

December 2009

The American Guild of Organists San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

A Correction, Sort of...

John Hirten, Dean

In the November Newsletter, it was mentioned that the composer event in February would be the “Third Annual” Composer Concert. A member wrote in to remind me that during the 2005 program year, the SFAGO held two recitals featuring members who were also composers and who played their own music. The person who wrote was concerned that these excellent programs—coordinated by then Sub Dean, Bill Catherwood, and Jim Aylward—not be forgotten, and therefore the February event would be the “Fourth Annual.” This is all fine, except that there was no such program in 2006, so technically, the February event is still the “Third Annual” Composer’s Concert, but it’s not the third such concert.

We hope it won’t be the last, either. There is a lot of talent in the Bay Area, and this has gotten me wondering about what it takes to get one’s name out there beyond the breakers. At one point, I remember thinking that all you need to do is be good at something and other people of like mind will seek you out. This is the “Field of Dreams” mentality—similar to “build it and they will come”—but it’s really more like “be good at what you do and they will call.”

However, this is a Hollywood myth. If you build it, they *might* come, but more likely, they’ve gone elsewhere. It takes work to promote oneself. Whatever you think of Oprah, Madonna or, for that matter, Cameron Carpenter, you have to admit that they are masters of promotion. The basis of self-promotion is networking, and the only way to network is to put yourself out there and break into the circle. People will not call you. You have to call them.

The first thing I did after moving to San Francisco in 1988 and getting settled in as music director of Old St Mary’s, was to call the dean of the chapter, David Farr, and introduce myself. I attended the first event of the season, and he introduced me to other chapter members. I asked how I could be of service and offered to help put together the newsletter mailing (with David Harrell and Lyle Engelmann). I got involved in other things, too, some of which were not that glamorous. Sometimes it can be fun to do repetitive tasks so long as you can do them with others.

► A Correction, page 2


Revised Newsletter Schedule

John Hirten, Dean

At the October meeting of the SFAGO Executive Board, it was decided to cut back the schedule for the printed newsletter from monthly to bi-monthly. During 2010, our membership can therefore expect to receive issues in January, March, May, July, September and November. This decision was made both to cut costs and to reflect the growing availability of online chapter resources.

Recently, our website (www.sfago.com) has been enhanced to feature an ongoing events calendar and a classified listing, two items which were heretofore only available once a month when a new newsletter issue was produced. These features have rendered our current approach to newsletters somewhat obsolete, since these listings can be updated much more often than our previous once-a-month schedule. But there is nevertheless a strong feeling among Board members that there is still a place in the life of our chapter for a regular newsletter.

We have, in George Morten, an excellent newsletter editor, but he is not responsible for gathering content. We hope that one or more chapter members would be willing to gather or create more content for the newsletter than has been appearing lately, perhaps by writing reviews of recitals or events related to the organ, reprinting articles on organ building, etc. If you are interested in being that person, please contact John Karl Hirten at (415) 927-4775, or e-mail him at jhirten@sbcglobal.net.

The SFAGO Executive Board is aware that the newsletter is the only contact to the chapter for some members, and will re-visit this decision in the near future, that is, if there is sufficient feedback from our membership that warrants a change back to the original ten-issues-per-year schedule. If you have an opinion about this, then you may contact John Hirten by e-mail or phone (see paragraph above for address/phone). 

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Submission deadline for the next issue is December 10, 2009

Letter to the Editor

November 4, 2009

Dear Friends,

Please ignore a bogus e-mail sent recently through my online address book, as evidently my computer was hacked over the Halloween weekend. The message falsely states that I am stranded in the United Kingdom after losing my wallet and its contents, concluding with an urgent request to send money.

Do not respond to that fraudulent request, because I am not in dire straits. That e-mail very likely reached every individual and business in my Yahoo address book.

At this time I have no additional information. To all who may have been inconvenienced in my name, please accept my profound apologies.

Best wishes,

Marie-Alice DuMabeiller



Comment on E-mail Hacks and Scams

Newsletter Editor

If you discover that e-mail has been sent fraudulently under your name, you should immediately notify your Internet service provider (ISP), providing as much information about the date and time of the event as you can determine.

If you know the individual under whose name a bogus message appears, use your own knowledge of this person's habits and style. Should anything seem "off" — especially a request for money — it is generally best to assume the message is not authentic and to ignore it. Do not respond to suspicious e-mails under any circumstances.

When you are taking advantage of online services, be sure to set up secure passwords as one line of defense. It is beyond the scope of this item to define "secure" in this context, but generally a long password (16 characters or so) which contains both uppercase and lowercase letters, some numbers, and one or more special symbols (i.e., punctuation) is enough to deter amateur hackers who are interested only in amusing themselves while trying out their skills.

Visit www.gohacking.com/2008/01/hacking-e-mail-account.html for an explanation of how attacks on e-mail are accomplished. The techniques described in the second example are also employed in "phishing" scams, most often the ones that try to scare you into thinking that your bank account will be frozen unless you provide your personal information. Don't be gullible!



Schoenstein Open House

by Louis Patterson

Please join us on Sunday, December 6, from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. for an Open House at our Benicia plant. On display will be a three-manual, 24-rank organ in the final stages of assembly that will be installed in January in the Chapel of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas. You are invited



to play this organ, as well as its companion instrument, a three-rank, one-manual organ to be installed in the chancel of the same building. It is played from a very petite, single-manual console as a continuo organ. Please join us for refreshments, a plant tour, and dueling organs. There is plenty of parking available.

Schoenstein & Co. is located at 4001 Industrial Way, Benicia, CA 94510. Telephone (707) 747-5858.

DIRECTIONS

FROM I-80: At Vallejo, take I-780 east towards Benicia. After East Fifth St exit, get into the right lane and take Exit 7A onto I-680 North. Continue below.

FROM I-680: At Benicia, take Exit 61, Lake Herman Road. Go east (toward the water) on Lake Herman Road, and cross the railroad overpass. Take the first right onto Industrial Way and go 1.3 miles. The plant is on the right just past a curve — look for the 42' tall erecting room.



A Correction, from page 1

The AGO is sometimes criticized for being "elitist." I honestly don't know what that means—probably different things to different people. It's possible that some of those critics are just not very good at showing up at events and introducing themselves to people. I don't know. The truth of the matter is that if all you do is set up your telephone in your little throne room expecting it to ring, don't count on that to happen.

I'm always happy to talk to new members and find out what their interests and issues are. I've contacted a few new members and will contact others, too. But if you don't hear from me, don't be a stranger. Call me.

By the way, happy holidays.



Anthony Baglivi Retires as Editor of *The American Organist Magazine* Press Release from AGO National

The American Guild of Organists honors Anthony Baglivi upon his retirement after more than three decades of service as editor and advertising manager of *The American Organist Magazine*. The publication is the official journal of the American Guild of Organists and the Associated Pipe Organ Builders of America and has a monthly circulation of 24,000.

Mr Baglivi joined the AGO National Headquarters staff in 1973 as editorial assistant. He assumed responsibilities for advertising and production of the magazine in February 1974, as managing editor in May 1980, and as editor in August 1982. Earlier this year, Mr Baglivi announced his intention to retire from the AGO effective December 31, 2009. The AGO National Council has awarded him the title of editor emeritus, which he will assume on January 1, 2010. Todd R Sisley has been appointed acting editor and advertising manager.

“In his 36-year AGO career, Tony has been personally responsible for selecting thousands of letters and articles for publication, laying out more than 25,000 pages of editorial and advertising copy, and generating millions of dollars in advertising income,” declared AGO Executive Director James Thomashower. “Under his leadership, *The American Organist Magazine* became the world’s leading journal in the organ and choral field, with more readers, more advertisers, and more editorial content than any other periodical serving this market.”

“The American Guild of Organists and the entire organ profession have benefitted from Anthony Baglivi’s loving attention to every detail, his vision of what needs to be shared, and the best way to communicate it,” added AGO President Eileen Guenther. Thomashower continues: “Tony is much more than the editor of a magazine; he is a true leader of the profession. I join my staff co-workers in praising him for his unstinting commitment to excellence in every aspect of the magazine’s production, and his uncanny gift for balancing the rigorous and often conflicting demands of his position.”

In honor of the many years of distinguished service Anthony Baglivi has given to the Guild, the AGO National Council, in cooperation with the Associated Pipe Organ Builders of America, has created a permanently endowed scholarship in his name. Annual earnings from the scholarship fund will support an award to be given to a student attending an AGO Pipe Organ Encounter (Technical). Additional contributions

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 simoncberry@gmail.com. Next issue deadline is **December 10** for the **January 2010** issue.

Substitute Organist


Available 7 days a week for funerals, weddings, liturgies and services. Retired R.C. Music Director/Organist with experience in many Protestant churches. Contact: John Stump, AAGO; 925.262.8528; johnstump_organist@yahoo.com

For Sale

Allen DB70 4 manual digital organ; purchased in late 2000 and was located in a private home. 70 stops, 96 rank equivalent plus 27 ranks of alternate voices, MIDI and recorder/player. Choir, Great, Swell, Solo, Pedal and floating String division. Located in self-storage warehouse in San Francisco; can be viewed and played. Please contact 415.982.9900 ext 111, or jwarren@jdwa.biz for further information and stop list. Offered at \$79,000. All reasonable offers will be considered. Financing available. No sales tax paid by buyer.

1994 Steinway Model B – 7 foot – physically located in Pleasant Hill; can be viewed and played. Wonderful Steinway bass and beautiful treble. Please contact 415.982.9900 ext 111 or jwarren@jdwa.biz for further information. Offered at \$55,000. All reasonable offers will be considered. Financing available. No sales tax paid by buyer.

in honor of Anthony Baglivi can be made online at <www.agohq.org/contributions> or by sending a check to: Anthony Baglivi Scholarship, American Guild of Organists, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1260, New York, NY 10115. For further information about the scholarship fund, please contact AGO Director of Development and Communications F Anthony Thurman at 212-870-2311 (ext. 4308) or e-mail <fathurman@agohq.org>

AGO President Eileen Guenther announced the appointment of Todd Sisley as acting editor and advertising manager of *The American Organist Magazine*, effective January 1, 2010. Sisley began work at AGO National Headquarters in 1993 as an assistant in the membership department. He gradually assumed other duties over the next four years eventually becoming more involved with *The American Organist Magazine* and working as assistant to Daniel Colburn, AGO Executive Director 1980–1995. “With changes to the staff in January of 1998, Robert Price and I asked Todd to work exclusively for the magazine,” stated Anthony Baglivi. “Todd is a first-class, professional musician and an extremely talented editor. He has worked closely with the magazine’s senior staff for over ten years and is ideally suited to take over the duties of editor.” 

Bay Area Concert Calendar

Collected by Brian Swager

2009 December

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 2010** 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

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

December

2 Wednesday

7:30pm. Candlelight Christmas in the Mission, Michael Mello & George Thomson, directors. Gregorian chant, motets, carols, and music of the Spanish Padres. Suggested donation \$5. Reservations recommended: Theresa Brunner 415.454.8141 x12. Mission San Rafael Arcángel, 1104 Fifth Ave @ "A" Street, San Rafael.

6 Sunday

2-5pm. Schoenstein Open House. See pg 2.

3:30pm. Christoph Tietze, Organ. CSMA

4pm. San Francisco City Chorus & City Chorus Handel Orchestra; Larry Marietta, Conductor; *Messiah* Sing-along. Tickets \$10. Lakeside Presbyterian Church; 201 Eucalyptus Dr at 19th Ave

7 Monday

7pm. A Brass & Organ Christmas; Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. Tickets \$15-\$50 at cityboxoffice.com. GC

11 Friday

6pm. Beth Zucchini, Organ. Guilman Premier livre de Noël. Church of the Incarnation, Santa Rosa

12 Saturday

3pm. A Cathedral Christmas. Tickets \$15-\$50 at cityboxoffice.com. GC

13 Sunday

3pm. German Advent Service. Resurrection Lutheran Church, Oakland

3pm. A Cathedral Christmas. (Repeat: see Dec 12) GC

3pm. Kenwood Chorale, Karen Haslag, director & Choir of St Francis Lutheran SF, David Schofield, director. Contemporary and Renaissance music plus congregational carols. Kenwood Community Church, 9637 Channing Rd., Kenwood

3:30pm. Vytenis Vasyliunas (Germany), Organ. Works by Mendelssohn, Vainiunas, Gaidelis, Berlinski, and Bach. CSMA

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

19 Saturday

3pm. A Cathedral Christmas. (Repeat: see Dec 12) GC

6pm. Christmas at St John's: "Messiah and more". Vallejo Choral Society and orchestra, St John's choir. Handel, Bach, new arrangements of popular carols. Tickets \$20

in advance, \$25 at the door, \$15 for Seniors and students. For tickets call 415.751.1626. St John's Presbyterian Church, 25 Lake St, San Francisco

20 Sunday

3pm. A Cathedral Christmas. (Repeat: see Dec 12) GC

3:30pm. Christoph Tietze, Organ. CSMA

4:30pm. St Mark's Choir Association; George Emblom, Director. A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. SME-B

21 Monday

3pm. A Cathedral Christmas. (Repeat: see Dec 12) GC

24 Thursday

10:30pm. St Mark's Choir Association; George Emblom, Director; Wendy Tamis, Harp. Britten *Ceremony of Carols*. SME-B

27 Sunday

3:30pm. Christoph Tietze, Organ. CSMA

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. Messiaen: La Nativité. GC

31 Thursday

7pm & 10pm. Charlie Chaplin films accompanied by Dorothy Papadakos, Organ. Tickets \$10-\$15 at cityboxoffice.com. GC

8pm. James Welch, Organ. St Mark's Episcopal Church, Palo Alto



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