



February 2015

The American Guild of Organists

San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

Dean's Column

by Simon Berry

At our Dean's Round Table discussion on January 12, twenty members met to discuss aspects of the chapter and give ideas for the future of management. No decisions were made, but lots of good ideas flowed that will help the Board and Program Committee, both this year and for the future, make better decisions on behalf of our chapter.

The changing nature of our culture has affected how we divide our free time, as well as how we plan our work time. For instance, very few business people now have secretaries (I know that lawyers do, but they are often sharing one secretary between 3 or 4 lawyers). We type our own documents and make our own flight plans on-line. We are, perhaps, more productive. We have, perhaps, less time for lunch and the all-important social interactions that take place over meals. It's fairly common today to see groups of people eating in restaurants in silence, each with a cell-phone in hand. No social interaction going on!

The ideas of social time together came up as one of the important reasons for belonging to the Guild. This is no surprise, but it is always easy to overlook the benefits of discourse and interaction. In our programs we can design more time for meals and conversation.

When I was at school we recited the Prayer of St Ignatius of Loyola each day:

*Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve;
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wound,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labour and not to ask for any reward,
save that of knowing that we do your will. Amen.*

The second and fifth lines came to my mind during this meeting. So much of our society is about me rather than you; so much is about taking rather than giving; so much is about rewards.

Can you place your life in the context of this prayer? Can you place your SFAGO membership in a giving frame,

February 7, 2015 program - Voice for Life

from Simon Berry

If you have ever wanted tips on developing a thriving choral program for singers of all ages, then our February program is for you. Since 2007, Dr Susan Jane Matthews has been building the St Paul's Choir School for youth in grades K-12. Each week these young choristers rehearse music and get small group instruction in vocal skills, ear training, and reading musical notation. In addition to learning a bit about their Anglican tradition, the choristers also regularly rehearse with the Chancel Choir for a truly inter-generational choral experience.

We will gather at St Paul's Episcopal Church in Burlingame at 7pm on Saturday, February 7th, for a service of Choral Evensong. After hearing the results of this training at Evensong, we will enjoy each other's company at a reception and then hear a presentation about the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) Voice for Life training program. This curriculum can be used with churches of all denominations as well as secular choral groups. We will be sure to conclude our evening by 8:30 so that we can all get our sleep and be ready for Sunday morning.

St Paul's Episcopal Church is located at 415 El Camino Real, Burlingame, CA 94010. Further details are found at: www.stpaulsburlingame.org



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

A Schoenstein for Ladue Chapel, St. Louis

by Jack Bethards

Schoenstein & Co. is building a new organ of three-manuals and 46 ranks for Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church of St. Louis, Missouri. The five-division instrument will be in chambers on either side of the chancel with an Echo organ in the west end gallery. The instrument is designed along symphonic lines with particular emphasis on variety of tonal color and dynamic control for accompaniment and support of the service. Chamber facades will be of classical style in keeping with the colonial architecture of the church, which seats 500.

This leading St. Louis church has an extensive music program headed by Music Director David Erwin. The new organ is part of a sanctuary renovation plan that includes acoustical improvements under the direction of Scott R. Riedel and Associates. Completion is planned for Fall of 2015. ~



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rather than a receiving frame? There is huge benefit in belonging, but benefits only accrue once some giving has taken place.

So what do I mean by giving? It's certainly not (just) financial giving. It could be a brief conversation with another member you don't know; it could be the offer of a ride to BART – even if it is not accepted; it could be the taking part in some program that you may otherwise find easy to miss.

The new(ish) digital age is wonderful, but every now and again we should put it aside and remember that human interactions are beautiful and life-giving. ~

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

Request from National

from Barbara Adler, Treasurer/Councillor for Finance and Development

As your newly elected treasurer on the AGO National Council, I am writing to reinforce the fundraising appeal that appeared in the November issue of TAO Magazine.

When I asked everyone to donate at least \$1 per month, I hoped that everyone would contribute this affordable amount, although many of our members already give more. If each of our 15,000 members contributed just \$1 per month, this annual revenue would total \$180,000! With our diminishing membership rolls, this revenue could help keep us in the black and able to continue our educational and outreach programs as well as the beneficial services we offer our members.

We would like to remind your chapter members of some of the programs the Annual Fund makes possible, including:

- Certification programs
- Catalogue of educational materials
- Support for POEs (Pipe Organ Encounters)
- Support for January Jubilees
- Travel for volunteer leaders' meetings and visits to chapters
- Chapter Management Handbook
- Website and job postings
- National Online Collection and Remittal of Dues (ONCARD)

Please accept my thanks for using your newsletter to emphasize the importance of each member's contribution to the Annual Fund. Just \$1 a month would help balance the books!

March Chapter Program Cancelled

from Simon Berry

In the December newsletter we published a paragraph asking members to respond by Wednesday February 14 if they were attending the March program. At the time of that deadline we received just 3 responses and that is too few for a chapter event of this magnitude. We apologize to all who were inconvenienced by this cancellation and thank all who worked so hard to make the necessary arrangements.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

For latest Placement listings, visit our blog at <http://sfagojobs.blogspot.com/>

Robert Kerman has retired from his duties as Job Placement Editor and Webmaster.

Please check the chapter website, www.sfago.org, for information about a successor.

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Newsletter Departments: *Send your entries to the appropriate editor; all submissions due by 10th of the month preceding publication*
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2014-2015

Last updated 12/22/2014

Bay Area Concert Calendar

Collected by Brian Swager

February ²⁰¹⁵

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 **March** issue is **February 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.

CSMA: Cath. of St Mary of the Assumption

FPC-O: First Presbyterian Ch, Oakland

RP-SR: Resurrection Parish, Santa Rosa

SME-B: St Mark's Episcopal Ch, Berkeley

SPE-BU: St Paul's Episcopal Ch, Burlingame

February

1 Sunday

4pm. Brian Swager, Organ. CPLH

4pm. Christoph Tietze and David Hatt, Organ. Music of Buxtehude and Bach. Freewill offering. CSMA

6 Friday

7:30pm. Konevets Quartet (male a cappella). \$15. El Sobrante United Methodist Church, 670 Appian Way, El Sobrante

7 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

7:00 p.m. SFAGO Event. Choral Evensong and Presentation on RSCM Voices for Life chorister training program. Susan Jane Matthews, The St Paul's Choir, including Choir School boys and girls. St Paul's Episcopal Church, Burlingame

8 Sunday

4pm. Michael Secour, Organ; David Secour, Trumpet. Music of Araujo, Andreu, Bach, Hewitt, Hovhannes, Schubert, and Virgil Thomson. Freewill donation. Reception follows. St Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard, Pleasanton

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

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

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

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

14 Saturday

10am. Workshop for church organists. Aram Basmadjian, facilitator. Los Altos United Methodist Church

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

4pm. Hans U. Hielscher, Organ. Music of Bédard, Mascagni, Pardini, and Hielscher. Pacific Union College, Angwin

15 Sunday

2pm. Aram Basmadjian, Organ. Los Altos United Methodist Church

4pm. Hans Uwe Hielscher, Organ. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

5:30pm. Choral Evensong. St Francis Choir; Robert Kerman, Director; Candace Guirao, Violin; Rodney Gehrke, Organ. Music of White, Gardiner, Mundy, Vaughan Williams. Freewill offering. Reception follows. St Francis Episcopal Church

21 Saturday

4pm. John Karl Hirten, Organ. CPLH

22 Sunday

3:30pm. Daniela Mineva, Piano. \$15 suggested donation. RP-SR

4pm. John Karl Hirten, Organ. CPLH

4pm. Robert Gurney, Organ. Music of Bach and Dupré. Suggested donation \$10. FPC-O

28 Saturday

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

Looking Ahead

March

1 Sunday

4pm. Sonora Piano Trio. Music of Mozart and Brahms. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

7 Saturday

5pm. Choir School Concert. Freewill donation. Reception follows. SPE-BU

8 Sunday

3pm. Isabelle Demers, Organ. Tickets: sfsymphony.org. Davies Symphony Hall

4pm. Steve Cram, Organ; with David Chavez, Tenor. Free admission/\$10 suggested donation. Mission Dolores Basilica

4pm. James Hicks, Organ. Freewill offering. CSMA

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

15 Sunday

9:30am – 12:30pm. Workshop for San Francisco Girls' Chorus. Hoff Concert. Chorissim Hall, Hayes Street, San Francisco

4pm. Ronald Ebrecht, Organ. Music of Duruflé, Liszt, and Franck. Suggested donation \$10. Pre-recital lecture on recent Duruflé research at 3pm. FPC-O

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. Freewill offering. CSMA

22 Sunday

3:30pm. Cristina Garcia Banegas, Organ. Hispanic works. \$15 suggested donation. RP-SR

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

29 Sunday

4pm. Steve Denmark, Organ. Freewill offering. CSMA

April

5 Sunday

4pm. Alexei Kodash, Violin; Patrick Smith, Guitar. Music of Kodash, Paganini, and Piazzola. Freewill offering. CSMA

12 Sunday

4pm. Christoph Tietze and David Hatt, Organ. Music of Nicholas Bruhns. Freewill offering. CSMA

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

6:05pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. Reception follows. SME-B

19 Sunday

3:30pm. American Canyon Singers. Cyril Deaconoff, Director. Schubert *German Mass*, Fauré *Requiem*. \$15 suggested donation. RP-SR

7pm. Temple Hill Symphony Orchestra, Choir, and Soloists; Alan Chipman, Director. *Lamb of God* by Rob Gardner. CSMA

