

Stop & Reed

December 2022
San Joaquin Valley Chapter
American Guild of Organists

From the Dean

Does anyone else struggle with choosing Christmas music? Which setting of "O Come All Ye Faithful" will you play? How many versions of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" are in your library? No matter what I decide to play for services, I always enjoy playing through my stack of Christmas music while the church is empty. These private "devotional" moments have always been sources of inspiration, and feel like a privilege that us organists get to experience. I wish all of you the best of luck as you make final preparations for the season!

Our 12th Night luncheon is right around the corner, and I look forward to seeing familiar faces. We have a wonderful trio that will be providing entertainment, along with a great meal and fellowship. Please plan to come and ring in the New Year.

Merry Christmas,
Cactus Harris, Dean

Call for Substitute Organists

Are you available to sub for services? Let us know! We would like to publish an accurate list of substitute organists in the Stop and Reed Newsletter. Please let Michael Varlas know at mvarlas@yahoo.com if you would like to be added to the list. Provide contact information and availability parameters (e.g. not available Sunday mornings, funerals or weddings only, willing to accompany choir, etc.)

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805.591.9680

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805.591.9680

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Chapter Events

“Twelfth Night Celebration” Family Social

Saturday, January 7, 2023
1:00 PM at the Zentner Ranch
13828 S. Academy Ave., Kingsburg

Philip Lorenz Keyboard Concert

Nicole Keller, Organist

Sunday, February 5, 2023
3:00 PM at Fresno State University
Details to follow

NEXT SJVAGO BOARD MEETING: NOTE THE DAY

Sunday, January 22, 2023
6:00 PM on ZOOM.

Details will be sent out about joining the meeting a little closer to the meeting date.

Choral Workshop

Saturday, March 18, 2023, 9:00 AM
– 12 Noon
University Presbyterian Church
1771 E. Roberts Ave., Fresno

(Open to all choir members and directors. Massed choir will be singing at the Hymn Festival on Sunday.

Hymn Festival

Sunday, March 19, 2023 at 3:00 P.M.
Jeffrey Wilson, Director
University Presbyterian Church
1771 E. Roberts Ave., Fresno

Organ Artist Series Concert

Joy-Leilani Garbutt, Organist

Sunday, June 4th, 2023 at 4:00 pm
First Congregational Church
2131 N. Van Ness Blvd., Fresno

2022-2023 OAS Organists



Nicole Keller graduated from the esteemed Eastman School of Music in Rochester under the tutelage of one of today's pre-eminent organists, David Higgs, who presented the inaugural performance of the Martin Ott pipe organ in the Fresno Concert Hall in April 1996. Praised as a "player with outstanding technique and fine musical sensibilities" (The Chicago Crusader), she has acclaimed performances in venues such as St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, the Cathédrale Notre-Dame in Paris, and St. Stephen's Cathedral in Passau, Germany, to her credit.

Dr. Joy-Leilani Garbutt is an organist, musicologist, and an ardent advocate for gender-equity in the field of music. She is the co-founder of Boulanger Initiative, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting music composed by women through performance, education, and commissions. Her advocacy of women composers has been featured in The New York Times.

Joy-Leilani is the recipient of a Fulbright scholarship and spent a year in France pursuing research on early 20th-century French organ music by female composers. She holds a Ph.D. in musicology, a Master of Education degree from The Harvard Graduate School of Education, and a Master of Music in organ performance from Northwestern University, where she served as Organ Scholar for the Alice Millar Chapel. She currently serves as the Director of Music at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, San Francisco.

In addition to solo recitals throughout the U.S. and France, Joy-Leilani has performed with the New England Youth Ensemble in Australia, England, New Zealand, Mexico, and South Africa.



Twelfth Night



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE ANNUAL SJVAGO

"12th Night"

POTLUCK LUNCHEON & ENTERTAINMENT

JANUARY 7TH

SATURDAY | **2023** | 1:00 P.M.

-PLEASE BRING A SIDE, SALAD, OR DESSERT TO SHARE-
(TURKEY, HAM, AND MASHED POTATOES PROVIDED)

ZENTNER RANCH
13828 S. ACADEMY AVE.
KINGSBURG, CA

**RSVP BY DEC. 31ST TO HANNAH ZENTNER
559-356-6614 HANNAHEZENTNER@GMAIL.COM**



Membership OAS Donations

Dear SJVAGO member and friend,

Greetings from the San Joaquin Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Please allow me a few minutes of your time to let you know about your chapter. In its simplest form, we are an organization of people who strive to promote Organ and Choral music both in our churches and in our communities.

As your local chapter we sponsor concerts throughout the year so that quality organ and choral music can be enjoyed and appreciated by all. We also host member/friend recitals. In addition, we provide free workshops for local organists and choristers. Additional information about our Chapter events may be found in our monthly newsletter "The Stop and Reed," which is posted on our website (sjvago.org).

For the past 77 years, this chapter has brought world-renowned organists to perform as part of our Organ Artist Series. This coming year we are proud to present organists Nicole Keller and Dr. Joy-Leilani Garbutt. We are very much looking forward to concerts with these outstanding artists! More information about the artists can be found at sjvago.org as well in the Stop & Reed newsletter.

While most of our member/friend recitals and workshops are done at little or no cost to the chapter, the expenses for each of the Organ Artist Series concerts are approximately \$4,000. Since our only income is through AGO membership dues, "free-will" offerings and contributions to the Organ Artist Series fund, I am asking you to join in support of great organ and choral music. Your donation will continue to bring the best organ artists to the San Joaquin Valley.

AGO members can make a donation through the AGO ONCARD system. Simply log in using your username and password at AGOHQ.org. Once you have logged in you will be taken to the ONCARD Menu where you will see a box titled "Make a Contribution." Click on that box and the Contributions List page will open. For the AOS, scroll down to the Chapter funds for San Joaquin Valley Chapter. Click on the "Contribute Now" button and a donation page will open.

You can also send a check directly to our chapter Treasurer, Michal Hembd. Her address can be found in your copy of the chapter directory. Thank you very much for your contribution in support of great organ and choral music.

In Harmony,
Cactus Harris, Dean