


November Chapter Event

Robert Gurney Recital
Trinity Episcopal Church
1668 Bush Street, San Francisco
Sunday, November 5, 7:00 p.m.

James Aylward, Sub Dean

Robert Gurney, organist at the historical church, will play a one and one-quarter hour program titled “The Symphonic Organ” featuring works by Barber, Purvis, Walton, and others.

Edward M Stout, who has guided the restoration of the church’s four-manual, 54-rank E M Skinner organ, will speak briefly on the history and disposition of the instrument.

The recitalist, Mr Gurney, also plays at San Rafael’s Temple Rodef Sholom and The Palace of the Legion of Honor. He directs the San Francisco Lyric Chorus as well. A reception will follow the admission-free recital. 

2007 AGO / Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists [RCYO] Announcing the San Francisco Chapter level Competition

The San Francisco Chapter is proud to host a chapter level competition for the RCYO on February 17, 2007 at First Congregational Church, Berkeley (Larry Marietta, Director of Music) on the church’s new Petty-Madden organ. The first-place winner of this competition subsequently goes on to compete in the Region IX Competition to be held in the summer of 2007.

Competitors must be under 23 years of age as of August 1, 2007. Full details, including repertoire requirements and an application form may be found at www.agohq.org. Please return the application form to Dr Susan Jane Matthews, 1335 Clay Street, #3, San Francisco, CA 94109. Applications must be post-marked no later than January 16, 2007.

We are looking forward to a very exciting day of playing! 

Chapter Program Year at a Glance

November 5, 2006

Robert Gurney in Recital
 Trinity Episcopal Church, San Francisco

December 4, 2006

Christmas Program & Carols
 St John’s Episcopal Church, Ross

January 15, 2007

San Francisco Organ Crawl
 St Mark’s Lutheran Church, St Mary’s Cathedral
 Holy Name Church, Legion of Honor

February 19, 2007

Choral Workshop with John Renke
 St Paul’s Episcopal Church, Burlingame

March 18, 2007

The Reverend Paul Perry in Recital
 St Cecilia’s Church, San Francisco

April 22, 2007

Jeremy Filsell in Recital
 Los Altos United Methodist Church

May 13, 2007

John Morabito in Recital
 Reception for AGO members and POE 2005 students
 Grace Cathedral, San Francisco

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Submission deadline for the December issue is
 November 10, 2006

Note from the Dean

I hope this November finds you well. It certainly can be a time of great fulfillment, frenzy, and frustration—all intertwined, I find. Having just celebrated my first year in a new post as Director of Music at St Paul's, Burlingame, I am finding true nourishment in our choirs and delighted to be on the path to refurbishing our 1929 Skinner organ. In my great enthusiasm to begin to create an acoustic for all of our music-making, I recently wrote an article for our parish newsletter—at the root an explanation why our congregation should be terribly excited about rediscovering the natural acoustics of the building through going without pew cushions for a few weeks. As you might expect, not all of our parishioners shared my enthusiasm. I'll be glad to loan you this article, if you ever feel your work has become too dull, and your vestry has run dry of topics. A recent AAM journal article reminded me of this final comic strip from Calvin & Hobbes that I thought might speak to many of us this November, in slightly different ways, as it did to me:

Calvin & Hobbes are sledding, and Calvin suggests they try a new path.

Hobbes: *"I don't see a path."*

Calvin: *"We'll make a path! Change is invigorating! If you don't accept new challenges you become complacent and lazy! Your life atrophies! New experiences lead to new questions and new solutions! Change forces us to experiment and adapt! That's how we learn and grow!"*

In the last panel, Calvin & Hobbes tumble off a huge snowy cliff into a void.

Calvin (in the air): *"Well, here's a fresh challenge."*

Hobbes (upside down): *"I admit it's opening up new horizons."*

With only a tail and mitten showing, Hobbes says: *"The problem with new experiences is that they're so rarely the ones you choose."*

Calvin: *"I feel smarter already."*

Needless to say, I have a way of tumbling off into voids. I am grateful for the grace of God that allows me to keep trying new paths, hopefully gaining a bit more wisdom about living along the way.

*No man is an island, entire of itself. . .
any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind,
and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls;
it tolls for thee.*

- from John Donne's *DEVOTIONS UPON EMERGENT OCCASIONS*

It is a time of heartfelt sadness for our chapter as we mourn the death of two very dear members, Paul Rosendall and Thomas Herman. They will be so greatly missed. Each of us may have known these men in different ways, I am personally thankful


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Celebration of David N. Johnson's Works

from Peninsula Chapter

November 19, 2006—mark this date on your calendar. On that day, Sunday, at 7:30 p.m., the Peninsula Chapter of the AGO and St Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto, will be hosting a most unusual program, featuring the late, unpublished works of one of the 20th century's most prolific choral and organ composers, David N. Johnson.

Most organists are familiar with at least some of David's work, especially the numerous trumpet tunes, the hymn "Earth and All Stars," and popular anthems such as "Saw Ye My Savior." Most of these works were originally published in the 60's and 70's, but Mr Johnson continued composing right up until his untimely death in 1987. This material exists in pencil sketches in various states of legibility and has been compiled by his daughter, Teal. She has been assisted by her husband, David Hatt, former Dean of the San José AGO Chapter and Assistant Organist at St Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco. Together, they have compiled a large number of these works, most of which are rather brief and which reflect Mr Johnson's evolving artistic concerns during the 1980's. Many of these pieces do not sound like the "typical DNJ work."

Musicians for the concert are Mr Hatt, organist, baritone Stuart Duke, and trumpeter Carole Klein. They will present a program of approximately 75 minutes including solo organ works, works for trumpet and organ/piano, and works for solo voice/trumpet with organ. The audience will have a chance to join in at the end on the congregational hymn, "There is Enough to Feed this World." 

Firms Partnering with the SF/AGO to Increase our Membership

Hupalo & Repasky Pipe Organs, LLC
Jarvis Music Associates, Inc
Schoenstein and Co., Inc. Organ Builders
Swain & Kates Inc. Pipe Organs

Thank you for your cooperation!

See the accompanying article by Gerard Montana
on page 4 of this issue to read about this program.

Paul Allen Rosendall 1931–2006

Paul Allen Rosendall was born on August 15, 1931, in Eugene, Oregon. He grew up in a musical environment—his mother was a noted soprano who appeared for many years in both churches and concert halls in the Eugene area. He moved to the bay area in the 1950's and became active in local AGO activities. He studied for many years with Richard Purvis at Grace Cathedral and they became close friends.

Besides a successful career in the business community of San Francisco, he served as organist for many Bay Area churches. These include Christ Anglican Church in San Mateo, Mater Dolorosa Catholic Church in South San Francisco, Trinity Lutheran Church in Oakland, St Kevin's Catholic Church in San Francisco, St Elizabeth's Episcopal Church in South San Francisco, Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist, San Francisco, and St Matthew's Catholic Church in San Mateo.

Paul was a very intelligent man, and was a great help to officers of the San Francisco Chapter in giving advice and making suggestions over the years. His term of service as dean was a model of correctness in running the Chapter and he will be missed by his many colleagues and friends.

Paul died on Thursday, September 28, at his son's home, surrounded by his family and especially his three grandchildren whom he loved very much. For those of us who were close to him, a void has been created now, but our collective memory of his greatness as a musician and a man will remain with us for years to come.

A memorial service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 28th, at St Elizabeth's Episcopal Church, 280 Country Club Drive, South San Francisco.

Thomas Ambrose Herman 1951–2006

Thomas Herman was born on December 7, 1951, the son of an Episcopal priest. He received a degree in music and studied under Walter Blodgett. He served as a staff organist for St Paul's Episcopal Church, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, before moving to San Francisco about 26 years ago. In San Francisco he worked in the banking business, and served as organist and music director for St Thomas' Anglican Church in San Francisco.

Mr Herman was a member of the San Francisco AGO chapter and was serving as a trustee on the Special Projects Committee and as Calendar Events Editor for the monthly newsletter at the time of his passing. He will be missed by his many friends and colleagues.


Mr Herman died early Sunday morning, October 8, in St Francis Hospital of lung cancer. The memorial service for Tom was held at St Thomas Anglican Church, 2725 Sacramento Street (cross street Pierce) in San Francisco at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 25th.

Practice Site for Organ Students: a Proposition

from Eileen Andrade

The Hillside Community Church in El Cerrito has recently become the beneficiary of a donated Wurlitzer theatre-style two manual organ, Model 4520, which we are in the process of having moved and restored. The problem is that we no longer have an organist among us and we are interested in making the organ available to students who would like an instrument to practice on in a beautiful setting. This would be to make sure that the organ is played regularly, and also in hopes that the student might play an occasional service for us, such as Easter or Christmas.

Musical instruments are meant to be played—not just sit around unused. Our church is open to allowing students to come in and practice on or play the two organs (we also have an electronic organ), and our only request would be that the instruments and the space be respected.

Any students interested in this proposition should contact Eileen Andrade at one of these numbers: 510.643.6421 work (days); 510.237.7306 home; 510.847.2689 cell. 

Dean's Note

► *continued from page 2*

for the kindness that both showed to me in my first few years in San Francisco. It is a time of sadness, but also of celebration for the lives of two men who gave freely of their time and talents to our chapter. May their lives of service renew our faith in our own vocations.

*Lord, you now have set your servant free to go in peace
as you have promised.*

~ Luke 2:29

Progress Report on Building Our Membership

Gerard Montana


Each year it seems there are a few less members of our beloved San Francisco Chapter of the AGO. Some pass on, and some simply drop out. Our hard-working board members take turns calling those who drop out and encourage them to consider joining again. Some do, and some don't. Well, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that at this rate we'll be out of business sometime in the future.

Now is the time to get more people to join our chapter and support the greatest instrument in creation. Last year we embarked on a large project that would involve the organ tuners and organ builders in our area. We reasoned that organ tuners and organ repair people visit churches all the time—and many of these technicians are faithful members of the Guild.

We wrote to them and asked if they would partner with us in a huge effort to gain more members for our chapter. We would provide them with a supply of brochures, and they would leave them on the organ bench or with the church office when they made a maintenance call. Many times churches need the kind of help that only the Guild can offer. The brochure will tell them how they can contact us and join our chapter.

As of this writing, all of the organ tuners and organ repair people we know have been contacted and have been asked to participate. The list of companies who have agreed to help us will be published in our newsletter every month. We are very happy they have agreed to partner with us. We have also sent copies to organ teachers so they can encourage their students to join the Guild.

But **you** are not off the hook. Don't leave this vitally important job to others. You, too, can be an ambassador to the chapter. Keep copies of the brochure handy so you can give them to members of your church who love the organ. What better place to love an instrument than to be with other people who love it too—our chapter!

To obtain copies of this beautiful brochure, send an e-mail request to Gerard888@comcast.net. We'll get them in the mail to you. 

Cowan Delivers as Promised

Justin Kielty

Many years ago I cornered one of the local rag's music critics and asked why he never covered organ concerts. His response was that concert organists were really glorified church musicians playing second-rate musical literature to a narrow interest niche. He went on to tell me that most concert organists didn't bother to memorize the music they were playing, needed page turners, and often required assistance in pulling stops or pushing pistons, and then added insult to injury by immediately playing encores as soon as one person clapped!


Too bad that critic was run out of town before he could witness Ken Cowan at work.

The long overdue and eagerly anticipated performance by Ken Cowan more than satisfied when he played the opening concert of the SF/AGO and Grace Cathedral 2006–2007 concert season on Sunday, September 17, at 4:00 p.m.

With a minimum amount of commentary, this engaging young man established an easy rapport with his audience. Playing works of Willan, Karg-Elert, Bossi, Wagner and Liszt, Cowan's musical artistry and technical prowess were clearly evident. In spite of limited practice time, Cowan coaxed sounds from the magnificent organ rarely heard from visiting performers. At the conclusion of a mind-boggling virtuoso playing of the Liszt "Ad Nos," the audience rose to its feet as one, quicker than I have ever witnessed since being in the military. As for encores, there were several curtain calls before he launched into the "Ride of the Valkeries," a jaw-dropping tour de force that brought a few beads of perspiration to his brow.

Chapter member Steve Cram generously coordinated and provided for AGO members a spectacular reception.

Earlier in the day, Ken and SF/AGO member Gerard Montana were interviewed by Henry Tennenbaum on KRON Sunday Morning News. Vic Ferrer Productions produced the video footage of Ken Cowan playing the Grace Cathedral organ used in the KRON program. Vic is a member of our chapter and the producer of "The Senator's Masterpiece," the story of the Atlantic City pipe organ.

The SF/AGO, with the help of Vic Ferrer Productions, produced a public service announcement (PSA) viewed on local channels as a means of getting out word of the concert to a wider audience. It succeeded, as evidenced by the large turn-out. 

Events Calendar

► *continued from page 6*

18 Saturday

John Karl Hirten, organ. Music of Marcello, Vienne, Dvorak, Gounod, Bach. **4pm CPLH**

Gregorian Schola, Paul M Ellison, director. Latin Chant Mass. Missa de angelis and Gregorian Propers for the Eve of Pentecost Twenty-four. A Reception follows. **5pm CACK**

19 Sunday

San Francisco City Chorus. (Repeat: see 11/17) **3pm TE**

Angela Kraft Cross, organ. Works by Bach and Buxtehude. **3:30pm CSMA**

John Karl Hirten, organ. (Repeat: see 11/18) **4pm CPLH**

Schola Adventus, Paul M Ellison, director. Solemn Evensong and Benediction for the Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost, with music by Bold, Conte, and Smith. Recital by **Jonathan Dimmock**, organ, and Rita Lilly, soprano. **Evensong 3pm; Recital 4pm CACK**

Annual Ludwig Altman Memorial Concert: Mendelssohn's "Elijah," U.C. Berkeley University Chorus and guest orchestra directed by Marika Kuzma. No admission charge. Main Sanctuary, **Temple Emanu-El**, 2 Lake Street, SF. **4pm**

Sandra Soderland, organ. Works by Byrd, Gibbons, Bull, Buxtehude, Sweelinck, du Mage, and J.S. Bach. (\$15 donation; \$5 students) **4pm SJP-B**

David Hatt, organ, with baritone Stuart Duke, and trumpet Carole Klein. **Peninsula AGO Chapter event**. Late, unpublished

works of David N Johnson. **St Mark's Episcopal Church**, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. (650) 366-2502 or wintersdds@sbcglobal.net. **7:30pm**

25 Saturday

Keith Thompson, organ. Pops Concert, including light classics, Broadway favorites, programmatic works and highlights from organ literature. **4pm CPLH**

26 Sunday

Mark Bruce, organ. Works by Bach and Buxtehude. **3:30pm CSMA**

Keith Thompson, organ. (Repeat: see 11/25) **4pm CPLH**

Jeffrey Smith, organ. **4pm GC**



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, **Substitutes Available** notices, and **For Sale** items to: Simon Berry, 466 Duboce St, San Francisco, CA 94117; e-mail berrysimon@aol.com. Next issue deadline is **November 10**.

Job Referrals

Peninsula

Principal Organist: First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto. Quarter time position to begin in January 1, 2007. One worship service per week and significant liturgical occasions, accompanies the Chancel Choir in weekly rehearsal, and accompanies the children's, youth, and hand bell choir. Large 4 M&P pipe organ. Salary: \$18,000-\$22,000. Contact: Mark A Shaull, Director of Music, markshaull@aol.com, 408.605.0941. See also <http://www.firstpaloalto.com/staff.shtml>

The ideal candidate will have experience in traditional, classical, contemporary, and world music; formal choral direction education; and outstanding communication skills. 1200 member congregation, with an established adult choir, participating in two Sunday services; a professional caliber organist/accompanist, an established children's choir, a children's bell choir. No salary quoted or information about organ. Jane Lang, Chair of the Music Search Committee, San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, 902 Danville Blvd. Alamo, CA 94507. jane_lang@sbcglobal.net; Home phone: 925.939.2424; Church phone: 925.837.5243; Church fax: 925.837.2763; www.srvumc.org

East Bay - Inland

Director of Music Ministry: San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, Alamo. Sundays at 8:30am and 10:00am.

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 does 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: Susan Jane Matthews, 415.928.3910, sjm@susanjanematthews.com

Sub Dean: James Aylward, 415.333.5702

Sub Dean Elect: Kenneth Matthews, 415.285.7973, kennethmatthews@rcn.com

Secretary: John Jarvis, 925.734.3443 (office), john@jarvismusic.com

Treasurer: Frances Boggiano, 415.648.1820, francesb@gracecathedral.org

Registrar: Justin Kielty, 415.621.5166, jkielty@sbcglobal.net

Chaplain: The Rev. Rosa Lee Harden, 415.515.0425, rosalee@hardenjones.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

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

Job Placement & For Sale Listings: Simon Berry, berrysimon@aol.com

Obituary Listings: Donald Sears, 510.635.6869, dsears3866@aol.com

Newsletter Articles: George Morten, 415.695.1754, **no e-mail attachments:** gbmorten@xemaps.com

Article submissions, attachments OK; no press releases: geomort@ix.netcom.com

Paid Advertising: George Morten, 415.695.1754, pandemonium@ix.netcom.com

2006-2007

Bay Area Concert Calendar *Collected by Robert T Adams*

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 **November 10**. 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. Refer to pages 86–87 in the **2006–2007 SF/AGO Chapter Directory** for full address and contact information.

- CACK:** Church of the Advent/Christ the King
- CPLH:** Calif. Palace of the Legion of Honor
- CSMA:** Cath. of St Mary of the Assumption
- FCC-B:** 1st Congregational Church, Berkeley
- FPC-O:** 1st Presbyterian Church, Oakland
- GC:** Grace Cathedral
- SFE:** St Francis' Episcopal Church
- SJP-B:** St John's Presbyterian Ch, Berkeley
- SME-B:** St Mark's Episcopal Ch, Berkeley
- SMV:** St Mary the Virgin Episcopal Church
- TE:** Trinity Episcopal Church

October

28 Saturday

Keith Thompson, organ. Pops Concert, including light classics, Broadway favorites, programmatic works and highlights from organ literature. **4pm CPLH**

Welch-Hancock Duo, Halloween concert. **St Mark's Episcopal Church**, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. (\$10 donation). **8pm.**

29 Sunday

John Karl Hirten, organ. Works by Bach and Buxtehude. **3:30pm CSMA**

Keith Thompson, organ. (Repeat: see 10/28). **4pm CPLH**

Thomas Foster, organ. Pierre DuMage's *Livre d'Orgue* and Widor's *Symphony No 6*. **4pm GC**

James Welch, organ, with choir. Music of Bach, Britten, Bernstein, and Widor. (\$24 admission) **California Theatre**, 345 South First Street, San Jose, CA. (1/2 block south of San Carlos Street). www.symphonysiliconvalley.org. **7pm**

November

1 Wednesday

Ron McKean, harpsichord. Music of Scarlatti, François Couperin; McKean improvisation: "The Sonata." **12:15pm FPC-O**

Schola Adventus, **Paul M Ellison**, director. Procession & High Mass for the Feast of All Saints', with music by Bach, Bainton, Boëllmann and Victoria. A Reception follows. **6:30pm CACK**

Schola Cantorum San Francisco, **John Renke**, director. Solemn Mass of All Saints: music of Victoria and di Lasso. **St Edward Catholic Church**, 5788 Thornton Avenue, Newark. **7:30pm**

2 Thursday

Fauré Requiem. St Dominic's Solemn Mass Choir; San Francisco Choral Artists; The Festival Orchestra; **Simon Berry**, director. Fauré's serene music in the context of a liturgical Requiem Mass. Entrance free, plenty of onsite parking. 2390 Bush Street (Bush@Steiner), San Francisco, CA 94115. 415-567-7824; www.stdominics.org. **Contact church for time.**

Schola Adventus, **Paul M Ellison**, director. High Mass of Requiem for the Feast of All Souls', *Missa pro defunctis*, Victoria. **6:30pm CACK**

3 Friday

Ann Callaway, **Richard Mix**, organ. Music of Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven. **St David of Wales Catholic Church**, 5641 Esmond Ave. at Sonoma, Richmond. **11:15am**

Schola Cantorum San Francisco, **John Renke**, director. Music for All Saints and All Souls. **Church of the Incarnation**, 550 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa. **8pm**

4 Saturday

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

Gregorian Schola, **Paul M Ellison**, director. High Latin Mass. *Missa de angelis* and Gregorian Propers for the Octave of All Saints. A Reception follows. **5pm CACK**

5 Sunday

Grace Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys with orchestra. Duruflé Requiem Eucharist to commemorate all faithful departed. **3pm GC**

Angela Kraft Cross, organ. Widor Series: Symphonies #5 and 6. (\$10 donation). **3pm FPC-O**

Christoph Tietze, organ. Works by Bach and Buxtehude. **3:30pm CSMA**

David Hegarty, organ. (Repeat: see 11/4). **4pm CPLH**

Michael Secour, director, with St Mary's Adult and Youth Choirs and soloists Margaret Secour, Katherine McKee, Kevin Baum, Keith Perry, and Mitch Ashley, with strings, trumpets, and organ. Music of Henry Purcell. **4pm SMV**

Robert Gurney, organ. The Symphonic Organ: Program includes Barber *Adagio*, Richard Purvis *Greensleeves*, Walton *Crown Imperial*. **SF/AGO Chapter event. 7pm TE**

8 Wednesday

Ron McKean, organ. Music of Louis Couperin, Frescobaldi; McKean improvisation: "Fantasia". **12:15pm FPC-O**

James Welch, organ. Tribute to Herbert Nanney. (tickets \$10/\$5/\$5) **Stanford Memorial Church. 8pm**

11 Saturday

Robert Gurney, organ. Music of Porter, Joplin, Bach. **4pm CPLH**

12 Sunday

David Hatt, organ. Works by Bach and Buxtehude. **3:30pm CSMA**

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

Mario Duella, organ (Portula, Italy). Second Sunday Series. **Evensong 5:30pm; Organ Recital 6:10pm SME-B**

15 Wednesday

Ron McKean, piano and organ. Piano Cycle "1" and "Sounds of Eternity for Electronics and Pipe Organ." **12:15pm FPC-O**

17 Friday

James Welch, organ. Widor's *Symphony No 5*. (admission \$10) **Trinity Episcopal Cathedral**, Reno NV. www.trinityreno.org. **7:30pm**

San Francisco City Chorus, **Larry Marietta**, conductor, **John Walko**, organ. Mendelssohn's *St Paul*, **8pm FCC-B**

► *Continued on page 5*