

LA PIPELINE

The Newsletter of Los Angeles Chapter, American Guild of Organists

May 16, 2022 - 8:00 p.m.

**GUILD SERVICE AND CONCERT
LINDA BROWN, CONDUCTOR**

Psalms for the Soul

**CHORALE BEL CANTO,
AND FRIENDS**

San Marino Community Presbyterian Church

1750 Virginia Rd., San Marino

Social Hour - 6:15 p.m. Dinner 6:45 p.m.

**Please send dinner reservations to
Russell Schertle By May 13**

rgschertle@gmail.com



Psalms for the Soul

Presented by

Chorale Bel Canto and Friends Linda West Brown, Conductor

How did an American born composer/conductor/pianist/educator, most famous for his Broadway hit shows, come to write a Hebrew choral piece based on six Psalms for an English cathedral's arts festival?

The Chichester Psalms, by Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990) was commissioned by the Dean of the Chichester Cathedral, Walter Hussey, for the 1965 collaboration of three cathedral choirs, Chichester, Salisbury, and Winchester. These choirs gathered each summer for these festivals. The 1965 Festival would be held in Chichester. Dean Walter Hussey, wrote to Bernstein in December of 1963 to ask if he would be willing to write a piece.

Dean Walter Hussey suggested that a setting of Psalm 2 would be interesting, but left the design of the composition completely up to Bernstein. However, in a subsequent letter, Dean Hussey suggested that: "...many of us would be delighted if there was a hint of West Side Story about the music."

Bernstein, accepted the commission, but struggled with getting just the right inspiration. In fact, he was on the verge of writing Hussey in February of 1965 with sad news that he could not write the piece, when: "suddenly a conception occurred to me that I find exciting. It would be a suite of Psalms, or selected verses from Psalms, that would have a general title like Psalms of Youth. The music is very forthright, songful, rhythmic, youthful. The only hitch is this: I can think of these Psalms only in the original Hebrew."

So with Dean Hussey's blessing, and the stipulation that the singer's copies have Hebrew phonetic notation, the Chichester Psalms was composed, copied, rehearsed and performed at the Chichester Cathedral in August, 1965.

Hussey's wish for music reminiscent of West Side Story was granted. Indeed, there is more than a hint. The Psalm 2 section in Movement II is an adaptation of music cut from the musical. Additionally, Bernstein brilliantly adapted music he had written for other projects for the Chichester. More amazing still is that the original music was set in English with secular words, and yet it works perfectly with these sacred texts in Hebrew.

The other pieces in this concert are based on Psalms or inspired by Psalms that we hope you will enjoy. For example, our friends from the Whittier College Choirs under the direction of Dr. Alexandra Grabuchuk will share a new work, (2022) **"A Song and A Prayer,"** and all singers will join together in a rendition of **"Prayer for Ukraine,"** so appropriate for this season of distress in our world.

Quotations taken from correspondence between Leonard Bernstein and Walter Hussey found in: Simeone, Nigel, ed. The Leonard Bernstein Letters. New Haven, Yale University Press, 2013.

Chorale Bel Canto is a community-based chorale that presents quality musical programming for the cultural benefit of the greater San Gabriel Valley community and provides a demanding and satisfying artistic outlet for qualified singers.

Founded in 1982 by a group of Whittier College Choir alumni who wished to continue singing together after graduation, the Chorale made its debut performance on Saturday, December 4, 1982, performing Handel's Messiah under the direction of its founder and then Whittier College Professor of Music, Dr. Stephen Gothold.

Now in its fortieth year, Chorale Bel Canto performs a wide variety of music in a three-concert subscription series each year.

In 2018, Stephen Gothold retired as Music Director due to health concerns, and Linda West Brown was appointed as his replacement. Linda was a founding member of the Chorale and served as accompanist from 1982-1991. She takes great joy in preparing and performing choral concerts with the musicians of Chorale Bel Canto.

Chorale Bel Canto is pleased to be joined this evening by the choirs of **Whittier College, Chaffey College, and La Habra High School.** We feel strongly that collaboration with other choral groups, and the opportunity for singers of all ages to perform this magnificent music together, strengthens our bonds as musicians and helps perpetuate the love of choral music in our communities.

Psalms for the Soul

May 16, 2022

San Marino Community Church

Combined Choirs

Hine Ma Tov (Psalm 133, vs. 1)
Edward Sywulka, piano
Mary Oppermann, flute

Hebrew folk song

Arranged by Neil Ginsberg

Chorale Bel Canto

Psalm 131

Jeffrey Van

The Lord is My Shepherd (Psalm 23)
Ellie Choate, harp
Scott Reese, oboe
Matt Daley, organ

John Rutter

Whittier College Choir

A Song and a Prayer

Sergio Barer

*Commissioned by the Whittier College Choral Program in 2022.
Text compiled from the works of Rabbi Joshua Heschel.*

Flute/Organ Duet

Psalm 19

Matthew Daley, organ
Mary Oppermann, flute

Emma Lou Diemer

Combined Choirs

Prayer for Ukraine: Bozhe, velykyi, iedynyi!

Music by Mikola Leontovich
Text by O. Koneskoho

Directed by Alexandra Grabarchuk

GUILD INSTALLATION

Combined Choirs

Chichester Psalms (In Three Movements)

Leonard Bernstein (1918 - 1990)

- I. Psalm 108, vs.2
Psalm 100, entire
- II. Psalm 23, entire
Psalm 2, vs. 1-4
- III. Psalm 131, entire
Psalm 133, vs 1

Soloists:

Jackson Rochweg, age 9
Seamus Lagan, bass
Michael Fausto, tenor
Vickie Brown, alto
Maeve Huchins, soprano
Ellie Choate, harp
Damion Frigillana, percussion
Matthew Daley, organ

Audience, Choirs, Organ and Wind Instruments

The Old Hundredth Psalm Tune

Arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams
Text by W. Kethe (Daye's Psalter, 1560-1561)

Audience members: please join the choirs on verses 1, 2 and 5.

Verse 1. **All people that on earth do dwell,**
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice,
Him serve with fear, his praise forth tell,
Come ye before him, and rejoice.

Verse 2. **The Lord, ye know, is God indeed,**
Without our aid he did us make;
We are his folk, he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.

Verses 3 and 4 Choirs only

Verse 5. **To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,**
The God whom heaven and earth adore,
From men and from the angel host
Be praise and glory evermore.

Dean's Message - Nelson Dodge



We're getting close to the end of the Year of the Young Organist promotion sponsored by the national AGO. But it doesn't end until June 30, 2022, which means that any new or renewing member under the age of 30 will get a full free year of membership.

Did you know that the LA chapter has 38 Young Organist members, 15 of whom are new this year. Our chapter is still in the winning position (among all the large chapters) for the most new Young Organist members. If we stay in this position through the end of the promotion the chapter will be awarded \$1,000 from the national office.

Please continue to think of potential young members and encourage them to join. Send them this link to the online form for signing up: <https://www.agohq.org/free-membership/>

From National Headquarters

The Year of the Young Organist Chapter Recruitment Contest Win \$1000 for your chapter!

Beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2022, how many young organists can you recruit? Each month, we will be sending you a new recruitment tip to help your chapter recruit as many young organists as possible. We've created a page on our website that will include each tip and additional resources:

<https://www.agohq.org/year-of-the-young-organist-recruitment-contest-2/>.

Currently in the lead:

Small Chapter: Tampa, with a net growth of 10 new young organists.

Medium Chapter: Denver Rocky Mountain, with a net growth of 16 new young organists.

Large Chapter: Los Angeles, with a net growth of 15 new young organists.

TIP #11: Promote this upcoming workshop to prospective members and teachers.

Music at Westwood Presents



*In Memoriam
A Tribute to
Dr. Namhee Han*

Sunday, May 15 at 4:00pm

at Westwood Presbyterian Church

A Music at Westwood Organ Concert to pay tribute to WPC's beloved organist, Dr. Namhee Han, who passed away on March 27, 2020.

Featuring performances by Stephen Karr and two of Dr. Han's teachers, Christoph Bull and Phil Smith.

Tickets are \$40, available at westwoodpres.org

(Scholarships are available, contact office@westwoodpres.org)



Westwood Presbyterian Church
10827 Wilshire Blvd., CA 90024
WestwoodPres.org
(310) 474-4535



SATURDAY MAY 7, 2022

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extraterrestrial as
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in a concert hall."
The Observer*

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AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
Chapter Leadership News



Elizabeth George
 CMM Chief Membership Officer
 American Guild of Organists
elizabeth.george@agohq.org
 212-870-2311, ext. 4307

Upcoming Webinar

Monday, May 16, 8:00 p.m. EDT

Know Your Skill Set: Job Searches and Job Descriptions

Learn to read between the lines of posted job openings, to interpret job descriptions, and how to make sure expectations are clear between employer and musician.

Presented by the Committee on Career Development and Support. [Please register here.](#)

News From Karla Devine

Here is a wonderful opportunity to support the Long Beach POE. Anytime you shop at Ten Thousand Villages, a fair trade non-profit, in either Redondo Beach or San Pedro, 15% of your purchase will go toward the Long Beach POE. (This excludes food purchases.) You can even share this flyer with friends, family and members of your congregation. They just must remember to mention AGO when they make their purchase. Think about upcoming birthdays, Mothers' Day, Fathers' Day, graduations, weddings, even yourself!

Please support this easy, ongoing FUNdraiser, which supports the POE and fair trade all at once with beautiful purchases! www.villagesredondo.com

Make sure to mention AGO at checkout.

Dale Roger Jergenson 1935 - 2021



Dale Roger Jergenson, songwriter, singer, and Composer in Residence at St. Cyril of Jerusalem Catholic Church in Encino, died November 30, 2021, of complications of lymphoma.

"Dale's passing is an inestimable loss to the parish, our music ministry and the greater musical community," said William Beck, Organist and Director of Music at St. Cyril's and past Dean of the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. "He composed more than three dozen works for the church choir, including Masses accompanied by a steel drum band, bagpipes, ukuleles and handbells."

Jergenson's "Dixieland Mass" for choir and New Orleans-style band is performed at churches across the country on the the Sunday before Ash Wednesday.

Jergenson came to St. Cyril's in 1998 as Composer in Residence, an unusual position for a Catholic parish but one that speaks to the importance of music at St. Cyril's. Soon after Jergenson's arrival, Beck, who has directed the music program at the parish since 1981, created the St. Cyril's Music Series with Jergenson to complement the already extensive repertoire of traditional liturgical works. Much of the music has been published by Jergenson's company Laurendale Associates. The initiative also coincided with the installation of St. Cyril's renowned pipe organ, Rosales Opus 23, which features three manuals and forty-five ranks.

Jergenson was born in St. Paul, MN, in 1935 and served in the U.S. Navy. He graduated with B.A. and M.A. degrees in music from San Diego State University and did postgraduate study at UCLA, also earning a community college credential. He received many awards for composition and film production and was awarded an NEA grant for a work for chorus and orchestra. For most of his life, he remained active in writing scores for TV, commercials, documentaries, short educational productions and feature films.

Jergenson is survived by his wife, Patricia, daughter Sean and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



2022

American Guild of Organists **PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTERS**

The AGO National Council has approved eight Pipe Organ Encounter events for 2022. Online registration opens December 1, 2021. For full information, including dates, locations, and local contact information for each event, [click here](#).

Pipe Organ Encounters

for beginning and intermediate organists, ages 13-18

Registration opens Dec. 1, 2021

[Click HERE](#) to register to attend (beginning Dec. 1, 2021)

June 26-July 1, 2022
Long Beach, California
Long Beach Chapter

Director: Hyunju Hwang
213-550-9093 (h/m)

[Email](#)
[Website](#)

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

Look for
New Episodes



Remember that moment when you were first captivated by an organ? When the sounds and sensations drew you in and piqued your curiosity? When you saw an organ console up close for the first time and was overwhelmed by its complexity? When you just knew you wanted to learn how to play one? We all have memories like this and stories to tell about them. 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. It's not just about what you've done; it's about why you do what you do. Whether you're a church musician, a concert organist, a teacher, 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 people who are passionate about the organ at every level.

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Southern California Directory
2021 - 2022



American Guild of
ORGANISTS

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Los Angeles Orange County Palomar
San Diego Ventura County

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