

August 2009

The American Guild of Organists San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

2009–2010 Seasons Begins September 7


from David Howitt, Sub Dean

It's not too early to begin making plans for the first program of the 2009–2010 season which will take place on Monday, September 7 at 10:30 a.m. at St Joseph Basilica, Alameda. This program will feature a choral reading session, an open console of the 3/31 Schoenstein organ (1981), lunch catered by Blue Dot Café, installation of new officers, and "The Organ in Film" presented by John Hirten.

With the demise of many music stores it has become increasingly difficult to select new choral literature. One can look on the Internet but usually only one page of music is available to look at. Individual publishers do offer choral reading sessions, but of course present only their own publications. This choral session will feature a variety of musical styles and genres from multiple publishers, taking into account levels of ability and ensemble size. While most of the music has already been selected, please contact me if you have used a newly composed or "unknown" older piece with your choir(s) that you would like to share.

Following the choral reading session there will be a short demonstration of the Schoenstein Organ, opus 90, 1981 with additions. The case and some ranks of this instrument date from the early 1920s. During lunch and following the afternoon activities there will be an open console, so bring your music and shoes.

In 2004 when I attended the AGO National Conference in Los Angeles, I attended a rather serious no-nonsense workshop on Medieval music held in a hotel conference room. Although this workshop was quite good, I could not blot out the fact that people attending the session next door seemed at times to be giggling, laughing and down right guffawing! It was of course the "Pipe Organ in Film" workshop presented by our very own Chapter Dean, John Karl Hirten! John has been kind enough to present this session again. Using film clips and background materials, this presentation will look at the various ways that Hollywood views the pipe organ.

Please plan to attend what should prove to be an informative and humorous day, and please fill out and return the registration form found on page 2. 

Chelsea Chen

from David Howitt, Sub Dean


Please mark your calendars for the second program in the 2009–2010 season which will take place on September 19 and 20 when the Peninsula, San Jose, and San Francisco AGO Chapters present a recital by Chelsea Chen.

A graduate of Julliard and Yale University, Ms Chen will be conducting a masterclass on Saturday, September 19 at 10:00 a.m., and a recital on Sunday, September 20 at 3:00 p.m. These programs are presented at Los Altos United Methodist Church.

More information will be available in the September newsletter, but to whet your appetite, visit www.chelseachen.com

Allan W. Blasdale

The Chronicle

Allan W. Blasdale passed away Thursday, June 18, 2009 at the age of 55. A native of Berkeley, CA, he was a resident of San Francisco for the last 29 years. He is survived by his sister Janice Davenport of Mammoth Lakes, CA and his nephew, Matthew Davenport of Corvallis, OR. Mr. Blasdale was a virtuoso organist and mountaineer. His great love of music began very early, learning to play as soon as his feet could touch the pedals. Allan's playing was moving and inspirational, especially his performances of Bach. Allan performed in America and Europe, and also performed at many churches on Sunday mornings in the Bay Area. Allan loved the mountains. The highest of the Sierra Nevada was his favorite. He spent time in each of his 55 years in Yosemite. Friends and acquaintances are cordially invited to attend Funeral Services on Friday, June 26, at 11:00am at Sunset View Mortuary, El Cerrito. Donations, if desired, may be made in Allan's name to the Yosemite Association www.yosemite.org 

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Submission deadline for the next issue is August 10, 2009

Dean's Letter

John Karl Hirten


I love summers in Marin. It's a warm day outside, my office windows are open and the smell of the recently treated wooden walls of our parish hall is wafting in. As I write this, a cellar spider is climbing slowly up the wall. I think, when I was a child, I might have freaked out about the spider, but now, I just consider it another being trying to accomplish something.

This past June, I was privileged to coordinate an FAGO exam for an out-of-town organist (San Francisco is one of the certification test centers for the AGO). The Fellowship exam is an extremely taxing two-day affair, and the candidate, who had clearly worked very hard to prepare for it, had the look of someone who was resigned to accept whatever came next, including the possibility of not passing. Before the exam, we had been sending e-mails to and fro, making sure all the t's were crossed and the i's dotted, having to schedule a different venue than was originally planned, making sure the judges did not cross paths with the candidate, etc. Knowing all that he had gone through, I was praying that he would pass. He did, and now proudly bears the letters after his name.

We also had two people who took the Service Playing exam. I'm hoping that they passed, too, but I have not heard from them, yet. Having coordinated those exams as well, I can tell you that it was no less stressful for them than it was for the Fellowship candidate.

But the spider reminded me of all those people because it was moving slowly and carefully, as if considering its every move, but always moving in the same direction, until it stopped, turned around and went back to its source. I was thinking that, maybe if there were a bunch of other spiders egging it on, it might have continued climbing to the ceiling. Or maybe it just decided that the ceiling wasn't really where it wanted to go in the first place. Or maybe it felt like it just needed to climb for a while. Maybe the goal wasn't as important as the process.

I returned recently from the Phoenix Rising festival, where there were some wonderful venues and excellent performances. The hotel wasn't shabby, either. But afterwards, we met with the committee members who helped put it on. They had clearly worked very hard to prepare for it, but they also had the look of people who were willing to accept whatever comments others were going to offer, including the negative ones. They, too, decided early on to keep climbing slowly, even changing directions a couple of times.

As the San Francisco Chapter starts gearing up to present its own convention in 2011, we are going to need a lot of spiders to put it together. If you get a phone call from a committee member to enlist your help, do your part. In addition, don't forget that the chapter still has to operate with its own yearly programs and administration. Be prepared to help in some way. Better yet, offer it before you are asked. 



RESERVATION FORM

SFAGO Labor Day Event at St Joseph's Basilica, Alameda
Monday, September 7, 2009

Please copy this form and fill out a *separate* reservation form for each person attending.

Deadline: **September 1, 2009**

Name: _____

Phone and/or e-mail address: _____

Lunch reservation (\$10) Yes No Sandwich choice (circle one): VEGETARIAN TURKEY HAM

Lunch, catered by the Blue Dot Café, will include three choices of gourmet sandwich (vegetarian, turkey or ham), salad, chips, fruit, dessert, and water. Peet's coffee will be available before the workshop and during lunch.

Dietary restrictions: _____

Mail this reservation form and your check (payable to SFAGO) to:
David Howitt, 2840 Adams St, Alameda, CA 94501

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 **August 10** for the **September** issue.

Positions Available by Location

San Francisco

Director of Music/Organist: The Episcopal Church of St Mary the Virgin, San Francisco. Provide organ and piano accompaniment for two–three liturgies per Sunday; direct adult choir of 15 members with four paid section leaders; conduct Youth Choir of 15. Supervise Children's Choir Director; lead or supervise music at progressive afternoon liturgy. Coordinate monthly Candlelight Concert Series. Strong musical heritage within parish, with desire for more growth, new traditions and practices, some increased diversity of repertoire. Two-manual 1970 Möller pipe organ and Yamaha upright piano for liturgies, Baldwin grand for rehearsals. Full benefits, salary range @ \$55,000–\$65,000, depending on final position responsibilities. Send a cover letter and resumé by August 20, 2009, and CD if available, to The Rev. Dr Jason Parkin, Rector, at 2325 Union Street, San Francisco, CA, 94123, or to jason@smsvf.org. For full job description, please see <http://www.smsvf.org/director.pdf>

Peninsula

Choir Director: First Lutheran Church, Palo Alto. Seeking an accomplished choir director with liturgical background to lead well-trained choir of approx. 20 singers in one weekly service and rehearsal. Weekly staff meeting required. Position sits on Worship, Arts, Music Committee. Part-time, 10 months per year. Send resumé to pachrisman@comcast.net; see www.flcpa.org for additional info.

South Bay

Interim Music Director: St Anne's Episcopal Church, Fremont. For one year, beginning Sept. 2009. Less than 1/4 time job. Two M&P Rodgers organ. One service on Sundays, choir rehearsal Wed 7:30–9:00 pm. Salary range \$10,000–\$13,000. Contact: The Rev Lauran Pifke, 510.490.0553, rector@stanneschurch.org

Organist: First Immanuel Lutheran Church, San Jose. Part-time, salary \$15K. Two services Sunday mornings (English & Spanish). 30-rank Schlicker pipe organ. Position starts in July 2009. Contact: Pastor Don Schneider 408.499.9129, pstrdon2003@yahoo.com

East Bay - Inland

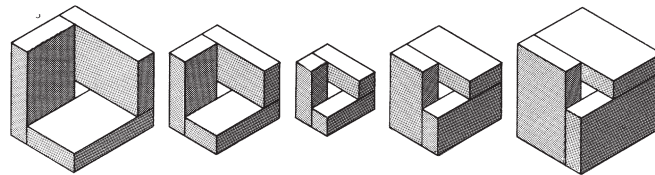
Musician: St Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Livermore. To begin in Fall 2009. A dedicated senior choir of 12 to 16 members sing at the 10:30 service. Two M&P Möller pipe organ, grand piano, handbells. This position is nine months, from Labor Day until Pentecost. Salary is \$10,000. Contact: The Rev. Carol L. Cook 925.447.3289 or 925.373.6201; Fax 925.447.3290

Substitute Available

Substitute Organist/Baritone: Michael Joyce is available for keyboard substitute work — piano/organ, also a Baritone soloist for weddings, funerals & Sunday services. Contact: BassMike1017@aol.com, 209.518.6675

Free

Free choral music: Herb Bielawa has PDF files available of 15 unpublished sacred choral compositions, suitable for Christmas, Lent, Praise and General seasons. Contact: [Herbert Bielawa](mailto:HerbertBielawa@sfsu.edu) 510.524.2912, hbielawa@sfsu.edu



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

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2009–2010
Last updated 07/14/2009

Bay Area Concert Calendar

Collected by Robert Train Adams

2009 August

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 **August 10** for the **September** 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.

CSMA: Cath. of St Mary of the Assumption

GC: Grace Cathedral

SPE-O: St Paul's Episcopal Ch, Oakland

SME-B: St Mark's Episcopal Ch, Berkeley

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



Looking Ahead

September

13 Sunday

6:10pm. Rudy De Vos (Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland), organ. Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. SME-B

17 Thursday

8pm. Choir of Trinity College Cambridge, Stephen Layton, director. Information at events.stanford.edu (free admission). Memorial Church, Stanford University

18 Friday

7:30pm. Choir of Trinity College Cambridge, Stephen Layton, director. Tickets/info: www.brownpapertickets.com. GC

20 Sunday

7pm. Choir of Trinity College Cambridge, Stephen Layton, director. Tickets/info: www.stpaulsoakland.org. SPE-O

October

11 Sunday

6:10pm. Jangoo Chapkhana (Sydney, Australia), organ. Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. SME-B

November

8 Sunday

6:10pm. Gail Archer (Barnard College), organ. Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. SME-B

December

13 Sunday

6:10pm. Leon Chisholm (St. John's Presbyterian Church, Berkeley), organ. Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. SME-B

2010

January

10 Sunday

6:10pm. Brad Hughley (St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Atlanta), organ. Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. SME-B

February

14 Sunday

6:10pm. Elodie Raimond (Cathedrals of Châlons and Soissons, France), organ. Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. SME-B

March

14 Sunday

6:10pm. Gregory Peterson (Luther College, Decorah, Iowa), organ. Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. SME-B

April

11 Sunday

6:10pm. Carl Jackson (Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace, London), organ. Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. SME-B

May

9 Sunday

6:10pm. Michael Messina (Trinity Episcopal Church, Indianapolis), organ. Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. SME-B

June

13 Sunday

6:10pm. Lenore Alford (St. John's Episcopal Church, Ross). Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. SME-B



It is never too late to renew your membership

Unfortunately, by the time you read this, it will be far too late to include your name in the annual SFAGO Chapter Directory, which is already in production.

If you have not yet renewed, please take the time now to mail your renewal form and dues to the Registrar.

