



January 2016

The American Guild of Organists

San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

Dean's Column

by Simon Berry

On Teaching and Students - A New Year Challenge

It is a cliché to state again that the future of the pipe and digital organ lies in the hands of the students that we promote and teach. However, it's a truism and one which we should bear in mind at all times. It is a bit like city supervisors failing to address the needs of the poor and needy at each and every City Hall meeting. The poor and needy will always be part of our culture; the somewhat rarefied world of the organ will always need students.

So what are we doing about it? What did we do about garnering students since the summer break? What will we do about student organists after Christmas? Some hard questions that deserve some hard thought.

Some of us are fortunate to have a number of organ students. Part of our responsibility is to continue to grow each student and make invitations to others to learn. Those without students, for what ever reason, also have a responsibility and that is to support teachers and students in some way. Reflect on the organ world with no education going on. Think about what happened to the Albigensians in the 13th century.

As a Chapter of The American Guild of Organists we have a responsibility to provide an educational officer (Eileen Johnson) who is able to guide people through the syllabi and examinations of the Guild. We are grateful to Eileen for this work and eagerly await the results of the latest batch of examinations.

Another success is via our Program where we hold organ crawls for youth and admit them to our events often free of charge. There's one coming up in January. Did you invite your students to take part (did you consider paying for them to take part?)

But on a more fundamental level I believe we need to do something more to encourage students and teachers. We need to broadcast some seeds and tend seedlings and watch them grow into mature and strong organists. One way of doing this is to set up a fund for grants for organ lessons for students.

Many AGO chapters do this very successfully already. Our chapter executive committee (Board) is beginning the process of discussing how such a scheme could be set up. There are

► **Dean's Column, page 2**

Hector Olivera Coming To Grace Cathedral

by Elizabeth Forsyth, SFAGO Sub Dean



An evening with Mr Olivera is "an event, a happening, a joyful celebration of the sheer power and pressure that a true virtuoso like Hector Olivera can unleash in a concert hall."

— *The Times Reporter*

On Sunday, January 24, our chapter, in cooperation with Grace Cathedral, will present Hector Olivera in concert. Please note that the start time is 3 p.m., not 4 p.m. as previously announced. Always an exciting recitalist with numerable international concerts to his credit, Mr Olivera will showcase his talents on the Cathedral's 125 rank Alexander Memorial organ. A festive reception will follow the concert. Don't miss this exciting event! We look forward to seeing you there and enjoying your company at the reception!

Since entering the Buenos Aires Conservatory as a child prodigy at age six, Maestro Hector Olivera has become one of the most sought after and revered international concert organists of the present time. Born in Buenos Aires, Mr Olivera began playing the pipe organ when he was three. At age five he played for the legendary Eva Perón; at twelve he entered the University of Buenos Aires, and by eighteen had performed for heads of state and celebrities throughout

► **Olivera at Grace, page 2**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A Few Spots Left on January 16th	2
RSVP for Timothy Howard Event	2
Classified Ads.....	3
Information Box	3
Events Calendar & Looking Ahead	4

Submission deadline for the **February** issue is **January 10**

A Few Spots Left on January 16th!

from Elizabeth Forsyth

Do you have a piano student age 10–18 or know of one in your congregation?

Sign them up for the sure-to-be-fantastic
YOUTH ORGAN CRAWL
in San Francisco Saturday, January 16,
beginning at 9 a.m.

Three fabulous large organs will be demonstrated by their respective organists, followed by open console time for the students. Pizza lunch is included. Please contact Elizabeth Forsyth at e_forsyth@yahoo.com for details and to register your student for this fun and educational day. Organ students are also welcome!

Olivera at Grace, *from front page*

Latin America. When offered a scholarship at the renowned Juilliard School of Music in New York, he moved to the United States. Three years later, Mr Olivera's outstanding professional concert career was launched when he won the AGO's National Improvisation Contest.

Mr Olivera has performed solo concerts throughout the USA, Europe, Asia, Australia, Central and Latin America and as guest soloist with prominent symphony orchestras worldwide. Whether in a prestigious venue such as Carnegie Hall, Royal Albert Hall, Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, Constitution Hall, Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, or in conjunction with a celebrated event like the Olympic games or the Classical Newport Music Festival, the most sophisticated and demanding organ aficionados claim that Maestro Hector Olivera is 'one of the greatest organists in the world today.'

Mr Olivera's program was not yet available when this article went to press. 

Dean's Column, *from front page*

many ways to provide financial support for students. It is my hope that, by the end of my period as Dean, there will be such a scheme in place in our chapter.

Teaching is not always easy for either teacher or student. Not every student finds left hand and pedal coordination natural; not all students come to us with clearly defined keyboard skills; not all students find time or energy to practice; not all students belong to an institution with an instrument that they can practice on. But the rewards of teaching are great and varied.

Each one of us who has access to a pipe or digital organ can do everything in our power to make the instrument available for practice by a student, whether school age, college age or adult. Each one of us who plays the organ can invite someone with basic piano skills to try playing a simple piece of music on it — perhaps something from Bach's *Anna Magdalena Notebook*.

So I hand you this challenge for the New Year. Do something, anything, to help grow the world of the organ through new students.

I hope that your Hanukkah, Christmas and New Year celebrations were fulfilling and fun and full of inspirational music. 

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.

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 **February** issue is **January 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.

SAN FRANCISCO

INTERIM ORGANIST, *St Elizabeth Roman Catholic Church*

Interim Organist: January–May, possibly longer, to play for the 9:30am Sunday mass with choir rehearsal at 9:00am, 2–4 Sundays a month (organist's choice). The interim organist is not responsible for the weekly choir rehearsal, planning service music or scheduling cantors. The organ is a two manual, 21 rank Schoenstein, opus 94. If interested please contact Karen Haslag, Music Director, St. Elizabeth Roman Catholic Church. khaslag@comcast.net or 707-996-4145.

SOUTH BAY

ORGANIST/ACCOMPANIST, *Campbell United Methodist Church, San Jose*

Campbell UMC (www.cambellunited.org) seeks an organist/accompanist to play a 3 manual Schantz pipe organ and a Knabe concert grand piano. Applicants should be comfortable on both organ and piano and with a variety of musical styles: classical, contemporary, gospel and world. Some synthesizer and/or midi experience is preferred. 10–15 hours per week and salary consistent with AGO guidelines. If interested, please send resume and a cover letter to Search@campbellunited.org.

CENTRAL VALLEY

ORGANIST / DIRECTOR / WORSHIP LEADER: *Davis*

Community Church, Davis Davis Community Church is seeking an interim organist, choir director and/or worship leader following the retirement of their long-time director of music. The positions become available on January 10, 2016. While the previous position was held by one person the interim position could be held by one or more persons. Two services: traditional at 8:30am and "mildly" contemporary at 10:30am led by piano and instruments. Three manual Moeller organ with recent console renovations. Competitive salary. Please contact Les Skog and Ruth Coleman at personnel@dccpres.org or Christ Neufeld-Erdman, Pastor/Head of Staff, erdmanc@gmail.com for more information or to apply.

SUBSTITUTE ORGANIST AVAILABLE

KATHLEEN FLEMMING, a new SFAGO member is available to substitute for Sunday Services and is available for rehearsals and special services during the week. 925-754-7915.

FOR SALE

ALLEN RENAISSANCE ORGAN, model R-230. Purchased new in 2000. Two manual, 39 stops plus the usual couplers. \$12,000 or best offer. If interested, please call Kathleen Flemming at 925-754-7915.



SFAGO Newsletter is published monthly, August thru May, with a Summer issue for June/July, by the San Francisco Chapter, American Guild of Organists. Opinions stated herein are those of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect official policies of this Chapter. The deadline for receipt of all newsletter items is the 10th of the month preceding publication.

Dean: Simon Berry, 415.674.0430, simoncberry@gmail.com
Sub Dean: Elizabeth Forsyth, e_forsyth@yahoo.com
Sub Dean Elect: George Emblom, gaemblom@aol.com
Secretary: Arthur West, arthurwest@gmail.com
Treasurer: William Visscher, bvissch@fastmail.fm
Registrar: Christoph Tietze, 415.924.1377, orgelchris@yahoo.com
Webmaster: Alex Oldroyd, alex@oldroyds.com
Chapter Website: www.sfago.org

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

Events Calendar Listings: Brian Swager, 415.551.7866, sfagocal@gmail.com
Job Placement & For Sale Listings: David Howitt, 510-437-0254, dhowitt@sjbalameda.org
Obituary Listings: To be announced
Newsletter Articles: George Morten, 209.565.6660, sfago-editor@att.net

2015–2016
Last updated 08/13/2015

Bay Area Concert Calendar

Collected by Brian Swager

January 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 **February** issue is **January 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

January 2016

2 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

3 Sunday

4pm. Sonora Piano Trio: Jeanette Wilkin Tietze, Piano; Suzanna Barker, Violin; Anne Lerner-Wright, Cello. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

9 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

10 Sunday

4pm. Epiphany Lessons and Carols. Golden Gate Boyschoir & Bellringers, St Brigid School Honor Choir, Archdiocesan Children's Choir. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

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

16 Saturday

8:30am. Silicon Valley AGO Jubilee. See the October issue of TAO for workshop details. \$25. tpaulosas@comcast.net. Los Altos United Methodist Church, Los Altos

9am-3pm. **SFAGO Event.** Youth Organ Crawl. San Francisco.

4pm. Cyril Deaconoff, Organ. CPLH

17 Sunday

4pm. Gail Archer, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Cyril Deaconoff, Organ. CPLH

22 Friday

7:30pm. Bernstein: *Chichester Psalms*, in the context of Shabbat Services. George Emblom, Director; Ilene Keys, Cantor. Temple Sinai Choir and St Mark's Episcopal Church Choir. SME-B

23 Saturday

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

5pm. Men's Chorus with chamber orchestra. Susan Jane Matthews, Director; Joey Blundell, Countertenor. Bach: *Cantata 169*, Duruflé: *Messe cum jubilo*. Freewill donation. Reception follows. SPE-BU

24 Sunday

3pm. **SFAGO Event.** Hector Olivera, Organ. Grace Cathedral

➔ NOTE TIME CHANGE ◀

3:30pm. Albatross Clarinet Quartet. \$15 donation. RP-SR

4pm. Bernstein: *Chichester Psalms*, in the context of Evensong. George Emblom, Director; Ilene Keys, Cantor. Temple Sinai Choir and St Mark's Episcopal Church Choir. SME-B

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

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

28 Thursday

7:30pm. Cameron Carpenter, International Touring Organ. Tickets \$30-75. SFJAZZ Center

29 Friday

7:30pm. Cameron Carpenter, International Touring Organ. Tickets \$30-75. SFJAZZ Center

30 Saturday

4pm. Paul Ellison, Organ. CPLH

7:30pm. Cameron Carpenter, International Touring Organ. Tickets \$30-75. SFJAZZ Center

31 Sunday

4pm. Paul Ellison, Organ. CPLH

4pm. Thomas Gaynor, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Cameron Carpenter, International Touring Organ. Tickets \$30-75. SFJAZZ Center

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

7 Sunday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

13 Saturday

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

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

March

5 Saturday

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

13 Sunday

4pm. Robert Gurney, Organ. Mission Dolores Basilica

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

