

March 2016

The American Guild of Organists

# San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

## Dean's Column

by Simon Berry

I just finished the Solemn Mass for Ash Wednesday. We witnessed more than 3,000 people coming through the doors on this extraordinary day when Christians come to be marked with the cross as a sign of their faith. It is so heart-warming to see the church filled with people who come purposely to bear witness to their faith.

We had music at four services, and one at 6:30 a.m. without. It was simpler music than usual, with plenty of chant; nothing overtly joyful but plenty of introspective music. Our Schola Cantorum sang music by Allegri, Sheppard and Copland. We aimed to bring the faithful closer to prayer through excellent performances of this divine music.

Quality Control doesn't seem like a phrase associated with sacred happenings, yet it's a really important component. In my church we've been given three judgments in order to help assess our music: Liturgical, Pastoral and Musical Judgments. We must examine each and every choice of music through these three optics and see how they stand up.

- Musically, we have to ask if the style of composition is suited to use in worship and if the performers can carry off a good performance of it.
- Pastorally, we have to ask if it enables the people to pray better.
- Liturgically we have to ask if it suits the position in that act of worship and season (is it a suitable text; is the duration suited; is the mood suited).



Organists are really good at gothicky organ music: we love loud; we love minor keys; some of us love Messiaen. Yet these styles of music will not always fit into the three optic criteria that my church asks us to examine.

Recently I played the organ for nine consecutive days at Masses for people praying a novena for healing. Each day I played the same piece at communion - Messiaen's *Le Banquet Céleste*. I did this as I knew that on a single hearing, many of our congregation would be nonplussed at best by this music, and others may reject it out of hand. However, the opportunity to play it many times would allow them to become

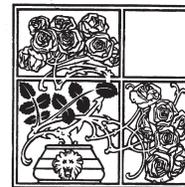
familiar and, hopefully, appreciative of the textures and harmonies and mysteries of this music. Reports back from a few members of the congregation were that it was at least partially successful for them.



On President's Day we were given the gift of a workshop by Timothy Howard on hymn playing. Some 30 attended this interesting workshop and learned from Tim and each other. Four brave souls performed hymns for evaluation and suggested improvements in style of performance.

Tim looked at the following areas: speed; registration; introductions; phrasing; word painting; modulations and altered harmonies. Perhaps accurate and stylishly appropriate hymn playing is the most important aspect of work for the vast majority of us. Many of the suggested changes in style of playing were quite subtle – such as feeling in 2/2 time instead of 4/4 time without changing speed. From the most experienced and successful hymn players to beginners, this workshop carried great value.

St Stephen's Belvedere has a wonderful organ in a tranquil sanctuary and with great social facilities, surrounded by the Bay. Our gracious host, John Hirten, made delicious soup for lunch. We recruited a couple of new members for the chapter; we chatted and had fun together. It was a great day. My thanks to Liz Forsythe and the members of the Program Committee who put this together; especially to John Hirten. Attendance was free; the benefits were invaluable. SF/AGO continues to be a great chapter.



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Submission deadline for the **April** issue is **March 10**

# Bay Area Concert Calendar

Collected by Brian Swager

# 2016 March

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 April issue is **March 10**. Send event listings to [sfagocal@gmail.com](mailto:sfagocal@gmail.com). For the most up-to-date calendar, visit [www.sfago.org](http://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  
**RP-SR:** Resurrection Parish, Santa Rosa  
**SME-B:** St Mark's Episcopal Ch, Berkeley  
**SPE-BU:** St Paul's Episcopal Ch, Burlingame

## March

### 5 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

5pm. Choir School Concert. Susan Jane Matthews, Director. Freewill donation. Reception follows. SPE-BU

### 6 Sunday

3pm. David Titterington, Organ. Tickets: [sfsymphony.org](http://sfsymphony.org). Davies Symphony Hall

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

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

### 12 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

### 13 Sunday

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

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

4pm. Robert Gurney, Organ. Mission Dolores Basilica

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

### 18 Friday

7:30pm. James Welch, Organ; with Nicholas Welch, Organ & Piano. \$10. St Mark's Episcopal Church, Palo Alto

### 19 Saturday

4pm. Katya Kolesnikova, Organ. CPLH

### 20 Sunday

4pm. Katya Kolesnikova, Organ. CPLH

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

### 26 Saturday

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

### 27 Sunday

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

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

## Looking Ahead April

### 2 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

### 3 Sunday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

4pm. Sven-Ingvar Mikkelsen, Organ; with Jochen Brusck, Violin. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

### 9 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

### 10 Sunday

3:30pm. Allegra Chapman, Piano. \$15 donation. RP-SR

4pm. Edward Taylor, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

4pm. Diedre Lobo, Soprano; Jerome Lenk, Organ. Mission Dolores Basilica

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

### 16-17 Saturday & Sunday

4pm. Steve Ketterer, Organ. CPLH

### 22 Friday

3:30pm. **SFAGO Event.** Workshop/Master Class with Richard Elliott. FCCB

8pm. **SFAGO Event.** Richard Elliott, Organ. \$20; AGO members free. Reception follows. FCCB

### 23 Saturday

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

### 24 Sunday

3pm. Thierry Escaich, Organ. Tickets: [sfsymphony.org](http://sfsymphony.org). Davies Symphony Hall

4pm. Tom Lohmuller, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH



## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

### SAN FRANCISCO

#### MUSIC DIRECTOR/ORGANIST -

#### St Elizabeth Catholic Church, San Francisco.

Position available June 1, 2016. Responsibilities include playing/directing the Saturday 4:30pm mass with cantor and Sunday 9:30am mass with choir; planning hymns, service music, choir anthems and scheduling cantors; planning and playing for Holy Week, Christmas (including a Christmas Midnight concert) and Holy Days of obligation. Weekly choir rehearsal, September through May. Two manual, 21 rank Schoenstein organ. For further information or to email a résumé, please contact Joellyn Bischeri, Parish Administrator, St Elizabeth Catholic Church. 415-468-0820; [jbsaintelizabeth@yahoo.com](mailto:jbsaintelizabeth@yahoo.com)

### PENINSULA

#### ORGANIST/PIANIST - Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, San Carlos.

The Organist shall work closely with the Pastor, the Worship and Music Team and the Choir Director focused on providing quality music for congregation worship. Responsibilities include playing the organ, piano and/or keyboard for all regularly scheduled worship services and choir rehearsals, as well as for special services. 3-5 hours per week, and will be an active member of the church staff. This is a temporary position while the congregation completes the process of calling a new pastor. The position is to start as soon as possible and extend through January 2017, with the possibility of extension or permanent hire. Compensation is per service and commensurate with experience. Submit resumes to [office@sancarlostlc.org](mailto:office@sancarlostlc.org). For a complete job description contact the SFAGO listings coordinator, David Howitt - [dhowitt@sjbalameda.org](mailto:dhowitt@sjbalameda.org)

### EAST BAY

#### ORGANIST - Lakeside Temple of Practical Christianity, Oakland.

One service per week with extra services on Christmas Eve, Good Friday, Thanksgiving Day and an annual evening communion service. Responsibilities include playing for services, coordinating and rehearsing with the soloists, choosing hymns and service music. There are no choir responsibilities. Salary is negotiable. The organ is a 1979 Rodgers 350 combination with 15 ranks of pipes and with electronics an equivalent of 75 ranks. For more information please contact the current organist, Donald Sears - 510/922-1911. Please send résumés to [ministry@lakesidetemple.org](mailto:ministry@lakesidetemple.org); Lakeside Temple of Practical Christianity, 144 Athol Avenue, Oakland 94606; 510/834-8852