

LA PIPELINE

The Newsletter of Los Angeles Chapter, American Guild of Organists

ZOOM

The New Reality



Dean's Message

Nelson Dodge



As the widespread shutdown of churches wears on, I continue to hear of colleagues who have been laid off or furloughed from their church job. This is certainly a challenging time to be a church musician.

It is especially important that our chapter rise to the occasion. As a large chapter it is not possible for everyone to know everyone or know what is going on in each member's life. But each of us knows someone—some know many.

Especially right now when there are fewer opportunities to get together in groups it is important to stay connected. The Zoom social sessions during August enabled small “gatherings” that were informal and fun.

As we move on into the Fall, please think about colleagues in the chapter that you know but haven't seen or talked with in months. Make a quick phone call to check in....or text. I know many of you have a close circle of friends that interact frequently—maybe think about how you could make that circle a little larger. Especially for colleagues that are experiencing job disruptions.

This is also the time of year that the majority of AGO memberships are renewed. Please help spread the word that no one needs to let their membership lapse for financial reasons. The national AGO has raised funds specifically to provide dues assistance for members experiencing financial hardship right now.

Requests for dues assistance may be e-mailed directly to the national Director of Member Engagement Elizabeth George at elizabeth.george@agohq.org. Dues will be covered for the full year. If you know someone in need, please alert them that this assistance is available—not everyone reads the newsletter! And please don't hesitate to reach out to me (dean@laago.org) or Sub-Dean Kevin Cartwright (subdean@laago.org) with ideas or information about how we can continue to keep LA AGO members connected and supported. Kevin and I are very much looking forward to when we will be able to gather as a group for regular meetings and socializing.

Until then we have be creative.

Upcoming Event

Monday, October 19, 2020

MICHAEL HEY

Concert Organist

ROSALES ORGAN BUILDERS
Opus 23 – 3m/45r

St. Cyril of Jerusalem Church
15520 Ventura Boulevard
Encino, California
Concert 8:00 p.m. pending local restrictions
Livestream will be available

Described as “scintillating” and “tremendously virtuosic” (The Straits Times, Singapore), concert organist Michael Hey has been increasingly visible on U.S. and international stages. He has performed organ concertos with the San Francisco Symphony, the Juilliard Orchestra, and New York City Ballet Orchestra. Michael has appeared at renowned venues such as Carnegie Hall and Madison Square Garden.



In September 2017, Michael received first prize in the First Shanghai Conservatory of Music First International Organ Competition. Released in October 2017, Michael’s premiere solo CD recording *Michael T. C. Hey plays the Great Organ of Saint Patrick’s Cathedral in New York* is available for purchase by the JAV recording label.

In 2015, Michael was appointed Associate Director of Music and Organist of Saint Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City, where one of his first major tasks was to perform for the first U.S. visit of Pope Francis. Michael plays at the Cathedral for services throughout the week which are broadcast on Sirius XM radio, television, and online.

Not exclusively a solo organist, Michael enjoys collaborating with other artists. He has performed with Renée Fleming, Matthew Polenzani, and Isabel Leonard. He performs duo recitals with violinist Christiana Liberis.

Michael is a graduate of The Juilliard School where he received his B.M. and M.M. degrees in organ performance under Paul Jacobs.

Michael Hey is represented
in North America exclusively by:





Southern California Organ Builders

Manuel J Rosales, Feature Editor

Featuring the work of all Southern California Organ Builders who construct, refurbish, tune and maintain our instruments.

Freddie Lu McGinnis and Richard Kirtland have each donated their residence pipe organs to universities. During August, 2020 the instruments were moved to their new locations.

McGinnis residence

In 1980 Redman Organ Builders, Fort Worth, TX was commissioned to construct a two-manual and pedal organ for Professor Lucille Webb of Superior, WI. Freddie Lu McGinnis studied organ with Professor Webb as part of her curriculum at Wisconsin State University. When Professor Webb retired in 2002 Freddie Lu purchased the instrument. It was transported and installed in her Northridge residence by its builder, Roy Redman. The convenience of having an organ at home cannot be overstated. As a church organist and frequent substitute the commute for practicing was just a few steps away.



Aaron Doyle, Tobias Washburn, Morgan Byrd, Kevin Cartwright, Freddie Lu McGinnis, Manuel Rosales

The entire instrument is self-contained in an oak case graced by the bass pipes of the Great 4' Principal and Pedal 16' Bourdon. With a total of 8 ranks the instrument is gently voiced and has an array of tonal colors. A feature of the key and stop actions, which are entirely mechanical, is its design with AGO console measurements. Its wind is supplied by a small built-in blower.

When the decision was made to find the instrument a new home, Manuel Rosales assisted Freddie Lu with the arrangements. With the acceptance of the gift by The Master's University, Santa Clarita, CA, where LA Chapter member Benjamin Mason is organ professor, the move was carried out during the third week of August by Kevin Cartwright and the crew of Rosales Organ Builders. A platform was constructed by Sean O'Neal that provides the organ with the mobility needed to serve various functions in the music building. This is the first pipe organ on the campus and will be in regular use by the students, just what Freddie Lu hoped for!



Redman Organ in its new home at "The Master's University", Organ Instructor, Benjamin Mason; Organist First Presbyterian Church, Granada Hills

**McGinnis Residence Organ
Roy Redman
Fort Worth, TX
Opus 22, 1980**

GREAT - 61 notes
8' Holz-Gedeckt
4' Principal
II Mixture

POSITIVE - 61 notes
8' Quintadena
4' Spielflöte
2' Gemshorn
Tremolo

PEDAL - 32 notes
16' Subbass
8' Subbass
4' Principal (Gr.)

Gr./Pd.
Pos./Pd.
Pos./Gr.

Equal Temperament

Kirtland residence



The organ is ready to be loaded onto the truck!

In 1996 Richard Kirtland visited the First Church of Christ, Scientist in La Mesa, CA for which organ builder Martin Pasi had recently installed a new two-manual organ. Richard's admiration for that instrument and its builder lead to commissioning a 10 rank instrument for his home that arrived December 1999. Since then there have been many visitors and he hosted an LA AGO program at which Frances Johnston performed (currently Dean of the Orange Country Chapter.)

In 2019 Richard made the decision to find a new home for the instrument but it was unclear where that might be. After several discussions Manuel Rosales suggested that he consider a donation to the University of Houston where Professor Daryl Robinson is developing the organ program. The University accepted the gift and when plans needed to be made for the instrument's relocation the pandemic threatened to thwart the move.



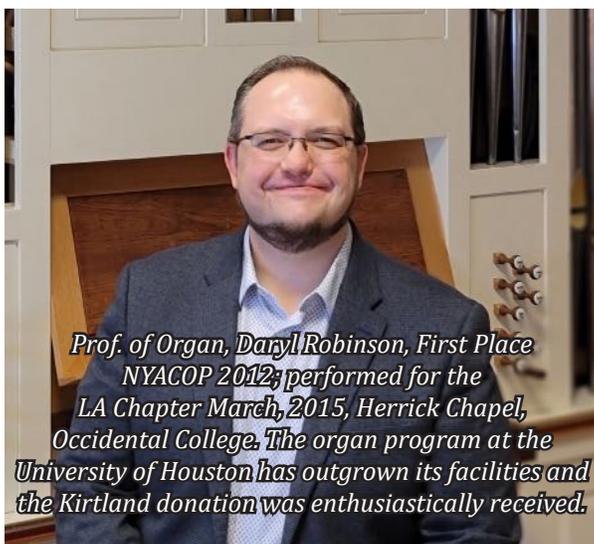
Manuel Rosales & Sean O'Neal who packed the pipework and stripped the organ of its fragile parts readying it for transport to Houston

It became clear that organ builder Martin Pasi was reluctant to travel to Pasadena fearing the perils of Covid-19. To make the move possible within schedule required, Manuel Rosales suggested that he could take on the removal and packing of the delicate pipework and the initial disassembly. Aply assisted by organ builder Sean O'Neal, in three days the organ was ready for the heavy components to be removed. For that work and transport to Houston two workers were sent by Pasi. In one day, the truck was rented, the organ case and action were dismantled and the organ loaded onto the truck.



University of Houston organ studio in the room prepared for the Pasi organ

After two long days of travel the organ arrived safely at the University. Three days later it was installed, playable and ready for its fine tuning and regulation. It now graces Prof. Daryl Robinson's studio and it invites students to explore its sonorities. Kudos to Richard Kirtland for making this possible!



Prof. of Organ, Daryl Robinson, First Place NYACOP 2012; performed for the LA Chapter March, 2015, Herrick Chapel, Occidental College. The organ program at the University of Houston has outgrown its facilities and the Kirtland donation was enthusiastically received.

Kirtland Residence Organ Martin Pasi, Opus 12, 1999

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| GREAT - 58 notes | POSITIV - 58 notes |
| 8' Principal (fr. FF#) | 8' Gedeckt |
| 8' Suavial (celeste) m.c | 4' Rohrflöte |
| 4' Octave | 2 2/3' Quint |
| 2' Gemshorn (alt.) | 2' Gemshorn (alt.) |
| 8' Dulzian | 1 3/5' Terz |
| | Tremolo |
| Pos./ Gr. | |
| Gr./ Pd. | PEDAL - 30 notes |
| Pos./ Pd. | 16' Subbass |
| | 8' Bourdon (ext.) |
| 1/5th comma Well-Temperament | |

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

Chapter Leadership News



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 DIRECTOR OF MEMBER ENGAGEMENT AND CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT
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 212-870-2311, ext. 4307



AGO OrganFest 2020

The AGO's first online organ festival drew thousands of viewers for each of five nightly broadcasts, July 20-24. More than \$6,500 was raised to support those unable to maintain their AGO membership due to financial difficulties brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. [To enjoy OrganFest again or watch it for the first time, click.](#)

2020-21 AGOYO Virtual Program Year

AGO Young Organists have a planned an exciting virtual program year with monthly events scheduled on Fridays at Noon Eastern. Whether you are under 30 or young at heart, there's something of interest for everyone. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Also you may see the flyer on the following page.

2021 AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions for Young Organists

The AGO/Quimby RCYO Committee has formulated an alternative online competition procedure that will allow chapters to host a 2021 chapter competition safely. All the 2021 chapter competitors will submit recordings of their performances to the chapter to be judged on the day of the competition. The revised 2021 RCYO rules are now posted online. For more information, contact AGO Headquarters.

New Music Grants for Student Composers and Organists

Each year, the AGO awards grants of \$1,000 to four collaborative composer-and-organist pairs for the composition and performance of four new works for the organ. The online application for projects in the 2020-21 academic year is now available online. ***The application deadline is September 30, 2020.***

Something for everyone!
AGOYO virtual program year 20-21

FRIDAYS AT NOON EST

videos will be premiered at:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/GuildofOrganists>

August 14- Organ crawl: West Point Chapel

September 11- Workshop:

Church musicians and technology

September 25- Panel: Organists of colors

October 9- Panel: The Global Organist

November 13- Organ crawl: Longwood Gardens

December 11- Organ factory tour: Austin Organ Co.

January 8- Webinar:

Young conductors/organists guide to church music

February 12- Organ crawl: Wanamaker

March 12- Panel:

Board positions in the guild/serving in leadership roles

April 9- Organ factory tour: Taylor & Boody

May 7, 14, 21, 28- Young organist recitals



Follow us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AGOYoungOrganists>

Follow us on Instagram at:

[ago_young_organists](https://www.instagram.com/ago_young_organists)

Email us at:

conveneragoyo@gmail.com

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

A New Episode of the
LA AGO Podcast
is now online!



In this episode, host Thompson Howell chats with Honorary Lifetime AGO Member and former LA Chapter Dean Dr. James Vail. A native of Glendale with a long and distinguished career as a teacher and church musician spanning many decades, Jim shares his memories of his first exposure to the organ as a boy at First Baptist Church in Los Angeles and how he'd "practice" in the family car. He'll also talk about his desire early on to be a minister, his time in Philadelphia attending the Curtis Institute of Music, his experience as a chaplain's assistant in the army and accompanying the Brahms's Requiem on a Hammond organ while stationed in Germany, his fondness for his tenure at St. John's Episcopal Church (now the Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles) and his connection to the McFerrin family, his years teaching at USC, his thoughts on what makes a good conductor, and memories of his 40 year tenure as Organist & Choirmaster at St. Alban's Episcopal Church. And more!

Listen Now

The Evolution of Organ Scholarships for Neophytes

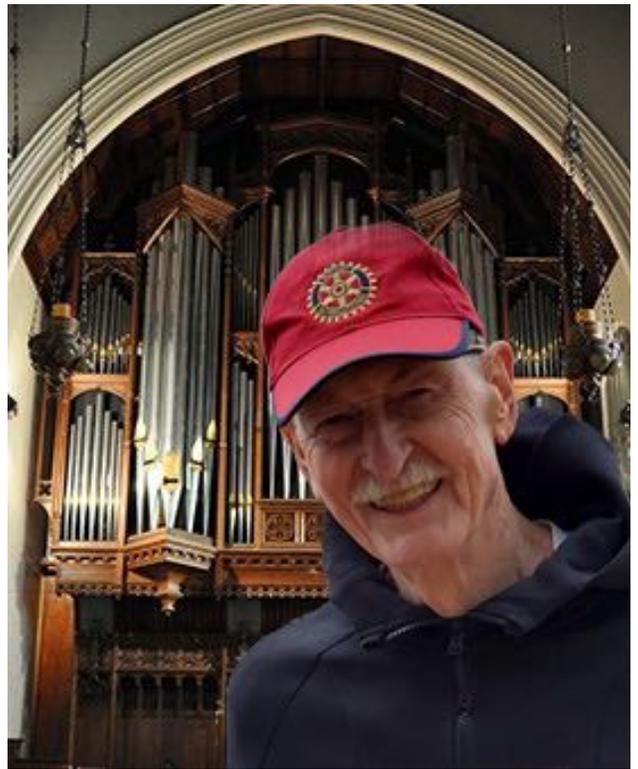
Roger A. House

One of the nice things amongst many of the Rotary Club of Claremont is their tendency to indulge the President during their presidential year. The process to get to that lofty position like many other organizations ensues many years an approximate 6 plus year commitment. During the initial time frame the president elect's major responsibility in addition to learning all of the technical issues of leadership is to head up the major fund raiser which ensures the continuation of former president's special programs, theirs and traditional community and international based activities including safe drinking water in indigenous communities throughout the world to providing bicycles for kids to get to school. Our major and only fund raiser is the Taste of Claremont a community wide event which invites food vendors and others to donate their wares and services. Tickets and advertising is sold for and to attend the event which then goes on to fund all of these diverse programs for the immediate and future years.

As a long term member of the LA Chapter of the AGO needless to say that interest was transcribed to the Claremont Rotary Club and during my "year" and initiated the Club to Pipe Organs (surprise) long a passion since college days. The initial thrust was a lecture and demonstration by Manuel Rosales at a local Church where many aspects of the instrument were explained and demonstrated and then followed up with a private tour for the Rotary Club and Community members of the magnificent Disney Hall Instrument including a private concert by LA Chapter member Dr. Tom Mueller again with a private tour by Manuel Rosales. Thus was born the joint Rotary Club of Claremont and the LA Chapter of the AGO pipe organ scholarship program for talented keyboardists to interest them to expand their performance horizons to include the Pipe Organ Instrument. To date over 16 scholarships have been awarded in excess of \$25,000. All of the awardees studied with a L.A. Chapter member teacher. Some of these talented recipients have gone on to become Church Organists.

Each year we hold auditions which have been at Pasadena Presbyterian Church on the piano. The judges are a combination of LA Chapter members and Rotary Club members. Chapter members that have participated are Frankie Nobert, Tom Mueller, Tim Howard, Weicheng Zhao and Phil Smith with Claremont Club members Jim Elsasser, Robert Hyde and the undersigned. Afterwards an evaluation is made and awards are then provided a month or so later to the qualified recipients. Funds are never provided directly to the recipients but only to their AGO Chapter teachers after lessons have been provided.

The AGO has several programs in place for existing organ students but with the apparent decline in interest to play the instrument it was felt a more ground level effort needed to be made to encourage a talented keyboardist to expand their horizons to include the "King of Instruments". Thus the Joint Chapter/Rotary Club program was initiated to fill in that gap and to encourage more to study the instrument. It is hoped other Chapters would initiate their own cooperative version and work with other organization to expand their horizons to ensure an increased number of talented students include the performance of a pipe organ as one of their musical goals.





2020 CENSUS OFFICE

Job Opportunities

\$22.50 - \$27.50 per hour

Apply online
www.2020census.gov/jobs

The following opportunity has come to our attention for those who may need temporary work because of reductions in your regular job due to COVID19.

The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting for full- and part-time temporary positions to assist with completing the 2020 national census.

Census Field Supervisors ♦Supervises a Team of Enumerators.	\$27.50 per hour
Enumerators (Census Takers) ♦Visit households to validate address and follow-up on Census questionnaire.	\$25.00 per hour
Recruiting Assistants ♦Promote Census Jobs. Local grassroots recruiting.	\$27.50 per hour
Office Operations Supervisors ♦Supervises office clerks.	\$26.50 per hour
Clerks ♦Performs clerical office duties as assigned.	\$22.50 per hour

One application is all it takes to be considered for all positions!

Basic Qualifications

- ✓ Must have valid email address
- ✓ U.S. Citizenship required*
- ✓ Must be 18 years of age or older.

- The pay rates range for \$22.50 to \$27.50 per hour in LA County
- The work is based in and around the city where you live. We are offering jobs in every city in the United States.
- The jobs can be full-time (max. 40 hours per week) or part-time (min. 20 hours per week.) with flexible hours. Evening and weekend hours are available. The flexible hours allow you to either complement your current job by working in your off hours, or to work at the census full time.
- No previous experience or education is required. You just need to be 18 years or older, have a valid drivers license and a valid email. Non-citizens with permission to work in the U.S are eligible.
- The jobs are temporary 8 week contracts with the federal government. If there is more work at the end of the first contract it can be extended for 8 weeks.

CONTACT:

DR. HAROLD DAUGHERTY

drhad@aol.com



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Call for Organ Teachers

The Chapter receives periodic requests for referrals of private organ teachers. To enable an effective response to these requests, we are creating an organ teacher list that will function similar to the substitute organist list. David Reeder will maintain both lists and they will be 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)

We'll have the list up and running on the Chapter website as soon as possible. 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

With a Special Thanks to the Newsletter Team

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**There is no calendar section this month due to
the numerous cancellations of events.**