



August 2015

The American Guild of Organists

San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

Dean's Column

by Simon Berry

Very soon we will launch the new SFAGO website. It has taken time to design and we're still testing it out, but we're excited to bring you something new.

Although the time we live in is fast-paced and full of innovation, organists are often creatures of habit and gravitate toward established patterns of work, known composers and reliable instruments. Change does not appear to favor us and our performance habits, but we have to be part of this world and demonstrate both the greatness of our past heritage and the joy of exploring the new.

Just as cash gave way to checks and then to credit cards, many of us now pay using electronic banking and even our smart phones. Some adopt the new technology early, and others cautiously watch for the real benefits before adapting. In the organ world it's easy to be a CAVE dweller: someone Constantly Against Virtually Everything. Do not be that person!

On YouTube one can compare ten performances of the Widor Toccata from one's desk, arm chair, kitchen sink—or even the pew. One can hear the aged Widor himself playing it at a leisurely tempo, or a high school student racing through it at breakneck speed. We can learn from both.

Buying bound sheet music is becoming less common: all my students download PDFs of their music from websites. They don't want to carry volumes of Bach in their backpacks. Many read from their iPads. I'm currently seeking to convert a small choir to using tablets instead of heavy hymnals. The advantages are many; the opportunities great.

Times are changing, but are we? We need to preserve our heritage and maintain our good taste and judgment. We should seek to use our experience to guide us through the current choices. Do you count yourself as a traditionalist, with bound books, or a modernist reading from a screen?

Perhaps there's a better path for us all, some blend of tech and traditionalist that supports our artistic and religious endeavors. Our chapter has started to provide

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Opening Guild Service and Reception

from John K Hirten

On September 20th at 5:00 p.m. the San Francisco Chapter will host the Opening Service for the 2015–2016 Program Year at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley (UUCB).

Participants in this simple and beautiful evening service will include the choir of UUCB directed by Bryan Baker, featuring the talents of UUCB organist Ekaterina (Katya) Kolesnikova on the wonderful 47 rank Aeolian-Skinner. The installation of chapter officers will also take place in a brief ceremony, after which we will enjoy hors d'oeuvres and each other's company as we take in the splendid views of the San Francisco Bay.

DIRECTIONS:

The church is located at 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington.

From San Pablo Avenue in El Cerrito, head east on Moeser Lane. Continue on Moeser Lane in the left hand lane and drive about 1 ½ miles up a very steep hill. Moeser Lane ends at Arlington Boulevard which will be your first stop sign. (There are tall, electrical towers and a sign for the "Unitarian Church" at this intersection.)

Proceed across Arlington Boulevard (Moeser becomes Terrace on the east side of Arlington). Follow Terrace for one short block and take the first right on Craft, which is a dead-end street. Look for a large sign for the church and turn left into the driveway. Follow the drive up the hill until you come to the parking lot by the main entrance to the church.



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

SFAGO Special Projects Committee Season Summary

by Douglas Franks, *Outgoing SPC Chair*

The 2014–2015 season has been a productive one for the Special Projects Committee. This article will attempt to touch on the highlights of our work.

Last summer, we welcomed two new members to the committee, Lenore Alford and Donald Mulliken, both of whom have helped see us through our annual quota of three funding cycles. Sadly, we say goodbye to Rod Gehrke who has served as an able Secretary of the committee for the past two years and has been a valuable contributor to our deliberations every step of the way. We are pleased that Katya Kolesnikova will be continuing her term on the committee for another year. Having served as SPC Chair for four years and two years before that as an SPC committee member, I am cycling off the committee along with Rod. We welcome two newly elected members onto the committee, Helen Pereira and Jerome Lenk.

I would again like to thank SFAGO chapter members who made special donations to the Special Projects Fund when they renewed their membership dues last year. We urge members to do likewise when they renew their membership through ONCARD this summer. Such financial support is still greatly needed. All gifts will go directly towards funding worthy organ-related projects approved by our committee.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out again to Mr. Oscar Burdick who generously donated to the Special Projects Fund on behalf of his wife Dora's estate. His gifts have been a tremendous boost to our grant-giving capacity.

We've continued to keep SPC work visible to members by running newsletter articles describing projects supported by our grant awards. Our committee ran a quarter-page display ad in the program book for the AGO 2015 West Region Convention in San Diego earlier this summer.

In our fall 2014 and winter/spring 2015 funding cycles we awarded a total of \$14,000 in grants. The eight grant recipients are:

- ◆ San Diego AGO (\$1,000)—Two young persons' organ recitals at the 2015 AGO West Region Convention as part of "Youth Day." The grant covered transportation, housing, and an honorarium for these "exceptional young artists," Thomas Mellan and Susanna Valleau.
- ◆ Evansville AGO/Indiana (\$1,500)—Payment towards an organ composition commission by Pulitzer-Prize winning composer William Bolcom, a significant work for organ and brass in honor of the 35-year teaching career of

University of Evansville Organist Dr. Douglas Reed. The finished work was performed in April 2015 by Dr. Reed with the American Brass Quintet.

- ◆ Indianapolis AGO (\$2,000)—The 2015 AGO Great Lakes Region Convention, used as needed to help Indianapolis AGO keep registration fees at an affordable level.
- ◆ Ronald Ebrecht (\$2,000)—Translation and publication in English of original articles in French about organ pieces by Maurice Duruflé.
- ◆ Gail Archer (\$1,500)—Recital early next year at a San Francisco Bay Area church focusing on women composers in order to bring these artists to the attention of a wider audience and in furtherance of the grantee's advocacy for women composers and gender equality in our field.
- ◆ Vic Ferrer (\$2,000)—Exhibit of the Exposition Organ (Austin Opus 500) mounted by the citizen's committee the grantee works with, Friends of the Exposition Organ, as part of the 100th anniversary of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition at the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco. This exhibit keeps the memory of the Exposition Organ alive by making historical memorabilia, the organ console, and an informative documentary accessible to the public for the duration of the 100th-anniversary celebration. This grant also represents support of the long-term goal of finding a permanent home for Austin Op. 500 so that it once again becomes a playable instrument. The organ and its story are an important piece of San Francisco's cultural heritage.
- ◆ Randall Harlow (\$2,500)—"Organon Novus: Contemporary Organ Works by American Masters", a two-CD recording project of 20 pieces by 20 American composers, most of them previously unrecorded, including AGO commissions. The instrument Mr. Harlow will play for the recordings is a 1928 Skinner organ at the University of Chicago's Rockefeller Chapel.
- ◆ Patricia Van Ness (\$1,500)—New composition, based on a Psalm, for organ and "medium-ability" choir for concert or church use. Costs to be covered are composing, engraving, publishing, and posting.

There is nothing more satisfying than to be able to use our dedicated financial resources for the furtherance of a diverse stream of organ-related projects from around this vast country of ours that as a whole serve to enrich the life of our professional community. The Special Projects Committee looks forward to meeting next September when it will once again carry out that mission with gladness and discernment as it has done for over a quarter of a century. 

Dean's Column, from front page

programs that include areas of technological innovation, but we need to do more. A sage member recently told a meeting that we should provide programs that do not merely replicate what's available through websites or recordings but teach through structure and convey a point of view. It's a worthy challenge and one which we will be exploring.

Meanwhile, Alex Oldroyd, our webmaster, continues to test our new website. It's a beginning: it's not complete, but it will grow. Your positive ideas are always welcome! 



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: David Howitt, 510-437-0254, dhowitt@sjbalameda.org. Deadline for the **September** issue is **August 10**. Visit our blog at <http://sfagojobs.blogspot.com/> often to see the latest listings.

No ads submitted this month.

SFAGO Program for 2015–2016

Sunday, September 20, 2015 Time TBA

Opening Service with Choir, Organ and Installation of Officers, followed by Festive Reception at Sunset

Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley
1 Lawson Road
Kensington 94707

Sunday, November 8, 2015 6:05 p.m.

Celebrity Recital with Christian Lane
Evensong Service prior at 5:30, Reception following recital

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
2300 Bancroft Road
Berkeley 94704

Saturday, January 23, 2016 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Youth Organ Crawl at San Francisco Churches:
St. Mark's, St. Luke's, St. Mary's Cathedral

*Young piano and organ students, ages 9–18,
encouraged to attend and experience the power (and fun!) of the organ*

Sunday, January 24, 2016 Time TBA

Celebrity Recital with Hector Olivera

Grace Cathedral
1100 California Street
San Francisco

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2015–2016
Last updated 07/17/2015

Bay Area Concert Calendar

Collected by Brian Swager

2015 August

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 **September** issue is **August 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

August

1 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

2 Sunday

4pm. Joseph Russell, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

8 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

9 Sunday

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

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

15 Saturday

4pm. Gail Archer, Organ. CPLH

16 Sunday

4pm. Katya Gotsdiner, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Gail Archer, Organ. CPLH

22 Saturday

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

23 Sunday

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

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

29 Saturday

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. CPLH

30 Sunday

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

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. CPLH

Looking Ahead

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

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

26 Saturday

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

27 Sunday

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

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

October

3 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

4 Sunday

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

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

10 Saturday

4pm. Brendan Conner, Organ. CPLH

11 Sunday

4pm. Brendan Conner, Organ. CPLH

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

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. 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

November

1 Sunday

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. CPLH

7 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

8 Sunday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

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

11 Wednesday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH