



January 2015

The American Guild of Organists

San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

Dean's Column

by Simon Berry

Dear Colleagues:

Happy New Year!

Following from last month's column, I hope that the Advent and Christmas seasons were positive for you. Without us all at the organ consoles of our churches, temples and theatres, the holiday season would be a far less festive time.

After it was over did you manage sit back and give thanks for the gift of music making and your particular gift of leading people in prayer and entertainment? It's not too late if you haven't yet done so.

What will be your New Year musical resolutions for 2015? Here are a few suggestions:

- Learn some new music – something written in the 21st century
- Re-learn a piece from your student days
- Listen to others play – preferably in a similar situation as yours – perhaps a church/temple of similar scale and denomination
- Support your colleagues – hear them perform and tell them what you liked
- Volunteer for something (preferably with SFAGO!)
- Program your year's preludes/postludes/recital repertoire early so that you can achieve some growth through the year
- Love your instrument and share that love with those you play for – your choirs, your congregations, your audiences
- Attend workshops or seminars and learn from others
- Hear an instrument not heard before (and try to play one you've not played before)
- Do something new for yourself

Our November program took the form of "Hone Your Skills" workshops at St John's Episcopal Church in Ross. We are grateful to our host and presenter, Lenore Alford, to co-presenters Andy Chislett and Ben Bachman for preparing and presenting such interesting topics. There's plenty of talent in our chapter and it was good to witness interesting, fun and new teaching styles.

Webmaster/Project Manager

by Simon Berry

We are very grateful to Rob Kerman who has served as our webmaster for so many years. Rob has retired from this post as of December 31st, and we have been looking for someone to help us through the next stage of our web presence. There are several ways forward, and members of varying degrees of expertise could help.

After six months of looking and asking, the board is now exploring a hired webmaster. Is this progress? Maybe it is, but it says something about volunteerism in the Chapter.

It would also be exciting to find a project manager for this area who could work alongside a future hired or volunteer webmaster to help keep projects on track. Keeping up with the ideas and demands of the Chapter can be daunting if one has to carry them out also!

So thank you, Rob. Take a well-deserved rest from this role and know that your Chapter is grateful. 



The day after I listened to Ben Bachman's Improvisation workshop, I decided to put his method into practice – strictly following his teaching. After the service, a prominent international composer came and asked about the composition I had played. That made me feel good! It also must have also given something of value to the congregation members listening. Local workshops can be so good. 

Inside this issue

Request to all Members	2
Program News	2
Classified Ads & Information Box	3
Events Calendar & Looking Ahead	4

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

Request to all Members from SFAGO Board

from Pat During

At the December SFAGO Board meeting, the Membership Chairperson was asked to submit this request to all chapter members: Please access your personal membership information at ONCARD (directions below) to be sure it is complete and accurate. Please add missing information and make any necessary changes.

Reasons:

- It has been determined that some are not receiving monthly copies of the newsletter (you must check appropriate box on your Membership Form if you wish it to be mailed to you – it is automatically emailed to those who provide a valid and updated email address).
- Some of us neglected to complete the section indicating current organist position; thus this information is not in the Directory.
- This is the way to make updates to any personal data (email address, home address, new job, etc.), now that all of our records are with ONCARD (National AGO).

Since this is the first year ONCARD has operated on a national basis, the need for making personal and chapter adjustments in procedures, methods and timing of payments, etc., has been a challenge for some. Please continue to be patient as details are worked out and corrections made.

To access and update your personal record:

1. Go to <https://www.agohq.org/oncard-login>.
2. Enter your username and password to continue.
 - Your username is (cap) first letter of first name followed by your last name. Example: John Smith would be JSmith.
 - Your password is your 5-digit member ID which is found just left of the date on the address label of *The American Organist* magazine. If you can't find your magazine, there is a link on the login page to assist you with getting your member ID number.
3. Click on "Personal Data" to see your membership form. Carefully check all information and make any changes or additions. Be sure to hit "Post Changes" at the bottom of the form when finished.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have questions, or know of members who are not receiving the newsletter (so have not received this article), please contact Pat During at ps7drng@aol.com.

Program News

by Simon Berry

For our January 12 Dean's Roundtable Discussion (7:30 pm, St Dominic's Catholic Church, Bush and Steiner, SF, 94115), I want to initiate something to help us look forward to the future of our chapter.

We have to face some hard facts:

- Membership is down (ONCARD has not helped us this year)
- Attendance at programs has been down for several years
- Volunteering is at a lower level than the pre-digital age
- We've been looking for a new webmaster for the past six months and no SFAGO member has yet volunteered to help

Our chapter has continued with the same ideas, programs and operating procedures despite all these changes in our chapter life.

We need to find a volunteer webmaster or hire one immediately.

Your elected and appointed board members can make changes to the operating procedures and are ready to consider how to make this document better suited to the needs of the chapter. But we do not want to do this until we have heard input from membership.

I make a special plea to former Deans and Sub-deans to attend this Round Table Discussion and offer their input. These former officers have managed the chapter in the recent past and know better than any of us the recent history.

So please attend this meeting on January 12 so that your voice can be heard and we can brainstorm together to make the chapter a better one for the future.

Future Programs

For our February 7th program we are visiting St Paul's Episcopal Church in Burlingame to hear evensong and learn about the Royal School of Church Music Voices for Life Scheme, from former Dean Susan Jane Matthews. This scheme is not only for children's choirs, but works for adults as well.

For March 14th, we have a workshop program with the San Francisco Girls' Chorus, learning how to manage and run a successful children's/youth choir. The workshop will also be valuable to those running adult choirs. The

► Program News, page 3

Classified Ads

Collected by Robert J Kerman

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. Deadline for the **February** issue is **January 10**. Visit our blog at <http://sfagojobs.blogspot.com/> often to see the latest listings. See notice (below).

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

San Francisco

Part-time Music Director, San Francisco

Old First Presbyterian Church in San Francisco (www.oldfirst.org) is seeking a part time music director/organist. B.A. or equivalent desirable with skills at choral directing and organ. Music budget is approx. \$48,000 and includes \$19,000 for section leaders of the volunteer choir. 3-manual, Hutchings/Visscher organ, description on the church website. Please submit curriculum vitae, references and any other pertinent information to Lori Yamauchi, Search Committee Moderator, Old First Presbyterian Church, 1751 Sacramento Street, San Francisco 94109. Email: Lyamauchi@planning.ucsf.edu

East Bay

Part-time Music Director, Walnut Creek

Shell Ridge Community Church, Walnut Creek (www.shellridge.org) seeks music director to lead the church choir and coordinate special music for the church during the summer. Hours include Wednesday evening rehearsals (2 hrs), Sunday morning performance (2hrs) and prep time (2 hrs/wk). Yearly salary is \$10,000 and includes one full month of vacation during the summer. Please contact Pastor Liliana Da Valle at 408-800-9567 or by email at liliana.davalle@gmail.com.

DONATION, LOAN, FREE

ZUCKERMANN HARPSICHORD TO GIVE AWAY

Zuckermann single-manual harpsichord, built from a kit about 30 years ago. Single string per key, buff stop. Needs extensive work including restringing and repair to key action, refinishing. Located in San Francisco, recipient to remove. Contact Debbie Shaffer, 307-250-3860 or debsha@mac.com.

ORGAN FOR DONATION OR LOAN

Rodgers 100 series electronic organ, 2-M & Ped. In storage in East Bay, very good condition. If taken as donation, owner may contribute to moving costs. Owner is also willing to loan to interested party with written agreement, with borrower responsible for at least half of maintenance costs. For more information, contact owner at 831-421-9052.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

As of December 31, 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.

Program News, from page 2

morning will include a performance with Chorissima, a senior level group from the chorus.

To make this workshop viable we need a minimum of 35 members attending. Those able to attend should write a

brief email by Wednesday, January 14th to simoncberry@gmail.com or send a postcard/letter to me at 2390 Bush Street, San Francisco, CA 94115. No need for regrets. The event is free for our members, guests are welcome. Once we have 35 members/guests committed, we will confirm the event with the Girls' Chorus. ~~~~~

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Newsletter Departments: *Send your entries to the appropriate editor; all submissions due by 10th of the month preceding publication*
Events Calendar Listings: Brian Swager, 415.551.7866, sfagocal@gmail.com
Job Placement & For Sale Listings: To be announced
Obituary Listings: To be announced
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2014-2015
Last updated 12/22/2014

Bay Area Concert Calendar

Collected by Brian Swager

January 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 February issue is **January 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

January 2015

4 Sunday

4pm. Epiphany Lessons and Carols. Archdiocesan Children's Choir, Golden Gate Boyschoir and Bellringers, St Brigid School Honor Choir. Freewill offering. CSMA

6 Tuesday

7:30pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. *La Nativité du Seigneur*. FPC-O

10 Saturday

5pm. Susan Jane Matthews, Organ. A celebration of the new ranks of the tuba, sesquialtera, and cymbelstern. Freewill donation. Reception follows. SPE-BU

11 Sunday

4pm. James Welch, Organ. \$10 donation. St Bede's Episcopal Church, Menlo Park

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

12 Monday

7:30 p.m. SFAGO Event. Dean's Roundtable Discussion of Professional Issues, followed by a reception. St Dominic's Church, San Francisco

18 Sunday

4pm. Gail Archer, Organ. Freewill offering. CSMA

25 Sunday

3pm. Paul Jacobs, Organ. Tickets: sfsymphony.org. Davies Symphony Hall

3:30pm. JungHae Kim, Harpsichord. Music of d'Anglebert, Le Roux, Frescobaldi, Froberger, Louis Couperin, and Bach. \$15 suggested donation. Resurrection Parish, Santa Rosa (RP-SR)

4pm. Ennio Cominetti, Organ. Freewill offering. CSMA

Looking Ahead

February

1 Sunday

4pm. Zoltan Varga, Organ; Borbala Baboth, Soprano. Freewill offering. CSMA

7 Saturday

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. Xiyang 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

15 Sunday

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

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

22 Sunday

3:30pm. Daniela Mineva, Piano. \$15 suggested donation. Resurrection Parish, Santa Rosa

March

7 Saturday

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

8 Sunday

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

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

15 Saturday

9:30am – 12:30pm. Workshop with San Francisco Girls' Chorus & Short Concert. Chorissima Hall, Hayes Street, San Francisco

22 Sunday

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

April

12 Sunday

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

26 Sunday

4:00pm. SFAGO Event. Celebrity Recital. Nigel Potts, organ & Sarah Taylor, mezzo soprano. Elgar's *Sea Pictures*. Followed by a reception. Grace Cathedral, San Francisco

May

10 Sunday

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

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

17 Sunday

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.

26 Tuesday

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

