



February 2016 The American Guild of Organists San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

Dean's Column

by Simon Berry

Technology as Our Friend

When I was a lad we had one hymnal (The English Hymnal); then, in the 1970s the supplements started to come out, and before long the organist needed a wheelbarrow to carry the necessary books.

Run forward 40 years and the new hymnal that we use for some of our Masses has two accompaniment volumes in landscape format and each weighing many pounds. For every pre-service rehearsal I found myself getting tired just through the climb up and down from the choir room to the sanctuary with these books plus a binder of choir music and a large psalter and chant book. My wrists were being stressed and it became a chore to start and end rehearsals. I tried playing from memory or from the congregational programs, but I had no marks and often couldn't remember the harmonies correctly.



A tablet computer equipped with the app forScore seemed the best answer, except that the pages were too small to read easily on a standard size iPad tablet. The recent introduction of the iPad pro (letter-size screen) changed everything and I decided to take the plunge and experiment with one. The hymnal we use is available in electronic form from the GIA website and there's a dedicated app to run this. (Many denominational hymnals are now available from the iTunes store.)

There are so many advantages—not only bulk and weight, but flexibility and ease of page turns (the landscape volumes are very hard to do quick pages turns and back-turns each verse). I no longer need a light on the music desk of the organ or piano and the screen itself provides excellent contrast. I can adjust the brightness to suit different light conditions. I can make service lists for each service I play and thereby access just the items I want to use. I can also send these service lists to choir members who have the same app. They benefit from having the music in order before rehearsals start and my markings also get sent. I can even use a Bluetooth pedal to turn pages (some organs even have pistons that are assignable to function as Bluetooth controllers).

Markings can be made through an on-screen keyboard, or a Bluetooth keyboard, or by a stylus. One can choose the color

Special Projects Committee

from Helen Pereira

The Special Projects Committee met via Skype for its second of three yearly meetings. In addition to the traditional agenda items, we considered the funding of three grants which were applied for during the last time period.

Fully funded was a grant to produce a recording of compositions by Canadian composer Rachel Laurin. These will be played by Resident Organist Brenda Portman of the Hyde Park Community Methodist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, on the IV/88 Casavant organ there.

Partially funded will be the proposal to pay commission fees to composer David Liptak for a work for organ and viola to be performed at the 2016 National AGO Convention as well as at other concerts. The project also involves further composition for this combination of instruments. The organist applying for the grant was Catherine Rodland, and the violist is her sister Carol.

One application was not granted funding, as it did not fit into the categories of funding that our committee uses to consider applications.

We also plan to advertise our committee in the AGO National Convention program this year and hope to also post an ad in the convention booklet of the Organ Historical Society, an event taking place this summer in Philadelphia. Further advertising is being researched in regards to other publications such as the Tracker and TAO.

Of interest to all of us is the concert to be performed at the Stanford Memorial Church on January 27th from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. Randall Harlow will be playing pieces that were included in the Organon Novus CD project that we funded last Spring.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

RIP Jean L White.....	2
Board Discussions	2
Schoenstein Replicates 1912 MMH	3
Presidents Day Event	3
Organ Scholars Program	3
Chapter Program Calendar 2015-2016	4
Classified Ads.....	5
Information Box	5
Events Calendar & Looking Ahead	6

JEAN L. WHITE (STANBRIDGE)
AUGUST 28, 1923–OCTOBER 24, 2015

Jean, with her warm, radiant smile, passed away peacefully with her family at her side following a brief illness. A third-generation native San Franciscan, she was daughter of the late Clinton and Grace Stanbridge. She is survived by daughter Linda Burille (Carlton), son Eric White, several grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and their families.

Jean spent nearly her entire life in her beloved San Francisco, growing up in Noe Valley, attending James Lick Middle School, Mission High School (1941) and graduating from San Francisco State in February 1946 with a degree in Music and a teaching credential.

Music was always an integral part of her life, a love that began at a very early age. She attended the SF Community Music Center prior to becoming music and choir director at Epworth United Methodist Church in 1940 through 1946, after which she went on to teach music at Sunset School in Carmel for nearly a year, then taught at Frick Junior High School in Oakland from July, 1947 to December, 1948 when she retired from teaching to begin raising a family.

Music and the love of God became part of the family fabric. Jean was organist and choir director at St Francis United Methodist and St Paul's Presbyterian church in the Outer Sunset for nearly 50 years, where her children were each in the Junior or Senior choirs. She was an active member of the American Guild of Organists, and so enjoyed attending organ concerts performed by her fellow AGO friends at the Palace of the Legion of Honor or Grace Cathedral.

Following the death of her husband in 1963, she got a job at Bank of America, where she enjoyed a 22-year career in the Personnel department. This, too, became a family affair, where each of her children worked for the Bank at one time or another.

Sadly, due to an injury, in 2007 she was forced to leave her beloved SF home and move to the Kensington Assisted Living Facility in Walnut Creek, where she was loved and well-cared for by the wonderful staff. Her warm smile and happy disposition will be missed by all who knew and adored her.

The family celebrated Jean's life at San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church in Danville on January 23, 2016. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her name to either the American Cancer Society or the American Diabetes Association.

SFAGO Board Discussions

from Arthur West

The SFAGO Board met Monday night, January 11, 2016, at St Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco. Topics of discussion included:

Tracking Program Expenses for the Year: so far we are within budget.

The upcoming Youth Organ Crawl: Churches sponsoring this event are St Mark's Lutheran, St Luke's Episcopal and St Mary's Cathedral - all in San Francisco. There are 10 students participating and it promises to be an outstanding opportunity for them to have actual playing time on 3 wonderful instruments in San Francisco.

Sketch of 2017-2017 Program Year: George Emblem, Sub-Dean Elect, gave us a thumbnail sketch of the upcoming program year which his committee is planning. No spoilers here, but they have some exciting events planned already.

Solutions to OnCard issues: The registrar and the membership chairperson commented on how they continue to smooth out the problems that have come about with OnCard and the dues process being centralized by the National AGO. They are becoming well versed at helping members transition to the new online registration and all the problems it has caused. One common problem has been the failure of the newsletter delivery to some members - either by mail or electronically. We were able to watch first hand as they they solved this problem for one board member who hasn't received any newsletters yet in this program year of September 2015 to May 2016.

Election Slate: The Nominating committee is working hard to produce a slate of officers on which we will vote in April. This year our voting will be by mail or online. We hope that the online option will speed up the process and make it easier for some to vote.

Scholarships: We had a vibrant discussion regarding the direction our chapter should take in regards to supporting organ students through scholarships. We will be studying how other AGO chapters run their organ scholarship programs so that we can make wise use of the resources that have been donated to our chapter for the purpose of organ education.



Schoenstein Replicates 1912 Murray M. Harris

from Jack M. Bethards

Schoenstein & Co. is building a new organ of 23 voices, 25 ranks for First Presbyterian Church of Monterey, California. The instrument will tonally re-create a Murray M. Harris organ of 1912 incorporating original Murray M. Harris pipes of the period augmented with new pipes including a Dolce Cornet built and voiced in the style. 74% of the organ's voices are at 8' pitch or below. The entire organ will be under expression and additional flexibility will be provided through a third manual with solo stops from both the Great and Swell divisions. The console is patterned on a Murray M. Harris model of the period. After listening to a variety of instruments, the committee fell in love with the dignified and churchly tone of a Murray M. Harris organ and wanted the same for their congregation.

The music director is John Koza. The consultant for the project is Thomas L. DeLay of Salinas, California, well known expert on early 20th century west coast organ history, especially the work of Murray M. Harris. Completion is planned for the summer of 2016.

Organ Scholars Program 25th Anniversary

by Jean Fisk, Director of Music/Organist,
Pinole United Methodist Church

When our church installed a new organ in 1990-91, I began an "Organ Scholars" program. I published it in our newsletter and contacted some of the youth in our church who were good piano students. I set up the program using ideas from an article I read. To qualify, the student must play on the piano (1) a Bach Invention or similar piece, (2) a piece of his/her choosing, and (3) a hymn.

If chosen as a scholar, the student is to practice a minimum of 4 hours weekly on the organ and continue piano instruction; must participate in one other activity in the church; and as pieces are perfected, the scholar is to play for church with the goal of being able to play an entire service.

Every semester I review the scholarship with the scholar and the parents. If progress is satisfactory, the scholarship is continued. If progress is not satisfactory, the scholarship is discontinued. The parents are kept involved at all levels. The Organ Scholars Program is not subsidized by the church; this is my personal contribution to the music program and the church.

Every May the organ scholars present an organ concert that is usually attend by about 100 people. I invite one of my graduate scholars to perform a selection each year. Last year one of my graduate organ scholars flew in from San Diego to play. I take a free-will offering that is used to help send the present scholars to POE in the summer. After attending a POE in 2006 one of my scholars returned and announced he wanted to enter the SF Chapter Quimby competition. In February he did enter and was the first place winner as a 17 year-old senior in high school!

In the 25 years I have been doing the program I have 11 graduate organ scholars, four of them continuing to college and majoring in Music. My first organ scholar (I call him my Alpha Scholar; he declares he was the 'guinea pig organ scholar') came back after completing his UC Berkley Music degree and is now my Assistant Director of Music/Organist. Another is now doing Praise Bands at my church. I have 3 others playing organ regularly at churches where they live, and another who is also a Music/Director for a church where she lives. Most of the others are filling in as subs while going to college or working. I invite any of them who come visit to play, especially in the summer. I have two more Organ Scholars I'm teaching presently; they play all the responses, (usually 6) and Prelude, Offertory or Postlude once or twice a month. My latest joy is that one of my youngest graduate organ scholars has started his own Organ Scholars Program at the two churches he plays for. My latest organ scholars will be attending POE at Stanford this summer.

What a rewarding way to share my love of music and the organ!

SAVE THE DATE and RSVP!

Don't forget to join us for our Presidents Day Event!

Seven Ways to Step-up Your Hymn Playing A Workshop with Dr Timothy Howard For Organists, Music Ministers, and Churchgoers

Monday, February 15, 2016
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

St Stephen's Church
3 Bay View Ave. (Corner of Golden Gate Ave.)
Belvedere, CA 94920

Dr Timothy Howard will explore nine creative and powerful ways to help improve your accompanying skills. Dr Howard is Director of Music/Organist at Pasadena Presbyterian Church, Pasadena, California, and Lecturer in Music at California State University, Northridge.

IMPORTANT NOTE: John Hirten will be making a vegetarian soup as part of our lunch. There is no cost!

PLEASE LET JOHN KNOW IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO COME (jhirten@comcast.net or 415-435-4501 x17) .

Please refer to the December Newsletter for more details.

2015–2016 SFAGO Program

Sunday, September 20, 2015 — 5:15 p.m.
**Choral Evensong Service and
Installation of Officers**

St Luke's Episcopal Church
1755 Clay Street, San Francisco
Reception following
(Parking \$8 flat fee at a nearby garage)

Monday, February 15, 2016 — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
President's Day Workshops

with special clinician Timothy Howard
St Stephen's Episcopal Church
3 Bayview Avenue, Belvedere
Lunch included

Sunday, November 8, 2015 — 6:05 p.m.
Celebrity Recital with Christian Lane
(following 5:30 p.m. choral evensong service)

St Mark's Episcopal Church
2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley
Festive Reception following

Friday, April 22, 2016 — 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
**Workshop/ Master Class
with Richard Elliott**

"10 Steps to Becoming a Better Organist"
First Congregational Church
2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Saturday, January 16, 2016
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Lunch included
Youth Organ Crawl

St Mary's Cathedral / St Mark's Lutheran Church
/ St Luke's Episcopal Church
San Francisco
Open to young pianists and organists,
ages 10–18. Limit 12.
Email Elizabeth Forsyth at e_forsyth@yahoo.com
to reserve a spot for your student

Friday, April 22, 2016 — 8:00 p.m.
Celebrity Recital with Richard Elliott

Principal Organist, Salt Lake Tabernacle
First Congregational Church
2345 Channing Way, Berkeley
Free to members, \$20 general admission
Reception following

January 24, 2016 — 3 p.m.
Celebrity Recital with Hector Olivera

Grace Cathedral
1100 California Street
San Francisco
Reception following

Monday, May 23, 2016 — 6 p.m.
Annual Dinner and Meeting

(North Beach restaurant TBD)
followed by
8 p.m. Member's Recital
Sts Peter and Paul Church
666 Filbert Street
San Francisco

Dean's Column, from front page

and weight of the lines used and they can be added to or erased at any time.

The app also allows me to import other music not in the hymnal or associated psalter. This means I can still have access to alternative tunes, favorite versions and organ literature.



Recently my car was broken into and a bag of music stolen — music for an upcoming series of recitals. I spent the rest of that week searching for copies of this stolen music so that I could do the recitals. My colleagues were very gracious in helping me identify electronic versions of the scores.

If a tablet is stolen (and, of course, they are highly desirable) or if I lose the equipment, I lose an expensive piece of equipment but I do not lose the music. I can re-download the hymnal onto another tablet and any other music using PDF documents. I've also taken to saving everything in the cloud using DropBox and that means I can access my music anywhere I can get a wifi or data connection.



Some of our more up-to-date organ builders are including charging outlets in consoles (and on music racks).



You will probably realize that a couple of months into this experiment I'm pretty convinced that this is the way of the future and I encourage you to explore to see if it's for you. I'm very happy to give a demonstration of how I use it.

What are you doing to explore technology and the organ or choir you're involved with?

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 **March** issue is **February 10**. Online listings available at: www.sfago.org/jobs/

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Refer to recent back issues of the Newsletter for other positions which may be available.

EAST BAY

MUSIC DIRECTOR-ORGANIST/CHORAL DIRECTOR, St Paul's Episcopal Church, Oakland. The Music Director/Organist is responsible for providing organ music and directing the choir at the principal Sunday service and monthly services of Evensong and Compline. Also provide music for the following additional services: Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Holy Week services and other Holy days on the church calendar. Three manual, 1934 Austin organ and a Yamaha parlor grand piano. Adult choir with four paid section leaders and a new, growing bell choir. For a detailed job description please see the AGO national website (www.agohq.org) or contact the job listing coordinator, David Howitt (dhowitt@sjbalameda.org). For other questions please email the search director, George Strait at georgestraitjr@gmail.com. To apply, please send résumé/CV along with three professional references and an audio and/or video file demonstrating ability to: musicsearch@stpaulsoakland.org. Application deadline is February 15, 2016. The position will be available in June, 2016.

FOR SALE

Cantor Orgelbouw Quint 335 computer practice organ. Two manuals, 35 stops with a 30 notes radiating-concave pedal board. Voicing is in the North German/Dutch style. Built ca 2001. Used as a demonstration organ at AGO conventions on the East Coast. Available for immediate pick up in San Francisco. Priced to sell quickly - \$2,500. For more information please contact Francis Cummings: 415-641-7843.

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2015-2016
Last updated 08/13/2015

Bay Area Concert Calendar

Collected by Brian Swager

February ²⁰¹⁶

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 **March** issue is **February 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

RP-SR: Resurrection Parish, Santa Rosa

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

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

February

6 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

5pm. Choral Evensong. Susan Jane Matthews, Director. Davies: *God be in my head*, Sumsion: *They that go down to the sea in ships, Magnificat and Nunc dimittis* in G. Freewill donation. Reception follows. SPE-BU

7pm. Praise Concert. Most Holy Redeemer Choir, Dan Schutte, Director. \$15 donation, NOTAFLOF. Most Holy Redeemer Church

7 Sunday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

13 Saturday

4pm. Hans Uwe Hielscher, Organ. Pacific Union College, Angwin

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

14 Sunday

4pm. Hans Hielscher, Organ. Mission Dolores Basilica

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

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

15 Monday

9am-3pm. **SFAGO Event.** Presidents' Day Workshops. St Stephen's Episcopal Church, Belvedere

19 Friday

7pm. Hans Uwe Hielscher, Organ. Grace Presbyterian Church, Walnut Creek

20 Saturday

4pm. Hans Hielscher, Organ. CPLH

21 Sunday

3:30pm. Lyle Sheffler, Guitar. \$15 donation. RP-SR

4pm. Hans Hielscher, Organ. CPLH

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

27 Saturday

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

28 Sunday

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

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

5:30pm. Choral Evensong. St Francis Choir; Robert Kerman, Director; Rodney Gehrke, Organ. Buxtehude cantata: *Jesu, meine Freude*. St Francis Episcopal Church

Looking Ahead 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. Davies Symphony Hall

4pm. Phillips Academy Choir & Orchestra. 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

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

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

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 Saturday

4pm. Steve Ketterer, Organ. CPLH

17 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. Davies Symphony Hall

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

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

