



## AGO Names David Conte as 2024 Distinguished Composer

The American Guild of Organists has named San Francisco composer David Conte as its 2024 Distinguished Composer. Given biennially to recognize outstanding composers of organ and choral music in the United States, the prestigious award, established in 1986 by the AGO Committee on New Music under the directorship of Philip Brunelle, seeks to make members of the AGO aware of the outstanding composers in the United States who write for organ and chorus. Previous award recipients include Virgil Thomson, Ned Rorem, Daniel Pinkham, Samuel Adler, Dominick Argento, William Albright, Conrad Susa, Emma Lou Diemer, Dan Locklair, William Bolcom, Alice Parker, Carl Schalk, Margaret Sandresky, Richard Proulx, Stephen Paulus, David Hurd, Craig Phillips, and Libby Larsen. Conte will be honored at the AGO's national convention this summer (June 30-July 4) in San Francisco.



David Conte is Professor of Composition and Chair of the Composition Department at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He has written over one hundred fifty works published by E. C. Schirmer Music Company, including seven operas and works for chorus, solo voice, orchestra, band, organ, and chamber music. He has received commissions from Chanticleer; the San Francisco, Oakland, Stockton, and Dayton Symphonies; the Atlantic Classical Orchestra; and from the American Guild of Organists. Conte was one of the last students of Nadia Boulanger, studying with her in Paris and Fontainebleau on a Fulbright Scholarship. He was also a Ralph Vaughan Williams Fellow and an Aspen Music Festival Conducting Fellow. He earned a B.M. from Bowling Green State University, where he studied with Wallace DePue, and an M.F.A. and D.M.A. from Cornell University, where he studied with Karel Husa and Steven Stucky. His website is [www.davidconte.net](http://www.davidconte.net).

Commissioned by the American Guild of Organists National Convention this summer in San Francisco, Conte's anthem, *O Come, Let Us Sing/When in Our Music God is Glorified*, for SATB chorus, optional congregation, and organ, will receive its premiere at the convention. It blends the text of the *Venite* (Psalm 95) from the Morning Prayer liturgy with F. Pratt Green's text "When in Our Music God Is Glorified" and the majestic hymn tune by Charles Villiers Stanford.

"Conte's music meets and exceeds the highest standards of professionalism and taste. . . He has absorbed the best of the English, French, and American choral traditions to develop a body of work that gives amateurs and professionals alike something worth singing, and listeners of every persuasion something worth hearing. . . Here is a composer whose music will illuminate your own chorus with a brilliant light." — Raymond Tuttle, *Fanfare Magazine*, 2015