

LA PIPELINE

The Newsletter of Los Angeles Chapter, American Guild of Organists

Upcoming Event

There will be no February Event
Presidents' Day Chapter Event has been Cancelled

March 22, 2021
7:00pm Broadcast Recital

on the [**LAAGO YouTube Channel**](#)
8:00pm Zoom Reception

David La’O Ball, Organist
(Christ Cathedral, Garden Grove, CA)

Hosted by St. Edmund’s Episcopal Church of San Marino, CA
Program information will be published in the March Newsletter.





Dean's Message - Nelson Dodge

This month my focus is on some important business in our chapter. Every non-profit organization is required to have bylaws that define how the organization is structured and governed. As a chapter of the American Guild of Organists we operate under the national AGO bylaws that were adopted in 1896 and have been amended over the years, as recently as 2020.

Additionally, AGO has Operating Procedures that provide all the fine details about things like officer roles at the national and regional levels, and how these positions are elected, plus other areas of operations such as finances and competitions.....and much more. The Operating Procedures provide the essential details that enable the hundreds of volunteers involved to understand the "rules" for how the organization operates day-to-day to accomplish its goals and fulfill its purpose.

As a chartered chapter (in 1910) of the American Guild of Organists we are subject to relevant portions of the AGO bylaws and Operating Procedures, however, these documents do not address many chapter-level activities. For this reason, we are required to have our own Operating Procedures that define our chapter-specific procedures and activities that enable us to function consistently and smoothly over time as leadership changes.

Significant changes in recent years to the national bylaws and Operating Procedures has necessitated every chapter to review their Operating Procedures and make changes to assure consistency with the national documents and procedures.

Our review process started about three years ago under then-Dean Phil Smith and led by Kevin Cartwright. The current LA AGO Operating Procedures were originally adopted in 2002 and last amended in 2008 under the leadership of Orpha Ochse. Since then, much has changed. The proposed Operating Procedures are a completely new document that bears little resemblance to the 2008 Operating Procedures, but accurately reflects current practices and chapter structure.

The next step of the process is a vote by the entire chapter membership to approve the revised Operating Procedures. Please see the Sub-Dean column this month that highlights many of the changes. I encourage you to [review the full document available here](#).

As we have done for elections recently, we will conduct the vote to approve the Operating Procedures online. This has the advantage of enabling much broader participation since every member can vote, not just those present at a meeting (which won't likely be happening anytime soon). All current members will receive an e-mail invitation in March to vote to adopt the revised Operating Procedures.

Rewriting our Operating Procedures has been a major project, about as exciting as watching paint dry. But I want to thank the intrepid travelers who invested countless hours to assembling the document we are presenting for your approval: Kevin Cartwright who has done an amazing job of keeping the process organized, Jeffrey Parola and Mary Lee Mistretta who served as principal committee members, and Alice Rucker, Timothy Howard and Thompson Howell who contributed structural and editorial input.

Sub-Dean's Message - Kevin Cartwright

As outlined by our Dean, the Executive Committee of the Los Angeles Chapter, A.G.O. is pleased to present the culmination of a multi-year project to rewrite our Operating Procedures. We were asked to do so by the A.G.O. and are excited to arrive at this milestone of presenting the document for member review and approval. I would like to answer some common questions and highlight some of the changes you will notice in the proposed Operating Procedures.



What are Bylaws? Bylaws are a basic framework for our organization which is submitted to, approved by, and kept on file with the State of California. Revision of any Bylaws requires a strict procedure which often culminates in a vote by the Membership, sometimes with some exceptions which vary between organizations. The establishment of new Bylaws documents must be vetted by legal counsel and any Bylaws change, whether revision or replacement, must be filed with and approved by the State of California complete with all legal requirements and expenses associated with doing so. For this reason our Bylaws are a basic framework upon which our organization is built, and they specifically do not include the details of an organization's policies and procedures because they are so difficult to change.

What are Operating Procedures? Often referred to by some organizations as "Policies," operating procedures define the specifics of the operations and business of our non-profit corporation. Operating procedures go beyond the basic framework established by our Bylaws but must comply with our Bylaws. Operating procedures may not conflict with, supersede, or otherwise overstep our Bylaws. As our world changes with time, our own Operating Procedures allow us to update and amend our policies and procedures when needed without the considerable effort and expense of updating our Bylaws. Operating procedures must be approved by an organization's membership when replaced as a whole, but revisions to a set of operating procedures are amended by a board or executive committee, and the membership must be notified of these amendments when they occur.

What is not in the proposed Operating Procedures? Per the 2017 Federal Trade Commission settlement with the A.G.O., we are no longer presenting or mentioning Salary Guidelines and we are no longer codifying the ethics requirement of two specific employment situations: 1) the A.G.O. may no longer prohibit members from competitively pursuing a position of employment known to be held by another member; and 2) the A.G.O. may not suggest musicians secure "bench fees" in their employment contracts. (Bench fees require payment to an incumbent musician in the event a substitute is employed without the incumbent musician's consent.) The above items were found by the FTC to discourage competition and raise prices for employers, and such policies are not allowed within non-profit educational organizations. For this reason, the A.G.O. was required to remove these items from its operating procedures as part of their settlement with the FTC, and by extension so are we.

What is in the proposed Operating Procedures? Everything you know and love about the L.A.A.G.O. is still codified in the proposed new Operating Procedures. The organizational structure of the proposed Operating Procedures is well-organized and is easier to read and reference. We have made several improvements and added a couple of critical new positions to our slate of officers, established ongoing projects as official Chapter Projects, and written new policy which applies to modern technology and modern means of communication, advertisement, and public engagement.

You will notice a new membership category which is not yet online: "Volunteer Organist." This is a new initiative under development by the A.G.O. to create a membership category for organists who play for denominations which do not pay their musicians due to either religious teachings or financial position. We have several excellent, trained musicians in our area and nationwide who do not participate in the A.G.O. because their employers do not pay them

for their positions and they may find the cost of membership prohibitive, or they may feel the investment for A.G.O. membership is not valuable to them as they are not being compensated or formally employed like the majority of A.G.O. members. This new membership category aims to include these musicians who can and should benefit from what the A.G.O. and L.A.A.G.O. have to offer. The details of this membership category have yet to be released, but our proposed Operating Procedures are prepared for its eventual activation.

A new “Member Life Coordinator” is established. This appointed officer position will share stories and significant events from the lives of chapter members, including information about birthdays, retirements, deaths, and other significant events in members’ lives. On occasion this officer may interview new members and provide short biographical sketches of them to our newsletter editor as well as encourage members to share stories and anecdotes from their careers.

A new “Membership Coordinator” is established. This appointed position is not to be confused with the Registrar. The Registrar’s duties remain the same, however the Membership Coordinator will cover some important member retention tasks such as communicate with members prior to their membership anniversary until renewal is confirmed, devise strategies for reactivating members whose membership has lapsed, and engage the registrar to assist members who need help navigating the online membership system. This new officer will also propose plans for recruiting new members and develop protocols for welcoming and mentoring new members.

Other improvements in the proposed Operating Procedures include codifying a stronger annual schedule for planning and completing the business of the Chapter, a schedule to which the Executive Committee will refer to complete our annual tasks on-time. We are also opening the L.A.A.G.O. membership to virtual business meeting attendance and electronic means of communication and voting, none of which are accounted for in our current Operating Procedures. The proposed Operating Procedures not only allow us to use current technology as a tool but also account for future technologies not yet in use.

Our Presidents’ Day Organ Festival and OrgelKids projects are to become official standing Chapter Projects which will streamline planning and financing these valuable events. In our Standing Rules, an appendix to the Operating Procedures, you will find a new social media policy which outlines who is responsible for L.A.A.G.O. social media, what content should be presented and to what degree of quality.

Will the Operating Procedures change our financial rules or practices? The quick answer is “No.” This is a question we answered during Executive Committee review and I realize it is a concern to many members who have donated and continue to donate to our Chapter. You will notice the financial appendices to the proposed Operating Procedures (Appendices “B” and “C”) remain unchanged from our current policy. Our endowment, scholarship, and memorial funds remain the same as well as our strict rules for allowable assets, prohibited assets, and prohibited transactions. There is no change to the way the Finance Committee operates, and there are no changes to the annual budget proposal and approval procedures.

I hope this introduction is helpful as you begin to read our proposed Operating Procedures. Upon your vote to ratify and subsequent approval from the A.G.O., we are excited to move forward with a fresh set of Operating Procedures which better support the way we conduct business and member activities. I strongly encourage all members to read the proposed Operating Procedures before voting begins. If the link in your newsletter does not work, simply visit www.LAAGO.org to find the document link. If you have difficulty accessing the online document, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or our Dean, Nelson Dodge, and we will do our best to supply you with the document in a timely manner. Nelson and I are available for any questions you may have, and we encourage you to cast your vote when voting opens after this period of member review.

Sincerely yours,

Kevin R. Cartwright
Sub-Dean and Operating Procedures Committee Chair



Southern California Organ Builders

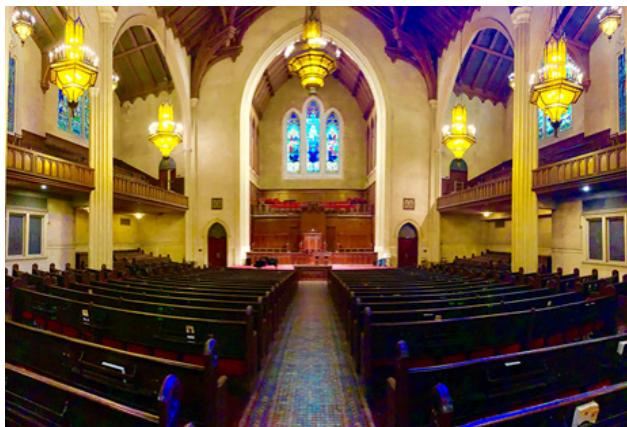
Manuel J Rosales, Feature Editor

In forthcoming issues we will be visiting three well known organs in the mid-Wilshire area.

St. James Episcopal Church

We will be exploring the history and evolution of the 1911 Murray M. Harris Organ. The following is a news release from the church. "Canon James Buonemani, Organist & Director of Music since 1995 celebrates the 25th Anniversary of the installation of the "John David Falconer Memorial Organ" with an 11-episode monthly video series, four of which are available at the link below. Buonemani performs organ masterworks and highlights the unique history and design of the magnificent instrument."

[Great Music at Saint James' - YouTube](#)



Immanuel Presbyterian Church

The beautiful neo-Gothic church building has three organs on its campus, the oldest and largest of which is Skinner Organ Company's Opus 676 built in 1927. In addition to its distinguished history as a service, teaching and recital instrument it has the honor of being the only four-manual Skinner organ in Southern California that has survived with minimal tonal changes and plays from its original (unmodified) console.

First Congregational Church

The organ at First Congregational Church, Los Angeles is one of the largest (if not the largest) church organs in the world. The 1931 Skinner Organ Company's Opus 856 was enhanced with the installation in 1969 of the 4-manual Schlicker Organ in the rear gallery. We will explore the expansion of the instrument over the last 50 years and we will describe its recently upgraded operating system with its many features.



AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

**Six Episodes of the
LA AGO Podcast
are now online!**



In each episode of The LA AGO Podcast, host Thompson Howell speaks with a different member of the Los Angeles Chapter, and occasional special guests, about their own love affair with the organ and how that passion informs their particular involvement with the organ world today. Whether you're a church musician, a concert organist, an organ builder or technician, a composer who writes for the organ or simply a fan of the organ and its music, you'll enjoy hearing the stories of your colleagues and fellow LA AGO members.

Listen Now

The LA AGO Podcast

A special episode is being planned!

Hello, friends:

Early this coming April, we are planning to release a special in-memoriam episode of The LA AGO Podcast to honor and remember our colleague the late Dr. Namhee Han who passed away on March 27th, 2020. Namhee was a member of the Executive Committee and a strong supporter of the podcast.

The primary focus of this episode will be on your thoughts, memories, and stories about Namhee as a friend and musician. She touched so many lives and inspired so many audiences with her playing. This episode will be a tapestry of remembrances.



If you wish to participate - and if you have the ability to record a remembrance on your own in your own voice - please do so using the highest quality microphone you have in as quiet an environment as you're able to record in. It doesn't have to be perfect and you don't need to do any editing. If all you have is the microphone in your computer or other device, that's fine. If you normally use a better quality microphone connected to your computer or device using an audio interface, please use that. Introduce yourself and tell us what your relationship with Namhee was; then share your thoughts. Speak as though the person listening is right next to you. Save your recorded audio as an .mp3 file and send it to podcast@laago.org.

If you wish to participate – and wish to submit your remarks in writing only – please send those also to podcast@laago.org. Please use the body of your e-mail message for your remarks. If your remarks are particularly lengthy, please attach them to your e-mail as a Microsoft Word .doc file or as a .pdf (portable document file). All written remembrances will be compiled into a single document, and a link to that document will be provided in the show notes section of this special episode for everyone to read.

If you have any questions or need assistance recording a memory of Namhee, please contact me at thompson@thompsonhowell.com and we can discuss your situation.

The deadline for all submissions – whether recorded or written – is Monday, March 15th.

Thank you all for your support of The LA AGO Podcast and for your help in making this a truly special episode to honor and remember our friend Namhee.

Thompson Howell
Host, The LA AGO Podcast

Mader Composition Competition 2021

by Craig Phillips



The Ruth and Clarence Mader Memorial Scholarship Fund has announced a Composition Competition for an Organ work to mark the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Fund. The goal of the competition is to honor the Mader name through a work that will become a lasting staple of the organ repertoire.

Contestants are invited to submit a work of 8-12 minutes in duration, and based on the name RC MADER. Composers will be required to use the pitches: D C E A D E-flat and D-flat, notes derived from note names and solfege to represent the name MADER, including the initials for the first names of both Ruth and Clarence.

Ruth and Clarence Mader will always be an inspiration to those privileged to have known them. The Fund is a response by students, colleagues, family and friends to widespread expressions of appreciation for the high ideals and artistic accomplishments of Ruth and Clarence Mader.

The Composition Competition was launched in January 2021, with a deadline for submissions on December 17, 2021. The winner will receive a prize of \$10,000, publication and a premiere performance of the work. Details of the premiere will be announced at a later time. The competition is open to residents of the United States (U.S. citizens, resident aliens, and international students residing in the U.S.) with no age limit. Compositions will be submitted electronically, and remain anonymous. Recordings, either live or via MIDI must also be submitted.

The Ruth and Clarence Mader Memorial Scholarship Fund is excited to sponsor this competition, as both the organ, and composition for the organ were such an important part of the Mader legacy. Our hope is that the winning composition will be an important and lasting tribute to their lives and work.

For more details and information on submissions, please visit our webpage at:

www.maderscholarshipfund.org/2021-composition



AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

National News

College Scholarship Opportunity

The Ronald G. Pogorzelski and Lester D. Yankee Memorial Scholarships support the undergraduate education of young organists. The online application period for a 2021–2022 scholarship award begins January 1 and ends February 15. In addition to three renewing scholarships of \$15,000 each, one new scholarship of \$15,000 will be awarded to an entering college freshman. This scholarship is renewable annually through the recipient's senior year if certain requirements are met. [Click here for more Information.](#)

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

Chapter Leadership News

Don't Let Your AGO Membership Lapse due to COVID-19!

Dues assistance is available from the AGO national office for members who have been financially impacted by COVID-19. Please contact Elizabeth George directly at elizabeth.george@agohq.org

How We Worship: The Ever-Changing Environment

For those who missed this webinar a recording can be accessed [here](#).

Certification Exams and COVID-19

The coronavirus outbreak has had quite an adverse effect on the AGO certification exam process, leading to either delays or outright cancellation of last spring's exams. Now that we have begun a new exam cycle, for the safety of all involved the following regulations need to be carefully observed.

Anyone having difficulty finding an appropriate venue for a Service Playing test or Colleague exam due to restrictions in place caused by the pandemic should contact the director of the Committee on Professional Certification, [André Lash, FAGO](#), in order to explore possible solutions.

Los Angeles Chapter News

Call for Organ Teachers

The Chapter receives periodic requests for referrals of private organ teachers. To enable an effective response to these requests, we have created an organ teacher list that functions similar to the substitute organist list. David Reeder maintains both lists and they are available on the [LA AGO web site](#). To be included on the list, please send David Reeder the following information to be published:

- phone number
- e-mail
- years of teaching experience
- educational degrees/certifications,
- ages of students you accept and if you require your students to have piano proficiency
- Geographic location of lessons (city, LA neighborhood, etc)

The list is on the Chapter Website.

Please send your
information to David at: drmusic@sbcglobal.net.

Job Listings

The open jobs list on the web site is getting short--if you have a job opening or know of one, please encourage the hiring organization to send the information to David Reeder. Go to: www.laago.org/jobs

In Memoriam

With sorrow we announce the passing of longtime members and supporters of LAAGO

Elizabeth Zentner August 20, 2020, retired in Palm Springs. She was an LAAGO member who was also a long time member of The Church of St. Paul in the Desert. She is survived by her husband Gordon Zentner, also an LAAGO member.

Lynn Upham January 21, 2021, a private pilot and amateur organ builder who helped install the Rosales Opus 16 for the First Presbyterian Church, Oakland, CA. Lynn passed away from a very serious stroke. He lived in Bonsall, California and is survived by his wife Jonita and daughter Chelsea.

Loren Rucker January 22, 2021, a victim of Covid 19, the husband of Past Dean Alice Rucker and the owner of Rucker Tile. He was a supporter of LAAGO.

Alice will appreciate texts and calls--818-414-9900.
Mailing address: 13331 Gridley St, Sylmar, CA 91342

Southern California Directory 2020 - 2021



American Guild of
ORGANISTS

For the Chapters of
Central Coast Kern County Long Beach
Los Angeles Orange County Palomar
San Diego Santa Barbara Ventura County

The 2020 - 2021 Southern California Directories are Here

The online download is FREE for all LA AGO members. To download your Online copy go to laago.org/directory, log in and download the online version. You can store it on your computer or any digital device (like your phone or tablet)

To order your printed Directory, please email:

directory@laago.org

\$18 - covers tax and direct mailing to you

Checks should be made out to:
Los Angeles Chapter, American Guild of Organists
Mail to:
Douglas Herbst, Treasurer
1614 Don Carlos Ave.
Glendale, CA. 91208-2008

With a Special Thanks to the Newsletter Team

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AGO CALENDAR

LOS ANGELES, LONG BEACH, AND ORANGE COUNT CHAPTERS OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
AS OF: JANUARY 30, 2021



SUN FEB 14, 2021

4:30pm - 5:30pm Solemn Evensong

Where: St. James Church - live-stream and on demand at GreatMusicLA.org

Description: Choir of St. James', James Buonemani, director. Free. Live-stream and On Demand at GreatMusicLA.org.

6pm - 7pm Christopher Houlihan, Organist

Where: St. James Church - live-stream and on demand at GreatMusicLA.org

Description: Free. Live-stream and On Demand at GreatMusicLA.org.

SUN MAR 14, 2021

4:30pm - 5:30pm Solemn Evensong

Where: St. James Church - live-stream and on demand at GreatMusicLA.org

Description: Choir of St. James', James Buonemani, director. Free. Live-stream and On demand at GreatMusicLA.org.

6pm - 7pm Clive Driskill-Smith, Organist

Where: St. James Church - live-stream and on demand at GreatMusicLA.org

Description: Free. Live-stream and on demand at GreatMusicLA.org.

SUN APR 11, 2021

4:30pm - 5:30pm Solemn Evensong

Where: St. James Church - live-stream and on demand at GreatMusicLA.org

Description: Choir of St. James', James Buonemani, director. Free. Live-stream and On demand at GreatMusicLA.org.

6pm - 7pm Tom Winpenny, Organist

Where: St. James Church - live-stream and on demand at GreatMusicLA.org

Description: Free. Live-stream and on demand at GreatMusicLA.org.

SUN MAY 9, 2021

4:30pm - 5:30pm Solemn Evensong

Where: St. James Church - live-stream and on demand at GreatMusicLA.org

Description: Choir of St. James', James Buonemani, director. Free. Live-stream and On demand at GreatMusicLA.org.

6pm - 7pm Jeremy Filsell, Organist

Where: St. James Church - live-stream and on demand at GreatMusicLA.org

Description: Free. Live-stream and on demand at GreatMusicLA.org.

SUN OCT 10, 2021

4:30pm - 5:30pm Solemn Evensong

Where: St. James Church - live-stream and on demand at GreatMusicLA.org

Description: Choir of St. James', James Buonemani, director. Free. Live-stream and On demand at GreatMusicLA.org.

6pm - 7pm Todd Wilson, Organist

Where: St. James Church - live-stream and on demand at GreatMusicLA.org

Description: Free. Live-stream and on demand at GreatMusicLA.org.

SUN NOV 21, 2021

4:30pm - 5:30pm Solemn Evensong

Where: St. James Church - live-stream and on demand at GreatMusicLA.org

Description: Choir of St. James', James Buonemani, director. Free. Live-stream and On demand at GreatMusicLA.org.

6pm - 7pm Ken Cowan, Organist

Where: St. James Church - live-stream and on demand at GreatMusicLA.org

Description: Free. Live-stream and on demand at GreatMusicLA.org.

SUN DEC 12, 2021

4:30pm - 5:30pm Advent Procession of Lesson & Carols

Where: St. James Church - live-stream and on demand at GreatMusicLA.org

Description: Free. Live-stream and on demand at GreatMusicLA.org.