

October 2016

The American Guild of Organists San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

Dean's Column

by William Vaughan

Welcome to the season of Fall! I write these articles early enough to get them to the editor by the 10th of the month, so you might think how odd it is that I do not mention our opening event in this article, but it has not happened yet. I will mention all the fun we had in the November newsletter.

On Sunday, August 21, Schoenstein & Co. had a splendid open house. There were many, many people there viewing and listening to the organ, which is by now on its way to the First Presbyterian Church in Monterey. I had a delightful time playing the three-manual 28-rank organ, which is a re-creation of a 1912 Murray M. Harris organ employing many original pipes.

Do we realize how fortunate we are to have an organ factory in our midst? I invited my 4th Grade organ student and his family to come. (In the September issue of *The American Organist*, you can see a picture of Tim seated at the organ at The Cathedral of Christ the Light.) In this picture here, you can



see Tim seated on the bench by me in the shop. Look at his priceless expression! Do you remember your first encounter with hearing and seeing a pipe organ? I was also able to give Tim a tour of the shop, and his eyes were wide open in awe the whole time. I know much of what I said went above his head, but he saw the inner workings of a pipe organ and was intrigued. Eventually he will understand.

While Tim sat on the organ bench, I put him to work pushing and pulling stops. I had no pistons set, so I relied on his help. I said the exact name that is on the stop each time I needed that stop so that Tim would understand the nomenclature. After a few times of doing that, Tim knew exactly where to go. At the ends of pieces, I even had Tim play a few of the final pedal notes.

At church on Sundays, it is very typical for me to have two school students on the bench with me. (Sometimes I even have three, and wow I have to adapt my keyboard and pedal technique to accommodate the extra child. It is a fun challenge to play the Bach *Prelude and Fugue in G* in such tight quarters especially with feet dangling everywhere.) While

October Chapter Event

Masterless Class with SFAGO Colleagues

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, San Francisco

Monday, October 17, 7:00 p.m.

by Stephen Lind

We're experimenting with a new type of event this year called a Masterless class. It's like a master class but instead of bringing in a master, the participants fill the role and give each other some compliments, advice, and constructive feedback. The idea is to have the advantages of a master/studio class (interesting organ, performance opportunity with discerning listeners, musical experimentation) in a low-cost and informal setting.

The first Masterless class will be held Monday October 17th from 7–9 p.m. on the magnificent Aeolian-Skinner at St Luke's Episcopal Church, 1755 Clay St, San Francisco, CA 94109. Everyone is invited to attend! Each participant will play a 5–10 minute piece, which will be followed by a few minutes of chatting, feedback, and perhaps experimentation.

Would you like to participate in this masterless class or host a class at your church? Send an email to stephen.lind@gmail.com.

Next SFAGO Board Meeting

Monday, October 10 at 7:30 pm

Church of the Assumption,
1100 Fulton Ave, San Leandro.
All are invited.

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SFAGO Special Projects Committee

by Helen Pereira, Chair, SFAGO SPC

The Committee held its first of three annual meetings on September 12th.

The main business of the meeting was to discuss ways of publicizing the opportunities that our committee provides for individuals, groups, or organizations that need funds to support their projects related to the organ and its music, and to make decisions concerning two grant applications that were recently received for our consideration.

We were happy to be able to fund the following grant requests:

1. To the Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative (EROI) we approved the request of \$3000 to help pay for facilities' rentals, local transportation and housing of guest artists, and honoraria for these performers and lecturers.
2. To the Eugene Chapter of the AGO we approved a request for \$3000 to help pay for start-up costs of the "Orgelkids" program. This project involves providing organ kits that children use to build a 2-rank, 2-octave mechanical-action pipe organ, essentially bringing the pipe organ into their world. Our contribution will enable our chapter to be eligible for a weeklong loan of the Orgelkids program.



The next period in which the SPC receives grant applications is from August 16th to December 15th. After this time comes a two-week review period, followed by our second meeting of the year which will take place by the end of January, a specific date yet to be determined.

We would like to thank all of you who made special donations to the SPC at the time of your membership renewal. Your donations go directly to funds that we use for organ-related projects that we approve. ~~~~~

San Francisco AGO Chapter Recital Series Donors

The San Francisco Chapter of the American Guild of Organists thanks the following people for their support of the 2016–2017 Recital Series.

Bombarde (\$1000+)

Tuba Mirabilis (\$500–\$999)

Trompette en Chamade (\$250–\$499)

John Agraz
Jonathan Dimmock and
George Embloom
Patricia During
Thomas Flesher
Jason M. Surles
Steven Wallace
Arthur West
Timothy Zerlang

Clarion (\$100–\$249)

Linda Frances Boggiano
JGail Burnett
Charles Corum
Jud Hammon
Justin Kiely
James Martin
Matsuko Murayama
Chris Nichols
Father Robert Rien
George Allen Schell
Christoph Tietze
Robert Walker

Hautbois (\$50–\$99)

Claramae J. Co
Jeanette Cool
Gregory De Santis
Elizabeth Forsyth
Douglas Franks
Karen Haslag
David Howitt
Reiko Oda Lane
Lilyane Moulton
W Wayne Ritchie
Gerald Skeels
Gary C. Toops
William Vaughan
William Visscher

Krummhorn (\$25–\$49)

Alan Black
Nadia Blank-Koliha
Robert H. Douglass
Marian E. Ott
Helen Pereira
Elixabeth Vache Pintar
Jan Robitscher
Eric Stevens

Vox Humana (\$1–\$24)

Patricia Harre
Valda Volkova-Moran

Total Donations this year to date are \$4,200. People can still donate to the recital series either online or by snail mail.

ONLINE: Go to the National AGO Website: <https://www.agohq.org/>; then click on MEMBERSHIP tab; click on RENEW, MEMBERSHIP/UPDATE, PERSONAL INFORMATION; enter your username and password as explained on that screen.

After you "log in", click on MAKE A CONTRIBUTION. scroll down to the San Francisco Chapter section; click on RECITAL SERIES and follow the directions.

SNAIL MAIL: Make a check out to San Francisco Chapter AGO, with "Recital Series Donation" written in the memo area, and mail it to the Treasurer: William Visscher, 1352 Waller St., San Francisco, CA 94117-2921. ~~~~~

San Francisco Chapter of the American Guild of Organists 2016–2017 Program Year

Monday, October 17

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, San Francisco

7:00 p.m. Masterless Class
with SFAGO colleagues

Sunday, March 12

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Berkeley

4:00 SF/AGO Music Sale in the St. Mark's Parish Hall
5:30 p.m. Choral Evensong with the St. Mark's Choir
6:15 p.m. Young Artist Organ Recital by Alcee Chriss.
7:00 p.m. Festive Reception

Saturday, November 12

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, San Francisco

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Masterclass
with David Yearsley
7:30 p.m. Organ Recital by David Yearsley
followed by a festive reception.

Sunday, April 23

St. Albert's Priory, Oakland (tentative)

3:30 p.m. Member's Recital
4:30 p.m. Wine and Cheese Reception
5:30 p.m. Vespers

Sunday, January 22, 2017

Grace Cathedral, San Francisco

4:00 p.m. Organ Recital: Christopher Houlihan
5:00 p.m. Festive Reception

Monday, May 22

Congregation Sherith Israel, San Francisco

6:00 p.m. Reception
6:30 p.m. Catered Dinner and Annual Meeting
8:00 p.m. A Program for Organ and Cello
Jonathan Dimmock, organ and Angela Lee, cello

Monday, February 20

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Belvedere

President's Day Workshop

9:00 a.m. Coffee and pastries
9:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Choral Reading Session
with Clifford Hill
12:00 Lunch
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Working together:
The vision and mission of the SFAGO.

Would you and your faith community
consider hosting an event
for the 2017–2018 program year?
Please contact your Dean at
billyv32@gmail.com
for more information.
Thank you!

Recitalist for November Program

from George Emblom

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, San Francisco Saturday, November 12

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Masterclass

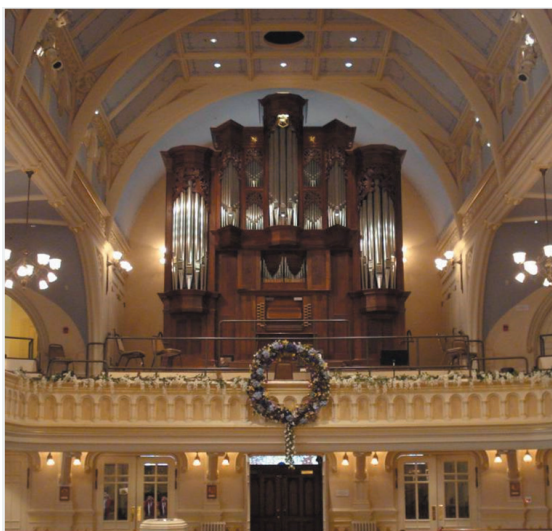
7:30 p.m. Organ Recital and Festive Reception

DAVID YEARSLEY was educated at Harvard College and Stanford University, where he received his Ph.D. in music history. He is author of the widely-praised *Bach and the Meanings of Counterpoint* (Cambridge, 2002) and *Bach's Feet: The Organ Pedals in European Culture* (Cambridge, 2012), which received the Ogasapian Book Award from the Organ Historical Society.



Among his honors as an organist are all major prizes at the Bruges Early Music Festival. He has been an Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Fellow at the Humboldt University in Berlin, a Wenner-Gren Foundation Fellow at the University of Gothenburg, and recipient of an American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship. His recordings include a double-CD album of J. S. Bach's organ trio sonatas and Songs and Sonatas from Baroque London (with Martin Davids), both on the Musica Omnia label.

Mr Yearsley has been music critic for the *Anderson Valley Advertiser* for more than a quarter century; his weekly column can also be read at counterpunch.org. A long-time member of the pioneering synthesizer trio Mother Mallard's Portable Masterpiece Company, he teaches at Cornell University.



The organ at St Mark's Lutheran Church, San Francisco

Dean's Column, from front page

the children sit on the bench, I keep them busy pushing and pulling stops and pistons. (I need to make sure the children on both sides of the bench get equal stops and pistons. If I don't, I start to hear, "Mr. Vaughan, what about me?") I even have a few students who know when to add the 32' Contre Bombarde at the end of a big hymn. They have even gone as far as finding



the toe studs, which operate the 32' and the Zimbelstern. The organ console fascinates our youth. It still fascinates me, and hopefully you.

The organ here at the Church of the Assumption is digital, but we also have a

Moller in the loft. The two organs are not connected, for it would cost way too much to do so. When I do explain organ stops, I always refer to the pipes in the loft. We have even gone into the organ chamber to see the different kinds of pipes, and the different families of tone. The children are always amazed that all this exists!

I started writing this article before I read Michael Bedford's message in the September issue of TAO. (Michael is the new President of the AGO.) When you have a chance, read it. (Don't skip over it like I was about to.) Michael says, "I credit those early close-up and personal moments at the organ with introducing me to my career in church music. Over the years I, too, have had a number of children and youth come up to the organ at the end of worship... Following in the footsteps of my childhood mentor, I would let each one of them play something so they could have a brand-new and truly hands-on experience."

During the school day, I teach music to the children at Assumption School, Kindergarten through 8th Grade, and I use quite a bit of choral music written by Michael Bedford. He writes very singable melodies and texts that are worth having our children memorize. I truly believe in passing down our love for church music, especially as so many churches dissolve their choral and organ programs. May our youth bring these arts back one day!

I end this article as Michael Bedford ended his, "As times change and things change, may organists everywhere continue to be aware of the need to reach out in hospitality to all people, to provide fresh and inviting experiences, to share our mission with future generations, and to minister to one another with love and respect. New beginnings...you never know where they will lead..."

God bless!

Calendar, from back page

6:05pm. Parker Ramsay, Organ. Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. Reception follows. SME-B

17 Saturday

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. CPLH

18 Sunday

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. CPLH

4pm. An English Christmas Concert. Susan Jane Matthews, Director. Music of Vaughan Williams, Howells, Finzi. Benefit for Gloucester Residency. Ticketed. Festive reception. SPE-BU

4:30pm. A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. SME-B

24 Saturday

10:30pm. George Malcolm: *Missa ad Praesepe* (*Mass at the Crib*). SME-B

31 Saturday

8pm. James Welch, Organ. \$10. St Mark's Episcopal Church, Palo Alto



Classified Ads

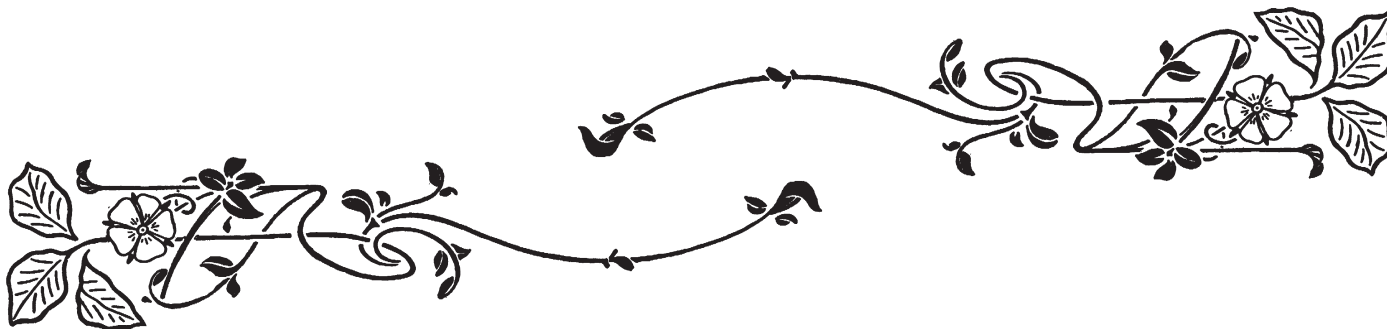
Collected by David Howitt

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: dhowitt@sjbalameda.org. Deadline for the **November** issue is **October 10**. Online listings available at: www.sfago.org/jobs/

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

SACRAMENTO AREA

MINISTER OF MUSIC, CHOIR DIRECTOR AND/OR ORGANIST; Davis Community Church. Two Sunday services – traditional at 8:30 am and a more contemporary service at 10:30. Two rehearsals a week for the Chancel Choir and a select Chamber Choir and a Worship Band. Three manual Moeller organ with recent digital enhancements. DCC would like a candidate who possesses the skills and experience to fulfill the responsibilities as director, organist and accompanist- either one person or two people working in collaboration. Salary is compatible with the Guidelines for Employment of Church Musicians in Presbyterian Churches. If interested please contact, Les Skog, co-chair of the Personnel Committee at personnel@dccpres.org or the Pastor, Chris Neufeld-Erdman at erdmanc@gmail.com. For a more detailed job announcement, please contact David Howitt at dhowitt@sjbalameda.org



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Newsletter Departments: Send your entries to the appropriate editor;
all submissions due by 10th of the month preceding publication

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Obituary Listings: To be announced
Newsletter Articles: George Morten, 209.565.6660, sfago-editor@att.net

2016–2017
Last updated 09/15/2016

Bay Area Concert Calendar

Collected by Brian Swager

October²⁰¹⁶

Events, dates, times, and locations are 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 **November** issue is **October 10**. Send event listings to sfagocal@gmail.com. For the most up-to-date calendar, visit www.sfago.org, click on **SFAGO Bay Area Concert Calendar**.

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: Calif. Palace of the Legion of Honor
CSMA: Cath. of St Mary of the Assumption
MDB: Mission Dolores Basilica
SME-B: St Mark's Episcopal Ch, Berkeley
SPE-BU: St Paul's Episcopal Ch, Burlingame

October

1 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

2 Sunday

4pm. Jin Kyung Lim, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

4pm. Cappella SF; Ragnar Bohlin, Director; Jerome Lenk, Organ. Music of Duruflé, Britten, Dove, Pärt, Bach, and Volker. \$15-\$55. Tickets: www.cappellasf.org MDB

8 Saturday

4pm. James Hicks, Organ. CPLH

9 Sunday

10am. Hans Leo Hassler: *Missa Secunda*. SME-B

3pm. Vincent Dubois, Organ. Tickets: sfsymphony.org Davies Symphony Hall

4pm. James Hicks, Organ. CPLH

4pm. Elna Johnson, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Jerome Lenk, Organ. Free admission/\$10 suggested donation. MDB

6:05pm. Johannes Strobl, Organ. Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. Reception follows. SME-B

15 Saturday

3pm. Kimo Smith, Organ. \$75. St Dunstan's Episcopal Church, Carmel

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

16 Sunday

4pm. Ugo Sforza, Organ. Vienne: *Symphony VI*. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

17 Monday

7pm. **SFAGO EVENT.** Masterless class with SFAGO colleagues. St Luke's Episcopal Church

22 Saturday

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

23 Sunday

4pm. Xiyan Wang, Piano; Victor Xie, Viola. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

29 Saturday

4pm. Alexander Ffinch, Organ. CPLH

30 Sunday

3:30pm. R Monty Bennett, Organ. Music of Price, Taylor, Sowande, Sadeh. \$15. Resurrection Parish, Santa Rosa

4pm. John Cannon, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Alexander Ffinch, Organ. CPLH

31 Monday

8pm. James Welch, Organ. \$10. St Mark's Episcopal Church, Palo Alto

Looking Ahead November

2 Wednesday

7:30pm. All Souls' Choral Eucharist. Fauré: *Requiem*. SME-B

5 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

6 Sunday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

4pm. Xiyan Wang, Piano. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

11 Friday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

12 Saturday

9am. **SFAGO EVENT.** Masterclass with David Yearsley. St Mark's Lutheran Church

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

7:30pm. **SFAGO EVENT.** David Yearsley, Organ. Reception follows. St Mark's Lutheran Church

13 Sunday

10am. Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina: *Missa Brevis*. SME-B

4pm. David Hatt, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

4pm. David Auerbach, Organ. Free admission/\$10 suggested donation. MDB

6:05pm. Katherine Crosier, Organ. Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. Reception follows. SME-B

19 Saturday

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

5pm. Choral Evensong. Susan Jane Matthews, Director. Music of Herbert Sumsion. Freewill donation. Reception. SPE-BU

20 Sunday

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

26 Saturday

4pm. Ennio Cominetti, Organ. CPLH

27 Sunday

4pm. Ennio Cominetti, Organ. CPLH

4pm. Xiyan Wang, Piano. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

December

3 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

5pm. Advent Lessons and Carols. Susan Jane Matthews, Director. Music of Palestrina, Rachmaninoff, Howells, Tavener, Ticheli. Freewill donation. Reception. SPE-BU

4 Sunday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

4:30pm. James Welch, Organ. Crèche Exhibit. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Palo Alto

10 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

11 Sunday

10am. George Oldroyd: *The Mass of the Quiet Hour*. SME-B

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

► **Calendar, page 5**