

June & July 2015

The American Guild of Organists

San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

Dean's Column

by Simon Berry

Registering with Pistons Another Way

We British tend to use our thumb pistons differently from most other organ cultures, possibly because we lacked general pistons and setter pistons until the 1980s. Prior to solid state memory systems most British organs with pistons used a setter board, and a very few had the luxury of a single general piston. Thus we developed a scheme for setting pistons that allowed some flexibility. We also retained our adeptness at hand registrations and commonly had divisional cancel controls to help change registrations quickly or select a solo stop. Setter boards had three positions – on, off and neutral, and this led to ingenious settings where moving from piston 3 to 4 gave a distinctly different registration from moving down from 5 to 4.

One rationale used is that the first piston on each division should give the quietest useable sound, and the highest piston the loudest useable sound. Thus it's easy to get to the quietest and loudest sounds.

For a two manual and pedal organ with six pistons per division we could set:

Great

1. Flute 8 or Dulciana 8
2. Flutes 8 & 4
3. Open Diapason 8
4. Open Diapason 8 & Principal 4
5. Open Diapason 8, Principal 4 & 15th
6. Full Great

Swell

1. String celestes 8
2. Salicional and flute 8
3. Open Diapason 8 & Principal 4
4. Open Diapason 8, Principal 4, 2'
5. 16' (reed or flue) mixture & oboe
6. Full Swell

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Annual Dinner, Members' Recital and Annual Meeting


Our Annual Dinner and Members' Recital with (brief) Annual Meeting is to take place on Tuesday, May 26, at First Congregational Church, Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94704, fccb.org

Please meet at 6:15 pm for drinks. Dinner is at 6:45 pm, with Members' Recital at 8:00 pm and social time following.

The Members' Recital will take place on the magnificent Petty-Madden organ in the sanctuary and make use of their fine Steinway concert grand piano in a rare organ and piano duet.

The food will be served buffet-style, and you will be able to choose between vegetarian and meat/fish options at the buffet tables.

The cost of dinner will be \$27, including wine.

For dinner reservations, please send checks for \$27 to SF/AGO Annual Dinner, 8 Lost Valley Dr., Orinda, 94563, or pay via PayPal on our website. 

NOTICE

The next newsletter will be the August issue

Have a wonderful summer!

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

SFAGO Program for 2014–2015

Saturday, September 20, 2014, 7:30 p.m.

“Our Souls Inspire...”

An Act of Worship for AGO members and friends
with music for Organ, Brass and Choir
Inspirational Address from Dean Alan Jones & Installation of Officers
Followed by a reception
Christ the Light Cathedral, Oakland

Saturday, October 18, 2014, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Masterclass Workshop on movements from a Couperin Mass
Jean-Baptiste Robin
St Mary’s College Chapel, Moraga

Sunday, October 19, 2014, 4:30 p.m.

Celebrity Recital
Jean-Baptiste Robin
Followed by a reception
St Mary’s College Chapel, Moraga

Saturday, November 22, 2014, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

St. Cecilia’s Day Hone Your Skills Workshops
New Music for Organ • New Music for Voices • Wedding and Funeral Music
Transposition for AGO exams • Improvisation Masterclass
With refreshments and lunch
St John’s Episcopal Church, Ross

Monday, January 12, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

Dean’s Roundtable Discussion of Professional Issues
Followed by a reception
St Dominic’s Church, San Francisco

Saturday, February 7, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

Choral Evensong and Presentation on RSCM Voices for Life scheme
Susan Jane Matthew, The St Paul’s Choir,
including Choir School boys and girls
St Paul’s Episcopal Church, Burlingame

Sunday, March 15, 2015, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Workshop with San Francisco Chorus & Short Concert
Chorissima Hall, Hayes Street, San Francisco

Sunday, April 26, 2015, 4:00 p.m.

Celebrity Recital
Nigel Potts, organ & Sarah Taylor, mezzo soprano
Elgar’s Sea Pictures
Followed by a reception
Grace Cathedral, San Francisco

Tuesday, May 26, 2015, 6:15 p.m.

Dinner, Annual Meeting and Members’ Recital
First Congregational Church, Berkeley

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 **August** issue is **July 10**.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE *Peninsula*

Redeemer Lutheran Church, 468 Grand St., Redwood City, is seeking an **organist/choir accompanist** for the traditional service. Organist prepares preludes, offertories and recessionals as well as leads the hymns, which are selected by the pastor. There are seasonal services (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week) and about 40 choir rehearsals. The organ is a two-manual Schoenstein. Salary follows AGO guidelines. Résumés may be sent to hdraeger@gmail.com.

SUBSTITUTE AVAILABLE

SUBSTITUTE ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR available. Will use piano to accompany when appropriate. Comfortable with both liturgical and non-liturgical denominations; experience in Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Episcopal, as well as Presbyterian and United Methodist churches. Contact: Thierry Spelle, tspelle@yahoo.com, 415-329-6039.



**Arts Under the Spire
at First Presbyterian Church of Oakland
presents**

**Discovery and
Tradition Festival**

\$10.00 suggested
donation

Sunday, May 31 at 4PM

Voices of Silicon Valley will present a choral program including the premiere of a new work by Monica Houghton. It will be followed by a beloved masterpiece - Palestrina's Missa Papae Marcelli.

Sunday, June 14 at 4PM

The premiere of a new composition by distinguished composer John MacCallum will feature a work written for our church and the Rosales Opus 16 Organ. This new piece will focus on the acoustical strengths of our sanctuary and includes electronics in this unique musical offering. Symphony for Organ No. 5 by Widor will be played by Dr. Cyril Deaconoff with a reception following the concert.

2619 Broadway (at 27th), Oakland, CA 94612 (510) 444-3555, www.firstchurchoakland.org
Contact Dr. Cyril Deaconoff, Music Director, for information: cyril@firstchurchoakland.org

This issue is the "Summer" newsletter — there is no July newsletter

Deadline for the August newsletter is July 10th

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Newsletter Departments: *Send your entries to the appropriate editor;
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2014-2015
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June & July


Pedal

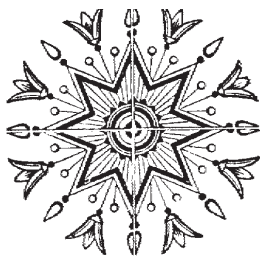
1. Softest 16
2. Bourdon 16 & soft 8
3. Bourdon 16 & Principal 8
4. Open Diapason 16 & Octave 8
5. Full Pedal with reed 16
6. Cancel Pedal stops

The plethora of general pistons that we find on modern consoles can be a great benefit but also can lead us to use the same registrations on all departments for verses of hymns. Starting with a general piston setting and using the divisional pistons to add and subtract stops can lead to a flexible registration scheme, but please, never forget that hand registration is still an option!

When I play romantic French music I try to set pistons that reflect the ventill system that the composers were used to using. If you're blessed with several combination memories you can have one set especially for these sounds and return to it for all music in that style.

I do the same with wedding repertoire – a memory level is dedicated to those pieces and is locked so that it is always safe for me to use. A colleague of mine in London has a memory level dedicated to the music of Bach and Buxtehude, with balanced choruses planned and various solo sounds available. The console notebook lists where these settings are best used.

You do have a console notebook don't you? More on that next time... 



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 August issue is July 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
- FPC-O:** First Presbyterian Ch, Oakland
- SME-B:** St Mark's Episcopal Ch, Berkeley

May

26 Tuesday

6:15pm. SFAGO Event. Dinner, Annual Meeting and Members' Recital. First Congregational Church, Berkeley

31 Sunday

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

June

6 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

7 Sunday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

4pm. Robert Gurney, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

13 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

14 Sunday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

4pm. Paul Meier, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Cyril Deaconoff, Organ. Premiere of work by John MacCallum for organ and electronic music; Widor: *Fifth Symphony*. \$10 suggested donation. FPC-O

6:05pm. John Karl Hirten, Organ. Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. Reception follows. SME-B

20 Saturday

4pm. Susan Jane Matthews, Organ. CPLH

21 Sunday

4pm. Susan Jane Matthews, Organ. CPLH

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

28 Sunday

4pm. Olesya Kravchenko, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

Looking Ahead

July

4 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

5 Sunday

4pm. Alan Montgomery, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

11 Saturday

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. CPLH

12 Sunday

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. CPLH

4pm. Etienne Walhain, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

18 Saturday

4pm. Lenore Alford, Organ. CPLH

19 Sunday

4pm. Lenore Alford, Organ. CPLH

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

25 Saturday

4pm. Ryan Enright, Organ. CPLH

26 Sunday

4pm. Leo Abbott, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Ryan Enright, Organ. CPLH

