

January 2017

The American Guild of Organists

San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

Dean's Column

by William Vaughan



On behalf of your SFAGO Board, may I wish you all a very happy 2017!

There are so many things to be thankful for as we begin this new year. I am very thankful for many things:

- I am very happy to be your chapter dean. I never aspired to this position, but it has been such a pleasure these past six months (already). We have a wonderful board and program committee who are hard at work bringing programs to life. I am learning a great deal, and having fun in the process.
- I am thankful for the understanding of family and friends. Like most of us organists, ever since I was a teenager, I have always played for church on Christmas and New Year's Day, so I know what it is like to miss family dinners and parties, though I am making time for gatherings at other times.
- I am very thankful for my health. I never imagined I would ever reach 50+. When you are young, you do not think about the aging process.
- I am very grateful for my 'job' at Assumption Parish and School in San Leandro. Yes, it is a job, but I get paid doing what I love to do. Along with being the director of music and organist for the parish, I also teach music to the school children, K-8. I remember, in 2012, when our former pastor, Father Vince Scott, asked me to teach music in the school, I said no, for I had had no prior experience in school music. A few months later, when he asked me again, I said I would try, and now, five years later, I am more excited about our music program here than ever before. The children are really singing! As I write this article, it is December 8, and we are getting ready for our school Christmas concert. Each grade, from Kindergarten through 8th Grade sings a class piece from memory, then the whole school sings three pieces together (from memory). Some grades will sing in parts: Kindergarten is singing a two-part piece; 3rd Grade a four-part round; 5th Grade a real two-part; and 7th Grade a real two-part also. In the school yard one day, I heard some girls singing so beautifully, I asked if they would like to

► **Dean's Column**, page 4

January SFAGO Program Organist Christopher Houlihan Sunday, January 22

4:00 p.m. Recital

5:00 p.m. Festive Reception

Co-Sponsored with Grace Cathedral, San Francisco

by George Emblom

PROGRAM

- VIERNE *Carillon de Westminster*
- FRANCK *Choral II in B minor*
- MESSIAEN *Serene Alleluias and Outbursts of Joy*,
from *L'Ascension*
- VIERNE *Scherzo, Cantabile, and Allegro*
from *Symphony No. 2*

The young American musician Christopher Houlihan is widely acknowledged as one of the brightest stars in the new generation of organists, praised by the media as "gifted" (*New York Times*), "dazzling" (*Wall Street Journal*), and "eloquent" (*Los Angeles Times*). Houlihan has established an international reputation for his artistry with performances in celebrated venues in major cities across North America and Europe, as well as at numerous conventions of the American Guild of Organists and the Organ Historical Society.



Highlights from the 2015–2016 season included debuts at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., presented by the

► **January Program**, page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Letter from Recital Series Donor	2
R.I.P. — David Farr	3
Chapter Website Update	3
January Board Meeting	3
SFAGO Recital Donor List	4
SFAGO Program Year	5
Information Box	5
Classified Listings: Positions Available	5
Events Calendar & Looking Ahead	6

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

Letter from Major Recital Series Donor

December 2, 2016

William Visscher
1352 Waller St.
San Francisco, CA 94117-2921

Bill:

As we discussed on the phone earlier today, attached is a check made out to the SF AGO for \$1,100. The money is to go into the fund for the SF AGO recital series, in the name of the Contra Costa Performing Arts Society Organ Workshop.

For some background, the Organ Workshop was a group of organists, mostly from Contra Costa County, who got together to share their music experiences, concert and job information. Initially set up with the assistance of Performing Arts Society member Gail Burnett, the workshop met monthly from 1988, through mid 2005 — and then less frequently for several more years.

During its peak years, about 35 organists participated regularly, playing for each other on a variety of fine instruments in various churches throughout the Contra Costa County and beyond, visiting a different organ each month. The resident organist served as host, introducing the instrument to workshop participants. Organists as well as listeners were always welcome.

The workshop was informal and provided a friendly, supportive atmosphere in which to share music in progress, glean new repertoire ideas, exchange concert and job information, and overall to increase awareness in the community of organists.

Unfortunately, interest in the group declined over the past few years, and the group is no longer meeting. We had some money left in our account, and the leaders of the group decided we'd like to donate it to the SF AGO, for the recital series.

If there are any issues or questions regarding the donation, please contact me.

Regards,

Jud Hammon (a.k.a. Henry G Hammon, III)

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925 253 4972
hghammon3@gmail.com

January Program, *from front page*

National Symphony Orchestra, and at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia, presented by the Philadelphia Orchestra. In 2014, Houlihan made his Disney Hall debut, performing with principal brass of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, for which the Los Angeles Times raved, "Houlihan is the next big organ talent." Also in 2014, Houlihan performed in a prime-time slot of WQXR's All- Day Bach Organ Marathon in New York City. Spanning 18 hours, the marathon was webcast live and seen by thousands.

In the 2016–2017 season, Houlihan performs recitals across the country, including at San Francisco's Grace Cathedral, a return to Stambaugh Auditorium in Youngstown, Ohio, and the closing concert at the American Guild of Organists



Southeast Regional Convention. He performs concertos with the Columbus (GA) Symphony Orchestra (Poulenc's *Concerto for Organ* and Saint-Saëns' *Symphony No. 3*) and the Boston Chamber Orchestra (*Organ Concerto* by Robert Edward Smith), and takes part in the opening concert of the Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival where he serves as one of the competition judges. Houlihan's performance schedule also includes recitals in New

► **January Program, next page**

January Program, *from previous page*

York, Connecticut, Louisiana, Michigan, North Carolina, and Ohio.

In fall of 2016, Houlihan releases a new all-Bach organ CD on the Azica label. Recorded at Trinity College, the CD features Bach's famous *Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor* and Houlihan's own arrangement of Bach's *Italian Concerto, BWV 971*. Houlihan's recordings include music of Maurice Durufle and Jehan Alain, and *Organ Symphony No. 2* by Louis Vierne, both on Towerhill Records.

Christopher Houlihan's "Vierne 2012" tour attracted international attention and critical acclaim for his marathon performances of the six organ symphonies of Louis Vierne in six major North American cities. The Los Angeles Times called his performance there "a major surprise of the summer, a true revelation." Other recent seasons included performances in New York City, Dallas and San Francisco's Davies Symphony Hall.



Houlihan studied with Grammy Award-winning organist Paul Jacobs at The Juilliard School, where he earned a master's degree, with John Rose at Trinity College (Hartford), and Jean-Baptiste Robin at the French National Regional Conservatory in Versailles. In 2015 he was selected for *The Diapason's* "20 Under 30", a distinguished list of leaders in the organ world under the age of 30. Christopher Houlihan is Director of Music and Organist at The Church of the Holy Apostles in Manhattan and Artist-in-Residence at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. More information is at ChristopherHoulihan.com.

Chapter Website Update

from William Vaughan

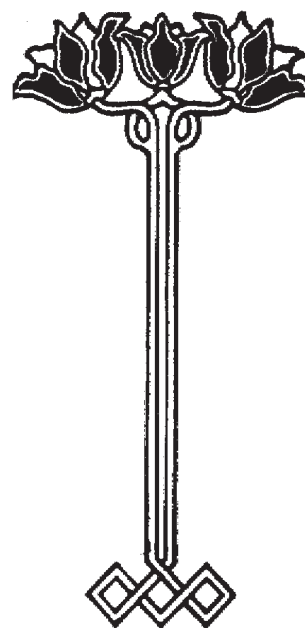
Please take a look at our website. Frank Torrano, the webmaster at Grace Cathedral, is working on improving its look. We are trying to make it more user and mobile friendly. Thank you to Schoenstein & Co. for helping us financially with this web development project.

R.I.P — David Farr

from William Vaughan

We just received word that David Farr passed away. When we know more, we will let you know.

David just recently retired from Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Oakland.



Next SFAGO Board Meeting

Monday, January 9, 2017 at 7:30 pm
Church of the Assumption, San Leandro
All are invited

San Francisco AGO Chapter Recital Series Donors

The San Francisco Chapter of the American Guild of Organists thanks the following people for their support of the 2016–2017 Recital Series.

Bombarde (\$1000+)

Contra Costa Performing Arts
Society Organ Workshop

Tuba Mirabilis (\$500-\$999)

Jon Townsend

Trompette en Chamade (\$250-\$499)

John Agraz
Jonathan Dimmock and
George Emblom
Patricia During
Thomas Flesher
Jason M. Surles
Steven Wallace
Arthur West
Timothy Zerlang

Clarion (\$100-\$249)

Linda Frances Boggiano
Gail Burnett
Charles Corum
Jud Hammon
Justin Kielty
James Martin
Matsuko Murayama
Chris Nichols
Father Robert Rien
George Allen Schell
Christoph Tietze
Robert Walker

Hautbois (\$50-\$99)

Claramae J. Co
Jeanette Cool
Gregory De Santis
Elizabeth Forsyth
Douglas Franks
Karen Haslag
David Howitt
Reiko Oda Lane
Stephen Luzmoor
Lilyane Moulton
W Wayne Ritchie
Gerald Skeels
Gary C. Toops
William Vaughan
William Visscher

Krummhorn (\$25-\$49)

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Steven C. Gray
Martin Lilley
Lois Nelson
Terry O'Connor
Marian E. Ott
Helen Pereira
Elixabeth Vache Pintar
Jan Robitscher
Eric Stevens

Vox Humana (\$1-\$24)

Patricia Harre
Valda Volkova-Moran

Thank you so very much to our donors who have contributed \$6,025.00 to our Recital Series. It is never too late to make a contribution to our series.

ONLINE: Go to the National AGO Website: <https://www.agohq.org/>; then click on MEMBERSHIP tab; click on RENEW, MEMBERSHIP/UPDATE, PERSONAL INFORMATION; enter your username and password as explained on that screen.

After you “log in”, click on MAKE A CONTRIBUTION.

scroll down to the San Francisco Chapter section; click on RECITAL SERIES and follow the directions.

SNAIL MAIL: Make a check out to San Francisco Chapter AGO, with “Recital Series Donation” written in the menu area, and mail it to the Treasurer: William Visscher, 1352 Waller St., San Francisco, CA 94117-2921. 

Dean's Column, *from front page*

sing an a cappella piece for the concert. Nine 7th Grade girls are singing the three-part version of Carol of the Bells. This group of girls is the beginning of something much greater, especially when they become 8th graders. I am looking forward to the development of their voices and musicality. Because the children memorize so much sacred music for school Masses, both the Christmas and the Spring concerts feature secular music. The children need to have a healthy balance of different types of choral music. There is so much good choral music out there for our children that it does not have to sound like ‘kiddy’ music. The texts of the choral arrangements I pick are worth memorizing. I am blown away by the awesome arrangements composers are writing for choirs. Web sites make it so easy to click and buy. There

are audio and PDF examples of so many pieces with various voicings.

- I am so very grateful for all who contribute to our Recital Series. We just recently received a substantial gift from the Contra Costa Performing Arts Society Organ Workshop. I thank Jud Hammon so very much! His letter is printed in this newsletter. [Ed: see page 2]
- I am thankful for meeting and greeting many of you at our recital series concerts. Our next concert is at Grace Cathedral, Sunday, January 22 at 4pm. If you have not come to a guild event in some time, come and share in the fun. I hear there will be a great reception after Houli's concert. Yum! Yum!

What are you thankful for? 

San Francisco Chapter of the
American Guild of Organists
2016–2017 Program Year

Sunday, January 22, 2017

Grace Cathedral, San Francisco

4:00 p.m. Organ Recital: Christopher Houlihan
5:00 p.m. Festive Reception

Monday, February 20

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Belvedere

President's Day Workshop

9:00 a.m. Coffee and pastries
9:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Choral Reading Session with Clifford Hill
12:00 Lunch
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Working together:
The vision and mission of the SFAGO

Sunday, March 12

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Berkeley

4:00 p.m. SFAGO Music Sale in St Mark's Parish Hall
5:30 p.m. Choral Evensong with the St Mark's Choir
6:15 p.m. Young Artist Organ Recital by Alcee Chriss
7:00 p.m. Festive Reception

Sunday, April 23

St. Albert's Priory, Oakland (tentative)

3:30 p.m. Member's Recital
4:30 p.m. Wine and Cheese Reception
5:30 p.m. Vespers

Monday, May 22

Congregation Sherith Israel, San Francisco

6:00 p.m. Reception
6:30 p.m. Catered Dinner and Annual Meeting
8:00 p.m. A Program for Organ and Cello
Jonathan Dimmock, organ and Angela Lee, cello

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 **February** issue is **January 10**. Online listings available at: www.sfago.org/jobs/

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

EAST BAY - INLAND

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC, St Perpetua Catholic Community, 3454 Hamlin Rd. Lafayette 94549. Seeking a Director of Music Ministry for 30 hours a week. This exempt position, classified as M1-M3 by the Oakland Diocese will include full benefits. We are seeking a talented music professional with excellent communication and organizational skills. Energized parish of 1400 families seeks candidate with strong knowledge of the Roman Catholic liturgy, an informed understanding of Vatican II and utilizing a variety of musical styles. Bachelor's Degree in Music or the equivalent in education and experience. Music Director will develop and direct adult choir utilizing volunteer singers and also develop a children/youth choir. Candidate will also be responsible for scheduling volunteer cantors. Participation needed for four weekend Masses, holy days, prayer services, funerals/weddings and a concert series. Candidate must be able to demonstrate proficiency on both Rodgers three-manual Trillum Organ and Yamaha Grand Piano. Candidate would be a member of a collaborative parish staff. Salary will be commensurate with education and experience, please refer to the below link for salary and benefits information. Position is available 1/1/17. Please send your résumé to Fr. John Kasper at jkasper@stperpetua.org or call St Perpetua Church for more information, 925/283-0272.

<http://www.oakdiocese.org/offices/human-resources/employment/personnel-policies-for-chanceries-and-parishes/AppendixE2016FullDocument.pdf>



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Obituary Listings: To be announced

Newsletter Articles: George Morten, 209.565.6660, sfago-editor@att.net

2016–2017
Last updated 11/14/2016

Bay Area Concert Calendar

Collected by Brian Swager

2017 January

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

GC: Grace Cathedral

RP-SR: Resurrection Parish, Santa Rosa

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

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

January 2017

8 Sunday

4pm. Epiphany Lessons and Carols. St Mary's Cathedral Choir School and Golden Gate Boys Choir & Bellingers. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

6:05pm. Paul M. Ellison, Organ. Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. Reception follows. SME-B

15 Sunday

4pm. Jeanette Wilkin Tietze, Piano. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

22 Sunday

3:30pm. John Boyajy, Piano. \$15. RP-SR

4pm. SFAGO EVENT. Christopher Houlihan, Organ. \$10 suggested donation. Reception follows. GC

4pm. Chiu Yu Chen, Piano. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

28 Saturday

7pm. Susan Jane Matthews, Piano. Music of Schubert, Rachmaninoff, Chopin, and Franck. Wine & dessert reception. Benefit for St Paul's Gloucester Cathedral Residency. SPE-BU

Looking Ahead

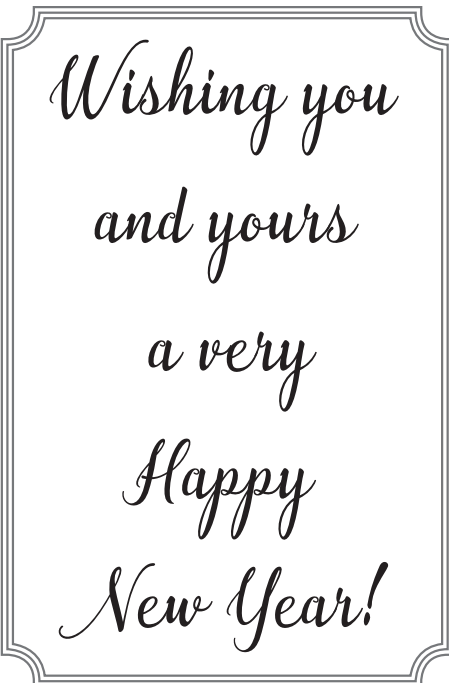
February

4 Saturday

5pm. Choral Evensong for Candlemas. Susan Jane Matthews, Director. Music of Mckie, Howells, Lauridsen. Freewill donation. Reception. SPE-BU

5 Sunday

4pm. Hans Uwe Hielscher, Organ. \$10 suggested donation. GC



10 Friday

7pm. Hans Uwe Hielscher, Organ. Freewill donation. Grace Presbyterian Church, Walnut Creek

11 Saturday

4pm. Hans Uwe Hielscher, Organ. Pacific Union College, Angwin

12 Sunday

6:05pm. Peter Yardley-Jones, Organ. Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. Reception follows. SME-B

20 Monday

9am. SFAGO EVENT. Presidents' Day Workshop. St Stephen's Episcopal Church, Belvedere

26 Sunday

3pm. James O'Donnell, Organ. Tickets: sfsymphony.org Davies Symphony Hall

3:30pm. Cantiamo Sonoma. Carol Menke, Director. \$15. RP-SR

March

4 Saturday

4pm. Choir School Concert. Susan Jane Matthews, Director. Folk music of England & Wales. Freewill donation. Reception. SPE-BU

5 Sunday

4pm. Paul Meier, Organ. \$10 suggested donation. GC

12 Sunday

4pm. SFAGO EVENT. Music sale, Choral Evensong, Organ Recital, Reception. SME-B

6:05pm. Alcee Chriss, III, Organ. Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. Reception follows. SME-B

26 Sunday

3:30pm. Robert Simonds, Violin. \$15. RP-SR

April

2 Sunday

4pm. John Karl Hirten, Organ. \$10 suggested donation. GC

9 Sunday

6:05pm. Robert Huw Morgan, Organ. Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. Reception follows. SME-B

23 Sunday

3:30pm. SFAGO EVENT (tentative). Members' Recital, Reception, Vespers. St Albert's Priory, Oakland

May

7 Sunday

4pm. Benjamin Bachmann, Organ. \$10 suggested donation. GC

14 Sunday

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

20 Saturday

5pm. Choral Evensong. Susan Jane Matthews, Director. Music of Rheinberger, Sumsion, Parry, Walton. Freewill donation. Ticketed dinner follows. SPE-BU

21 Sunday

3:30pm. Neave Piano Trio. \$15. RP-SR

22 Monday

6pm. SFAGO EVENT. Annual Meeting, Dinner, and Concert: Jonathan Dimmock, Organ; Angela Lee, Cello. Congregation Sherith Israel

