

September 2008

# American Guild of Organists San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

Dean's Letter

## Apropos of Nothing: Three Favorite Symphonic Pieces

By John Karl Hirten, Dean

I'm sure every member of our Chapter has been asked this question at least once, "What's your favorite piece?" The answer, of course, is usually impossible to provide, since most musicians I know like all sorts of music. However, in the spirit of exploration, I would like to challenge you, the reader, to come up with an answer. Better yet, make it a piece of symphonic music, not organ music. Even better still, make it three pieces. I'll start.

*Le Sacre du Printemps* by Igor Stravinsky. When I first heard this piece as a teenager, I read on the back of the record jacket that it caused a riot at its Parisian premiere (later, in music history class, I found out that the audience at the time was scandalized more by the choreography and the ballerinas' fulsome un-sexy costumes than by the music). From the opening unearthly bassoon solo to the ripping finale (where the string writing literally sounds like the tearing of hair), this piece still sounds bold and fresh today.

*Engelkonzert* from *Symphonie "Mathis der Maler"* by Paul Hindemith. This piece was originally written as the prelude to Hindemith's opera about the painter Matthias Grünewald, and later excerpted as the first of a three-movement symphony. Each movement musically depicts one of Matthias' paintings. In *Engelkonzert* it's possible to see in the mind's eye the creation of a work of art from beginning to end, and the realization by the artist that the work has taken on a greater life, beyond that of its human creator.

*Appalachian Spring* by Aaron Copland. I came to this piece much later in life, but perhaps appreciate it more than the others, because of its unabashed simplicity. Copland's spare, open harmonies and brilliant orchestration make this one of the most remarkable pieces of the twentieth century. It doesn't hurt that I was fortunate enough to be in the audience at the composer's eightieth birthday celebration concert at

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

2008-2009

## SFAGO Chapter Programs

**September 1, 2008 – Monday (Labor Day), 11 a.m.**

Dr. Kimberly Marshall  
Mission San Jose, Fremont  
*See reservation form on page 3*

**October 19, 2008 - Sunday, 4:00 p.m.**

Dr. Janette Fishell  
Grace Cathedral, San Francisco  
"Organ Spectacular" program, in conjunction with the AGO Year of the Organ

**November 10, 2008 - Monday, 8:00 p.m.**

Anders Paulsson, soprano saxophone, & Jonathan Dimmock, organ  
Music of Duke Ellington  
Temple Sherith Israel, San Francisco  
A tour of historic Temple Sherith Israel will precede the concert.

**January 19, 2009 - Monday, 7:30 p.m. (MLK holiday)**

Organist Dr. Jennifer Pascual, Music Director at St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City  
St. Patrick's Church, San Francisco

**February 16, 2009 – Monday, 7:30 p.m.**

"The Nordic Choral Style"  
Ragnor Bohlin, conductor of the SF Symphony Chorus  
The Sacred and Profane Chamber Chorus  
First Presbyterian Church, San Anselmo

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# 2011 REGIONAL CONVENTION UPDATE

By Pat During, 2011 Convention Coordinator

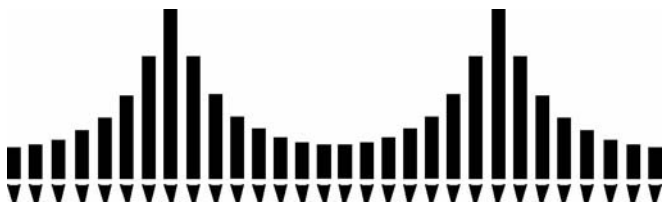
Now that summer is over, we begin in earnest the "count-down" to hosting the Region IX Convention in July, 2011. Your next opportunities to participate in the planning for this exciting and historic event are coming soon.

This past June, several SFAGO Board members met with our Regional Councillor, Frances Nobert. This proved to be a useful time to get her input and advice, discuss timeline details, tailor the committee areas of responsibility to our chapter's unique characteristics, and review the tasks immediately before us.

On October 10-11, I will be attending the orientation session for all regions in New York City with national officers, Regional Councillors, headquarters staff, and the Committee on Regional Conventions. In the weeks to come, the Steering Committee (secretary, treasurer, and committee chairs) will be selected, committees formed, convention theme determined, and promotional materials developed.

All SFAGO members will have multiple opportunities to express their ideas and hopes for our convention. The major event at which this will happen is the *Chapter Brainstorming Session*, to be scheduled after the NYC orientation meetings in October. That date and venue will be announced in next month's newsletter, but the format and content are clear: this will be a 1-hour meeting at which you are invited to express your ideas about what would make the convention appealing to attend. What are our strengths as the host chapter and city? What makes a good convention? What should we avoid (as you recall unsatisfactory or disappointing aspects of past conventions)? It will also be a time to express your willingness to help in the areas of your greatest interest.

Just in case you are unable to attend the *Chapter Brainstorming Session*, input will be possible via email as well. Please feel free to put your ideas out there at any time. I look forward to hearing of your visions and thoughts.



(DEAN'S LETTER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Symphony Space in New York City, where Copland himself got up out of his chair (two rows in front of me), went up to the stage and conducted the original version for thirteen players. What a moving experience that was!

So, if you're so inclined, e-mail me at [jhirten@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jhirten@sbcglobal.net), or call me (see the Chapter Directory), and let me know your favorites (make sure you tell me your full name). If there's a response (and if there is room), we'll put the list in the next newsletter.

By the way, if you do e-mail me and you do not receive a response, call me! SPAM is a terrible thing.

The **SF/AGO 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 preceding publication.

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## 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; email [berrysimon@aol.com](mailto:berrysimon@aol.com). Next issue deadline is September 10 for the October issue.*

### JOB LISTINGS

**Music Administrator:** Grace Cathedral, San Francisco. Full-time position as the primary administrator of the department. No salary quoted. Excellent administrative, computer and organizational skills required with an ability to work collegially in a fast-paced, multi-faceted environment; familiarity with the Anglican church choir & liturgical traditions and repertoire and familiarity with Microsoft Office, FileMaker, and Finale or Sibelius software. Contact: Jeffrey Smith: [jeffreys@gracecathedral.org](mailto:jeffreys@gracecathedral.org) with a copy to Bruce Bearden (Canon for Administration - [bruceb@gracecathedral.org](mailto:bruceb@gracecathedral.org)).

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(CHAPTER PROGRAMS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

**March 22, 2009 – Sunday, 4:00 p.m.**

SFAGO Member Recital & Dinner  
Grace Cathedral, San Francisco (change in venue)  
A program of Holtkamp Prize winning compositions

**May 1, 2009 – Friday, 8:00 p.m.**

Cameron Carpenter  
St. Agnes Church, San Francisco

**June 1, 2009 – Monday, 6:00 p.m. dinner; 7:30 p.m. concert**

SFAGO Dinner & Annual Meeting  
Compositions for organ and/or choir by SFAGO members  
First Congregational Church, Berkeley



## RESERVATION FORM

SFAGO/Peninsula Chapter Labor Day Event at Mission San Jose in Fremont  
Monday, September 1, 2008

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

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your phone number or email address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Bus reservation (\$15 round trip)  
(Leaves St. Mary's Cathedral in SF @ 10am; returns @ 5pm)

\_\_\_ Lunch reservation (\$15) for *al fresco* Mexican meal  
Dietary restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this reservation form and your check (payable to SFAGO) to  
Robert Kerman, 688 Duncan Street, San Francisco CA 94131



11 Saturday

4pm. **Robert Gurney**, organ. Bach, Boellmann, Lloyd Weber. CPLH

12 Sunday

3:30pm. Richard Gehrke (Bielefeld, Germany), organ. *Bay Area Max Reger Festival, Concert 7: Op. 145 Seven Pieces*. CSMA

4pm. **Robert Gurney**, organ. (Repeat: see 10/11). CPLH

4pm. **Benjamin Bachmann**, organ. Recital preceded by 3pm choral evensong. GC

6:10pm. Thomas Foster (Seattle, WA), organ. Recital follows 5:30 Evensong. SME-B

18 Saturday

5pm. St. Paul's Choristers and Chancel Choir. Choral Evensong and Hymn Festival. SPE-BU

19 Sunday

3pm. **James Welch**, organ. Dedication series of new Keggs pipe organ. \$15. Christ Episcopal Church, Eureka, CA

4pm. Janette Fishell (Indiana University), organ. **SFAGO Chapter Event**. "Organ Spectacular" program, in conjunction with the AGO Year of the Organ. Recital preceded by 3pm Choral Evensong. GC

4pm. Leon Chisholm, organ. Baroque Inventions and Re-inventions: modern works inspired by Baroque models, including a new work by UC Berkeley composer Nils Bultmann. SJP-B

26 Sunday

3pm. Voices of America's Future: A festival of Bay Area children's choirs. GC

5pm. **Robert Gurney** and **Robert Train Adams**, organ, Sandy Kameron, soprano, Choir of Trinity Church and San Francisco Lyric Chorus. Gala Dedication of E. M. Skinner organ restoration. TE

31 Friday

8pm. **James Welch**, organ. Annual Halloween Concert. \$10 at the door. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Avenue, Palo Alto

NOVEMBER

2 Sunday

3pm. An All Saints' Procession. GC

4pm. St. Mary's Choir with harp, organ and percussion, **John Hirten**, organ, **Michael Secour** conductor. Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*. SMV

5pm. **Robert Gurney**, organ. TE

8 Saturday

4pm. **Robert Gurney**, organ. Karg-Elert, Rodgers, Sousa. CPLH

9 Sunday

11am. Requiem, K. 626, by WA Mozart sung by the Choir of Men and Boys, soloists and orchestra. GC

3pm. Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance. GC

4pm. **Robert Gurney**, organ. (Repeat: see 11/8). CPLH

5pm. **Robert Train Adams**, organ. TE

6:10 pm. Christopher Petit (DMA Candidate, The Eastman School of Music), organ. Recital follows 5:30 Evensong. SME-B

10 Monday

8pm. Anders Paulsson, soprano saxophone, Jonathan Dimmock, organ. **SFAGO Chapter Event**. Music of Duke Ellington. A tour of historic Temple Sherith Israel will precede the concert. Temple Sherith Israel, San Francisco

11 Tuesday

4pm. **Robert Gurney**, organ. Veteran's Day Concert: George M. Cohan, Irving Berlin, music from the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. CPLH

15 Saturday

5pm. St. Paul's Choristers and Chancel Choir with Ragazzi Boys Chorus. Choral Evensong. SPE-BU

16 Sunday

4pm. Scott Dettra (Washington Cathedral), organ. Recital preceded by 3pm choral evensong. GC

23 Sunday

4pm. **Jeffrey Smith**, organ. Recital preceded by 3pm choral evensong. GC

30 Sunday  
3pm. An Advent Procession. GC

## DECEMBER

7 Sunday  
3pm. Choir of Men and Boys with orchestra. A  
Cathedral Christmas. Tickets \$15-\$50 at City Box  
Office (415) 392-4400. GC

8 Monday  
7pm. A Brass & Organ Christmas with The Bay Brass.  
Tickets \$15-\$50 at City Box Office (415) 392-4400.  
GC

9 Tuesday  
7pm. **James Welch**, organ. Annual Creche Exhibit:  
Christmas Organ Music by Franklin Ashdown. The  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 3865  
Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto

10 Wednesday  
11am. **James Welch**, organ. Music Teachers  
Association of California. Campbell United Methodist  
Church, 1675 Winchester Blvd., corner of Hamilton  
Avenue, Campbell, CA

13 Saturday  
3pm. Choir of Men and Boys. (Repeat: see 12/7) GC

4pm. **Robert Gurney**, organ, with the San Francisco  
Lyric Chorus. Annual Holiday Concert: Daquin,  
Irving Berlin, Victor Herbert. CPLH

5pm. St. Paul's Choristers and Chancel Choir. Advent  
Lessons and Carols. SPE-BU

14 Sunday  
3pm. Choir of Men and Boys. (Repeat: see 12/7) GC

6:10pm. Frank Ferko, organ. Recital follows 5:30  
Evensong. SME-B

18 Thursday  
7:30pm. The American Bach Soloists. G.F. Handel's  
Messiah. Ticket information at  
[www.americanbach.org](http://www.americanbach.org). GC

19 Friday  
7:30pm. The American Bach Soloists. (Repeat: see  
12/18) GC

20 Saturday  
3pm. Choir of Men and Boys. (Repeat: see 12/7) GC

21 Sunday  
3pm. Choir of Men and Boys. (Repeat: see 12/7) GC

22 Monday  
3pm. Choir of Men and Boys. (Repeat: see 12/7) GC

28 Sunday  
3pm. **Jeffrey Smith**, organ. Messiaen's *La Nativité du  
Seigneur*. GC

31 Wednesday  
7pm. Dorothy Papadakos, organ. The Hunchback of  
Notre Dame, Silent film with organ. GC

8pm. **James Welch**, organ. Annual New Year's Eve  
Concert. \$10 at the door. St. Mark's Episcopal  
Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto, CA  
10pm. Dorothy Papadakos, organ. (Repeat: see 7pm)  
GC

## JANUARY

4 Sunday  
3pm. A Festival of Lessons and Carols for  
Christmastide. GC

11 Sunday  
3pm. An Epiphany Procession. GC

6:10pm. Alexander Finch (UK), organ. Recital follows  
5:30 Evensong. SME-B

18 Sunday  
4pm. Carol Williams (San Diego), organ. Recital  
preceded by 3pm choral evensong. GC

19 Monday  
7:30pm. Jennifer Pascual, (New York), organ.  
**SFAGO Chapter Event**. St. Patrick's Church, San  
Francisco



(CLASSIFIEDS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

**Organist:** First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael. 3  
M&P Moller pipe organ. Sundays at 10 am. Starting  
date 9/29/08. No salary quoted. Position of choir  
accompanist could be a separate position or part of the  
organist's job. Respond with letters of interest and  
résumé to: Midge Heath, Administrative Assistant,  
First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael, 1510 Fifth  
Avenue, San Rafael, Ca. 94901 or [midgeh@fpcsr.org](mailto:midgeh@fpcsr.org)

# Bay Area Concert Calendar | September 2008

Collected by Robert Train Adams

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 **September 10 for the October issue**. Send event listings to [AGOCalendar@yahoo.com](mailto:AGOCalendar@yahoo.com).

## SEPTEMBER

1 Monday (Labor Day)  
Dr. Kimberly Marshall, lecture and organ. **SFAGO Chapter Event**. See August newsletter for details.  
Mission San Jose, Fremont.

7 Sunday  
3:30pm. Richard Pilliner (UK), organ. CSMA

13 Saturday  
4pm. **Robert Gurney**, organ. Bach, Widor, Purvis.  
CPLH

5pm. St. Paul's Choristers and Chancel Choir. Choral Evensong. SPE-BU

14 Sunday  
3:30pm. **David Hatt**, organ. *Bay Area Max Reger Festival*, Concert 1: Op. 127, Introduction, Passacaglia and Fugue. CSMA

4pm. **Robert Gurney**, organ. (Repeat: see 9/13)

6:10pm. Michael Bawtree (Glasgow, Scotland), organ. Recital follows 5:30 Evensong. SME-B

21 Sunday  
3:30pm. Isabelle Demers (Juilliard), organ. *Bay Area Max Reger Festival*, Concert 2: Op. 27, 30, 40, Chorale Fantasias. CSMA

26 Friday  
12pm. Isabelle Demers, organ. *Bay Area Max Reger Festival*, Concert 3. Trinity Episcopal Church, Reno

28 Sunday  
3:30pm. Isabelle Demers, organ. *Bay Area Max Reger Festival*, Concert 4: Op. 52 Chorale Fantasias. CSMA

5pm. **Jerome Lenk**, organ. 10th Anniversary of the Basilica Organ, featuring Widor Symphony No. 5. Information at 415-621-8203 or [www.missiondolores.org](http://www.missiondolores.org). Mission Dolores Basilica, 3321 16th St. at Dolores St. San Francisco. Free parking.

## OCTOBER

1 Wednesday  
7:30pm. Thiemo Dahmen, (Cologne, Germany) organ, assisted by the Golden Gate Boys Choir. Masters of the German Baroque. Offering accepted at the door. Saint Vincent de Paul Church, 2320 Green at Steiner Streets, San Francisco

5 Sunday  
3:30pm. **David Hatt**, organ. *Bay Area Max Reger Festival*, Concert 5: Op. 63 Monologues. CSMA

4pm. Bede James Parry (Las Vegas), organ. Music of Richard Purvis. Recital preceded by 3pm choral evensong. GC

5:30pm. Choral Evensong. St. Francis Choir and ensemble. Directed by **Robert Kerman**, with organist **Rodney Gehrke**. Music by Schalk, Aston, Hugo Gehrke, and Handel. SFE

8 Wednesday  
12pm. **David Hatt**, organ *Bay Area Max Reger Festival*, Concert 6. FPC-O

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

### 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. Refer to pages 82–83 in the 2007–2008 SF/AGO Chapter Directory for full address and contact information.*

*CACK: Church of the Advent*

*CPLH: California Palace of the Legion of Honor*

*CSMA: Cathedral of St Mary of the Assumption*

*FCC-B: First Congregational Church, Berkeley*

*GC: Grace Cathedral*

*SFE: St Francis' Episcopal Church*

*SME-B: St Mark's Episcopal Church, Berkeley*

*SML: St Mark's Lutheran Church*

*SPE-BU: St Paul's Episcopal Church, Burlingame*

*SSE-OR: St Stephen's Episcopal Church, Orinda*

*TE: Trinity Episcopal Church*