Among the Mexican organ composers of this century, Ramón Noble has been the most prolific. Born in 1925 in Pachuca, Hidalgo, Noble studied at the Instituto Científico y Literario, now the University of Hidalgo. He also studied at the National Conservatory of Music in Mexico City, where he later served as interim director.

Noble has composed several dozen compositions for the organ, but until now his compositions have been unavailable in any published edition. A number of his organ works employ Mexican nationalistic themes, dances, and rhythms. Some of the forms he has used are the Chacona, Fantasia, Pasacalle, Scherzino, Sonata, Toccata, and Variaciones.

He has performed on the organ and the guitar on tours throughout Mexico, the U.S.A., Italy, Germany, France, and Belgium. He is active in choral music and has collected more than two thousand Mexican choral compositions. He is responsible for founding the Coral Mexicano del Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes, the Coro del Ballet Folklorico de México, and the Centro de Convivencia Coral. He was invited by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir to conduct and supervise a recording of Mexican songs, and he conducted the Chorus of the Ballet Folklorico of Mexico at the White House for President Kennedy.

James Welch

James Welch is the University Organist and Carillonneur at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he joined the Music Department faculty in 1977. He holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Stanford University. He has received world-wide acclaim for recitals in France, Austria, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland, New Zealand, Taiwan, Brazil, and throughout the U.S.A. The Diário Popular of Brazil has called him "an organist of international caliber," and The Diapason has praised his "imaginative registrations, facile technique, and convincing musicianship."

Dr. Welch has served on both the local and regional levels as an officer of the American Guild of Organists and has performed at several conventions of the Guild. He has written articles on a variety of topics for organ journals. His recordings include "Magnum Opus," recorded on the Flentrop organ of St. Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral, Seattle; "Music for Christmas," Stanford University Memorial Church; "Recital," All Saints’ Episcopal Church, Palo Alto, California; and "The Organ of the Carmel Mission Basilica." Several of his performances have been aired on APR’s "Pipedreams." Welch gives frequent master classes and dedicatory recitals, and he often serves as a consultant in pipe organ installations.