

## From the Dean's Keyboard...

*Paul Rosendall, Dean*

Seasons Greetings to all our members and Best Wishes for a Blessed Christmas Season.

As we prepare for the upcoming season with all its special music, we push ourselves to the limit and then, when the last note of the Christmas Day service has been played, we leave our places of employment and head home to peace and quiet and a few days of rest. When that time comes, if ever, I would like you to take time to mark your calendars with the remaining dates for Guild events. The program committee has been working very hard to produce programs of interest and ask only that you attend. (Think about carpooling, calling others and getting them to join you). We have wonderful receptions, interesting venues, and the important thing, social interaction.

Looking toward 2005, the board has voted to hold another POE. This means that we need members to help with this worthwhile project. Think seriously about how we can bring more young people into our Chapter. LET US MAKE 2004 A BANNER YEAR FOR THE SF/AGO.

Wishing you a Blessed and inspired Christmas Season,

Paul Alan Rosendall  
Dean, SF/AGO



## Ludwig Altman Revisited

*Submitted by Eleanor Anderson*

One of our members has requested that we put in an additional note concerning Mr. Altman. She would like us to note that he served as organist at Ninth Church of Christ, Scientist, San Francisco,, for over 30 years. ☺

## Chapter Events

### 2003-2004 Program Year

*by Angela Craft Cross*

**J**oin us in 2004 for special recitals, organ crawls, workshops and other events.

#### January

##### Date and time to be determined

Organ Crawl at Stanford University Memorial Church.

#### February 15-16 (Sunday/Monday)

Presidents' Day weekend Concert and Symposium at St. John's Presbyterian Church, Berkeley. Davitt Moroney in concert Sunday at 4:00 p.m., and classes on Monday with Davitt Moroney and Jonathan Ambrosino.

#### March 21 (Sunday) 3:00 p.m.

Olivier Latory in Concert at Grace Cathedral.

#### May 22-23 (Saturday/Sunday)

Saturday Master Class and Sunday Organ Concert with Todd Wilson at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in San Francisco, co-sponsored with the Peninsula Chapter.

## Musical Chairs

*John H. Frykman, Ph.D.*

As of August 1, CHERYL ARNOLD is Music Director/Organist at St. Monica Catholic Church, Geary Blvd. at 23rd Avenue, San Francisco.

The work includes conducting two choirs (adult and 4th-8th grades) which sing on alternate Sundays, organ at three weekend Masses. The Kilgen organ has been maintained and improved by Schoenstein and Company, which is now adding a full-compass reed and a mixture. Pastor is Fr. John Greene, also a chapter member. ☺



## David Briggs Surgery Successful

*from Recital Program Notes and Memo from Phil Truckenbrod*

David Briggs, who was scheduled to perform in Moraga at St. Mary's College on November 7 and give a workshop the following day, collapsed in New York on Saturday, November 1, 2003. He was in too serious a condition to return to the U.K. He underwent surgery on November 7 at St. Luke's Hospital to implant a pacemaker.

On November 11, we received the following memo from Philip Truckenbrod concerning Mr. Briggs.

*We appreciate that you are concerned to know how David Briggs is doing, so I want to update you with the information we have as of now.*

*I visited him over the weekend at St. Luke's Hospital in New York, and found him calm and doing well although (understandably) a bit apprehensive about his pending surgery. The surgery is scheduled for today, and is a procedure which has gone very well each time it has been performed at St. Luke's. The two corrective measures to be taken (I believe only one is being done today) should leave David in better shape and better health than he has enjoyed for years. His prognosis is excellent.*

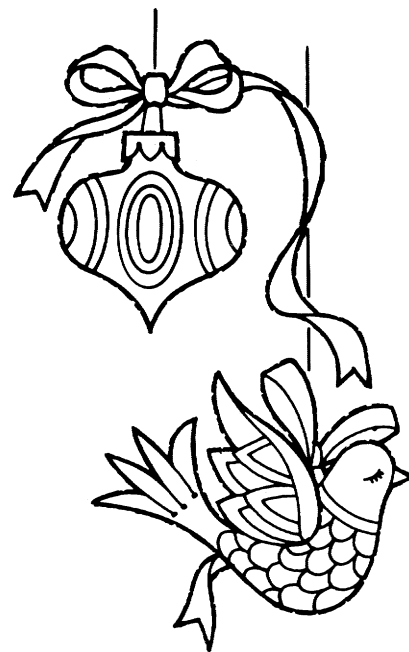
*His plan is to remain in New York until late December, and get to Cambridge in time for Christmas services. He asked his care givers at St. Luke's about the plan, and they said, "You'll be able to jog from the hotel to the services if you want to."*

*We expect everything to go well with his treatment, and if you don't hear further from us on this subject, please take it as good news.*

*Phil Truckenbrod*

Our best wishes for a complete recovery go out to him, and every effort will be made to reschedule his appearance after he has recovered.

*[Editor's note: Mr. Keith Thompson stepped in on very short notice to play the scheduled recital on St. Mary's recently-refurbished Austin organ. A review of his program will appear in next month's newsletter.]* ☺



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The SF Chapter website contains a wealth of information, including past newsletters.

## Robert Landis — taught music in S.F. schools

*Chuck Squatriglia, Chronicle Staff Writer*

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**R**obert M. Landis, who instilled a love of music in thousands of San Francisco schoolchildren and helped make stars of some of them, has died at the age of 67.

Mr. Landis was surrounded by family and friends when he died of pancreatic cancer Oct. 13 at his home in San Francisco. His death came just 20 days after the San Francisco Unified School District named the auditorium at A. P. Giannini Middle School in his honor to commemorate the 22 years he taught there.

His career could have been the basis for the fictional film "Mr. Holland's Opus," in which a teacher uses music to impart broader lessons about life. Like Mr. Holland, Mr. Landis was a tough teacher who demanded the best from his students and helped them find it. Some of them pursued careers in music and never forgot the man who encouraged them to do so.

"He's one of the main reasons I'm a professional singer today," said Lori Decter, a soprano with the San Jose Opera who did not consider becoming a singer until she studied under Mr. Landis from 1986 to 1988 - 20 years after her mother was his pupil. "I remember thinking, 'Wow, this is something I could see myself doing.'"

Mr. Landis was born in Minot, N.D., in 1936 and discovered at a young age that he had an aptitude for music. He began playing the piano in first grade and then joined the church choir. It wasn't long before he was playing the church organ and contemplating a career in music. He earned his bachelor's degree in music at Minot State University and a master of arts degree from the University of Iowa.

He was drafted into the Army shortly after that and served at Fort Ord, where he taught English. It made him realize he liked teaching and was good at it, said his wife of 36 years, Bette Landis.

After leaving the Army in 1964, Mr. Landis moved to the Bay Area and applied for a job with the Oakland and San Francisco school districts. San Francisco hired him.

"He was hired not for his musical ability, but because he had just left the Army and could handle kids," his wife recalled.

Mr. Landis earned a reputation as a strict teacher who made it clear that music class would not be the easy "A" that many students expected. He combined music, literature, history

and poetry to place music in its historical and social context, and he encouraged his students to bring in music from their own ethnic backgrounds to share with the class.

Despite being strict, Mr. Landis proved a popular teacher, and the ranks of the A.P. Giannini Middle School choir soon swelled to 170 students, many of whom never forgot the man who introduced them to the likes of Mozart, Beethoven and Copland.

"We once walked into a hotel in Cabo San Lucas, and the first thing we heard was 'Hey! Mr. Landis - remember me?'" his wife recalled.

Mr. Landis never missed a chance to offer broader lessons about life and used music and performing to teach the value of discipline, cooperation and hard work, all the while helping boost their self-esteem, Decter said.

"I don't know how many of his students went on to music and stuck with it, but he made a difference in all their lives," she said.

Mr. Landis is survived by his wife, Bette Landis of San Francisco; four stepchildren, Carol Negro and Robert Negro, both of San Francisco, Angela Beem of Weed (Siskiyou County) and Tony Negro of Petaluma; sisters Sharon Gill of Albuquerque, N.M., and Patricia Ellerman of Lubbock, Texas; and nine grandchildren.

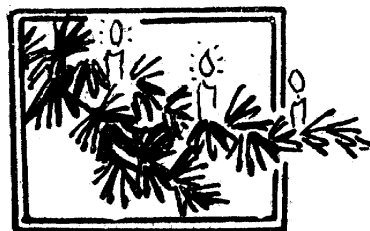
A memorial will be held at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 3 at Lakeside Presbyterian Church, 19th Avenue at Eucalyptus Street in San Francisco. Memorial donations may be made to the Kathleen Salamunovich Goodman Memorial Fund, c/o Mary Breden, Loyola-Marymount University, No. 1 LMU, Los Angeles, CA, 90045-2659. ☞

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As a Choir Director/Organist, Mr. Landis served Trinity Methodist Church, Chinese Congregational Church, and Covenant Presbyterian Church.



## American Guild Of Organists Announces Nationwide Salary Survey For Musicians At Religious Institutions

NEW YORK CITY—The American Guild of Organists (AGO) has published an innovative, technology-driven salary survey for musicians serving religious institutions. The survey, which is published in the November 2003 issue of *The American Organist Magazine* (pp. 94-95), can be completed online at <[www.agohq.org/survey](http://www.agohq.org/survey)>. Alternatively, individuals are welcome to photocopy the survey published in the magazine, complete it, and return it anonymously to AGO National Headquarters. The information collected from this survey will enable the AGO to better understand the current employment trends and evaluate compensation packages of organists and choral directors throughout the country in an effort to better support these professionals.

The survey, authorized by the AGO National Council and conducted by the AGO Committee on Career Development and Support, is designed to be completed within ten minutes. The actual length of completion time will depend primarily on the number or different institutions the respondent serves. Individuals employed by religious institutions are encouraged to complete the form regardless of whether or not they are Guild members. This will enable the committee to compare Guild members' compensation packages and working conditions to those of non-Guild members.

“While a number of AGO chapters have successfully developed and administered salary surveys for their local constituencies, this is the first time a national salary survey has been developed by the Guild,” noted AGO Executive Director James Thomashower. “This is an exceptionally important project for the Guild. It has the potential to yield a large quantity of useful information that the AGO can use to develop new insights and recommendations regarding the compensation packages of the nation's church and synagogue musicians.”

Among the many other ambitious goals of the survey are the following: document the working environments and quantify the actual salaries and benefits packages of professional organists and choir directors; update and validate the AGO's salary guidelines; assess the impact of education, Guild certification, and experience on an organist's compensation package; and assess the effects of a religious institution's economic, demographic, and denominational settings on the compensation package it provides.

The American Guild of Organists, the largest organization in the world dedicated to organ and choral music, supports its members and the institutions that employ them by providing a number of helpful publications including the AGO Salary Guide, Model Contracts, and Annual Employment Review. These are available in electronic form online at <[www.agohq.org/profession](http://www.agohq.org/profession)> and from the AGO Bookstore by calling 1-800-AGO-5115.

*This information is submitted by F. Anthony Thurman, Director of Development and Communications. For further information, please contact Dr. Thurman at AGO National Headquarters.*

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### ChoirMaster's Lament

A new hymn, to be sung to the tune **St. Denio**, known as “Immortal, Invisible.”

Immoral, impossible, God only knows  
How tenors and basses, sopranos, altos  
At service on Sunday are rarely the same  
As those who on Wednesday to choir practice came.

They come; then depart, as each fanciful whim  
Prevents us from practicing even one hymn.  
“What am I to do?” the director laments,  
“Their presence — then absence — holds me in suspense!”

Unready, unable to sight-read the notes,  
Nor counting, nor blending, they tighten their throats:  
The descant so piercing is soaring above  
A melody only a mother could love.

They have a director, but one wonders why:  
No one in the choir deigns turn him an eye.  
It's clear by his flailing, he wants them to look,  
But each singer slouches with nose in the book.

The organist plays with deliberate poise  
While using **Full Organ** to drown out their noise.  
His long years of training have all been for nought;  
This choir can't improve: what is this they have wrought?

Despite the offenses, the music rings out.  
The folks in the pews are enraptured, no doubt.  
Their faces are blissful, their thoughts appear deep,  
But it is no wonder, for they are asleep.

Stanzas 1, 3, 4 & 6  
David Bohn, Composer, Organist, Conductor

Stanzas 2 & 5  
George Morten, Organist, Pipe Organ Technician

**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 and **For Sale** notices to: Simon Berry, 466 Duboce St., San Francisco, CA 94117; e-mail <berrysimon@aol.com>. Next issue submission deadline is **December 10**.

**Job Referrals**

**East Bay - Inland**

**Choir Director: Tice Valley UMC Walnut Creek.** Starting Jan 2004. Sunday morning service, midweek rehearsal, 15 voice choir. Salary \$6000/mo, Sept-June. Contact Arthur Frueh, 925.945.8719.

**Substitute available**

**Rosemary Wren**, a new member, is available as a substitute organist, pianist. Contact: <rosemaryg224@hotmail.com>, 415.699.6901

**Looking Ahead**

*continued from back page*

**David Hegarty**, organ. (Repeat: see 1/3.)  
4pm CPLH

**Mark Laubach**, organ (Organist Ch.M., St. Stephen's Episcopal Pro-Cathedral, PA). Free. 3pm GC

**10 Saturday**

**Mark Bruce**, organ. Music of Poulenc & Frank Bridge. 4pm CPLH

**11 Sunday**

**Paul Ellison**, organ. 6:10pm (follows 5:30 Evensong) SME-B

**J. Melvin Butler**, organ (Organist Ch.M., St. Mark's Cathedral, Seattle WA). Works by Bach, Winges, Mendelssohn, Messiaen, Tournemire & Sowerby. 3pm GC

**Christoph Tietze**, organ. 3:30pm CSMA

**Mark Bruce**, organ. (Repeat: see 1/10.)  
4pm CPLH

**17 Saturday**

**John Karl Hirten**, organ. Music of Bach, Stoughton, Vierne & Khatchaturian. 4pm CPLH

**18 Sunday**

**Frederick Teardo**, organ (Yale University Chapel Organist). 3pm GC

**Gail Archer**, organ (New York, NY).  
3:30pm CSMA

**David P. Dalh**, organ (Christ Church [Episcopal], Tacoma WA; Pacific Lutheran University). 4pm SJP-B

**John Karl Hirten**, organ. (Repeat: see 1/17.) 4pm CPLH

**24 Saturday**

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

**25 Sunday**

**David Higgs**, organ (Chair, The Eastman School of Music, organ department). 3pm GC

**Malcolm Rudland**, organ (UK). 3:30pm CSMA

**David Hegarty**, organ. (Repeat: see 1/14.)  
4pm CPLH

**31 Saturday**

**Robert Gurney**, organ. Music of Bach, Durufle & Purvis. 4pm CPLH

**February 2004**

**1 Sunday**

**Robert Gurney**, organ. (Repeat: see 1/31.)  
4pm CPLH

**8 Sunday**

**Malcolm Rudland**, organist (London England). 6:10pm (follows 5:30 Evensong) SME-B

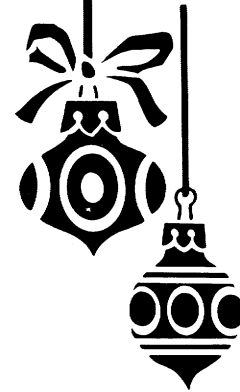
**15 Sunday**

*President's Day Weekend  
Concert & Symposium.*

**Davitt Moroney**, organ. *SF/AGO sponsored event.* 4pm SJP-B

**16 Monday**

**Davitt Moroney & Jonathan Ambrosino**, master classes. *SF/AGO sponsored event.* Time to be determined. SJP-B



**Merry  
Christmas**



**Feliz  
Navidad**



**Joyeux Noël**



**Bay Area Concert Calendar** *Collected by Thomas A. Herman*

**D E C E M B E R**

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 **December 10**. Send listings to <AGOCalendar@yahoo.com>.

**Recurring Venues**

Churches and institutions offering programs on a regular basis are assigned abbreviations to save space in our calendar listings. These abbreviations are listed alphabetically here, along with the full name of the venue. Please see page 92 in the *2003-2004 Chapter Directory* for information formerly found here.

- CPLH:** Calif. Palace of the Legion of Honor
- CSMA:** Cath. of St. Mary of the Assumption
- GC:** Grace Cathedral
- NSSF:** National Shrine of St. Francis
- SJP-B:** St. John's Presbyterian, Berkeley
- SME-B:** St. Mark's Episcopal, Berkeley
- SMV:** St. Mary the Virgin (Episcopal)
- SSE-OR:** St. Steven's Episcopal, Orinda

**November 2003**

**29 Saturday**

Mark Bruce, organ. Works by Percy Whitlock & Giacomo Puccini. **4pm CPLH**

**30 Sunday**

**Choral:** Advent Procession with the Grace Cathedral Choir of Men & Boys. **3pm GC**

Michael Moreskine, organ & piano with Cathy Allen, cello. **3:30pm CSMA**

**Choral:** Advent Carol Service. Music of Tallis, Howells, Holst & Gorecki. John Renke, director. **4pm NSSF**

Mark Bruce, organ. (Repeat: see 11/29). **4pm CPLH**

**December 2003**

**5 Friday**

**Choral:** 8th annual Messiah Sing. Benefit for food banks. Free will offering. Score rental \$2. <www.ststephensorinda.org> **7:30pm SSE-OR**

**6 Saturday**

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

**7 Sunday**

**Choral:** Messiah Sing. Church restoration benefit. Free will offering. **2:30pm 1st Church of Christ Scientist**, 2619 Dwight Way at Bowditch, Berkeley. 510.845.7199

Susan Jane Matthews, organ & The Bay Brass. *A Brass & Organ Christmas*. Ticketed event. <www.gracecathedral.org> **3pm GC**

Vasyliunas Vytenis, organ (Germany). Works by Rautavaara, Thomason & Sowerby. **3:30pm CSMA**

Larry Marietta, organ. **4pm NSSF**

David Hegarty, organ. (Repeat: see 12/6.) **4pm CPLH**

**13 Saturday**

**Choral:** Christmas with the Grace Cathedral Choir of Men & Boys with orchestra. Ticketed event. <www.gracecathedral.org> **3pm GC** (Repeats: 12/14 @ 3pm, 12/15 @ 7pm, 12/20 @ 3pm, 12/21 @ 3pm & 12/22 @ 7pm.)

John Karl Hirten, organ. Music of Campra, Vivaldi, Kerg-elert, Yon, German & Vierne. **4pm CPLH**



**14 Sunday**

Raymond Garner, organ. **3:30pm CSMA**

John Karl Hirten, organ. (Repeat: see 12/13.) **4pm CPLH**

**Choral:** *Christmas in the City*. Schola Cantorum, John Renke, director. Free. **4pm NSSF**

Charles Rus, organ. **6:10pm** (follows 5:30 Evensong). **SME-B**

**19 Friday**

Susan Jane Matthews, organ with brass. Ticketed event. **7:30pm GC** (Repeat: see 12/7.)

**20 Saturday**

Keith Thompson, organ. Pops concert. **4pm CPLH**

**21 Sunday**

**Choral:** Service of Lessons & Carols. St. Mary's Children's Youth & Adult choirs, handbells, harp & strings. Michael Secour, organist-director. **9am & 11am SMV**

John Karl Hirten, organ. **3:30pm CSMA**

**Choral:** *Christmas in the City*. Schola Cantorum, John Renke, director. Free. **4pm NSSF**

Keith Thompson, organ. (Repeat: see 12/19.) **4pm CPLH**

**24 Wednesday**

John Renke, organ. Music of Bach, D'Aquin & Fleury. Free. **4pm NSSF**

**27 Saturday**

Robert Gurney, organ. Music of Johann Strauss, Jr., Anderson & other Holiday favorites. **4pm CPLH**

**28 Sunday**

David Hatt, organ. **3:30pm CSMA**

David Graham, organ (London, UK). **4pm NSSF**

Robert Gurney, organ. (Repeat: see 12/27, joined by the SF Lyric Chorus.) **4pm CPLH**

**31 Wednesday**

Susan Jane Matthews, organ. *A New Year's Eve Celebration*. Free. **10pm GC**

John Renke, organ. Music of Bach, Vivaldi & Boellmann. Free. **10:15pm NSSF**

**Looking Ahead**

**January 2004**

**3 Saturday**

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

**4 Sunday**

**Choral:** Epiphany Lessons & Carols. Cathedral Choir of Boys & Girls. **3:30pm CSMA**

► **Looking Ahead, continued on page 5**