

January Organ Crawl

by Angela Kraft Cross

Come one, come all to the organ crawl at Stanford University Memorial Church, Saturday, January 24, from 10 A.M. until noon. This is one event that you will not want to miss. If you arrive early, enjoy donuts and fellowship in the back office of Memorial Church starting at 9:30 A.M.

Robert Huw Morgan, the University Organist, is a most entertaining guide, and he will escort us through demonstration and open console time to experience fully the three main instruments of Memorial Church. Arguably the finest collection of organs on the Peninsula and perhaps the whole Bay Area, Stanford boasts its 1901 Murray Harris Romantic instrument, the 1984 Fisk-Nanney organ in the North German Baroque tradition and the 1995 Potter-Brinegar Paul Fritts organ in the Renaissance tradition. Each organ is a worthy gem of its own stylistic period, and enjoying all in the same venue is a dream, especially with the sumptuous surroundings and acoustics of Memorial Church.

Come and bring a piece to play, or just listen and share as you like. After the session, go with a few friends to your choice of the many fun eateries on nearby University Avenue, Palo Alto. Come and enjoy! ☒

Lois Ruth Hill (1924–2003)

A memorial service for Lois Ruth Hill, 79, of Livermore, was held on December 2, at 2:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, Livermore.

Ms. Hill (born July 15, 1924, in Patterson, New Jersey) studied at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. For thirty years she was organist of the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore, California, and wrote numerous compositions for organ that were published in *The Organist's Companion*. She was a long time member of the San Francisco Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. ☒

New Phone Number

Please note that the telephone number for our Chapter Treasurer, Jay Martin, has changed.

The new number is (650) 342-0999. ☒

Chapter Events Update-at-a-Glance

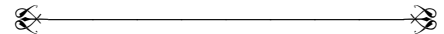
Please note changes to dates and/or times for the remaining events of our program year.



Stanford Organ Crawl

Saturday, January 24, 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon.
Come early at 9:30 a.m. and enjoy donuts and fellowship in the back office of Memorial Church. More details in lead article at the left.

Note the date change.

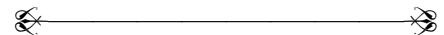


Presidents' Day Symposium

First Presbyterian Church, Berkeley
Recital: Sunday, February 15, 4:00 p.m.
Davitt Moroney performs on the Brombaugh organ at First Presbyterian.

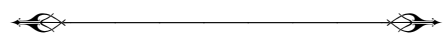
Classes: Monday, February 16, 10:00 a.m.
Breakfast snacks will be available at 9:30 a.m.
A full day of classes begins at 10:00 a.m. with Davitt Moroney in a masterclass lecture/demonstration, and Jonathan Ambrosino giving lectures on organ history: perspectives on local builders, and insights on artistic development of G. Donald Harrison.

More details inside on page 2.



Annual Chapter Meeting & Dinner

Friday, May 14, 2004
Complete details in future newsletters.



Todd Wilson

Master Class & Recital

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, S.F.
Master Class: Saturday, May 22, 10:00 a.m.
Concert: Sunday, May 23, 3:00 p.m.

Presidents' Day Weekend Concert and Symposium

by Angela Kraft Cross

Mark your calendars to join us for the Presidents' Day Concert and Symposium at St. John's Presbyterian Church in Berkeley on Sunday, February 15 and Monday, February 16.

Davitt Moroney, University Organist for University of California Berkeley, is the featured soloist for the organ concert on Sunday afternoon at 4:00 P.M.

On Monday, February 16, we will reassemble for an all-day symposium beginning with breakfast snacks at 9:30 A.M. and classes starting at 10:00 A.M. The day's offerings feature a masterclass with Davitt Moroney, and lectures on local organbuilding and artistic development by Jonathan Ambrosino.

Dr. Moroney's class includes a lecture and demonstration of the works of Louis Couperin on the beautiful Brombaugh organ. He has recorded all the works of Couperin and is an expert in the interpretation of his works.

We will also be most honored to have Jonathan Ambrosino from Boston, who will teach us from the organ historical perspective. He will present lectures to us on the artistic development of G. Donald Harrison, and on the history of local organ building with "Reaction, Revival and Romance: Developments in West Coast Organbuilding of the Past 25 Years," focusing on Brombaugh, Schoenstein, Rosales, Fritts and Pasi.

It promises to be a varied and exciting day with something for everyone, so we hope to see you there. ☒



Davitt Moroney was born in England in 1950. After studies at King's College (University of London), he completed the Master's program in musicology with a thesis on Italian music for the Roman Counter-Reformation: "Giovanni Animuccia, *Missarum Liber Primus*" (1972). He studied performance with the Austrian organist Susi Jeans, the Canadian harpsichordist Kenneth Gilbert, and Dutch organist and harpsichordist Gustav Leonhardt, and holds concert performance and teaching diplomas from London's Royal Academy of Music (1974) and Royal College of Music (1975). He entered the doctoral program in musicology at Berkeley

in 1975. His doctoral dissertation, "Under Fower Sovereigns: Thomas Tallis and the Transformation of English Polyphony" (1980) was a study of the music composed by Thomas Tallis and William Byrd for the English Reformation. After leaving Berkeley, for twenty-one years he was based in Paris, working mostly as a freelance recitalist in many countries. For his services to music he was named Chevalier in Order of Cultural Merit by Prince Rainier III of Monaco (1988), and the French government named him Officier in the Order of Arts and Letters (2000). He returned to Berkeley as a Professor in August 2001. He is also University Organist.

Jonathan Ambrosino (b.1965) is an historian, journalist and consultant actively involved with organ work and the preservation of the American pipe organ. A Boston native, he was raised in the Choir of Men and Boys at Saint Paul's Cathedral (Episcopal) under the direction of Thomas Murray. Educated in journalism, book editing and newspaper design, he migrated to the organ business in 1985.



Early in his career he managed Nelson Barden Associates, Restorers-in-Residence at Boston University, later working for Austin Organs Inc. and Rosales Organ Builders. He has worked independently since 1996, combining historical studies with professional involvement in organbuilding, consultation and tonal finishing. His consultation practice guides the treatment of early 20th-century organs and the procurement of new instruments. Tonal work has most recently involved reconstruction of a once-famous 1935 Aeolian-Skinner at Calvary Church Memphis, and comprehensive remedial work on the revered Aeolian-Skinner at the Groton School in Massachusetts.

His writings over the past fifteen years have contributed significantly to the understanding of the 20th-century American organ and its development. His ongoing series in *Choir & Organ* magazine observes organbuilding trends. He served as President of the Organ Historical Society from 1999 to 2001, having served as a Councillor since 1993.

Humor Item

Courtesy of Steve Cram

CHINESE PROVERB: War does not determine who is right, war determine who is left.

Keith Thompson Organ Concert November 7, 2003

by Angela Kraft Cross

In the aftermath of David Briggs' hospitalization and cancellation of his trip to California, the San Francisco chapter was very fortunate to have an organist in our own ranks capable of stepping up to the plate and delivering on three day's notice. And deliver in style, he did.

Keith Thompson, who currently resides in Santa Rosa and is one of the staff organists at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor and at the Castro Theater in San Francisco, played a stunning recital on the 1998 Austin/Murray Harris/Erben organ of St. Mary's College Chapel in Moraga. In addition to presenting a well-rounded and accessible program, Keith performed with professional flair and impressed the audience with his rock solid memory.

The program began with the youthful and virtuoso *Prelude and Fugue in D Major* of Johann Sebastian Bach. Jean Jules Roger-Ducasse's tone poem *Pastorale* served as a colorful contrast in the French Romantic style with beautiful registrations. A transcription of Russian virtuoso pianist Anton Rubenstein's *Kamenoj Ostrow* (Stony Island) – originally for piano – also explored many of the sonorities and colors of the organ. Keith's grand finale was the tour de force *Fantasy on "How Brightly Shines the Morning Star"* of Max Reger which easily lived up to expectations and was an exciting virtuoso finish to a thoroughly enjoyable recital. Keith also gave wonderful verbal insights to each work

Classified Ads *Collected by Simon Berry*

This information is provided as a service to SF/AGO members and the employing institutions. Inclusion of information in this column does not imply endorsement by the SF/AGO. Send **Job Referrals** items and **For Sale** notices to: Simon Berry, 466 Duboce St., San Francisco, CA 94117; e-mail <berrysimon@aol.com>. Next issue submission deadline is **January 10, 2004**.

Job Referrals

East Bay – Inland

Choir Director: Tice Valley UMC, Walnut Creek. Starting January 2004. Sunday morning service, midweek rehearsal, 15 voice choir. Salary \$600/mo, September–June. Contact Arthur Frueh, 925.945.8719.

East Bay – Bayside (North)

Choir Director and Organist: St Paul's Episcopal Church, Benicia. Sunday 8:45am traditional worship. One service and one rehearsal each week. We are looking for a classically trained musician who wants to develop a choir. Allen Digital Organ and Mason Hamlin 5'8" Grand piano. Salary \$12–\$15K per year. Please contact The Rev. Wendy Watson, <revwendy@aol.com>, 707.745.0307, or write to: St Paul's Episcopal Church, 120 East J Street, Benicia, CA 94574.

which helped the audience to listen and relate more closely. Keith's final offering was a delightful encore, a rendition of a Hawaiian song attributed to the Hawaiian Queen.

A wonderful fireside reception hosted by Craig Benner and the Hospitality Committee in the lounge of the Brothers' quarters rounded off the memorable evening. ☒

Wishing our members a Peaceful and Happy New Year!

SF/AGO Newsletter is published monthly, except July and August, by the San Francisco Chapter, American Guild of Organists. Opinions herein are those of individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect official policies of this chapter. The deadline for receipt of newsletter items is the **10th of the month** prior to publication.

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The SF Chapter website contains a wealth of information, including past newsletters.

Bay Area Concert Calendar *Collected by Thomas A. Herman*

Events, dates, times and locations subject to change without notice. Compiled from flyers, press releases, and listings submitted by members and organizations. SF/AGO is not responsible for errors, although every effort is made to be accurate. Submission deadline for the next issue is **January 10**. Send listings to <AGOCalendar@yahoo.com>.

Recurring Venues

Churches and institutions offering programs on a regular basis are assigned abbreviations to save space in our calendar listings. The abbreviations are listed alphabetically with the full name of the venue. Please see page 92 in the **2003-2004 Chapter Directory** for full information.

- CPLH:** Calif. Palace of the Legion of Honor
- CSMA:** Cath. of St. Mary of the Assumption
- GC:** Grace Cathedral
- NSSF:** National Shrine of St. Francis
- SJP-B:** St. John's Presbyterian, Berkeley
- SME-B:** St. Mark's Episcopal, Berkeley
- SMV:** St. Mary the Virgin (Episcopal)

December 2003

27 Saturday

Robert Gurney, organ. Johann Strauss, Jr., Anderson & other Holiday favorites. **4pm CPLH**

28 Sunday

David Hatt, organ. **3:30pm CSMA**

David Graham, organ (London, UK). **4pm NSSF**

Robert Gurney, organ. (Repeat: see 12/27, joined by the SF Lyric Chorus.) **4pm CPLH**

31 Wednesday

Vocal: Michael Secour, piano, Margaret Secour, soprano, & Laura Secour, mezzo-soprano. Music from Broadway. **4pm SMV**

Susan Jane Matthews, organ. *A New Year's Eve Celebration*. Free. **10pm GC**

John Renke, organ. Music of Bach, Vivaldi & Boellmann. Free. **10:15pm NSSF**

January 2004

3 Saturday

David Hegarty, organ. Pops Concert, light classics & favorites from Hollywood & Broadway. **4pm CPLH**

4 Sunday

Choral: Epiphany Lessons & Carols. Cathedral Choir of Boys & Girls. **3:30pm CSMA**

David Hegarty, organ. (Repeat: see 1/3.) **4pm CPLH**

Mark Laubach, organ (Organist Ch.M., St. Stephen's Episcopal Pro-Cathedral, PA). Free. **3pm GC**

10 Saturday

Mark Bruce, organ. Music of Poulenc & Frank Bridge. **4pm CPLH**

11 Sunday

Paul Ellison, organ. **6:10pm** (follows 5:30 Evensong) **SME-B**

J. Melvin Butler, organ (Organist Ch.M., St. Mark's Cathedral, Seattle, WA). Works by Bach, Winges, Mendelssohn, Messiaen, Tournemire & Sowerby. **3pm GC**

Choral: Cantus Magnus Choir, Richard Mix, Director. Renaissance a capella music and chant. **3:30pm CSMA**

Mark Bruce, organ. (Repeat: see 1/10.) **4pm CPLH**

17 Saturday

John Karl Hirten, organ. Music of Bach, Stoughton, Vierne & Khachaturian. **4pm CPLH**

18 Sunday

Frederick Teardo, organ (Yale University Chapel Organist). **3pm GC**

Gail Archer, organ (New York, NY). **3:30pm CSMA**

David P. Dalh, organ (Christ Church [Episcopal], Tacoma, WA – Pacific Lutheran University). **4pm SJP-B**

John Karl Hirten, organ. (Repeat: see 1/17.) **4pm CPLH**

24 Saturday

Organ Crawl, Stanford Memorial Church. *SF/AGO Chapter event*. Arrive 9:30am for donuts and fellowship. See cover article. **10am – noon**.

Keith Thompson, organ. Pops Concert, light classics & favorites from Hollywood & Broadway. **4pm CPLH**

25 Sunday

David Higgs, organ (Chair, The Eastman School of Music, organ department). **3pm GC**

Malcolm Rudland, organ (UK). **3:30pm CSMA**

Keith Thompson, organ. (Repeat: see 1/24.) **4pm CPLH**

31 Saturday

Robert Gurney, organ. Music of Bach, Durufle & Purvis. **4pm CPLH**

Looking Ahead

February 2004

1 Sunday

Malcolm Rudland, organ (London, UK). Works by English & Hungarian composers. **3pm GC**

Instrumental/Vocal: California Baroque Ensemble with Ruth Onstad, soprano. **3:30pm CSMA**

Robert Gurney, organ. (Repeat: see 1/31.) **4pm CPLH**

8 Sunday

John Karl Hirten, organ. **3pm GC**

Malcolm Rudland, organ (London, UK). **6:10pm** (follows 5:30 Evensong) **SME-B**

15 Sunday

Robert Gurney, organ. **3pm GC**

Eric Huenneke, organ (Concord, MA). **3:30pm CSMA**

Davitt Moroney, organ. President's Day Weekend Concert & Symposium. Music of Louis Couperin. *SF/AGO sponsored event*. **4pm SJP-B**

16 Monday - Presidents' Day

Davitt Moroney & Jonathan Ambrosino, master classes. *SF/AGO sponsored event*. **10am SJP-B**

