



May 2015

The American Guild of Organists

# San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

## Dean's Column

by Simon Berry

If you follow a liturgical calendar it is still Eastertide (it's 50 days long and ends with Pentecost) and we can still celebrate and rejoice! I hope you got through it well and were able to reflect on the beauty of the season. Our colleagues who make music at Synagogues had a busy time as well, and many of them also lead the music at Churches.

My own church makes an especial effort with the Palm Sunday – Holy Thursday – Good Friday – Easter Vigil – Easter Sunday sequence of events. We welcomed just under 10,000 people to different services during this long week. We used 3,800 palm branches and ran out; we had people standing three-deep round the aisles of the church at two Masses on Easter Sunday (it's a big Church, imagine the numbers).

It's a grand scenario and one that leaves me very tired. I went to bed early on Easter Sunday – around 10 p.m. and slept twelve hours without stirring.

My Schola Cantorum sang at eight of the Holy Week services and rehearsed twice separately and before each service. I recorded 94% attendance of my 36 singers. They sang a mix of music from Gregorian Chant through the Renaissance music of Palestrina, Stainer's High Victoriana (*The Crucifixion*) to the 20th century music of Poulenc and 21st century of James MacMillan, Joseph Stillwell and David Conte.

Last week I re-catalogued over a thousand pieces of choral music. It's a relaxing process that I leave time for immediately following the big seasons. I listen to music or NPR and am reminded of these great compositions and the contributions of my dedicated group.

You may ask how I maintain such a dedicated group. I'm very fortunate in the people I have working alongside me – I choose them carefully for musical ability, social ability, and attention to things such as punctuality and communication. There are a few things that I do to make their lives easier:

- Rehearsals always begin and end on time. They never run over. People like that; it makes them feel secure.

- I run a swift rehearsal pace. They appreciate that as their time is used well and they get to learn hard music quickly.
- I take a register of attendance halfway through each rehearsal and welcome them all by name. Personal news is often shared (but very quickly). They feel personally involved and accountable.
- There is home-made food provided after long services (11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Good Friday, for instance) and they are not asked to contribute the food. I provide a supper for them during a normal rehearsal time in a week following the season. They aren't asked to contribute but just to enjoy being together.
- They get an email thank you immediately and an individual thank you card by mail.

None of these things are contrived but are all genuine methods of enabling sacred music making to go well and for everyone to be at their best for the mission of the parish.

You may like to try some of these ideas and see if they have a positive effect on the musicians you work alongside. If you have other ideas, please do share! ~~~~~

## 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 **June** issue is **May 10**. Visit our blog at <http://sfagojobs.blogspot.com/> often to see the latest listings.

## Substitute Available

Lynn Finegan is available as a substitute choir director / organist / pianist. nature9@world.oberlin.edu or 925-984-8322.

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Submission deadline for the **June** issue is **May 10**

## Addendum to Elections Slate and Ballot

from Simon Berry

By the time you receive this newsletter you should have received a ballot paper for this year's election of officers. At the last meeting of the Executive Board it was decided to extend this year's election deadline to May 15; this is due to a later than usual presentation of the slate of candidates brought about by a change to the operating procedures. For this year and until the event of another change to the operating procedures, we will be electing members of the Program Committee and no longer electing Members-at-Large. The new Sub-Dean Elect has the ability also to co-opt members to the program committee whom s/he feels can offer specific and valued experiences.

Omitted from last month's slate was the biography of a candidate for the Special Projects Committee and this is included below:

### Robert Train Adams

Robert Train Adams is Minister of Music at St Stephen's Episcopal Church in Orinda. He has served SFAGO as a member of the Special Projects Committee, Member at Large, and Auditor. He is retired from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, having served there and at several other schools as professor and department chair, teaching music theory, composition, and electronic music (a natural outcome of being an organist).



## Bay Area Concert Calendar

Collected by Brian Swager

2015  
May

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 June issue is **May 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.

## May

### 2 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

### 3 Sunday

4pm. Stefan Madrzak, Organ. Music of Handel, Beethoven, Hakim, and an improvisation. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

### 9 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

### 10 Sunday

4pm. Lyle Sheffler, Classical Guitar. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

4pm. Benjamin Bachmann, Organ. Free admission / \$10 suggested donation. Mission Dolores Basilica

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

### 16 Saturday

4pm. Cyril Deaconoff, Organ. CPLH

5pm. Choral Evensong. Choir Ministry Dinner & Celebration. Freewill donation; tickets for dinner. SPE-BU

### 17 Sunday

4pm. Choir Concert. San Francisco Archdiocesan Children's Choir, St Brigid School Honor Choir. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Cyril Deaconoff, Organ. CPLH

5:30pm. Choral Evensong. St Francis Choir; Robert Kerman, Director; Rodney Gehrke, Organ; string ensemble. Music of Aston, Monteverdi, Moore, Davies, Piston. Freewill offering. Reception follows. St Francis Episcopal Church.

### 23 Saturday

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

**CCL-O:** Cath. of Christ the Light, Oakland  
**CPLH:** Calif. Palace of the Legion of Honor  
**CSMA:** Cath. of St Mary of the Assumption  
**FPC-B:** First Presbyterian Ch, Berkeley  
**SME-B:** St Mark's Episcopal Ch, Berkeley  
**SPE-BU:** St Paul's Episcopal Ch, Burlingame

### 24 Sunday

4pm. Voice students of Helen Dilworth. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

5pm. Bryan Dunnewald, Organ. Freewill offering. CCL-O

### 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

## Looking Ahead June

### 6 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

### 7 Sunday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

### 13 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

### 14 Sunday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

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

