

LA PIPELINE

The monthly newsletter of the Los Angeles Chapter
American Guild of Organists

February 2023

OUR FEBRUARY EVENTS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 6:00 PM

Midnight Toccatas and More!

with

Organists Stephen Tharp and David Briggs

presenting the winning composition of the Mader Scholarship Fund's 50th Anniversary Composition Competition

"Midnight Toccatas" by Dr. Aaron Travers

Evensong 4:15 p.m.
Reception (following evensong)
Concert 6:00 p.m.

Interview and Q&A with Aaron Travers (following concert)

St. James-in-the-City Episcopal Church

3903 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90010



Live stream at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DpvJxpUaKGw&ab_channel=GreatMusicatSaintJames

No RSVP required for this event | Free and open to the public

Co-sponsored by Mader Scholarship Fund St. James-in-the-City Episcopal Church LA AGO

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Presidents' Day Organ Festival

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



The popular exploration of regional organs returns for a 15th year featuring organs of Beverly Hills.

See page 4 for details.

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FROM THE SUB-DEAN



Scott Anderson

We look forward to the 15th Annual Presidents' Day Organ Festival on Monday, February 20th. This year features organs in Beverly Hills with seven organists performing on five organs in three churches. A performance by Raúl Prieto Ramírez will conclude the day. More information, including lunch RSVP, is available at www.laorganfestival.com.

A master class has been added to artist Renée Anne Louprette's visit in March. The class will be on Saturday, March 11 at 10:00 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. at Claremont Presbyterian Church, 111 N. Mountain Ave. in Claremont. Four students will be working with Ms. Louprette that morning. All interested observers are welcome. Ms. Louprette's recital will be the following day, Sunday, March 12 at Claremont United Church of Christ, 233 W. Harrison Ave. in Claremont at 4:00 p.m. with a reception and dinner beginning at 6:00 p.m. Please note that the master class and recital will take place at two

separate venues, both in the city of Claremont. I hope to see you at these wonderful events!

ABOUT MIDNIGHT TOCCATAS

A History of the 50th Anniversary Concert Midnight Toccatas and More!

by Linda West Brown and Craig Phillips

In the Fall of 2019, the Ruth and Clarence Mader Memorial Scholarship Fund Board decided to launch a Composition



Competition in honor of our fiftieth anniversary on December 17, 2021.

The Ruth and Clarence Mader Memorial Scholarship Fund was created in 1971 as a response by students, colleagues, family, and friends to widespread expressions of appreciation for the high ideals and artistic accomplishments of Ruth and Clarence Mader.

Since Clarence Mader was a renown composer of organ music, as well as an esteemed performer and teacher, it seemed fitting and proper to hold a Composition Competition to add a significant organ work to the canon. The Board created a committee of four members: Ladd Thomas, Cherry Rhodes, Linda Brown and headed by Craig Phillips, who was the winner of the first Composition Competition in 1994. According to Phillips, in that year, contestants were to base their composition on a hymn tune chosen from a given list. Phillips' piece entitled *Fantasy: Torah Song (Ysrael V'oraita,)* is still widely performed and recorded and continues to be popular in the context of both concert and religious services.

The Competition Committee met multiple times via Zoom and phone throughout 2020 to set the rules and regulations of the contest.

The piece was to be for organ, 8-12 minutes in length, and based upon the name: R.C. MADER. With the help of Dr. Frank Ticheli of USC, the letters of the name were translated into musical notation:



The composers had complete freedom with form and use of the theme. They were instructed to submit the pieces accompanied by a midi recording. All submissions were coded by number to remain anonymous.

The deadline for receiving the composition submissions was December 17, 2021, and we were thrilled to receive 42 entries.

Judging took place from January to March 2022, by three superb musicians: organists David Briggs, and Stephen Tharp and composer, Frank Ticheli, and *Midnight Toccatas* by Aaron Travers was declared the winner.

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Dr. Travers has this to say about Midnight Toccatas:

"I have used text to derive pitches to use as musical material in several pieces before, so approaching the 'Mader' motto felt very natural to me. Instead of treating it exclusively as a melody, I decided to play with different configurations of the notes, creating a variety of motives that could be interlaced with one another throughout the piece. Of course, melodies are used, such as in the slow, fantasia-like middle section, though much of the music is made up of small motives linked together into larger structures. This technique allowed for considerable textural variety while binding the music together harmonically and motivically. The opening motive, for example, gets at the heart of the motto. The first 5 notes come from a C-diatonic collection, while the last 2 lie on either side of the first note, D. This is followed by a repetition of the motive with a tag at the end coming from the notes of the motto transposed up a tritone (the tag itself becomes one of the central building blocks of the piece). From this simple tritone relationship, much of the rest of the material spins off, constantly reconfiguring these small motives into larger and more varied phrases. In short, nearly every single note is derived from the original motto, so that the motto itself is woven into the very fabric of the composition as a whole."

Dr. Aaron Travers is an Associate Professor of Composition at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music and has had great success as a composer of varied works. He received the \$10,000 prize, and *Midnight Toccatas* is being published.

This brings us now to the celebratory premiere concert in collaboration with "Great Music at St. James in the City," on the evening of Sunday, February 12, 2023. The concert titled "Midnight Toccatas and More!" at 6:00 p.m. follows the Choral Evensong of the Choir of St. James-in-the-City, directed by James Buonemani.

The concert will feature distinguished organists Stephen Tharp and David Briggs who dazzle audiences all over the world with their splendid performances. Each organist will perform "Midnight Toccatas" and it will be intriguing to hear two different interpretations of the same work in the same

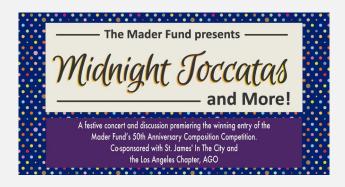
evening. Tharp and Briggs also are preparing other pieces to round out the program, and Dr. Frank Ticheli will lead a Q&A session with Dr. Travers at intermission. It promises to be an exciting evening of great music, and the event will be livestreamed so that music lovers from around the world will be able to enjoy the festivities.

We hope you will join us on February 12, 2023 at St. James-in-the-City. Come for the Choral Evensong at 4:15, visit with us during a reception hosted by the Los Angeles Chapter between the Evensong and the Concert, and stay for an innovative concert, years in the making by the Board of the Ruth and Clarence Mader Memorial Scholarship Fund.

For more details about The Mader Fund, the "Midnight Toccatas and More!" premiere concert, including the livestream link please visit our website at www.maderscholarshipfund.org.



Clarence Mader



Linda West Brown is the President of the Mader Scholarship Fund and Craig Phillips is a board member.

PRESIDENTS' DAY ORGAN FESTIVAL

On Monday, February 20, the popular exploration of regional organs returns for a 15th year featuring organs of Beverly Hills. Venues for this year are All Saints' Episcopal, Beverly Hills Presbyterian, and Church of the Good Shepherd. The festival starts at 9:00 a.m. with a concluding reception at 3:00 p.m. Visit the festival website for details, latest updates, and to reserve your box lunch.



www.laorganfestival.com

Highlights of the 2023 festival - Monday, February 20

- Featured organist will be Raúl Prieto Ramirez, San Diego Civic Organist
- 2023 Schedule (subject to change check the festival website for updates)
 - o 9:00 am Coffee and pastries served in the courtyard at Beverly Hills Presbyterian
 - o 9:30 am Performances begin at Beverly Hills Presbyterian Emma Yim
 - o 10:45 am Performance at All Saints Episcopal Chapel Sook Hyun Kim
 - o 11:20 am Performance at All Saints Episcopal Church Collin Boothby
 - o II:45 am Lunch
 - o 1:00 pm Performances at Church of the Good Shepherd Terry Hicks and Charles Raasch
 - o 2:10 pm Performance at All Saints Episcopal Church Raul Prieto Ramirez
 - o 3:00 pm Reception at All Saints Episcopal

Parking Information

The three churches for the 2023 Festival are within walking distance of each other.

All of the churches front Santa Monica Blvd. Free parking is available all day (on Presidents' Day only) in the public parking structures directly across Santa Monica Blvd. from all three churches. Note: disregard the three-hour time limit posted in the parking structures – all day parking is permitted on the Presidents' Day holiday.

Please reserve your box lunch by Friday, February 17 \$10 payable at the door

www.laorganfestival.com/home/lunch-rsvp



Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church



Church of the Good Shepherd



All Saints Episcopal Church

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NEWS

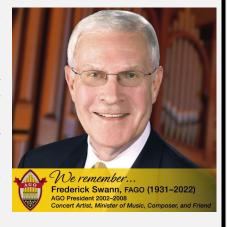
A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF FREDERICK SWANN

JULY 30, 1931 - NOVEMBER 13, 2022 by Peter Bates

Frederic Lewis Swann, honorary member of the Los Angeles chapter, left this life at the age of 91 on November 13, 2022. The Los Angeles Times dubbed Fred Swann, "The Prince of the Organ." He was mild-mannered, kind, and humble to a fault, but he was a giant in the organ community. A beautiful celebration of his life was held at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Palm Desert on Wednesday, January 25, 2023. It was attended by hundreds of his friends and colleagues, as well as members of his parish family and his partner, George Dickey. He touched so many lives in his time here on earth. During the homily, the rector of St. Margaret's told the assembly that in addition to those sitting within the walls of the church, there were over 200 persons joining virtually. Fred was a stickler about time and staying on schedule. Those attending were warned to be in their seats by 10:30 am for the organ prelude. People who were able to attend came to the desert from all over the country to be there and say "goodbye" to our dear friend.

Organist Nathan Laube played a 30-minute prelude to the service, including: Trumpet Tune by Frederick Swann, Prelude on "Rhosymedre" by Ralph Vaughan-Williams, Scherzo – Cats (American Suite) by Jean Langlais, and Choral No. 1 in E-Major by César Franck. Following the opening anthems and collect, organist Todd Wilson led the congregation and choir in the singing of Guide me, O thou great Jehovah (CWM Rhondda). The Epistle lesson was read by James Thomashower, Executive Director of the American Guild of Organists, followed by the St. Margaret's choir singing How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place from Brahms' A German Requiem under the direction of Dr. Douglas Leightenheimer, music director and organist of the church with Mr. Wilson accompanying.

Fred's dear friend Mark Lively, the President of Lively-Fulcher organ builders, gave a very touching remembrance of Fred, which at times filled the room with laughter, and other times had many wiping tears from their eyes.



Following the singing of the hymn *The King of Love my Shepherd Is* (St. Columba), Sarah McFarlane Polly, daughter of Karen McFarlane Holtkamp (and Fred's goddaughter) read a remembrance written by her mother, who was present, but physically unable to speak. Karen was Fred's secretary at the Riverside Church and later his long-time concert manager until her retirement.

The Rev. Butler, referring to the Gospel reading from Matthew (the "Sermon on the Mount"), said, "The word for today is 'blessed', for we are all blessed for having known Fred." He suggested that had Jesus looked up and seen Fred, he may have added one more beatitude, "Blessed are the music-makers, for they shall...," inviting each person to "fill in the blank." He reminded us that silence is not the opposite of sound. Silence is the space between the notes and that space holds energy. Space is never a void, not in life and not in death. The music of Fred's life did not end in his death. We stand in the space between the notes. The music of Fred's life is now in a different key, and we must learn to listen in a new way. Quoting songwriter Irving Berlin, he said, "The song has ended, but the melody lingers on."

Following the intercessions, two of Fred's colleagues from the University of Redlands, Cindy Snyder, vocal instructor, and Kyle Champion, cello instructor, joined Mr. Wilson at the organ for the *Pie Jesu* movement from the Duruflé *Requiem*. This was followed by the commendation. The choir then sang *Ach Herr, lass dein lieb Engelein* from the St. John Passion by J. S. Bach followed by organist David Higgs playing *Toccata* (from Suite Op. 5) by Duruflé. Following the dismissal, Todd Wilson returned to the organ console for the recessional hymn, *For All the Saints* (Sine Nomine).

In checking the church's YouTube channel 26 hours following the service, the counter indicates that over 2,100 people have viewed the service since it was first streamed. Well done, thou faithful servant.

Editor's note: a recording of the service is available to view online at www.youtube.com/@st.margaretsepiscopalchurc7155/streams.

JANUARY EVENT

James Calhoun at First Congregational Church, Los Angeles







View additional photos from this event on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/LosAngelesAGO/.

AGO WEST REGIONAL CONVENTION JULY 10 – 13, 2023

Mark your calendars for the AGO West Region Convention to be held July 10-13 in Portland. Registration is not yet open (date to be announced), but you can visit the website now to explore the organs and events planned.





R.I.P. JERRY RIPLEY



The Los Angeles Chapter regrets to learn that member **Jerry Ripley** has passed. He was the organist at First Church of Christ, Scientist and Temple Emanu El, both in Redlands. A memorial service is planned for Sunday, February 12, 2 p.m. at Temple Emanu El, 1495 Ford St, Redlands CA 92373.

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EVENTS



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4 AT 1:30 P.M. | CHRIST CATHEDRAL

Chelsea Chen's dynamic playing has taken her to the far corners of the world. Her solo concerts offer a unique mix of traditional organ repertoire along with piano/orchestral transcriptions and contemporary music. Learn more about her at chelseachen.com.



Chelsea Chen

Tickets: hazel.givesmart.com

13280 Chapman Ave., Garden Grove

EPIC ORGAN CRAWL

As a pre-event to the NPM (National Association of Pastoral Musicians) convention in July, a crawl of several Southern California organs is being offered. Registration is limited and open only to those registered for the NPM convention. See the below flier from complete information. For more information on the convention, please visit the website at:

npm.org/2022/06/03/2023-national-convention-information/



Sunday, July 9 and Monday, July 10, 2023

Space is limited to 40 People!

The first 25 registrants will be invited to Sunday dinner at the home of Bishop Kevin W. Vann, Diocese of Orange



Pre-Convention EPIC Organ Crawl Must register for the NPM Convention to attend the Organ Crawl.

Organ Crawl organized and hosted by

David Ball

Christ Cathedral Organist

Manuel J. Rosales

Founder of Rosales Organ Builders

Special Offer! Your \$225 Organ Crawl Package Includes

- . Dinner with Bishop Vann (first 25 registrants)
- Transportation via private coach on Monday, July 10th sponsored by Peter's Way Tours
- · Group lunch hosted by Peter's Way Tours
- · Group transfer to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) on Monday evening
- · One-way flight from LAX to Reno (RNO)

Not included

- . Transportation on Sunday, July 9th
- · One-night stay at ALO Hotel in Orange, CA A group block of 35 rooms has been secured at a rate of \$125 for one night (July 9). A full American breakfast is included (July 10). Guests must reserve rooms independently no later than June 9, 2023. Call (714) 978-9168 to book. Space is limited!

Sunday, July 9, 2023

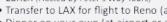
- · Arrivals into SNA (flight arrangements on your own)
- Hotel check-in (hotel options will be provided).
- Dinner with Bishop Vann (first 25 registrants)
- Organ Crawl: Christ (formerly Crystal) Cathedral The Hazel Wright Organ - Ruffatti/Skinner Vx2/300
- · Overnight at hotel

Monday, July 10, 2023

- · Full American breakfast
- · Organ Crawl: (transportation provided by Peter's Way Tours)
 - 1. Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels Dobson, Op. 75 IV/105
 - 2. First Congregational Church Vx2/328
 - 3. St. Charles Borromeo Church IV/Gallery & II/Sanctuary/146 stops Van Zoeran/Walker/Rosales
 - 4. Bob Baker Marionette Theatre Organ, LA

POSSIBLE INCLUSION: Walt Disney Concert Hall - GGO/Rosales - 2004 4M/110r (negotiations in progress)

- Lunch (Hosted by Peter's Way Tours)
- Transfer to LAX for flight to Reno (airfare included in package)
- Dinner on your own (at airport or after arrival in Reno)



CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads may be included in our newsletter for a fee. Please contact the editor at laago@laago.org for information.



- . TUNING & SERVICE
- TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES
- PIPE ORGAN REBUILDING
- RE-VOICING & FINISHING
- · NEW PIPE ORGANS
- CONSULTATION

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Sean Coburn O'Neal, owner

Presidents' Day lunch reservations due Friday, February 17 \$10 payable at the door

www.laorgan festival.com/home/lunch-rsvp

Los Angeles Chapter members - take advantage of your online account on our website, www.laago.org, to gain access to the jobs listings and online directory.

Latest jobs listing updated January 31

Los Angeles Chapter members – sign up for your account!

Want to access the directory and jobs listing? You need to be an active LA Chapter member. Click below to log in or request your personal account!

Login/Sign up

GET INTOUCH

- Submit newsletter and calendar items using the online forms at https://www.laago.org/newsletter. The submission deadline is the 15th of each month.
- Contact the LA chapter at laago@laago.org
- For more information about upcoming events, who we are, photos, history, and other great resources, please visit our website at lago.org.

CALENDAR

Calendar items may be submitted on the LA AGO website at https://www.laago.org/calendar-submit. Submission deadline to include in the newsletter is the 15th of the month prior to the month of publication. Please visit the online calendar https://www.laago.org/calendar for the most recent updates.

FRI FEB 3, 2023

7pm - 8:30pm The Art of Time: Timeless

Where: The Artists Center at the Galen, 72567 Highway III, Palm Desert, CA

Description: The Art of Time: Timeless Event Description: Desert Baroque presents Ken Aiso, baroque violin, David Garrett, viola da gamba and Sonia Lee, harpsichord who team up with composers of the High Baroque: I.S. Bach, J.P. Rameau and others - a selection of powerful works from the end of an era. Single tickets: \$15-\$54; subscription (5 concerts) \$160-235 at www.Eventbrite.com.

SAT FEB 4, 2023

1:30pm - 2:30pm Chelsea Chen, Organist

Where: Christ Cathedral 13280 Chapman Ave Garden Grove CA 92840

Description: Chelsea Chen's dynamic playing has taken her to the far corners of the world. Her solo concerts offer a unique mix of traditional organ repertoire along with piano/orchestral transcriptions and contemporary music. Learn more about her at chelseachen.com.

Tickets: www.hazel.givesmart.com.

SUN FEB 5, 2023

2pm - 3pm James Casey, Organist

Where: St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Community 10750

Ohio Avenue Los Angeles CA 90024

Description: Music by Bach, Bender, Buxtehude, Edwards,

Franck, and Leighton. www.sp-apostle.org

SUN FEB 12, 2023

4:15pm - 5:15pm Solemn Evensong

Where: St James' Episcopal Church 3903 Wilshire Blvd Los Angeles CA 90010

Description: The Choir of Saint James, under the direction of James Buonemani, performs this service in the style of the great English Cathedrals. Music will include the Responses by James Buonemani, St. Paul Canticles by Herbert Howells, "Seek Him That Maketh the Seven Stars" by Jonathan Dove and "Regina Mundi" by Sean McDermott. Visit GreatMusicLA.org for more information and live-stream. Free.

6pm - 8pm Midnight Toccatas and More!

Where: St James' Episcopal Church 3903 Wilshire Blvd Los Angeles CA 90010

Description: A festive concert and discussion premiering the winning entry of the Mader Fund's 50th Anniversary Composition Competition. Preceded by solemn evensong at 4:15 p.m. Free admission. See

https://www.maderscholarshipfund.org/midnighttoccatas for complete details.

MON FEB 20, 2023

9am - 4pm Presidents' Day Organ Festival [LA

Where: Beverly Hills

Description: Please check the festival website for details and latest updates at http://www.laorganfestival.com.

FRI MAR 3, 2023

7pm - 8:30pm The Art of Time: "Time Out"

Where: The Artists Center at the Galen, 72567 Highway III, Palm Desert, CA

Description: Desert Baroque presents LOS JUBILADOS in a stupendous outpouring of joy and soul, in a band of dulcians, recorders, viol, regal and harpsichord. Music from the Renaissance and early Baroque. Time to dance. Michael O'Donovan, Stephen Hammer, Ken Munday, Roger LeBow and Margaret Irwin-Brandon present. Cost: single: \$5-54; subscription (5 concerts) \$160-235 atwww.Eventbrite.com.

SAT MAR 11, 2023

10am - 12:30pm Masterclass with Renée Anne Louprette

Where: Claremont Presbyterian Church IIII N Mountain Ave. Claremont. CA 91711.

Description: For more information, contact Linda Brown 562-631-8160. Free.

SUN MAR 12, 2023

4pm - 6pm Renée Anne Louprette, Organist [LA AGO]

Where: Claremont United Church of Christ 233 W Harrison Ave Claremont CA 91711

4:15pm - 5:15pm Solemn Evensong

Where: St James' Episcopal Church 3903 Wilshire Blvd Los Angeles CA 90010

Description: The Choir of Saint James, under the direction of James Buonemani, performs this service in the style of the great English Cathedrals. Music will include the Responses by William Byrd, Second Evening Service by Orlando Gibbons, "Te lucis ante terminum" by H. Balfour Gardiner and "Salve Regina" by Cristóbal de Morales. Visit-GreatMusicLA.org for more information and live-stream. Free.

SUN MAR 19, 2023

6pm - 7:30pm Jonathan Ryan, Organist

Where: St James' Episcopal Church 3903 Wilshire Blvd Los Angeles CA 90010

Description: International Laureates Organ Series presents Jonathan Ryan, Organist & Director of Music at St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, Dallas, TX. Visit GreatMusicLA.org for more information and live-stream. Free.

7pm - 9pm Handel Organ Concertos with Baroque Orchestra

Where: St Andrews Episcopal Church 409 Topa Dr Ojai CA 93023

Description: Handel Organ and Orchestra Concerto Nr. 6 in B and Opus 4 Nr. 4. Concert in honor of 40th anniversary of Rosales Tracker Opus 10. 1983. Constantine Fanizius is organist and director. 22 Piece orchestra consists of musicians from areas within 100 miles of Ojai. This concert will be the first time a full orchestra with organ performed of Handel, Bach and Purcell. Free and open to public. Freewill offering.

FRI MAR 31, 2023

7pm - 8:30pm The Art of Time: Time Travel Abroad

Where: The Artists Center at the Galen, 72567 Highway III, Palm Desert, CA

Description: Desert Baroque presents a Festive Concert with the Opsahl/Pritchard Duo from Los Angeles. "La selva di varii passeggi," music for cornetto, recorder and keyboards from Early Modern Italy. Composers such as Frescobaldi, Gabrieli, Guami take us to the fragrant groves and sanctuaries of Romantic Italy. Cost: single: \$15-\$54; 5-concert subscription: \$160-\$235 atwww.eventbrite.com.

SUN APR 23, 2023

4pm - 5pm Jason Klein-Mendoza, Organist

Where: Saint Edmund's Episcopal Church 1175 S San Ga-

briel Blvd San Marino CA 91107 **Description:** Cost - Free will offering.

6pm - 7:30pm James Kealey, Organist

Where: St James' Episcopal Church 3903 Wilshire Blvd Los Angeles CA 90010

Description: International Laureates Organ Series presents James Kealey, winner of the first prize and audience prize in the 2022 National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance (NYACOP). Visit GreatMusicLA.org for more information and live-stream. Free.

SAT MAY 6, 2023

All day Ethan Haman Improvisation Workshop [LA AGO]

Where: Time and Location TBD

SUN MAY 7, 2023

4pm - 5pm Thomas Mellan, Organist

Where: Saint Edmund's Episcopal Church 1175 S San Gabriel Blvd San Marino CA 91107 Description: Program includes transcriptions of Liszt, Reger, and Scriabin. FWO.

MON MAY 8, 2023

8pm - 9pm Ethan Haman, Organist and Installation of Officers [LA AGO]

Where: Location TBD

SUN MAY 14, 2023

4:15pm - 5:15pm Solemn Evensong

Where: St James' Episcopal Church 3903 Wilshire Blvd Los Angeles CA 90010

Description: The Choir of Saint James, under the direction of James Buonemani, performs this service in the style of the great English Cathedrals. Visit GreatMusicLA.org for more information and live-stream. Free.