



June & July 2009

The American Guild of Organists San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

Dean's Column

By the time you read this, we will be at the end of our program year, election results will be in and we will know who will be on next year's Executive Board. It's time for some hearty thanks, and I would like to start with two very important people.

The position of Sub Dean is arguably the most difficult of all the elected positions on the Board, requiring someone who is both a self-starter as well as a listener. You have to be somewhat empathetic to the needs of the chapter members as well as a kind of hard-shelled crab, able to absorb a few hard knocks while still moving forward—without being crabby! Matt Walsh has filled that position admirably these past two years, and it can be argued that this year's program satisfied many needs of the Chapter membership.

We started the year with a wonderful social event at an unusual venue (the San Jose mission), we sponsored or co-sponsored several wonderful recitalists, heard music in some new venues with both pipe and electronic organs, heard new music both played and composed by several of our own members and got in some important social time as well. Matt managed to display a great deal of equilibrium and magnanimity during the whole time of planning and executing the program. Hats off to you, Matt!


When I started, Rob Kerman was simultaneously the newsletter editor, registrar and webmaster for the chapter. I cannot imagine how much work this entails, so I was both relieved for him when he asked to step down from his registrar and newsletter duties, and anxious for myself knowing that it was going to be difficult to find his successors in both endeavors. Rob is one of the true pillars of our Chapter, who diligently performs his duties with a sense of gentle humor. He will continue as webmaster, in addition to serving as registrar for the 2011 Regional Convention, to be held in? (C'mon everybody, you know where!)

Fortunately, our newsletter is in able hands, as George Morten is now back as Newsletter Editor. I am especially pleased to report that Christoph Tietze has taken over as Registrar. This position is, in my opinion, the most important position in the Chapter, and I can think of no better person to take over from

Rob Kerman than Christoph. Please give him your support and be patient as this transition takes place.

You should have received your renewal notice by now. Please take the time to look over the notice and fill it out correctly before you return it to the Registrar and please send it back before the deadline. Consider also making a donation to next year's programs while you're at it.

I want to thank Robert Adams for his work on the newsletter calendar, and Simon Berry for his work as job placement/listings editor. Thanks to the Executive Committee members whose terms are ending: Robert Adams, Jim Bisbing, George Emblom, and Gary Sponholz. Thanks to Justin Kielty as he completes his term on the Special Projects Committee (Justin, please don't be a stranger), and also to Frank Ferko, who helped with the program committee. Thanks to Robert Adams, Larry Marietta, and George Emblom, who helped put together the music for the June 1 event, and to all those who participated in the Member Recital in March. And special thanks are due to Steve Wallace for his work on our online used music sale.

Finally, thanks in advance to the Steering Committee for the 2011 Convention, co-chaired by Pat During and Larry Marietta, which had its first meeting on May 9. Godspeed on their wonderful, wacky journey. 

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Submission deadline for the next issue is August 10, 2009

2011 Convention Steering Committee Meets

by Pat During and Larry Marietta, Co-Coordinators

Venues, artists, composers, ensembles, presenters. Guidelines, timelines, deadlines, buslines. Celebrating — 4th of July, the 100th anniversary of our San Francisco Chapter, the new instruments installed since the National Convention of 1984. All of these ideas and more permeated the lively discussion at the inaugural meeting of the 2011 Regional Convention Steering Committee held on Saturday, May 9.

Lakeside Presbyterian Church hosts Rebecca Nelson and Daniel Anderson provided thoughtful hospitality for our Regional Councillor, Co-Coordinators, and the many committee chairpersons in attendance. The mood was one of high energy and enthusiasm as we reviewed accomplishments and planned for upcoming deadlines and the ultimate dates: July 3–7, 2011.

We are still in the process of contacting members for a few remaining chairmanships; we hope these will be filled by the time this edition of the Newsletter reaches you. After that, we urge you to say “yes” to those who contact you with invitations to serve on their committees. Your Steering Committee is composed of dedicated individuals determined to make the 2011 Region IX Convention an especially successful one. With your help, we can jubilantly celebrate the 100th anniversary of our Chapter’s founding, benefit all who attend, and involve many, many members in a rewarding and energizing effort. 

Letter to the Editor

I volunteer at my local hospital each week and have distributed magazines to the various waiting areas such as registration, the emergency room, the quiet or reading room, and several lobbies.

I’ve thought, “Why don’t we members recycle copies of our magazine to remind the public and spark interest in the organ as other magazines promote their news, ads, and agendas?”


I’ve got more than fifty copies, enough to save for future reference and enough for all who come to the hospital!

Thanks,
Steve Gray

Play-In at St Stephens, Belvedere

by Jane Rosenblum

On Sunday, May 3, host John Hirten and five SFAGO members met to play for each other on St Stephen’s wonderful Frobenius tracker organ. Attending were Michael Moran, Eulah Capron, Richard Ditewig, Charles Blue and Jane Rosenblum. We played Bach, Buxtehude, Brahms, Mozart and Pachelbel, along with some lovely improvisations by Eulah and Michael. We all enjoyed discussing organ music and making new friends in this informal setting. Afterwards we went out together for a wonderful Italian dinner at a local restaurant. A most enjoyable event!

Everyone agreed that we’d like to do it again, meeting at different churches to play some of the fine instruments in our area. It would be great to see this become a regular SFAGO activity. If you’d like to join in next time—possibly during the summer—or would just like more info, please e-mail Jane Rosenblum at caninekid@earthlink.net, or leave a phone message for her at 510.869.3799 (don’t be confused by the greeting—she really is a dog trainer). 

Classified Ads *Collected by Simon Berry*

This information is provided as a service to SFAGO members and the employing institutions. Inclusion of information in this column does not imply endorsement by the SFAGO. Send **Job Referrals** items, **Substitutes Available** notices, and **For Sale** items to: Simon Berry, 1035 Fell St, San Francisco, CA 94117; e-mail berrysimon@gmail.com. Next issue deadline is **July 10** for the **August** issue.

Job Referrals

Substitute available: Rosemary Wren is available as a substitute organist, pianist. Contact: 916.873.6412; rosemaryg224@hotmail.com

East Bay - Inland

Organist: First Church of Christ, Scientist, Danville. Makin 3 M&P custom digital organ, Sunday services at 10am, Wednesday Service at 7:30pm. \$165 per Sunday and Thanksgiving Day, and \$110 per Wednesday. Position available beginning in June. Contact: Bruce McCauley, Music Committee Chair, 925.932.5899, bgmccauley@comcast.net; See www.danvillespirituality.com

South Bay

Interim Music Director: St Anne’s Episcopal Church, Fremont. To cover a one-year leave of absence beginning in September. The position is less than quarter time, from Sept 13, 2009 to June 13, 2010. The person would be expected to play the organ (and the piano) and direct the choir (there are currently 12 choir members). One service on Sundays, choir rehearsal on Wed. Salary range \$10,000–\$13,000. Contact: The Rev Lauran Pifke, 510.490.0553, rector@stanneschurch.org

Welcome to the 2009–2010 SFAGO Executive Board

Dean: John Hirten
Sub Dean: David Howitt
Sub Dean Elect: Angela Kraft Cross
Secretary: Simon Berry
Treasurer: Bill Montgomery
Auditors: Dora Burdick, Oscar Burdick

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Term expires 2010

Matthew Burt Terry O'Connor
(filling in for Tom Carroll)
Michael Moran Natsuko Murayama

Term expires 2011

Eleanor Hammer Steve Repasky
Jeffrey Smith Christophe Tietze

Term expires 2012

Eulah Capron John Hupalo
Helen Pereira Brian Swager

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Term expires 2010

Jean Struble Burton Weaver

Term Expires 2011

George Becker W. Wayne Ritchie

Term Expires 2012

Douglas Franks Robert Train Adams

Thanks to the 2008–2009 SFAGO Executive Committee

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George Becker W. Wayne Ritchie

SFAGO Newsletter is published monthly, except July, by the San Francisco Chapter, American Guild of Organists. Opinions stated herein are those of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect official policies of this Chapter. The deadline for receipt of all newsletter items is the 10th of the month preceeding publication.

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Treasurer: William Montgomery, 415.383.4233, billm@qcwebs.com
Registrar: Christoph Tietze, 415.924.1377, orgelchris@yahoo.com
Webmaster: Robert J Kerman, rjkerman@gmail.com
Chapter Website: www.sfago.org

Newsletter Departments: *Send your entries to the appropriate editor;
all submissions due by 10th of the month preceeding publication*

Events Calendar Listings: Robert T Adams, AGOCalendar@yahoo.com

Job Placement & For Sale Listings: Simon Berry, simoncberry@gmail.com

Obituary Listings: James Aylward, 415.333.5702

Newsletter Articles: George Morten, 415.695.1754, sfago-editor@att.net

2008–2009
Last updated 05/22/2009

Master Class Organ Improvisation in Haarlem

from AGO National

For organists who plan to take part in the 2010 International Organ Improvisation Competition Haarlem, a master class will be organized in Haarlem. The master class will take place on Saturday, September 26, 2009, and consists of two sessions — each lasting two and one-half hours — on both the competition organs: the Muller organ of St Bavo Church and the Cavaille-Coll organ of concert hall Philharmonie Haarlem.

The master class will be given by the Municipal Organist Jos van der Kooy, professor for Organ and Improvisation on the Royal Conservatory in The Hague and winner of the competition in 1980 and 1981.

The aim of the master class is not to teach a “Haarlem” way of improvisation, but to give organists the chance to find out which skills they can improve before sending in their recordings for the pre-selection round.


Because a maximum of 10 players can be admitted to the master class, besides 15 listeners, it is advisable to apply as soon as possible. All active participants will get the chance to play on both organs.

The master class will be from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The fee for active participants is EUR 65,-

For all information about applying for the master class see: www.organfestival.nl <<http://www.organfestival.nl/>>

From September 2009 on, all information on the International Organ Improvisation Competition and the Summer Academy for Organists can be found on the website. Applying for the competition and summer academy is open from December 1, 2009.

Jury members for the competition will be Lionell Rogg, Szigmond Szathmary, Jaroslav Tuma, Jan Raas and Peter Jan Wagemans. The competition will take place from July 16 (Friday) to July 20 (Tuesday), 2010.

The Summer Academy — with courses by a.o. Olivier Latry, Michael Radulescu, Lorenzo Ghielmi and Ben van Oosten — will be from Monday, July 19, through Saturday, July 31, 2010. On Saturday, July 24, 2010, a seminar will be organized. 

Marilyn Mason Honored by AGO National Council

from AGO National


Celebration of Brilliant Performer, Teacher, and Friend Raised \$30,000 in Ann Arbor, Mich., Benefiting AGO Endowment Fund

The American Guild of Organists presented its sixth annual Recital and Gala Benefit Reception on Sunday, April 19, at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. An estimated audience of 400 colleagues, students, and friends came together to celebrate the lifetime achievements of Marilyn Mason.

The recital in Hill Auditorium, played by Dr Mason and students Deborah Friauff, Joseph Galema, Paul Haebig, and Aaron Tan included works by Marcel Dupré, Maurice Duruflé, Max Reger, Charles Tournemire, and Louis Vierne. The reception that followed at the Michigan League was attended by 100 and raised \$30,000 to be invested in the AGO Endowment Fund in Marilyn Mason's honor. The new 166-minute AGO Master Series DVD featuring Dr Mason was also unveiled at the reception. It is available for \$20 from AGO National Headquarters, 212.870.2310 or online at www.agohq.org

The gala was sponsored by the AGO National Council and its Development Committee, Barbara Adler, director. Major funding was provided by Roy F. Kehl, FAGO; the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre, and Dance; and Pemcor Inc. of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, printer of *The American Organist Magazine*.

Donors unable to attend the gala will receive a copy of the souvenir program book with their contribution of \$25 or more to the Endowment Fund. Contributions in honor of Marilyn Mason can be made online at www.agohq.org or by mailing a check to: AGO Endowment Fund, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1260, New York, NY 10115. All gifts will be acknowledged in *The American Organist Magazine*. For information, please call 212.870.2311 ext. 4308, or e-mail gala@agohq.org

Established in 1994, the AGO Endowment Fund provides income to expand programs for leadership development among AGO members; educate new organists; and cultivate new audiences for organ and choral music. Tax-deductible contributions to the Endowment Fund are invested in perpetuity to produce continuing income support for essential Guild programs and educational projects. 



CHORAL EVENSONG

Sunday, 14 June 2009 • 5:30 p.m.

Concluding our 10th year • Music for choir, organ, & chamber orchestra

Richard Hillert: Receive the Holy Spirit

Herbert Howells: Evening Canticles, *Collegium Regale*

Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach: Heilig, Wq 217

Paul Bouman: We laud, O God, your gift of love

G.F. Handel: Concerto in B-flat major for Organ & Orchestra, HWV 294, op. 4/6
with Rodney Gehrke, organist

Sung by St. Francis' Choir, Robert J. Kerman, Organist & Choirmaster

*This hour-long service will be followed by a champagne reception sponsored by the Vestry
in honor of The Reverend Bente Carter, who is retiring as Rector. This Evensong is her last service at St. Francis.*

St. Francis' Episcopal Church • The Reverend Bente Carter, Rector
399 San Fernando Way (at Ocean Ave.) • San Francisco, CA 94127(415) 334-1590
Ample street parking • Wheelchair accessible • Directions: www.stfrancisepiscopal.org

St Francis' Choral Evensong Series 10th Anniversary

by Robert J Kerman


On Sunday, June 14, at 5:30 p.m., Choral Evensong for the Second Sunday after Pentecost will be take place at St Francis' Episcopal Church in San Francisco. This service is a celebration of the conclusion of the tenth year of the Choral Evensong Series. In addition, this occasion will honor The Reverend Bente Carter, who is retiring as Rector of St Francis'; this will be her last service at the church.

A professional ensemble of strings and woodwinds will play Handel's Organ Concerto VI, op. 4/6, with organist Rodney Gehrke. The major work to be sung is the little-heard *Heilig* by J.S. Bach's third son, Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach. This monumental work for double choir and orchestra is a setting of the *Te Deum*, featuring a dialog between the "Choir of Angels" and the "Choir of Nations." Featured vocal soloists are Ellen Kerrigan and Baker Peeples.

Other service music includes the Evening Canticles (*Collegium Regale*) by Herbert Howells, a portion of Psalm 119 sung to an Anglican Chant by George Dyson, and the

anthem *Receive the Holy Spirit* by Richard Hillert. The orison (choral prayer) is *We laud, O God, your gift of love* by Paul Bouman. The congregation will join in singing two hymns, "Come down, O Love divine" (*Down Ampney*), and "Christ, mighty Savior" (*Innisfree Farm*).

Program notes on the music and composers, as well as liturgical notes, will be provided. A champagne reception in honor of Bente Carter, hosted by the St Francis' Vestry, will take place in the Guild Hall following Evensong.

These quarterly hour-long services are offered free to the public (a free-will offering is collected at each Evensong to benefit a designated charity or project). St Francis' Episcopal Church is located at 399 San Fernando Way (at Ocean Avenue) in San Francisco. There is ample street parking at the church, and the buildings are wheelchair accessible. For more information or directions to the church, call 415.334.1590 or visit www.stfrancisepiscopal.org on the Internet. Please join us for Evensong on June 14, and bring your friends. 

Bay Area Concert Calendar

Collected by Robert Train Adams

2009 June & July

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

Recurring Venues

Churches and institutions offering programs on a regular basis have been assigned abbreviations so as to save space in our listings. Abbreviations are listed below with the full name of the venue. When no city is stated, San Francisco is assumed.

- CPLH: Calif. Palace of the Legion of Honor
- CSMA: Cath. of St Mary of the Assumption
- FCC-B: First Congregational Ch, Berkeley
- FPC-B: First Presbyterian Ch, Berkeley
- GC: Grace Cathedral
- SJP-B: St John's Presbyterian Ch, Berkeley
- SME-B: St Mark's Episcopal Ch, Berkeley

June

1 Monday

6pm. SFAGO Dinner and Annual Meeting. FCC-B

7:30pm. SFAGO Chapter Event. Compositions for organ and/or choir by SFAGO members. FCC-B

6 Saturday

3pm. Voices of Musica Sacra, John Kendall Bailey, director, John Walko, organ. Mostly Mendelssohn, plus works by Brahms and Bruckner. Tickets and information at www.vmschorus.org or 925.944.5239. FPC-B

7:30pm. San Francisco City Chorus, Larry Marietta, director, John R. S. Walko, organ. Schubert's *Mass in G Major*, Mozart's *Coronation Mass*. Benefiting Music in Schools Today. Tickets \$25/18/10 at www.sfcitychorus.org or 415.701.7664. Lakeside Presbyterian Church, 201 Eucalyptus Drive (at 19th Avenue) SF

7 Sunday

3pm. The Choir of Men and Boys. Buon Viaggio in Italia! GC

3pm. Voices of Musica Sacra, John Kendall Bailey, director, John Walko, organ. (Repeat: see 6/6). St Stephen Catholic Church, 1101 Keaveny Court, Walnut Creek.

4pm. David Hunsberger, organ. Works by Bull, Bach, Mendelssohn. Tickets \$20/10 at www.brownpapertickets.com. SJP-B

13 Saturday

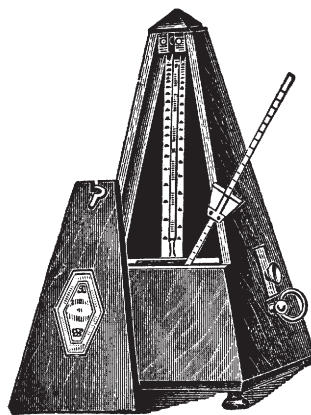
4pm. Robert Gurney, organ. Elgar, Strauss, Morricone. CPLH

14 Sunday

3:30pm. Alan Domenicci (Denver), organ. CSMA

4pm. Robert Gurney, organ. (Repeat: see 6/13) CPLH

5:30pm. St Francis' Choir and chamber orchestra, Robert Kerman, director, Rodney Gehrke, organ, Ellen Kerrigan and Baker Peeples, soloists. Choral Evensong for the Second Sunday after Pentecost: C.P.E. Bach's *Heilig*, and Handel's *Concerto VI for Organ and Orchestra*, with works by Hillert, Dyson, Howells and others. Reception to follow. Free-will offering. Information: 415.334.1590 or www.stfrancisepiscopal.org. St Francis' Episcopal Church, 399 San Fernando Way (at Ocean Avenue), SF



Answer to last month's Visual Puzzle:

Six of one, half a dozen of another.

6:10pm. Julie Vidrick Evans (Washington, DC), organ. Recital follows 5:30 Evensong. SME-B

21 Sunday

3:30pm. Duane Subirous, organ. CSMA

28 Sunday

3:30pm. Christoph Tietze, organ. CSMA

July

5 Sunday

3:30pm. Kristian Schneider (Austria), organ. CSMA

12 Sunday

3:30pm. Karen Beaumont (Milwaukee), organ. CSMA

19 Sunday

3:30pm. Louis Perazza (Philadelphia), organ. CSMA



Looking Ahead

August

2 Sunday

3:30pm. Stephen Lind, organ. CSMA

15 Saturday

6:15pm. Susan Jane Matthews, organ. Works of Bach, Mendelssohn, Franck, Alain, Durufle, Demessieux. SS Peter & Paul Church, 666 Filbert St, SF

16 Sunday

3:30pm. Emma Lou Diemer (Santa Barbara), organ. CSMA

23 Sunday

3:30pm. Lenore Alford, organ. CSMA

30 Sunday

3:30pm. Christoph Tietze, organ. Felix Mendelssohn Festival: Sonatas 2 and 4. CSMA

