



September 2009

The American Guild of Organists San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

2011 Convention Plans Taking Shape

Pat During and Larry Marietta, Co-Coordinator

Much has been accomplished in the two Steering Committee meetings and numerous Sub-Committee meetings and email exchanges over the summer months. The deadlines set by the (National) Committee on Regional Conventions (CORC) have spurred us on to prepare the substance and schedule details for the program (John Hirten and committee) and the budget (Bill Montgomery). Confidentiality requirements prohibit us from sharing any specifics, but as soon as the program and budget are approved, those details will become available. We recognize that premature sharing of information regarding artists, worship leaders, workshop presenters, locations, and/or instruments used would be hurtful to those individuals who may not be ultimately chosen to appear.

As you scan the membership list of the Steering Committee below, please notice additions made since our last article. Committee chairpersons are looking for interested, enthusiastic members to help plan their component of the total convention picture. Please feel free to take the initiative to volunteer your services and get involved. This is a very exciting project, with enormous potential for showcasing our regional talent, exploring our impressive diversity of instruments, and highlighting the many attractions of the San Francisco Bay Area.

2011 Regional Convention Steering Committee:

- Co-Coordinator: Pat During, Larry Marietta
- Secretary: Jim Armstrong
- Treasurer: Bill Montgomery
- Program (recitals/concerts): John Hirten
- Program (workshops): Rani Fischer
- Program (worship): George Emblom
- Gifts & Grants: Douglas Franks
- Logistics: Matthew Burt
- Exhibits: Steve Repasky
- Transportation: Jerry Lenk
- Registration/Webmaster: Rob Kerman
- AGO/Quimby RCYO: Angela Kraft Cross
- Reg. Councillor (ex-officio): Frances Nobert



The 2011 Convention Planning Process

by John Karl Hirten

Instead of my usual Dean's Letter, I feel it's important to report to our members as to where we stand regarding the Region IX 2011 Convention, which will be hosted by the San Francisco Chapter. Because negotiations with artists and venues are still ongoing, I cannot give any specifics at this time, but I can share the most general information with you, as well as the names of our Steering Committee members.

The event officially starts on July 3, 2011, although the AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists will take place on Saturday, July 2. There will be other pre-convention and, possibly, post-convention programs as well. The convention hotel will be the Golden Gateway Holiday Inn at the corner of Van Ness Avenue and California Streets, an excellent reasonably-priced hotel in a convenient and central location, close to many eating establishments.

Our Steering Committee co-chairs are Pat During and Larry Marietta. We are happy to have a new chapter member, Jim Armstrong, who will act as committee secretary. Our convention treasurer will be Bill Montgomery. Rob Kerman will be the convention registrar and Matthew Burt will handle logistics. George Emblom has graciously agreed to be the worship coordinator. Rani Fischer is in charge of the committee for workshops, Steve Repasky will handle exhibits and Jerry Lenk will deal with transportation. Douglas Franks is chair of the Gifts and Grants committee and Angela Kraft Cross will be in charge of the AGO

► **Planning Process, page 3**

Inside this issue


Children's Choir Festival at St Mary's	2
St Francis' Evensong Series 2009-10	2
For Sale	3
Contact Information Box	3
Events Calendar & Looking Ahead	4

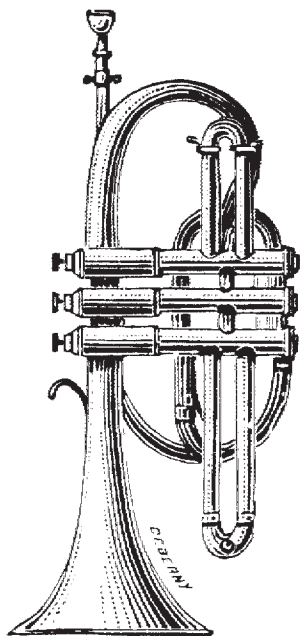
Submission deadline for the next issue is September 10, 2009

Children's Choir Festival at St Mary's Cathedral

from Christoph Tietze

On Saturday, November 7, St Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco will host the regional choir festival of Pueri Cantores, the official international organization for Catholic children's and youth choirs (up to grade 12).

This year's festival will be conducted by nationally acclaimed specialist Michael Wustrow and will culminate with an evening Mass celebrated by Archbishop Niederauer. The repertoire will encompass high quality choral music spanning 1500 years, from Gregorian chant and polyphony to the masters of the 20th and 21st century. Any Catholic children's or youth choir from the Greater Bay Area is welcome to participate. For more information, please visit www.puericantores.com 



2009–2010 Evensong Series at St Francis' Episcopal Church, San Francisco

by Robert Kerman

In Choral Evensong words and music come together, each enriching the other, in order that our senses and intellects, hearts and minds, may help us to draw closer to God.

The eleventh season of Choral Evensongs at St Francis Episcopal Church in San Francisco will begin on October 11 at 5:30 p.m., with Choral Evensong for the 19th Sunday after Pentecost. Music for chamber orchestra, choir and organ by Russell Schulz, Bryan Kelly, and Robert Powell will be offered. The featured choral work will be *Beatus vir* (Psalm 112) by Claudio Monteverdi (1556–1643). The orchestra will play *Ancient Airs & Dances, Suite I* by Ottorino Respighi (1879–1936).

Evensong for Thanksgiving Eve will take place on Wednesday evening, November 25, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. This service, featuring music for choir, oboe, and organ will feature music by William Bradley Roberts, Heinrich Schütz, and Harald Rohlig. A highlight is the Litany of Thanksgiving, with congregational hymns. Join us to give thanks for another year of blessings.

On February 7, 2010, Choral Evensong for the Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany will take place at 5:30 p.m. Music for string quintet, choir, and organ by Russell Schulz, Gerald Near, and Paul Lewis will be performed. Highlights include *Misericordias Domini, K. 222* ("I will sing forever of God's mercies," Psalm 89) by Wolfgang Mozart, and *Divertimento for Organ and Strings* by Charles Callahan (b. 1951).

On April 25 Choral Evensong for the Fourth Sunday of Easter will take place at 5:30 p.m., featuring music for chamber orchestra, choir, and organ by Carl Schalk, Healey Willan, and Charles Callahan, including *Meditation on Brother James' Air* by Harold Darke and the *Nocturne* from *A Moorside Suite* by Gustav Holst. Of particular interest is the cantata *The Lord is My Shepherd* by Jan Bender, an unpublished work for choir and orchestra dating from 1962.

The season will conclude on June 13, 2010, with Choral Evensong for the Third Sunday after Pentecost, at 5:30 p.m. Music for choir, chamber orchestra, and organ by James Hurd, Grayston Ives, and Charles Callahan will be offered. G.F. Handel's *Coronation Anthem II: Let thy hand be strengthened*, and *A Dowland Suite* by John Ireland (1879–1962) will be the featured works.

► Evensong Series, page 3

Planning Process, from page 1

Quimby RCYO. Finally, I am chairing the program committee, and am pleased to have Matt Walsh, Rani Fischer (Dean of the Palo Alto Peninsula Chapter) and another new member, Lenore Alford, as part of this committee.

There are a couple of positions that have yet to be filled, and we expect that by the end of August we will have taken care of those as well. If you are interested in helping out with any of these committees, please let Pat or Larry know.

An important guest during our Steering Committee meetings thus far has been our Regional Councillor, Frances ("Frankie") Nobert. In addition to having a wealth of experience and information, she's also a wonderful positive presence to have in the room with us.

Just to be clear, there is a fundamentally important aspect to a regional convention that I would like to share with all of our members: they are not "mini-national" conventions. We are expected, even mandated, to showcase local and regional talent. We have an advantage in that regard, in that Region IX includes Hawaii, Singapore, South Korea and Australia — in addition to California, Nevada, Arizona and Utah. There are many fine players and workshop presenters found in this region, and we expect this convention to be a stellar event. I hope you will find a way to be a part of it. 🍷



Evensong Series, from page 2

At each Evensong, the choir sings the Psalms to Anglican Chant or Plainsong settings, the Evensong Canticles in choral settings from the Anglican tradition, one or more anthems, and an orison. The congregation joins in singing hymns, Plainsong Psalms, and the Suffrages. Program notes on the music and composers, as well as liturgical notes, illuminate the musical and liturgical offerings. A reception with sherry and other refreshments takes place in the Guild Hall following each Evensong.

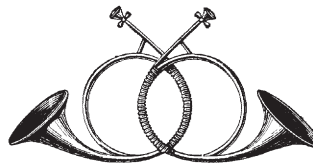
St Francis' Episcopal Church is located at 399 San Fernando Way (at Ocean Avenue) in San Francisco. There is ample street parking at the church. For more information or directions to the church, call (415) 334-1590 or visit www.stfrancisepiscopal.org. 🍷

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 **September 10** for the **October** issue.

Harpichord for sale:

Wittmayer double (1970s) for sale. Recently rebuilt and refurbished. New strings, new felt, refurbished action and keyboards, new plectra, new stop action. Regularly played and tuned. 8-8-4-buff. Priced for immediate sale, \$3,500 firm. Chris Tietze, orgelchris@yahoo.com, 415.924.1377. Also available: 2006 Zuckermann King of Sweden Clavichord. \$2,500.



SFAGO Newsletter is published monthly September thru May, with a Summer issue in July or August, 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.

Dean: John Karl Hirten, 415.927.4775, jhirten@sbcglobal.net

Sub Dean: David Howitt, 510.523.2414, dhowitt@st-joseph-community.org

Sub Dean Elect: Angela Kraft Cross, 650.368.6684, krftcrss@pacbell.net

Secretary: Simon Berry, 415.255.0640, simoncberry@gmail.com

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

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

2009-2010
Last updated 07/26/2009

Bay Area Concert Calendar

Collected by Robert Train Adams

2009 September

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

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
- SF-E: St Francis' Episcopal
- SME-B: St Mark's Episcopal Ch, Berkeley
- SPE-O: St Paul's Episcopal Ch, Oakland

August

30 Sunday

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

September

6 Sunday

3:30pm. John Hirten, organ. Cathedral Mendelssohn Festival: Sonatas 1 and 6. CSMA

7 Monday

10:30am. Choral reading. Also open console, installation of officers, "The Organ in Film," presented by John Hirten. Lunch \$10. **SFAGO chapter event.** St Joseph Basilica, Alameda

13 Sunday

3:30pm. Angela Kraft Cross, organ. Cathedral Mendelssohn Festival: *Three Preludes and Fugues*; Fugues in e and f; *Theme and Variation in D*; *Allegro, Chorale, and Fugue in D*. CSMA

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

19 Saturday

10am. Chelsea Chen, organ. Masterclass. **Joint SFAGO, Peninsula, and San Jose Chapter event.** Campbell United Methodist Church, 1675 Winchester Blvd, Campbell

20 Sunday

3pm. Chelsea Chen, organ. Recital. **Joint SFAGO, Peninsula, and San Jose Chapter event.** Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave, Los Altos

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

27 Sunday

3:30pm. David Hatt, organ. Cathedral Mendelssohn Festival: Sonatas 2 and 5. CSMA



Looking Ahead

October

4 October

4pm. Choirs from throughout the Archdiocese of San Francisco. Archdiocesan Choir Festival, in conjunction with the Cathedral's Festival of Flowers, celebrating the Feast of St Francis. Works by Vivaldi, Mozart, Britten, Bartok, and Purcell. CSMA

11 Sunday

3:30pm. St Michael Trio (piano, violin, cello) with Russell Hancock, piano. CSMA

5:30pm. St Francis' Choir & Chamber Ensemble, Robert J. Kerman, director, Rodney Gehrke, organ. Choral Evensong: music by Russell Schulz, Bryan Kelly, Monteverdi, and Respighi. Reception follows. Free-will offering. Information at

415.334.1590 or www.stfrancisepiscopal.org. St Francis' Episcopal Church, 399 San Fernando Way (at Ocean Avenue), San Francisco. [SF-E]

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

18 Sunday

3:30pm. Bede Parry, organ. CSMA

4pm. Kenneth Mansfield, organ. Lafayette/ORinda Presbyterian Church

25 Sunday

3:30pm. Anthony Hammond (UK), organ. Reconstruction of a Cochereau organ symphony improvised at St Mary's Cathedral in 1972. CSMA

31 Saturday

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

November

8 Sunday

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

25 Wednesday

7pm. St Francis' Choir, Robert J. Kerman, director and organ. Choral Evensong for Thanksgiving Eve: music for choir, oboe & organ by W.B. Roberts, Heinrich Schütz, and Harald Rohlig. Reception follows. Free-will offering. See Oct 11 for directions. SF-E

December

13 Sunday

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

January 2010

10 Sunday

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

