

TITULAIRE

The NEWSLETTER for the AGO PALOMAR CHAPTER

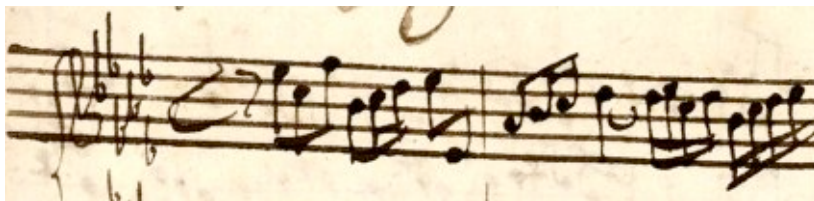
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Ronél Wishnuff, Dr. Emma Whitten, Jenny Yun, at Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian church (March 12, 2023)

A Note from the Dean



Dear Palomar AGO members,

Spring is here, but these very cool and blessedly rainy March days make me wonder when it will actually feel like Spring. My orange tree is beginning to bloom. I love listening to the bees hum when they come to visit.

Speaking of visits, Thomas Mellan is coming from Boston to give a concert we are sponsoring along with The Musical Merit Foundation of Greater San Diego. Please come and enjoy a wonderful concert and reception on April 16. There will be more details in the Titulaire and social media. We have printed flyers. Please let me know if you would like some to distribute.

I am playing piano on the April 20 Concert Hour at Palomar College, with works by Beethoven, Chopin, Cecile Chaminade, Amy Beach, and Florence Price. I wanted so much to play on the Wicks at the college, but the HVAC in that room has been out of order since last August. We are not allowed to use the room until it is fixed. I am hoping for an organ concert at Palomar in Fall 2023.

I hope your Lenten season has gone well. I am looking forward to Easter.

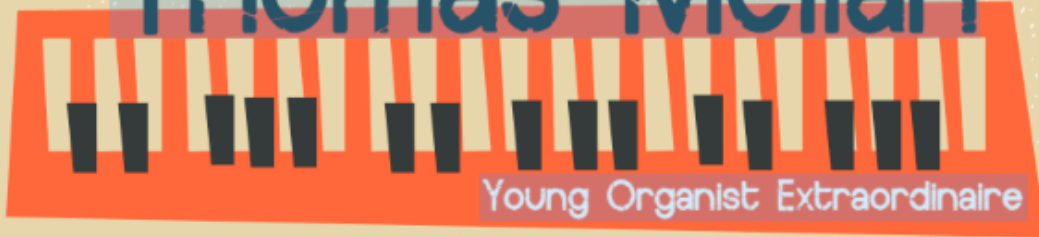
Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and elegant.

Thomas Mellan in Concert

APPEARING IN CONCERT

Thomas Mellan



Young Organist Extraordinaire

Sunday, April 16

OCEANSIDE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
4:30 PM

Reception
to follow
concert

2001 S. El Camino Real
Oceanside, Ca 92054
(760) 757-3560



Sponsored by:
The Palomar Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
and The Musical Merit Foundation of Greater San Diego

Thomas Mellan is an organist, harpsichordist and composer based in Boston, Massachusetts. In 2012 he played his debut recital at Edlise St. Eustache in Paris, in his home country of France. He graduated from the USC Thornton School of Music in 2017 with a Bachelor of Music degree in organ and Master of Music in composition, attending on full scholarship.

His compositions have been performed in America, Europe and Asia by performers including Jared Jacobsen and the Sakura Cello Quintet. His organ music attempts to push the limits of organ technique. In 2015 Mellan took 1st place in the keyboard division of the Musical Merit Foundation competition for instrumentalists and vocalists.

He will be the featured artist in recital at 4:30 PM Sunday, April 16th at First Presbyterian Church of Oceanside, 2001 S. El Camino Real, Oceanside. Reception following. His program includes

Mellan: Ballade

Liszt: Totentanz (arr. Mellan)

Mellan: Nocturne

Reger: Symphonic Fantasy and Fugue "Inferno", Op. 57

Dr. Emma Whitten Presentation

On Sunday, March 12, 2023, Dr. Emma Whitten presented a program entitled “A Women’s Liturgical Year” at Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian church. Emma was joined by organists Jenny Yun and Ronél Wishnuff (Rancho organist) playing music by women composers on the hybrid Moller-Allen organ. Dr. Whitten’s presentation included program notes and a bibliography. Members and performers enjoyed great food and socialization at “Urge Gastropub” following the event. Many thanks to Elizabeth Virkler, Ronél, and the staff of RCBP for hosting the event. The program follows below.



Jenny Yun, Lois Sivert, Michael & Christine Munson, Ronél Wishnuff, Peter Holzer & Cheryl Holzer, John Wishnuff, Emma Whitten, Sally & Chuck Fay, Carol & Bob Graham party at Urge Gastropub, a pub known especially for its collection of fine whiskeys.

Palomar American Guild of Organists
Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church
March 12, 2023

A Women's Liturgical Year

Rorate caeli		Melissa Dunphy (b. 1980)
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming		Margaretha Christina de Jong (b. 1961)
God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen		Rebecca Groom te Velde (b. 1956)
	Emma Whitten, organ	
Elegy		Brenda Portman (b. 1980)
	Ronél Wishnuff, organ	
Prelude and Fugue on "O Traurigkeit, O Herzeleid"		Ethel Smyth (1858-1944)
"To the thirsty I will give water without price from the fountain of life" from <i>Trinitas</i>		Eleanor Daley (b. 1955)
Herzlich tut mich verlangen		Pamela Decker (b. 1955)
	Emma Whitten, organ	
<i>Twelve Choral Preludes on Gregorian Chant Themes, Op. 8</i>		Jeanne Demessieux (1921-1968)
Attende domine		
Hosanna filio David		
O filii et filiae		
Veni creator spiritus	Jenny Yun, organ	
Aria		Emma Lou Diemer (b. 1927)
I Have Decided to Follow Jesus	Ronél Wishnuff, organ	
Rejoice, the Lord Is King!		Brenda Portman
	Emma Whitten, organ	

Performers



Emma Whitten currently serves as Music Coordinator of Church of the Immaculate Conception in Old Town, as well as Associate Organist at Christ Cathedral in Garden Grove. Emma holds degrees in organ performance from the University of Notre Dame, University of Kansas, and Arizona State University, where she received her DMA studying with Kimberly Marshall. Emma also loves hiking and exploring Southern California! For more information, please visit her website at www.emmawhitten.com. Emma is represented by Seven Eight Artists.

a church organist in the San Diego area. She frequently performs in her own performance series and has earned an MA in Organ Performance, Music Theory and Composition. She resides in Carlsbad with her



Jenny Yun has been actively working as a church organist in the San Diego area for over 20 years. She has been involved in community music programs and produces along with talented guests. She received a Bachelor's from University of Kansas and an MA in Music from Seoul National University. She resides in Carlsbad with her family.



Ronel Wishnuff received her Bachelor's of Music degree from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa with a distinction in piano. She taught piano, theory, harmony and music history in Johannesburg for 15 years, until she and her husband Jon relocated to San Diego in 2002. Ronel completed a Masters degree in Piano Performance at San Diego State University in 2006. Along with performing and teaching piano, she is also an enthusiastic singer and has been a member of the South African Broadcasting Symphonic Choir and the prestigious South African chamber choir, The Chanticleer Singers. Ronel is currently organist here at Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church. Ronel freelances as an accompanist and teaches piano at her home studio in La Costa, Carlsbad.

Program Notes

While we traditionally celebrate New Year's Day on January 1st, the church begins each liturgical year with the season of Advent, a time of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas. Australian-American composer **Melissa Dunphy** has written a short prelude based on a Gregorian chant for the Advent season, **Rorate caeli**. The prelude was commissioned for a collection called *Gregoriana*, twelve chant-based organ pieces by contemporary women composers compiled and edited by English organist Anna Lapwood. Dunphy's setting highlights two different solo colors of the organ, the oboe and the cornet, accompanied by flutes.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming is a serene, ornamented chorale prelude for Christmas set by Dutch organist and composer **Margaretha Christina de Jong**. An acclaimed performer, she has won numerous competitions for her interpretations of French repertoire, and she was awarded a Knighthood in the Order of Orange-Nassau by Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands in 2012. In 2014, she was appointed city organist of Middelburg, the first woman to hold the position. De Jong's ethereal setting of the German chorale is drawn from her collection *Five Preludes for Christmas*, written in the late French Romantic style.

American composer **Rebecca Groom te Velde** is a third-generation professional organist. She is currently organist of First Presbyterian Church in Stillwater, Oklahoma, and adjunct instructor of organ at Oklahoma City University. She has numerous organ works published with Oxford University Press, including this dancelike setting of the Christmas carol **God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen**. Highlights include a light, fugal section accompanied by a bell stop called the Zimbelstern, and a variation for nearly full organ with the carol melody as a solo in the pedal. The dance resumes again for the final measures to ring in the Christmas season!

Cincinnati-based organist **Brenda Portman** is one of the most prolific American composers for organ in the 21st century. She has published several volumes of hymn-based works with Sacred Music Press, and her works have won several major composition competitions. **Elegy**, for solo organ, was the winner of the Twin Cities AGO Composition Competition in 2016. This gently reflective work could be performed during the season of Lent, for memorial services, or for the November feast days of All Saints and All Souls.

Dame **Ethel Smyth**, English composer and women's suffrage activist, wrote eight works for organ. Her **Prelude and Fugue on "O Traurigkeit"** features a poignant ornamented setting of the chorale melody in the style of J. S. Bach. The chorale's text is especially appropriate for Good Friday, depicting the pain and suffering of Christ's Passion. The fugue uses the same theme, entering once in each voice then building gradually in dynamic and rhythmic intensity, before receding to conclude with a simple, mournful statement of the chorale melody.

The images of thirst and springs of water are often found in readings of the Lenten season, as heard particularly in Psalm 42, "As the deer longs for running streams, so longs my soul for you, O God." And later in the Gospel of John, "Whoever drinks the water that I shall give will never thirst. The water that I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up into eternal life." Canadian composer **Eleanor Daley** sets a similar text from Revelation as the second movement of her three-movement work, *Trinitas*: "**To the thirsty I will give water without price from the fountain of life.**" Daley's setting is a short, lyrical work alternating contrasting solo colors of the organ and strings. It could be appropriate for the Lenten season, baptisms, or anytime a similar text is heard. The third movement, based on Acts 2, is a jazzy toccata perfect for Pentecost!

American composer **Pamela Decker** is a concert organist, composer, and Professor of Organ and Music Theory at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Her stylistic influences include the rhythms and modes of

Spanish and South American music, and composers such as Stravinsky and Messiaen. For Lent, she sets another chorale melody often sung on Good Friday, **Herzlich tut mich verlangen** (commonly sung with the text “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”). Decker places the stark, unadorned chorale melody in the pedal, underneath rich chromatic harmonies that convey a sense of poignancy and grief from the chorale text.

Jeanne Demessieux studied at the Paris Conservatoire under Marcel Dupré, where she excelled from an early age and developed an unparalleled virtuoso technique. Demessieux established a prolific international career as a concert organist, and in 1962, she was appointed titular organist of La Madeleine in Paris. Notably, Demessieux was the first female organist to sign a recording contract in 1947. She performed extensively in the United States, and her **Twelve Choral Preludes on Gregorian Chant Themes** were composed for an American audience, published in Boston in 1950. *Attende Domine* is based on a Latin hymn for the season of Lent derived from a 10th-century Mozarabic litany: “Hear us, O Lord, and have mercy, for we have sinned against you.” *Hosanna filio David* is a short fugue based on the chant introit for Palm Sunday, “Hosanna to the Son of David!”, celebrating the triumphant entry of Christ into Jerusalem. For Easter, *O filii et filiae* is a set of short, playful variations on the 15th-century French hymn “O Sons and Daughters,” showing off the varied instrumental colors of the organ and building to full organ. And finally, *Veni creator spiritus* is a festive toccata for the feast of Pentecost, invoking the Holy Spirit with the chant hymn “Come Holy Spirit, Creator Blest.”

American composer **Emma Lou Diemer**, age 95, resides in Santa Barbara, California. She is Professor Emeritus at the University of California, Santa Barbara where she taught composition and theory from 1971 to 1991, and she has written in nearly every compositional style of the 20th century. Her **Aria** for organ solo is a lyrical, versatile work appropriate for almost any occasion, and **I Have Decided to Follow Jesus** is a spirited setting of the well-known hymn with a rhythmic, jazz influence.

To conclude, **Brenda Portman** returns with a triumphant postlude on the hymn **Rejoice, the Lord Is King!** The registration features the solo *Trompette en chamade* from the antiphonal division at the rear of the church, alternating with instrumental passages reminiscent of Vivaldi, and culminating with a coda on full organ. Portman’s hymn setting could be played on the final Sunday of the church year, which in some denominations is the Sunday of Christ the King, as a prelude on Palm Sunday, or on any occasion calling for a festive postlude!

Herbert C. Chamberlin



Herbert C. Chamberlin (March 7, 1932 – February 26, 2023)

Herb was born in Yonkers, New York and grew up in the Bronx, New York City. He served in the army during the Korean war. He married Deena in 1958 and had two children. Lisa, who is married to husband Jim and has two children, Anne-Marie and Dionne. Doug, who is married to wife Caroline. They have no children.

He received his Bachelor's degree from Adelphi University. He attended seminary at Ft. Worth, Texas and received a Master's degree in Religious Education. He received a Master of Divinity degree at Andover Newton Theological School. He received a Doctor of Ministry degree from Drew University Theological School.

Herb served as Baptist minister of Religious Education in Roanoke, VA. He served as a Baptist minister in Scituate, MA, and then as a United Church of Christ pastor in Wantagh, NY; Chalfont, PA; and Whittier, CA.

He served as President of the Long Island Council of Churches for 3 years in NY. He retired in 1997 and moved to Oceanside, CA. In retirement he served churches in several interim ministries. He served as chaplain with the AGO.

Herb was a beloved pastor, survived by daughter Lisa and son Douglas. A memorial service was held at First Congregational Church at 1800 N. Broadway in Escondido, CA on March 26 at 3 PM. Donations in lieu of flowers to be made to Doctors Without Borders (<http://doctorswithoutborders.org>)

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