

**September 2015**

**The American Guild of Organists**

**San Francisco Chapter Newsletter**

**Some Notes from Your Dean**

*by Simon Berry*

**SAN DIEGO CONVENTION – JUNE 2015**

**M**y previous visit to San Diego was in 2001 to attend the regional convention where I met several new friends and colleagues. Although there were changes in the venues and instruments, there was the same warmth of friendship and collegiality on hand.

I wrote this note just after enjoying immensely the recital at Village Church in Rancho Santa Fe, sponsored by our Special Projects Committee. The two youthful performers, Thomas Mellan and Susanna Valleau, played an interesting program of music both ancient and modern. I was proud to represent our chapter and know that the success of the 1984 San Francisco convention continues to provide opportunity for so many.

Sweat was dripping from Thomas Mellan, his shoes were flying over the pedalboard, emotions plied his torso into contortions. Was he weeping over the keyboard? Susanna Valleau was cool, calm and collected, and a fascinating contrast.

Later in the week, it was good to hear a workshop from chapter member John Karl Hirten on improvisation. John had a huge class and gracefully helped volunteers through a dozen suggested structures for their extemporaneous performances. Another moment to be proud of our chapter.

There were times when I appreciated the artistry of a recital but not so much the choice of repertoire; also there were occasions when the opposite was true; good repertoire not so well performed. That's part of the pleasure of a convention; witnessing differences and struggles; celebrating successes and enjoyment.

Being on the West Coast, there was a variety of buildings. One reared up like a stegosaurus and housed a rather nice Schantz; another had quite traditional architecture (spoiled perhaps by arches that were not supported) and a Martin Ott instrument; but the cake goes to the Spreckels Organ Pavilion and Carol Williams's cheeky banter between pieces.

► **Dean's Column**, page 3

**Opening Evensong Service at St. Luke's  
Sunday, September 20, at 5:00 PM**

**T**he SF Chapter's opening event for the 2015–16 program year is an Evensong service featuring the choir and organist of St Luke's Episcopal Church, San Francisco. It has been a while since the chapter has had an event there and we are pleased to be welcomed by the church's rector, The Reverend Dana Corsello, and interim music director, Steve Ketterer. Music for the service will include new settings of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by Mr. Ketterer. During the service the SFAGO officers for the coming year will be installed. After the service, plan on staying for wine and hors d'oeuvres before going out into the neighborhood with its many restaurants and bars.

The following information about the Aeolian-Skinner, Opus #1350 is taken from the church's website:

"St Luke's first contracted with the Aeolian-Skinner Company in 1958 and the organ installation was completed in 1960. Our organ is one of their earlier designs, model Opus #1350, and was said to have been a personal favorite of Aeolian-Skinner President, Joseph Whiteford. The organ has three manuals, five divisions, 60 ranks and slightly more than 3,400 pipes.

Additions to the original 1958 design came in two periods. In 1976 a striking set of Trompette-en-Chamade pipes was added and can be seen along the rear interior west wall. Also added was a Zimbelstern and a tremolo to lend a romantic quality to the flute pipes of two of the divisions. In the 1990s a solid state action added 32 levels of combination piston memory, some of the pipes were revoiced, and the casework was redone to create the beautiful façade of the main organ on the south wall.

► **Opening Evensong**, page 3

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Submission deadline for the **October** issue is **September 10**

## 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 2 p.m.**

President's Day Workshops  
with special clinician Timothy Howard

**St Stephen's Episcopal Church**

3 Bayview Ave., 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 — 7:30 p.m.**

Celebrity Recital with Richard Elliott,  
organist Salt Lake Tabernacle

**First Congregational Church**

2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Free to members, \$20 general admission

Reception following

**Saturday, January 16 or 23, 2016 date TBD**

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.

Please email Elizabeth Forsyth at [e\\_forsyth@  
yahoo.com](mailto:e_forsyth@yahoo.com) to reserve a spot for your student

**Saturday, April 23, 2016 — 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon**

[there is a chance we may change this to Friday -  
the same day as the recital, in the afternoon]

Workshop/ Master Class with Richard Elliott:  
"10 Steps to Becoming a Better Organist"

**First Congregational Church**

2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

**January 24, 2016 — 4 p.m.**

Celebrity Recital with Hector Olivera

**Grace Cathedral**

1100 California St.

San Francisco

Reception following

**Monday, May 23, 2016 — 6 p.m.**

Annual Dinner and Meeting  
(restaurant TBD in North Beach)

followed by

8 p.m. Member's Recital

**Sts Peter and Paul Church**

666 Filbert St.

San Francisco

## Dean's Column, *from front page*

Christopher Houlihan gave an enjoyable and impressive program at a church resembling a mail box (1st UMC) on their warm-toned Blackinton organs.

There were a few 'clunkers' including one event where the noise of flight traffic regularly drowned the organ. It was easy to be sympathetic to this recitalist though I wonder if the SD AGO have recorded that its not such a good venue in the summer with all the windows open!

On the last day, Chelsea Chen gave a simply stunning recital which was followed by a fun finale at The Balboa Theater on its extraordinary Morton organ.

The food was good and readily available; the transport all worked well, the hotel was great. Personally I was grateful to the SD people who made all of this happen.

In 2016 the national convention will be in Houston, Texas, (June 19-23) and in 2017 the regional convention will be in Salt Lake City, Utah. If you choose to attend you will be thrilled by outstanding performances, stimulated by fresh ideas for repertoire, and able to learn from the workshop offerings. Add the opportunity to network and make friends and it seems like an ideal start to the summer season. ~~~~~

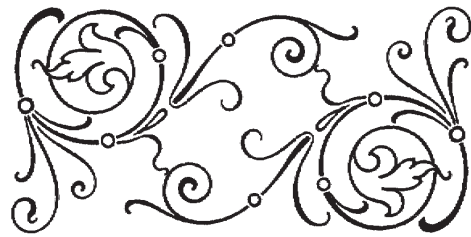


## Classified Ads

*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](mailto:dhowitt@sjbalameda.org). Deadline for the **October** issue is **September 10**. Visit our blog at <http://sfagojobs.blogspot.com/> often to see the latest listings.

**No ads submitted this month.**



## Opening Evensong, *from front page*

The organ's 3,400 pipes result in a "cathedral sound" rarely equaled in any church on the West Coast. In addition, the spectacular acoustics of the church's French Gothic building design enhance the music."

St Luke's Church is at 1755 Clay St., on the southeast corner of Clay St and Van Ness Blvd. Parking is available at the Old First Parking Garage (1725 Sacramento St., between Polk St. and Van Ness) for a flat fee of \$8.00. MUNI bus routes #1 California, #47 and #49 Van Ness, and #19 Polk all stop within one or two blocks of the Church. St Luke's Church is a two block walk north from the California / Van Ness cable car stop. ~~~~~

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2015-2016  
Last updated 08/13/2015

# Bay Area Concert Calendar

Collected by Brian Swager

# 2015 September

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 **October** issue is **September 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.

**CCL-O:** Cath. of Christ the Light, Oakland

**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

## September

### 5 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

### 6 Sunday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

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

### 12 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

### 13 Sunday

4pm. Zoltan Varga, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

4pm. David Schofield, Organ. Mission Dolores Basilica

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

### 19 Saturday

4pm. Jerome Lenk, Organ. CPLH

### 20 Sunday

4pm. Andrzej Szadejko, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Jerome Lenk, Organ. CPLH

**5pm. SFAGO Event.** Service and Installation of Officers. St Luke's Episcopal Church, SF

5pm. Bach Vespers. Jonathan Dimmock, Director & Organist; Juliana Snapper, Soprano; period instruments, congregational singing. Cantata 199. Tickets: [brownpapertickets.com/event/1990858](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/1990858), \$23 adults, \$18 seniors, \$28 at the door. St Peter's Parish, Oakland

### 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

### October

### 3 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

### 4 Sunday

4pm. Rex Rallanka, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

4pm. Robert Gurney, Organ. Music of Franck, Vierne, and Langlais. \$10 suggested donation. Grace Cathedral

### 10 Saturday

4pm. Brendan Conner, Organ. CPLH

### 11 Sunday

4pm. Brendan Conner, Organ. CPLH

4pm. Philip Manwell, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Jerome Lenk, Organ. Mission Dolores Basilica

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

### 17 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

### 18 Sunday

3:30pm. Christine Westhoff, Soprano; Timothy Allen, Organ. \$15 donation. RP-SR

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

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

5pm. Hans Uwe Hielscher, Organ. Freewill offering. CCL-O

7pm. Paul Jacobs, Organ, with Christine Brewer, Soprano. Tickets: [sfsymphony.org](http://sfsymphony.org). Davies Symphony Hall

### 24 Saturday

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

### 25 Sunday

4pm. Diana Stork & Portia Diwa, Harp. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

### 31 Saturday

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. CPLH

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

### November

### 1 Sunday

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. CPLH

### 7 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

### 8 Sunday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. Mission Dolores Basilica

**6:05pm. SFAGO Event.** Christian Lane, Organ. Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. Reception follows. SME-B

### 11 Wednesday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

### 14 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

### 15 Sunday

3pm. Nicholas Welch, Organ & Piano. St Mark's Episcopal Church, Palo Alto

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

### 21-22 Saturday & Sunday

4pm. Simon Berry, Organ. CPLH

### December

### 5-6 Saturday & Sunday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

### 12 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

### 13 Sunday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

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

