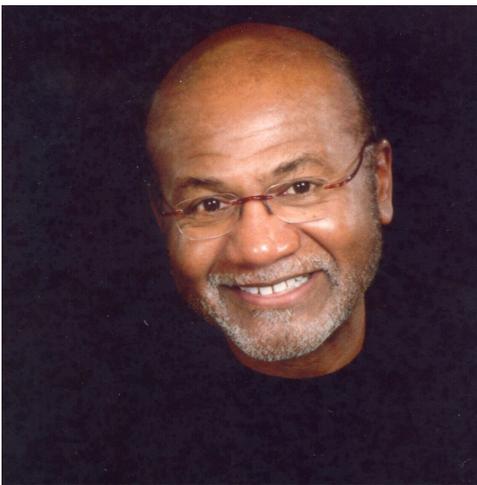


LA PIPELINE

The Newsletter of Los Angeles Chapter, American Guild of Organists

Our Newly Elected 2020 - 2023 Members-at-Large



Dr. James Hurd



Dr. Haesung Park



John West



Atlanta Convention Alert

The AGO National Council, the Committee for Conventions, and the Convention Steering Committee for the Atlanta Chapter of the American Guild of Organists regret to announce the cancellation of the AGO 2020 National Convention scheduled for July 6-10 this summer. The uncertainties surrounding the spread of the coronavirus require us to take this action. We felt that we could not adequately guarantee the health and well-being of our convention attendees, performers, presenters, exhibitors, worship leaders, and all others who would have been involved in the convention. We are deeply saddened at having to make this very difficult decision, but we feel it is in the best interest of all AGO members, their families, friends, and colleagues.

If you have previously registered or paid fees as a convention participant or exhibitor, you should have received an e-mail from the convention with details on how to obtain a refund or make a donation.

Advertisers will also be entitled to obtain a refund or make a donation and will receive a separate email communication with associated details. If you have questions, please call 404-981-7210.

The Hyatt Regency Atlanta advises us that in light of our decision to cancel the convention, they are automatically canceling the reservations and refunding the deposits of all convention attendees who made hotel reservations within the convention's room block. You do not have to contact the hotel or Hyatt reservations to cancel. Please be advised that because of the high volume of hotel cancellations taking place all across the country, the refund process may take up to 10 days. If the person who made the reservation provided an e-mail address at the time of the booking, the hotel will send a notice to that e-mail address with the confirmation of the cancellation. Those who still wish to stay at the Hyatt over the dates they previously booked (or over adjusted dates) are welcome to re-book directly with the Hyatt.

Stay safe.

With all best wishes,

James E. Thomashower, Executive Director
 Michael Bedford, President
 Michael Velting, Councillor for Conventions
 Nicole Marane, National Convention Coordinator



Dean's Message - Nelson Dodge



We've come to the end of 2019-20 season, and I feel like it's ending with a whimper. The March program was really the end, but with things evolving quickly, at the time I think many of us didn't realize that would be the last time we would get together. Now, it seems longer ago than it actually was.

Although not being able to install our officers and Executive Committee as we usually do in May is a real downer, we are forging ahead with much to look forward to in the new season.

First I want to announce the results of the election. With voting conducted online and several reminders, 159 members voted in this election. That may be a recent record for participation.

We welcome three new Members-at-Large that constitute the Class of 2023: Dr. James Hurd, Dr. Haesung Park, and John West. The four incumbent officers are re-elected for another term.

The complete Executive Committee for 2020-21 is:

Nelson Dodge, Dean
 Karla Devine, Secretary
 James Casey
 Adan Alejandro Fernandez
 Dr. James Hurd
 Dr. Haesung Park
 Dr. Weicheng Zhao

Kevin Cartwright, Sub-Dean
 Doug Herbst, Treasurer
 Dr. Cesar Favila
 Thompson Howell
 Zach Neufeld (*completing the term held by Dr. Namhee Han*)
 John West

Thank you to the three Members-at-Large completing their term in 2020: Josh Gusman, Sean O'Neal and Dr. Jeffrey Parola. And a very special thank you to the late Dr. Namhee Han, who chaired the Nominating Committee this year, and Mark Husey and Manuel Rosales who served on the Committee.

Summer Event

Because the AGO National Convention in Atlanta this summer was canceled, plans are quickly being made that will enable all members, and anyone else for that matter, to enjoy some of the music that was planned for the convention. That's all I'll say for now, but anticipate a formal announcement coming soon!

Next Season

Although many uncertainties remain as to when and how we can actually meet for in-person AGO programs again, plans are proceeding for a full season. We are also looking at ways to continue sharing our programs virtually/online to accommodate members who wish to avoid large gatherings, as well as many who are unable to attend on a regular basis.

Have a good (and safe) summer....and watch for more announcements. Good things are coming!

Sub-Dean's Message

To state the obvious, this year is a year of change and uncertainty. Likewise for Los Angeles Chapter officers and committee members, the term “uncertainty” has been a key word during conversations and meetings. Many of us are coping with changes, some of which are temporary and some we fear may be permanent. Fortunately history shows the changes we are experiencing are only temporary, albeit the timeline for returning to a degree of normalcy might progress more slowly than we wish.



While I am excited to report our opening event for the 2020-2021 Program Season is scheduled to be Ken Cowan at St. James in the City, we are still uncertain as to whether we can host an in-person meeting by the beginning of our season. If we are able to meet at our opening venue, we are uncertain whether we will have capacity restrictions, and we are uncertain about our ability to have a Guild dinner as part of our opening event. Other highlights of the coming season include a masterclass with Christopher Houlihan, an exciting Presidents' Day Organ Festival, a full-length recital by Los Angeles and Orange County Chapter member David Ball, and the season will close with a beautiful Guild service at St. Thomas the Apostle in Hollywood.

Beyond our opening event we are finding it difficult to procure venue and artist commitments, but these are only temporary obstacles for us. While we continue to work out the details of how to safely resume our programming season, the Los Angeles Chapter will continue to provide the best possible experience for our members given the changing conditions. We are planning high-quality live streams and recorded Chapter events for those members who are not able to attend, and at the appropriate time we will investigate dinner concepts which fit within the restrictions presented by the current pandemic.

The Los Angeles Chapter is also developing additional resources for our members which might be available before the 2020-2021 Program Season begins. Check our future newsletters and follow the Los Angeles Chapter Facebook page for more updates as they are released.

Note from Dean Nelson Dodge:

Earlier this season I had asked our Chaplain, Fr. John Crean, to present a brief talk during the dinner at the March meeting. Due to the last-minute cancelation of the March dinner, we are sharing Fr. Crean's remarks now in the newsletter.

“On and Off the Organ Bench: A Priest tells All!”

*Originally drafted for our LAAGO Meeting
on March 16th 2020*

Good evening! I'm your chaplain, John Crean, an Episcopal priest and also someone who has worked both “on and off the organ bench.” That's part of the title of tonight's talk. The other part is: “a priest tells all!”

First, I want to share my experiences as a lay person when I served as a church organist/choir director/music director in various venues. Then, I want to tell you about what it's like as a pastor having to interact with church musicians. So, my thoughts will be those of both a pastoral musician and a musical pastor. And here goes!

I studied piano from age 7—17. I never studied organ. I discovered the organ when I was about 10. And from that point on I was way less interested in piano. I kept lobbying my parents and finally they gave in and bought me a Hammond Church Model (C-2) with an HR-40 tone cabinet when I was 13. I was ecstatic! I remember the delivery day like it was yesterday! I think they finally did so because their kid had been caught breaking and entering various choir lofts and playing the church organ uninvitedly—generally to the chagrin, but occasionally to the amusement of the priest.

I quickly got the hang of how to play the pedals and how to create all kinds of sounds using the harmonic drawbars. Also being an avid radio fan, I listened intently to radio organists like Lew White (his wife actually allowed me to play his B-3 in their home), Ivan Ditmars (whom I met at a church concert in Armonk NY) and Jesse Crawford (who demonstrated the Hammond for us at Steinway Hall in NYC.) I imitated by ear how these radio organists interpreted music and registered the Hammond.

About lots of things I'm what they call an autodidact—and definitely so about the organ. My piano teacher, a loving yet much too easy-going nun, never disciplined me sufficiently so that I could read music properly. I can read just enough to add in the rest by ear.

Sister Mary Magdalene di Pazzi, RDC knew how much I loved the organ and encouraged me to go ahead and offer my services at my local parish. I did. And there began my church music career—initially all pro bono, until graduate school, where I went “semi-professional.” My music making was not restricted to church music alone. While playing the organ at two churches on Sundays, you could find me on Saturday nights as a supply pianist or organist in bars, nightclubs and even a theater in New Haven.

After getting my Ph.D. at Yale, we moved to Madison, WI where I taught at the UW. The Roman Catholic bishop caught wind that I was around in his diocese and that I had an interest in liturgical music. Well, he recommended me for two posts: (1) membership on the RC Diocesan Liturgical Commission; and (2) music director for the Catholic Cathedral. All this went on, of course, in addition to my FT university teaching post!



(The Very Rev. Canon) John E. Crean, Jr., Obl.S.B., Ph.D.
Assistant to the Rector, St Thomas the Apostle, Hollywood
Chaplain, Los Angeles Chapter, American Guild of Organists
Dean Emeritus, Diocese of Western Michigan

The rector of the cathedral at that time happened to be the auxiliary bishop. He and I were definitely on the same page regarding church music. We both detested dumbed-down missalette drivel that most RC churches started using right after the Second Vatican Council (62-65). We were both, so to speak, high churchmen! Bp Jerry Hastrich appreciated good music and high liturgy. I systematically taught his cathedral congregation how to sing all the great traditional hymns using the Benziger Hymnal, the best ever produced in the RC Church. Crafted in the Archdiocese of NY, lamentably it soon went out of print. It was just too good for the average taste in Catholic congregations. Occasionally, one would hear “it was too Protestant!” Ughhh.

But Jerry eventually got his own diocese, the poorest one in the country, the Diocese of Gallup, New Mexico. When he left Madison, the diocesan bishop appointed a perfectly tone-deaf and dismissive Monsignor to replace him. Talk about going from “the sublime to the ridiculous!” This fellow claimed that all he wanted to hear was “just a little noise up in the balcony.” I could tell: trouble lay ahead.

I arrived for choir practice one Thursday evening to discover that all thousand copies of our hardcover hymnals had suddenly gone missing! Was there a hymnal thief in town? No, this new guy had had every copy removed from the pews and packed away in boxes without so much as even giving me notice. I resigned forthwith.

After moving to my next university post in Honolulu, the Episcopal bishop there decided to put me forward for ordination to the priesthood. I was ordained in 1974 and from that moment on then found myself—as it were—on the other side of the organ bench, namely in the chancel listening to other organists. The tables had now been turned. What was that gonna be like?

Over the years I have encountered all kinds of organists. As you can imagine, whenever hiring, I was pretty picky and opinionated. I learned over the years that only some organists observe the canon law that the minister is in charge of music, including hymn choice. In most cases, thank God, I did not have to quote canon law.

Two parishes I inherited already organists in place. My predecessors were what I would call “tin ear” priests, similar to Monsignor X in Madison. They were more than happy to delegate anything about music choice—something about which they had neither interest or aptitude.

I found that organists seem to fall into one of two categories: (1) those who favor the choir over the congregation; and (2) those who see the participation of congregation as primary, with the choir supporting and enhancing congregational participation.

Both as a lay person as well as later as priest, I have always been a type 2 person: I see congregational singing as primary and choral work as ancillary to liturgical worship.

One type 1 organist I once had to endure always insisted on choosing the most obscure and difficult hymns for the service. Sure, the choir could sing them beautifully, but for the average pew-person, such hymns were what one colleague called “head shakers.” This organist was clearly choir-oriented. The congregation was an audience for him to show off his choir. This fellow had built a great choir, but unfortunately, he did so at the expense of involving the congregation in worship. This was no pastoral musician. Now, having semi-retired from the active ministry, I am happily at a parish, St Thomas, Hollywood, where we have a true pastoral musician. He has built an outstanding choir which supports a singing congregation. If I request a certain hymn when preaching, he graciously grants my request.

So now, I guess that technically since I’m neither on nor off the bench, I have the best of all worlds, and at St Thomas, the very liturgy I could ever dream of!

**God bless you all! And thank you, God, for the gift of all music, especially that emanating from the organ. My theology holds firmly to the belief that organ music is truly the music of angels!
Amen. Alleluia!**

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.



A VIRTUAL HYMN PROJECT

**For the newsletter....
contributed by Karla Devine**

Under the direction of nationally known conductor, composer and organist Dr. David Cherwien, the 60-member National Lutheran Choir's artistry is rooted in its mission to strengthen, renew and preserve the heritage of sacred choral music. And it does so through the highest standards of performance and literature. As a resource for online sacred music, Artistic Director David Cherwien explores

timely and vital hymns and choral literature. Each video finishes with a recording of the work sung by the National Lutheran Choir, complete with poignant photos. These are made available for us to share with our congregations. This is an opportunity for us to teach our singers in the pews a bit about the history of our hymns. These are wonderful to share in newsletters and announcements that go out to your congregation. So far there are seven episodes, with new ones every week or so. A Lutheran virtual hymn project for "O Day Full of Grace" will be distributed on May 27th. Here is the link: National Lutheran Choir.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoo7rfzyaHat4ST000LU86g>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldITpkTYM0U&feature=youtu.be>

We are now beginning preparation of the 2020- 2021 American Guild of Organists Southern California Directory.

Be sure to keep your oncard information
up to date.

Send us a picture to include in your membership listing.
The picture will be included absolutely FREE!

Send a picture (as high quality as possible) to
mistmedia@sbcglobal.net

Below are some samples of the membership listings.



DODGE, Nelson H., MBA
13222 Albers Pl.
Sherman Oaks, CA 91401-6001
909-599-7899-Bus.818-468-9870-Cell.
nelson@churchkeyboard.com
Member of[LOSA][ccst][kern][lbch]

[orng][sbar][vent]

*President, Church Keyboard Center; Rodgers Organs Representative;
Dean, Los Angeles Chapter.*



CARTWRIGHT, Kevin
3833 Legion Ln.
Los Angeles, CA 90039
323-333-8922 -Cell
kevin.r.cartwright@gmail.com
Member of[LOSA]

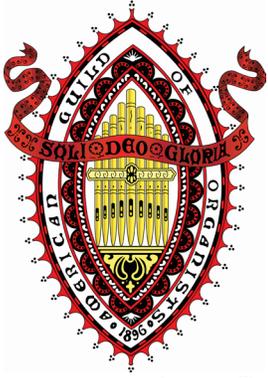
*Cartwright Pipe Organ Contractor;
Sub-Dean, Los Angeles Chapter.*

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

Is your church reopening for in-person services/masses in the next few weeks?

We'd like to hear how it's going. Please send a brief write up to the Dean at dean@laago.org for inclusion in the next newsletter. How is attendance? How are you handling music? How is your function as organist, choir or music director changed? Other thoughts?



AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

Chapter Leadership News

Excerpts from Elizabeth George's May Newsletter

Using ONCARD for Renewals and Impexium Software Update

By the order of our governor, the AGO office in Manhattan has been closed since mid-March. AGO staff are now working from home and as I write this newsletter, we are uncertain when we will be able to return to our office. Mail is being held, therefore, if a check for membership renewal is sent to our office, we will not be able to process it in a timely manner. We have extended a member's expiration date with a three month grace period, however, when a membership becomes inactive, it will result in suspended delivery of TAO. During this time, we urge you to encourage your members to renew their membership by credit card, utilizing 5 ONCARD. A video with instructions on how to renew through ONCARD can be found here.

<https://www.screencast.com/users/AGO-Videos/folders/ONCARD/media/e6a240f5-9af2-4f3a-9325-67c6e5df76e9>

Please let everyone know that if they are not comfortable using ONCARD through our website, our member services team is here to help! Please call 212-870-2311 and follow the voicemail prompts. We are most happy to help in processing anyone's membership renewal by credit card!

I also want to update everyone that the AGO has decided not to move forward in migrating our database to Impexium software. We do not feel that Impexium will adequately serve our large chapter structure, and most importantly, serve your chapter's needs. I look forward to keeping you updated, as we continue to research other membership software that will provide the capabilities needed to service 287 chapters and their members and leaders.



Elizabeth George, CMM
DIRECTOR OF MEMBER ENGAGEMENT AND CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT
Elizabeth.George@agohq.org
212-870-2311, ext. 4307

EXCITING NEWS!

Your LAAGO Board of Directors has approved plans to move forward with the production of our very own Chapter podcast. Podcasting is a way to tell real and fictional stories in an entertaining way and has become very popular. Companies, organizations, and other content creators are producing podcasts to provide audio content their customers, members, and listeners want to hear. We're pretty sure we'll be the very first AGO Chapter to engage with our members in this way. The LAAGO podcast will provide value to our members in an innovative way and allow us to get know our fellow members better by sharing our stories about the organ and its place in our lives.

Watch for more information in the near future.



2019-2020 Events



Monday, March 16, 2020 - 8:00 pm

Aaron David Miller, Organist

First Church of Christ, Scientist

Aeolian-Skinner II/28 Opus 1424 - 1964
1070 Huntington Dr., San Marino

Because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, this concert was live-streamed thanks to Manuel Rosales' new cell phone.

The link to the recorded version is below:

<https://www.facebook.com/262400873791162/videos/502189950687921/>

Monday, February 17, 2020

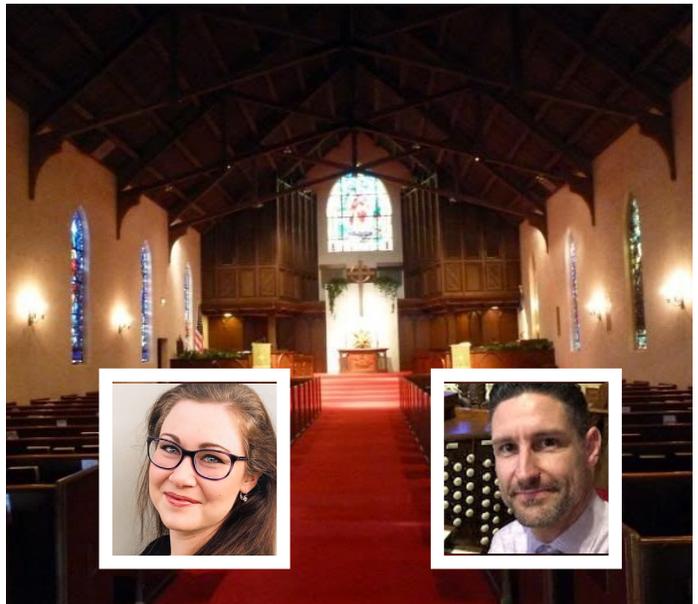
Presidents' Day **Organ Festival**

in La Crescenta and La Cañada/Flintridge



Mt. Olive Lutheran Church

Lecture by organ builder Manuel Rosales and performance by Zeljko Marasovich



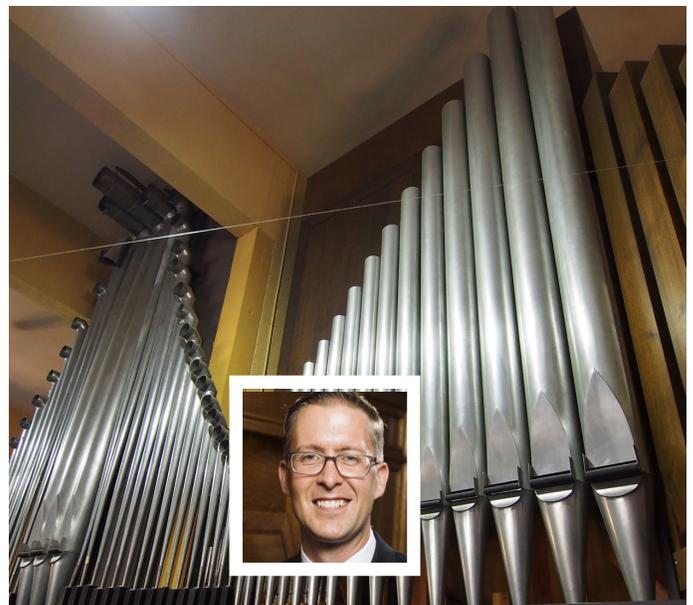
La Canada Congregational Church

Performances by Aletheia Teague and Sean O'Neal



La Canada Presbyterian Church

Lecture by organ builder Manuel Rosales and performances by Dr. Emma Whitten and Lynnette McGee



St. Bede Catholic Church

Lecture by organ builder Manuel Rosales and performance by Joseph Ripka



Photo by Wendell Benedetti

Pictured above left to right:
Dr. Craig Phillips, Eric Plutz, Nelson Dodge, Jason Klein-Mendoza

Eric Plutz, Organist

The Vierne Project - the Six Symphonies

All Saints' Church, Beverly Hills
504 N Camden Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Vierne Organ Symphonies, Part 1
Sunday, January 12, 2020 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Vierne Organ Symphonies, Part 2
Monday, January 13, 2020 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Co-sponsored with All Saints' Music Guild, Beverly Hills



Pictured above left to right:
Nelson Dodge, Rob Richards, Alex Zsolts, and Charlton Quinn

Monday, December 9

Los Angeles AGO and Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society



Christmas Dinner and Concert



Rob Richards and Alex Zsolt at the Mighty Wurlitzer

Founder's Church of Los Angeles
3281 W. 6th St, Los Angeles, CA 90020

Co-Sponsored with Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society



Photo by Wendell Benedetti

Pictured above left to right:
Manuel Rosales, David Ball, Robert Scholz, Rev. Susan Scranton, and Rick England

Members' Recital

November 4, 2019



Photo by Wendell Benedetti

**Grace
Episcopal
Church**

**555 East Mountain
View Ave.
Glendora**

American Guild of Organists Los Angeles Chapter

Monday, October 7

**Jacob Benda, Organist and Lecturer
“The Music and Influence of Clarence Mader”**

**First United Methodist Church of Glendale
134 N Kenwood St,
Glendale**

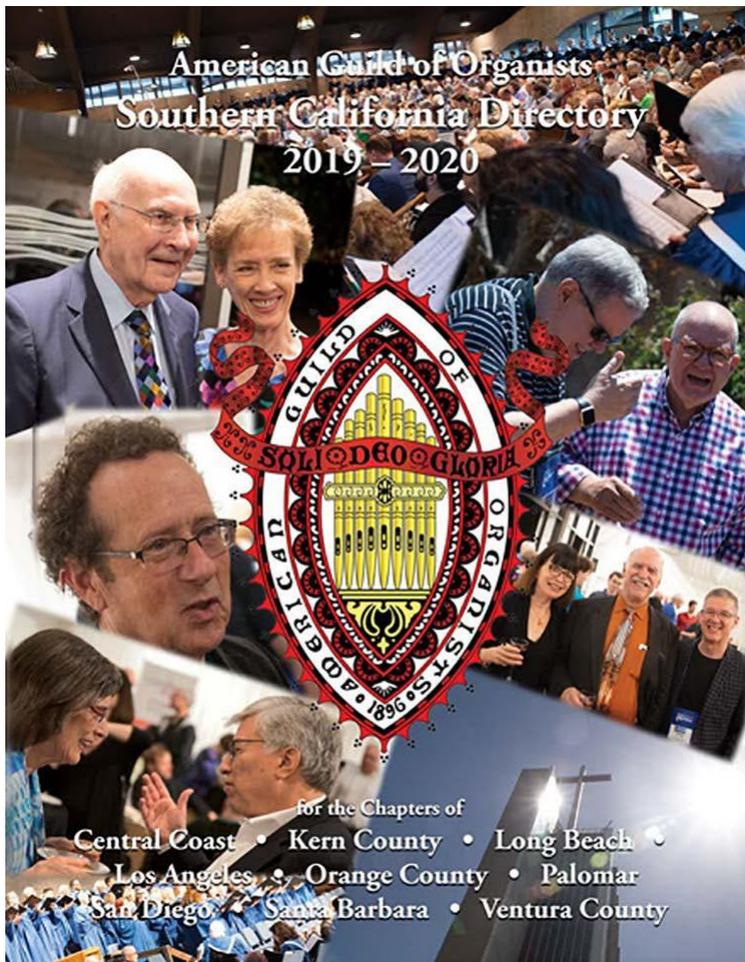
Ruth and Clarence Mader Scholarship Fund Board Members



Photo by Wendell Benedetti

Pictured above left to right:

Manuel Rosales, William Henderson, Edward Murray, Phil Smith, Craig Phillips,
Debora Huffman, Frances Nobert, Ladd Thomas, Cherry Rhodes, James Walker,
Patricia Lamb, Jacob Benda, Kirk Mader, Loren Mader, Timothy Howard, Erin Mader



The 2019-2020 Southern California Directories Are Here

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)

We are now preparing the 2020- 2021 Directory.

Be sure to keep your oncard information up to date.

Send us a picture to include in your membership listing.

With a Special Thanks to the Newsletter Team

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Mary Lee Mistretta,

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Registrar: Dr. Timothy Howard



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