach, and George Frideric Handel on Sunday, October 13, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.

This "Baroque" celebration will include Scott Horton, Music Director and Organist at the First Congregational Church, and the "Bachtober Festival Orchestra," led by violinist John Morrice, String Director at Fresno City College and past assistant concertmaster of the Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra. Performers for the concert include violinists Matt Mezei, Jennice Bourdase, and Calib Sandersier; Devinda Gunisekera on viola; Nancy Skei on cello, and Kevin Cooper on the theorbo.

Among the compositions that will be performed at this year's concert will be Bach's Concerto No. 1 in d minor for orchestra and solo organ; Handel's Concerto Grosso Op. 6, No. 1 performed by the festival orchestra; "A Bach Chamber Suite" that features four favorite works from the baroque master; and the famous Toccata and Fugue in D minor, performed on the church's Casavant Pipe Organ.

Admission is free, though a free will offering will be taken to benefit the Casavant Pipe Organ Renovation Fund.

First Congregational Church of Fresno is located at 2131 N. Van Ness Blvd., just south of Clinton. For more information, call 227-8489

BYU Independent Study Online Course in Organ Performance (levels 1-6) by Dr. Margaret Licon, Organist

Several years ago while attending the AGO Regional Convention in Salt Lake City I was introduced to the BYU Organ Workshop through an AGO colleague. I pondered at that time whether I could actually invest the time and expense into such a venture and last summer I decided to take a leap of faith and just jump in and do it. This past August I completed Level 4 and personally found it to be *greatly satisfying*.

The course contents are explored in depth at the **BY Organ Workshop** held every summer the first week of August. This is a happy gathering of 250 plus organists of all levels, and although the workshop is purposed for LDS

organists, their doors are wide open to organists of all other faiths.

The comprehensive nature of the course offers superb guidance to organists of any level of competency and offers a rich variety of study material. This magnificent course is the brainchild of Dr. Don Cook and is centered upon his organ tutorial, *The Organ Tutor 101*, which is the heart of the course (available in hardcopy or online).

The areas covered are 1) *Organ Technique*: which includes manual, pedal and combined manual and pedal technique. 2) *Organ Repertoire*: inclusive of literature from pre- 1750 to the modern era. These are excellent choices of literature that can also be utilized in service playing and in recitals. 3) *Hymn playing*: perhaps the most exciting part of the course

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Organ and More...



JOIN US FOR A DAY OF SINGING!
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27
4 PM
 University Presbyterian Church
 (Cedar & Roberts)
 Free and open to all.
 Come as you are
 and sing along on
 favorite melodies

Fresno Master Chorale
 and the San Joaquin
 Chapter of the American
 Guild of Organists
 present their annual

FESTIVAL OF MUSIC FOR CHOIR, ORGAN, AND BRASS

Contact Anna Hamre at ahamre@csufresno.edu for more details

as it offers ingenious ways to prepare hymns that encourage robust congregational participation.

4) *Music Theory*: the text used by Greg Steinke and Paul Harder. 5) *Organ*

Registration: The Organ Tutor 101 includes many cross references and definitions of any moving part on any instrument. The text should be titled: "Everything you've always wanted to know about the organ!" 6)

Accompaniment Skills: this includes the practice of open scores as well as how to best prepare an accompaniment for choirs. 7) *Sight-reading* and 8) *Transposition*.

Course materials can be easily accessed and registration can be done online. I have just begun my coursework for Level 5 and it is even more exciting than Level 4!

References:

BYU Organ Study Website: organ.byu.edu (then click LDS Organists)

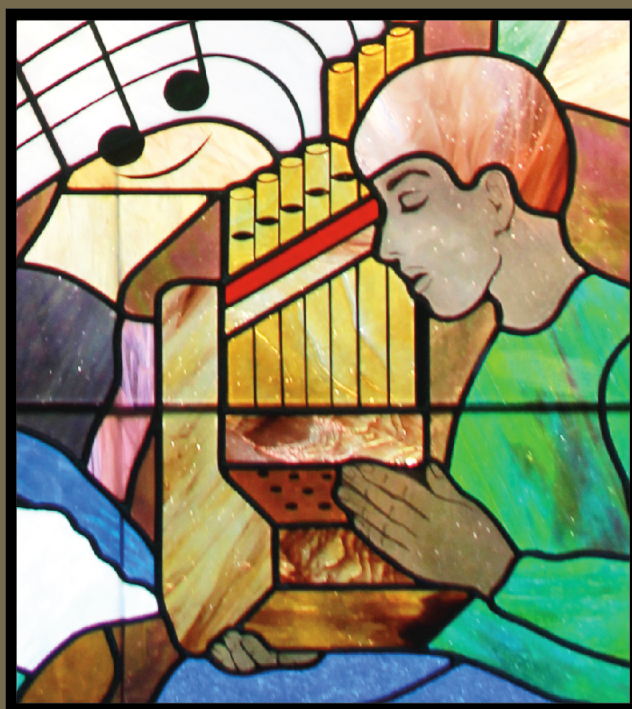
Organ Tutor 101: organtutor.byu.edu

Non-credit registration: elearn.byu.edu

Thank you to Dr. Margaret Licon for providing the information for this article. Margaret earned her Bachelor and Masters in Piano Performance from California State University, Fresno where she studied with Dr. Bob Bennett. She also holds a Doctorate in Choral Conducting from Arizona State University where she studied with Dr. Doug McEwen and Dr. David Stocker. Currently, she is the organist at First Presbyterian, Our Savior's Lutheran and St. James Anglican Church.

For young musicians

O R G A N
KONZERT



F O R K I D S

Saturday November 2 • 3 p.m.

Redeemer Lutheran Church

LOOK, LISTEN & LEARN

Member Recital

An Invitation to perform in a Toccata Festiva Recital

The Episcopal Church of the Saviour in Hanford



Sunday, November 3, 2019

3:00 PM

The Episcopal Church of the Saviour

519 N. Douty St.

Hanford, CA

Tyrell McKenzie, Host Organist

Church: 559.584.7706

RSVP intent to participate no later than
October 6, 2019

- Participate in a concert of Toccatas (and a fugue if you must)
- Open to SJVAGO Members and friends
- Enjoy hearing your colleagues perform those flashy pieces
- Play the recently refurbished console of the 1911 Murray Harris pipe organ in a lively environment
- Note-French Romantic sounds great on the organ
- Reception following for performers, families and audience.
- Fun , fun, fun



Silent movie screening



The Original 1925 Silent Movie
 THEATER ORGANIST, DAVE MORENO
 PLAYING LIVE ACCOMPANIMENT
 WITH GUEST SOLOIST, KERRI LYN SCOTT
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2019
At 7:00 PM
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 165 E. Mill Ave. Porterville, CA 93257
 (559) 784-5340

TICKETS: GENERAL ADMISSION \$15 YOUTH AGES 12 & UNDER \$5

Tickets available at the following locations:

Church Office *Porterville Chamber of Commerce *Hanson Travel *Jeff's Music