



June & July 2016 The American Guild of Organists San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

Dean's Column

by Simon Berry

I have been blessed these past three years to chair meetings of our colleagues who have been supportive, interesting, friendly, and, where appropriate, challenging in our several Executive Board meetings. Thus, over the course of over 30 meetings (plus program meetings) we have moved forward on several major items.

Most recently I have been very happy to guide a sub-committee and then the Board through a series of meetings to agree how we can offer scholarships for young organists to help pay for lessons.

This past year I have been very fortunate to have worked alongside Sub Dean Elizabeth Forsyth; Sub Dean Elect George Anton Emblom; Secretary Art West; Treasurer Bill Visscher; Auditors Robert Adams and Michael Secour; Special Projects Committee Chair Helen Pereira; Chaplain Fr Robert Rien; Certification and Education Chair Eileen Johnson; Hospitality Chair Jane Rosenblum; Membership Chair and Parliamentarian Pat During; Calendar Listings Editor Brian Swager; Newsletter Editor George Morten (supported by proofreaders Justin Kielty, Larry Marietta and Brian Swager); Job Placements and Classified Ads Editor David Howitt; Newsletter Mailing Coordinator Steve Wallace; Nominations Chair Steve Lind; Professional Development Matt Walsh; Program Committee Members John Karl Hirten, Art West, Andy Chislett, Clara Co, Jonathan Dimmock, Stephen Lind, Christopher Putnam and Timothy Zerlang; Registrar Chris Tietze; TAO Reporter Timothy Zerlang and Webmaster Alex Oldroyd.

During the previous two years others were involved who also supported our chapter in a significant way. Although I cannot mention all of them by name, I don't want to overlook those who have moved on to other areas of interest. Thank you for all you have done for our chapter.

To all of these fine members, colleagues and friends, I offer my sincere thanks for the ministerial work that they have done amongst us. We have all benefitted from their hard work; our chapter has grown in strength and numbers; our programs have been well attended and successful (and very varied).

There have been matters at home that I have neglected these past three years and I acknowledge that this work as Dean

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SFAGO Special Projects Committee

by Helen Pereira, Chair, SFAGO SPC

As the 2015–2016 year nears its end, we would like to summarize for you this year's accomplishments.

During our three cycles of funding, we received four grant applications and awarded a total of \$3600 to three of the applicants:

- San Jose Chapter of AGO — \$600 to help support their January Jubilee, a program aimed to reach out to local church musicians who want to improve their service playing skills.
- Brenda Portman — \$2000 for production and royalties of a CD featuring music of Canadian composer Rachel Laurin.
- Catherine Rodland — \$1000 to support the commissioning of a work for organ and viola.

We were also happy to receive communication from previous grant recipients:

- Ronald Ebrecht has made favorable progress on his translation and publication in English of original articles in French about organ pieces by Maurice Durufle'.
- Gail Archer gave a recital at First Presbyterian Church of Oakland focusing on women composers.
- Vic Ferrer used our grant to support the exhibit of the Exposition Organ last year.
- Randall Harlow recorded two CD's of 20 pieces by 20 American composers, some of which were played at a concert earlier this year at Stanford's Memorial Chapel.
- Patricia Van Ness completed a new composition based on Psalm 150 for an average choir that also showcased the organ. One version was based on the actual text, and one was her own original text.

As we continue our efforts to fund this committee, we thank Mr Oscar Burdick for his generous donation on behalf of his wife Dora's estate. We would also like to thank those members who have made special donations to the SPC when they renewed their membership through ONCARD. If you still

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Submission deadline for the **August** issue is **July 10**

Scholarship Project

by Simon Berry

One of the major pieces of Executive Board business in 2016 has been the development of a scheme of Scholarship for young organists to help pay for lessons. Here are the details:

SF/AGO is committed to the support of those wishing to follow a course of study on the organ. A Scholarship Committee will consider applications for financial support twice each year. Completed application forms should be received by SF/AGO by the last day of June or December.

Annual awards will be made of \$500 per successful applicant. There is a finite amount of scholarship money available and awards will be made based on a combination of order in which they are received and merits of the video provided.

The scholarship committee will be asking to distribute a maximum of \$4000 per annum in the first years of this scholarship scheme. The funds will be drawn from the Joanna Smullin Organ Educational Fund and from fundraising. A donation button will be added to the chapter's annual renewal notice encouraging members to donate to this scholarship fund. Collections may be taken at members' recitals also.

Student age range is from their 11th birthday to 26th birthday.

Successful applicants in full time education will be given student membership of the SF chapter of AGO, the idea being to generate new students for the organ within the SF/AGO area.

Teachers shall be current members of the SF/AGO chapter or immediately adjoining chapter. These include Palo Alto/Peninsula; Redwood Empire.

If there is no current organ teacher then SF/AGO will supply a list of those who have listed themselves as teachers.

Applications: Students should have some experience in playing the piano or organ. First time applicants should be able to demonstrate in a short video:

- Performance of any short piece of piano or organ music by a recognized classical composer. For piano this could be a Beethoven, Clementi or Scarlatti Sonata/Sonatina etc. For organ this could be one of the eight short preludes attributed to JS Bach or any simple piece written for the organ.
- Playing of scales in E major, B flat major, C harmonic minor and F melodic minor. Both hands in parallel motion (no pedals), 2 octaves each.
- Performance of a simple hymn tune of their choice, either with manuals and pedals or manuals only.

Video recordings may be submitted via Email; on CD, on a memory stick or uploaded to YouTube, dropbox or Vimeo etc.

Towards the end of each program year scholarship awardees shall play one or two short pieces at a members' recital or organ crawl. If the student cannot play for these events because of schedule conflicts, an opportunity to play for members of the Board will be given. This will indicate progress made since audition videos were sent or from the previous year.

Reapplication for scholarships will be considered at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee.

A scholarship committee of a minimum of three SF/AGO members will be formed to review applications and make recommendations to the Board for distribution of funds. The committee will also organize the performance at annual members' recitals and will report apparent progress back to the board.

The fees award money will be paid directly to teachers.

This scheme was passed by a motion of the Executive Board on Monday, April 25, 2016.

Details of the scheme and an application form will be posted on the website as soon as the new Executive Board is in place and have been able to determine who will be on this sub-committee and what mailing addresses and email addresses should be used.

SPC Summary, from front page

need to renew your membership for 2016–2017, you may want to consider donating to our committee when you do so. Thank you!

Donations go directly to funds that we use for organ-related projects that we approve.

In order to make AGO members throughout the USA aware of the work of our committee, we advertised this year in two different convention booklets: The National Convention in Houston, TX; and the OHS Convention in Philadelphia.

I would like to thank the members of the committee who helped to make our year a profitable one: Donald Mulliken, Jerome Lenk, Lenore Alford, and Katya Kolesnikova. Katya's term of 3 years is now at an end, and we will be seeking a replacement. I would also like to give my personal thanks to Doug Franks for mentoring me during this first year of my committee chairpersonship. His help was invaluable.

Dean's Column, *from front page*

could not have been done without the support of my partner. I've spent the past 156 Mondays doing AGO business; now I can spend the next 156 Mondays on housework!

I've learned a few things, such as the rate at which it's possible to transact business. I drew up a list of items that I thought would be good to tackle when I became Dean (such as the Joanna Smullin Fund, and reviewing the operating procedures). Now I know that these well intentioned plans were too ambitious—only about 40% of them have been achieved!

I've learned afresh that our membership is made up of generous, talented and friendly people from all walks of life who frequently respond in positive ways to the newsletter columns. I've learned that institutional knowledge (call it living history, if you will) is very important to understanding the complexities of our SF/AGO organism. My previous positions on the Board have been invaluable to my working knowledge of what to expect.

I've been an officer of the Chapter, on and off, since 1996 and have covered the following positions:

- Dean (three years)
- Sub-Dean elect
- Sub-Dean (twice)
- Secretary (three years)
- Job Placement and Classified Ads (ten years)
- Directory Production (four years)
- Professional Concerns Chair (six years)

I maintain that progress is essential and that we should not hang on to modes of transacting business or methods of recording our decisions that are not part of the modern world. We have thus made a number of Board decisions via email voting, and we have sent the vast majority of our newsletters and program notices via email. We still can't make people read or respond; nor can we offer tech support. Those matters will arise frequently in the future.

So I'm pleased and happy to hand off the gavel of the chair of the Executive Board to our soon-to-be-announced new Dean. I wish her/him the very best for an exciting journey with this lively organism. I pledge my support for the upcoming programs and offer to support the chapter as and when appropriate.

In humble gratitude,

Simon Berry, Dean 

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 **August** issue is **July 10**. Online listings available at: www.sfago.org/jobs/

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

PENINSULA / SOUTH BAY

ORGANIST, Stone Church of Willow Glen, San Jose, CA. Seeking a part-time (10–14hrs/ week) organist for a progressive Presbyterian church. The organist will work closely with the Pastors and with our Choir Director, Nancy Kromm, Associate Professor, Head of Voice, Santa Clara University. Responsibilities include preparing a prelude, offertory, and postlude, hymn playing and accompanying the 35 voice choir. The organist may be asked to accompany additional ensembles as needed. It is desired that the organist be comfortable at both the organ and piano and have excellent sight-reading skills. Two manual Schoenstein pipe organ and Steinway piano. Compensation will be commensurate with experience. For additional information about the church: www.stonechurch.org. Inquiries or resumes should be sent to OSC@StoneChurch.org Stone Church of Willow Glen 1937 Lincoln Ave. San Jose, CA 95125; 408-269-1593

EAST BAY / INLAND

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY, St Stephen's Episcopal Church, Orinda, CA. Seeking a part-time (20–24 hours/week) Director of Music Ministry (DMM). St Stephen's is a thriving and growing community of all ages. Applicants should have at least five years of experience leading church music. Experience with Episcopal Church liturgy and tradition is not required, but preferred. We are looking for a skilled musician with expertise in organ, piano and choral conducting with an appreciation for the function of music in liturgy and the ability to adapt and improvise as needed. An ability to work effectively with people is essential. The DMM reports to the Rector, and is expected to work collaboratively with staff and lay leadership, but will have considerable freedom to oversee music programs according to areas of strength and interest.

The DMM is responsible for leading music during Sunday morning worship services (8:00/10:00 am); preparing music for publication in the bulletin including all rights and licenses as appropriate; leading the adult choir in hymns, anthems and other musical offerings; recruiting new choir members, strengthening and developing choir repertoire and musicality; organizing and leading the "Summer Choir," and attending weekly staff meetings. Salary commensurate with experience and AGO guidelines. Weddings and funerals are compensated separately. www.ststephensorinda.org

St Stephen's has a lengthy job description and application process. If interested, contact David Howitt and he will send you the complete information.



Bay Area Concert Calendar

Collected by Brian Swager

2016 June & July

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 August issue is July 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
- SME-B:** St Mark's Episcopal Ch, Berkeley

June

4 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

5 Sunday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

4pm. Christoph Tietze, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

11 Saturday

4pm. Gail Archer, Organ. CPLH

12 Sunday

4pm. Gail Archer, Organ. CPLH

4pm. Justin Matters, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

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

18 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

19 Sunday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

4pm. Justin Matters, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

7pm. James Welch, Organ. [Note change of date.] Freewill offering. Holy Cross Church, 126 High St, Santa Cruz

25 Saturday

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

26 Sunday

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

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

Looking Ahead

July

2 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

3 Sunday

4pm. Karen Beaumont, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

9 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

10 Sunday

4pm. David Hatt, Organ. Bay Area Reger Festival. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

16 Saturday

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. CPLH

17 Sunday

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

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. CPLH

23 Saturday

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

24 Sunday

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

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

31 Sunday

4pm. Christoph Tietze, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

August

6-7 Saturday & Sunday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

13-14 Saturday & Sunday

4pm. Tony Baldwin, Organ. CPLH

20-21 Saturday & Sunday

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. CPLH

27-28 Saturday & Sunday

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

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