

LA PIPELINE

The Newsletter of Los Angeles Chapter, American Guild of Organists



agoorganfest2020.org 

The American Guild of Organists is thrilled to announce the first online [OrganFest](#), which will take place July 20-24. Each evening's broadcast will premiere a new work which had been commissioned for the 2020 National Convention in Atlanta, accompanied by interviews with the composers.

Featured performers will be Jens Korndörfer, Amanda Mole, Alan Morrison, Thomas Ospital, and Catherine Rodland. Additional recorded performances by recent international organ competition winners will be presented, and short presentations will share exciting news and updates from the AGO.

The daily YouTube premiere (8pm Eastern) and accompanying [Festival website](#) will be available at no charge.

OrganFest 2020 promises to be an exciting way to showcase our beloved instrument and the great work of the AGO. Please share this information widely with your music-loving friends.

While we are saddened by the cancellation of many musical events this spring and summer, including our National Convention in Atlanta, we look forward to celebrating the future of organ music together online next month.



James E. Thomashower
Executive Director



Michael Velting
OrganFest 2020 Coordinator
Councillor for Conventions



Dean's Message Nelson Dodge

With the national AGO convention in Atlanta canceled, the national office is organizing a week-long OrganFest that will take place online and enable members worldwide to enjoy some of the performances that were planned for Atlanta. OrganFest 2020 consists of five evenings of streamed performances and presentations (in lieu of the annual meeting that usually takes place at the convention) July 20-24 at 5pm Pacific.

More information is available in this newsletter and the OrganFest web site, which will have all the details soon. These streamed programs are open to all, not just members. Please feel free to repost the

announcement found on the LA AGO web site to your own social media. As we've already experienced in our one-and-only streamed program (so far), this can be a rather effective way to reach and engage people beyond our AGO membership.

There will be additional member-only opportunities to interact with as part of the OrganFest 2020 event—watch your e-mail and the web site for more information.

As we look ahead to our 2020-21 season there remains uncertainty about various logistical details, in particular the dinner plans. Planning is proceeding on the assumption that we will be able to work out arrangements that will be in compliance with County and State rules for social gatherings and still provide an enjoyable experience. Work continues through the summer to determine these plans. Sub-Dean Kevin Cartwright is doing a great job of leading this planning effort.

Although membership renewal is now on a “rolling year,” meaning that your renewal date is the date that you joined the AGO, roughly two-thirds of LA members are still on a July 1 renewal. So this is the month when most of you need to renew your membership. You received an e-mail from national with instructions. Renewal is accomplished on the national web site agohq.org. You must login and use the OnCard system to complete your renewal. Please do not neglect this! BTW—national staff members are available to assist you with the process. Call (212) 870-2310.

You'll see another Call for Organ Teachers in this newsletter. I would like to have a list, that is as complete as possible, of members who offer private organ lessons....we're not there yet. Please respond to David Reeder. drmusic@sbcglobal.net

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

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. (Dinner details to be announced)

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:





Bruce Orville Allen

August 1, 1944 – June 8, 2020

Longtime member Bruce Allen passed away on June 8, 2020. He was born on August 1, 1944 and grew up in Pasadena, CA. His mother experienced a difficult birth and doctors were concerned that he would not survive, however, his mother did not give up. Bruce grew up to become the first special needs student in the Pasadena Public Schools. He graduated in 1962 from John Muir HS. Despite his learning difficulties, he had an astonishing memory for details on any subject in which he was interested. He worked as a tuning assistant for the late Virgil Martin who at one time took care of many Los Angeles area pipe organs.

He was a longtime member of Lake Avenue Congregational Church, Pasadena, where he developed a fondness for the organ and its music. Elvin Rodriguez, former organist, recalls that "Bruce was a gentle, deeply spiritual person

who truly loved music, but also absolutely loved people. Bruce was a true organ aficionado! His fondness for the instrument, its literature, and for the organists he would hear was amazing. He was a walking encyclopedia for anything organ-related! He would remember the most incredible details about a performer, a performance, a particular composition and the organ on which it was performed. Rarely could I stump him with a piece or composer whose music he already knew. On Sunday mornings he would bring me the program of a recital he had heard or materials from the many AGO conventions he attended. Sometimes he would bring scores that he had in his library or had purchased specifically with me in mind. Above all, he was just 'over-the-top' supportive of my music ministry. I will certainly miss seeing this gentle saint at Lake Avenue Church. The organ world has lost a huge hero, defender, and promoter of the instrument!" Philip Smith also recalls that Bruce supported his music ministry at The Church of Our Saviour, in San Gabriel for many years, attending on a regular basis.

Bruce dealt with health issues and challenges all his life. In 2000 he lost vision due to a failed surgery. Through it all, he remained positive, always encouraging anyone he met. He was an intrepid traveler, regularly attending AGO conventions and visiting organists and organs around the world. Since 1964, Bruce lived under the watchful oversight of his older brother, Blaine Allen, a Pasadena police officer. Bruce frequented restaurants and stores in Pasadena and as Blaine noted "everyone there knew Bruce."

Bruce is survived by brothers Daniel, Blaine and Errol, nephew John, niece Julie, many cousins and his lifelong soulmate Beth Wilson, who accompanied him on many of his world travels and to the Los Angeles and Pasadena AGO Chapters' events.

A memorial service is planned for July 11, 2020 at 11:30 AM at Lake Avenue Congregational Church with Grace Chung as organist.

Jane Parker-Smith

May 20, 1950 – June 26, 2020

We are saddened by the sudden death of concert organist Jane Parker-Smith, a formidable British performer once referred to as 'the Martha Argerich of the organ'.

Jane Parker-Smith was internationally recognized by the critics and public alike for her musicianship, virtuosity, entertaining programs and electrifying performances. An innate interpretative ability, prodigious technique and flair for tonal color are the hallmarks that made Jane Parker-Smith one of the most sought after organists in the world.

Her studies at the Royal College of Music in London were crowned with a number of prizes and scholarships, including the Walford Davies Prize for organ performance. After a further period of work with the eminent concert organist Nicolas Kynaston, a French government scholarship enabled her to complete her studies in Paris with the legendary blind organist Jean Langlais.

She made her London debut at Westminster Cathedral at the age of twenty, and two years later made her first solo appearance at the BBC Promenade Concerts in the Royal Albert Hall. She has since performed in concert halls, cathedrals and churches throughout the world. She performed in 2009 and 2019 on the Walt Disney Concert Hall organ.

She has recorded a wide range of solo repertoire for RCA, Classics for Pleasure, L'Oiseau Lyre, EMI, ASV, Collins Classics, Motette and AVIE. In addition, she has collaborated with the renowned Maurice André in a duo recording of music for trumpet and organ. She has performed numerous times on radio and television with special feature programs on the BBC, German and Swiss television.

Highlights in her concert career have been performances in major venues and international festivals such as Westminster Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, St Paul's Cathedral, Royal Festival Hall; Royal Albert Hall, London, Davies Symphony Hall, San Francisco and Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles, among many others.

In 1996 she gave four solo concerts at the American Guild of Organists National Centennial Convention in New York City. She was also a featured artist for the AGO National Convention in Philadelphia in 2002, for the AGO Region II Convention in New York City and the AGO Region V Convention in Columbus, Ohio in 2007, for the AGO National Convention in Nashville in 2012 and most recently for the AGO Regional Convention in Fort Worth, Texas in 2015.

Miss Parker-Smith is an Honorary Fellow of the Guild of Musicians and Singers and a member of the Incorporated Society of Musicians. She is listed in the World Who's Who and the International Who's Who in Music and in 2014 was chosen as one of 'The 1000 Most Influential Londoners' by the London Evening Standard newspaper.



Photo of Jane Parker-Smith at Walt Disney Concert Hall, November 3, 2019, with Josh Gusman assisting.



AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

Chapter Leadership News

Excerpts from Elizabeth George

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.

Link and Handouts to the Friday, June 19 Webinar on

Choral Recording and Collaboration

This link will take you to the recording that is now on our YouTube page

<https://www.agohq.org/chapter-leadership-toolkits/>.



Elizabeth George, CMM

DIRECTOR OF MEMBER ENGAGEMENT AND CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT

Elizabeth.George@agohq.org

212-870-2311, ext. 4307

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.

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?

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.**