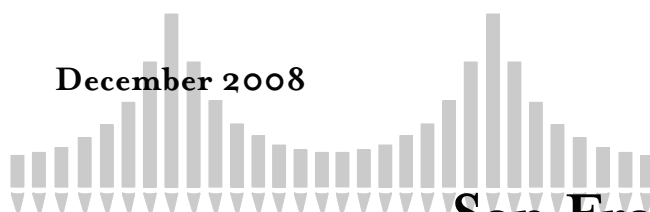


December 2008



American Guild of Organists San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

Our next Chapter event . . .

**MLK Day Recital by
Dr. Jennifer Pascual
January 19, 2009 - 7:30 p.m.
St. Patrick's Church
San Francisco**

Dr. Jennifer Pascual was appointed Director of Music at the Cathedral of St. Patrick in New York City in 2003. She is the first woman to hold this position, one of the most prestigious sacred music appointments in the United States.

The organ at St. Patrick's Church was built by the Ernest M. Skinner Company of Boston in 1929. It is the company's 811th organ and contains 2,025 pipes controlled by three keyboards, a pedal board, and thirty-five stops. The organ is remarkable because it is in its original mechanical and tonal state.

Reserve the date and join us for this enjoyable program offering.



2008–2009 SFAGO Chapter Programs

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
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Belvedere

March 22, 2009 – Sunday, 4:00 p.m.
SFAGO Member Recital & Dinner
Grace Cathedral, San Francisco
A program of Holtkamp Prize winning
composition

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



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AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists

By John Karl Hirten

The San Francisco Chapter will host the first round of the AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists, to be held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave, Palo Alto. SFAGO member James Welch has kindly agreed to be the coordinator for this event.

This competition, held in odd-numbered years, is sponsored and administered by the nine regions of the American Guild of Organists. Competitors must be under 23 years of age as of August 1, 2009. Membership in the AGO is not required. The first round of competition begins at the Chapter level. Competitors may compete in any Chapter competition held within the AGO region of their home or school. Only one Chapter competition may be entered. Registration fee is required for Chapter level. The final round is held concurrent with the Regional Conventions. Required repertoire is published with the official rules in *The American Organist*.

The winner of the Chapter level prize will win \$500. The Chapter will also assist in travel and hotel expenses for the winner to attend the Regional competition in Phoenix, Arizona, on Saturday, June 20 (the regional convention takes place June 22-25, 2009). The winner of that competition will win \$1,000, with a prize of \$500 going to the second place contestant. The winner will also receive paid registration and expenses for the convention, and will be presented in a recital at Phoenix Rising: Region IX Festival 2009. All first-place winners of this competition will be invited to perform at the 2010 National Convention in Washington, DC. Additional information may be requested from national AGO headquarters by e-mail, fax, mail or telephone.

The AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions for Young Organists are made possible by a generous grant from Michael Quimby, President, Quimby Pipe Organs, Inc.

For information on the AGO/Quimby RCYO, consult the national AGO website at <http://www.agohq.org>. Click on the link *Competitions and New Music*. For information on the organ at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, please contact James Welch at [<james@welch.net>](mailto:james@welch.net)



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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Dean's Letter

By John Karl Hirten

Since many of us work in churches or synagogues, it's difficult to put ourselves into a different point of view, i.e., that of a churchgoer. It may be helpful to ask ourselves occasionally, "If I came here to worship, instead of work, would I choose to come to this place?"

Tricky question, eh? Even better than that would be, "If I came for the music, would I want to listen to me play the organ?" Some people actually do ask themselves such questions and resort to recording the service. Listening to such a recording can be eye-opening indeed.

What about getting beyond the music and associating oneself with *this* place? What is it that would keep me coming here? The community? The preaching? The architecture? Sometimes it's worth thinking about this.

In the past few months, a couple of our chapter members, who happen to have volunteered as musicians in their respective churches, have experienced difficulty with their co-workers or their bosses. In one case, a member was asked to leave a position (which is amazing to me because, if you are a volunteer, then your services are costing nothing to the church; it would seem in the church's interest to continue enjoying the services of a dedicated volunteer). But, in both cases there was considerable hurt to the member over what was considered a disregard by others over their "turf."

This brings up questions of expectation and entitlement. What do we expect in return for our efforts?

At a previous job, I had a fair modicum of control over the music program, occasionally having to have civilized discussions with my boss, the liturgist, about the relative merits of the St. Louis Jesuits (I was on the negative side), and having to agree to swap one "Be not afraid" for two *Rendez a Dieu's*. It worked well until he was reassigned and a new liturgist came in who was far more controlling and inflexible. Needless to say, I got tired of battling over repertoire and left the position.

I have different issues at St. Stephen's, my present church. It is a fairly well known venue for recordings; several recordings done at St. Stephen's have won Grammy awards. This is all very well for reputation,

but it's a bit of a pain when the recordings are under production, because I cannot get access to the church for practicing for days at a time, and this forces me to go without or to make other arrangements. It's a hassle. I feel like I've lost "my" space (I don't have an organ at home). One performing group presents regular concerts at St. Stephen's. I rarely get asked to perform with them, so that compounds the resentment I occasionally feel.

But after all, what in a job *belongs* to us? I often find it interesting, for instance, that organists are a very possessive lot when it comes to the organ at their church or synagogue. In most cases, they are the only ones in the church community who have access to what is arguably the most expensive toy in the building, overseeing half-a-million dollars (or more) worth of the church's property to which they may not ever have contributed a dime when it was built. Is it fair for one person to have so much power?

Sorry if this sounds harsh, but we need to have occasional reality checks with ourselves about what really is important in life. All Christians, and even those who aren't, should be able to appreciate that one of the greatest, if not THE greatest figure in history was born with only a swaddling cloth around him, and he went and died with little else on as well. There is no better time to take stock of our priorities than the Christmas season, especially in such a bad economy.

One last thought. I have in my possession a publicity photo (unfortunately not an original) from the Hitchcock film *North by Northwest*, in which Cary Grant is shown in an open field running toward the camera with a crop duster biplane diving down on him. When things get bad at work, I have been known to keep this photo very close to the door of my office. It inspires me to remember that things may change very quickly in life, but that there is always a way out to another opportunity. If the biplanes get too close, maybe it's time to duck and get away from there.

Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukah. Watch out for the biplanes.

Review:

A Concert of Folksongs and Jazz

By Simon Berry

Monday, November 10, 2008, 8 pm

Congregation Sherith Israel, San Francisco

Anders Paulsson, soprano saxophone; Jonathan Dimmock, organ

An AGO concert of folksongs and jazz with a saxophone and it sin a synagogue... could this possibly be a success with the conservative organ crowd? Let's try some adjectives to describe this event: artistic; skilled (amazing skills); sensual; have these peaked your interest?

Let's start by saying that this duo performed with wonderful artistic harmony. It felt like one organism playing two instruments. The varied program explored the possibilities of this cross-breed instrument (think of a trumpet/clarinet/flute mongrel) and allowed us to hear the organ at perhaps its best role.

The fine 3 M&P Los Angeles Art (aka Murray Harris) organ proved itself to be an amazing accompaniment to the soloist. Its variety of warm and well-crafted sounds and very precise speech (especially in the string basses) allowed it to support the saxophone perfectly, even in the strenuous harmonic intervals of Duke Ellington. Personally, I don't like the tuttis very much - they sound too distant and constrained - but tonight we heard the purr of the diapasons and strings and the warm cooing of the flutes. Jonathan Dimmock made the organ sound so vital and relevant to the music.

Anders Paulsson is without doubt very skilled. This came to light in the unaccompanied solo 'Caprice en Forme de Valse' by Paul Bonneau. Here was virtuosity and artistry combined in equal measure. It was there in all the other music as well, just hidden behind the glaze of a master musician making the music sound natural.

In the middle of the program we heard Paulssohn in the dome of the temple, not far from the echo organ. Here the sound was sensual and blended like Devon clotted cream on a bed of strawberry jam. Amazingly the balance between the organ and saxophone was perfect, despite the distance.

What was there not too like? At first I thought that the program needed something with some more muscle to drive it; but once I'd heard the Bonneau piece, I was convinced.

Many thanks to the performers and those enlightened people who brought the program to us.



Acknowledgments for the Fishell Recital

by John Karl Hirten

I want to thank everyone who was involved in presenting Janette Fishell's recital at Grace Cathedral, especially Jeffrey Smith and Ben Bachmann. Thanks also to Matt Walsh, our Sub Dean for staying in contact with her management. Special thanks to those who brought goodies for the reception: David Howitt, Justin Kielty, Natsuko Murayama, and Matt and Mary Walsh. Please let me know if I've forgotten anyone. Thanks also to the many donors to our concert series. I did manage to meet a couple of new faces at this event, and I hope we see you again during the year.

Holiday
Greetings
from
the SFAGO



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. Next issue deadline is December 10 for the January issue.

JOB LISTINGS

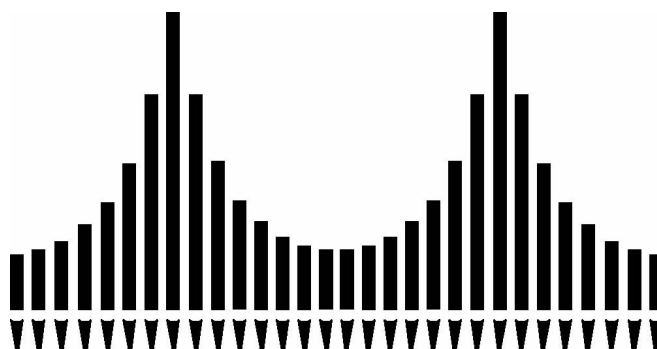
Director of Music/Organist, St. Ignatius of Antioch Catholic Church, Antioch. Position is 25 hours per week plus benefits with hopes of growth to 3/4 or full time. Salary range \$35,000 plus benefits, depending upon experience and ability. Four liturgies each weekend plus holy days, weddings and funerals. Instruments are a new 37 stop Rodgers Digital Organ and an upright piano. The director will work with cantors as well as direct two parish choirs. Applicants need to be knowledgeable of Roman Catholic liturgy and proficient in playing both organ and piano. Applications and résumés may be sent to Fr. Robert Rien, 3351 Contra Loma Blvd., Antioch, CA 94509; or by email at Robearkr@aol.com

Music Director: St. John's Episcopal Church, Ross. Seeking half-time music director for Sunday services and parish music program. Director plays Organ (3 M&P Aeolian-Skinne /Allen combination organ) and Piano for 10:00 a.m. service and conducts volunteer choir with one paid Cantor. The Music Director provides pastoral leadership of the choir, conducts Thursday evening rehearsals and plays once a month at 8:00 a.m. service. Music Director is expected to work collaboratively with parish clergy on liturgy planning, serve as a resource for musical leadership at 9:00 a.m. family service and support children's music program for holidays. Experience with volunteer church choirs expected. No salary quoted. Contact: The Rev. Chris Rankin-Williams at crw@stjohnsross.org 415-456-1102 x103.

FOR SALE

Free organs: Two Conn organs (a 628 and a Conn Theaterette 580) Photographs at <http://weaverfamily.com/gallery/temporary/HPIM5447>. The organs are in Los Altos. Contact Norah 650 941-5395.

For Sale: Rodgers Electric Organ from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley. \$6000. The instrument is in good condition, but is no longer needed at the seminary. Moving the organ must be arranged by the buyer. Cost of moving is not included. Email for pictures. lery@plts.edu (510) 559-2731



Nominating Committee

By John Karl Hirten

I am pleased to announce the names of the members who will constitute the SFAGO Nominating Committee for 2009: Jim Bisbing, Christopher Putnam, and Jerry Lenk. During the next two months they will be hard at work coming up with candidates for the Executive Board, including Members-at-Large, Secretary, Treasurer, Sub Dean Elect, and Dean.

If you are interested in running for one of these positions, please express your interest by contacting the committee. E-mail is the preferred option for doing this. Please consult the directory for their contact information.

If you get a phone call from a member of the committee asking if you would run for office, please consider saying "yes." The best way to get involved in the Chapter (not to mention a good way to meet other members if you are new), is to be involved on the Executive Board. The Board usually meets on the third Monday of the month, about 7-8 months of the year.

14 Sunday

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

3pm. Larry Marietta, conductor and organ. Annual Christmas Festival of Choirs. FCC-B

3pm. George Biester, director. German Advent Service. Resurrection Lutheran Church, 391 Euclid Avenue, Oakland

3:30 pm. Vytenis Vasyliunas (Germany), organ. Peter Warlock Sonata. CSMA

4pm. Robert Gurney, organ. Works by Pachelbel, Daquin, Berlin. CPLH

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. 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

4pm. John Karl Hirten, organ. Works of Bach, German, Demessieux, Yon, Mulet. CPLH

21 Sunday

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

3:30pm. David Phillips, organ. CSMA

4pm. John Karl Hirten, organ. (Repeat: see 12/20). CPLH

4:30pm. St. Mark's Choir Association, George Emblom, director, W. Wayne Ritchie and Bridget Chatterley, organ. *A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*. SME-B

22 Monday

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

27 Saturday

4pm. Keith Thompson, organ. Broadway favorites, programmatic works and highlights from organ

literature. CPLH

28 Sunday

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

3:30pm. David Hatt, organ. CSMA

4pm. Keith Thompson, organ. (Repeat: see 12/27). CPLH

31 Wednesday

4pm. Laura Secour, voice, Michael Secour, piano. Comedy on Broadway. SMV

7pm. Dorothy Papadakos, organ. *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, Silent film with organ. Tickets \$10-\$20 at City Box Office (415) 392-4400. 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 of 7pm event) GC

JANUARY

4 Sunday

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

3:30pm. Cathedral Choir of Boys and Girls, Golden Gate Boyschoir and Bellringer. Epiphany Lessons and Carols. CSMA

7 Wednesday

7:30pm. Yale Glee Club and the International Orange Chorale, Jeffrey Douma, director. Works by Ned Rorem and Cristian Grases, with diverse array of folk music, spirituals, and traditional Yale songs. Tickets \$10/\$8 at www.cityboxoffice.com or (415) 392-4400. GC

11 Sunday

3pm. An Epiphany Procession. GC

3:30pm. Ronald McKean, organ. CSMA

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

18 Sunday

3:30pm. St. Michael Trio. CSMA

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

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

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

24 Saturday
5pm. St. Paul's Choristers and Chancel Choir with Pacific Boychoir Academy. Choral Evensong for St. Paul. SPE-BU

25 Sunday
3pm. Festal Evensong with world premiere of evening canticles by Stephen Paulus commissioned to honor Dean Alan Jones' retirement. GC

FEBRUARY

1 Sunday
3pm. James Welch, organ, Dan Levitan, harp. The Music of Dale Wood. FCC-B

3pm. A Candlemas Procession. GC

3:30pm. Christoph Tietze, organ. CSMA

8 Sunday
4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, organ. Recital preceded by 3pm choral evensong. GC

5pm. John Walko, organ. TE

5:30pm. Evensong for the 5th Sunday after the Epiphany. Music of Powell, Bairstow, Moeran, Mendelssohn, Bell and Dodd. SFE

6:10pm. Jain Cain (Davidson College Presbyterian Church, NC), organ. Recital follows 5:30 Evensong. SME-B

7pm. RLC musicians and guests, George Biester, director. Abendmusik: All-African Program. Resurrection Lutheran Church, 391 Euclid Avenue, Oakland

14 Saturday
5pm. Deborah Tien Price, violin, Susan Jane Matthews, organ and piano. SPE-BU

15 Sunday
3:30pm. Christoph Tietze, organ. CSMA

4pm. Douglas Cleveland (Seattle), organ. Recital preceded by 3pm choral evensong. GC

5pm. David Hatt, organ. TE

16 Monday
7:30pm The Sacred and Profane Chamber Chorus with Ragnor Bohlin, (conductor of the SF Symphony Chorus). SFAGO Chapter Event. The Nordic Choral Style. First Presbyterian Church, San Anselmo

22 Sunday
3:30pm. Hans-Uwe Hielscher (Germany), organ. CSMA

4pm. Benjamin Bachmann and Jeffrey Smith, organ. Organ Duets. Recital preceded by 3pm choral evensong. GC

5pm. David Hegarty, organ. TE

MARCH

1 Sunday
3pm. A Lenten Procession. GC

8 Sunday
4pm. Jeremy Filsell (Washington DC), organ. Recital preceded by 3pm choral evensong. GC

6:10pm. Brian Swager, organ. Recital follows 5:30 Evensong. SME-B

15 Sunday
4pm. Christopher Herrick (UK), organ. Recital preceded by 3pm choral evensong. GC

21 Saturday
5pm. St. Paul's Choristers and Chancel Choir. Lenten Meditation on Passion of Christ. SPE-BU

22 Sunday
4pm. SFAGO Member Recital. SF/AGO Chapter Event. Recital preceded by 3pm choral evensong. GC

7pm. RLC musicians and guests, George Biester, director. Abendmusik: Bach's Birthday. Resurrection Lutheran Church, 391 Euclid Avenue, Oakland

29 Sunday
3pm. Jeffrey Smith, organ. Improvisations on the Stations of the Cross. GC

5:30pm. Evensong for the 5th Sunday in Lent. Music of Proulx, Purcell, Gibbons, Bach, Brahms, and Pärt. SFE

Bay Area Concert Calendar | December 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 **December 10 for the January 2009 issue**. Send event listings to AGOCalendar@yahoo.com.

DECEMBER

5 Friday

7pm. St. Stephen's Choir and orchestra, Robert Train Adams, director. Messiah Sing. Donations benefit Contra Costa and Solano County Food Bank. SSE-OR

6 Saturday

4pm. Brian Swager, organ. CPLH

5pm. Soli Deo Gloria, Allen Simon, director. Premiere of Allen Simon oratorio Mixed Blessings. Tickets (800) SDG-SONG or www.sdgloria.org. First Lutheran Church, Palo Alto

8pm. San Francisco Lyric Chorus, Robert Gurney, director, Robert Train Adams, organ. Vierne Messe Solennelle and seasonal works by Schutz, Praetorius, Pearsall, Busto, Thomson, Rorem, Bolcom, Castelnuovo-Tedesco, Rutter and Bass. Tickets and information at www.sflc.org. TE

7 Sunday

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

3:30pm. Soli Deo Gloria, Allen Simon, director. (Repeat: see 12/6) St. Phillip Neri, 3108 Van Buren Street, Alameda

4pm. San Francisco City Chorus and Orchestra, Larry Marietta, conductor, John Walko, organ. Annual Singalong Messiah. Lakeside Presbyterian Church

4pm. Brian Swager, organ. (Repeat: see 12/6). CPLH

5pm. San Francisco Lyric Chorus, Robert Gurney, director, Robert Train Adams, organ. (Repeat: see 12/6). TE

8 Monday

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

7:30pm. Brian Swager, harp and organ, with Daniel Pociernicki, tenor, and Christine Springer, soprano. *The Littlest Angel*. Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist, 300 Clement at Funston

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

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

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.

CPLH: California Palace of the Legion of Honor

CSMA: Cathedral of St Mary of the Assumption

FCC-B: First Congregational Church, Berkeley

FPC-O: First Presbyterian Church, Oakland

GC: Grace Cathedral

SFE: St. Francis Episcopal Church

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

SMV: St. Mary the Virgin

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

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

TE: Trinity Episcopal Church