

March 2017

The American Guild of Organists

San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

Dean's Column

by William Vaughan

As you receive this newsletter, most of us church musicians are on the threshold of Lent. In the old Roman Missal of the Catholic church, before the Third Edition came out in 2010, one of the Prefaces for Lent began, "Each year you give us this joyful season when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed." My ears would perk up each time I used to hear those words. I really thought those words to be rather odd in a season that for some is all about fasting, penance and almsgiving. As I read more about the season of Lent, I am trying my best to live by those words from that Preface. Will this Lenten season be 'joyful' for you? Will you be renewed by the music you choose for your preludes and postludes, choir anthems, and congregational songs? Or will your choices be more of the same old, same old?

I just will not repeat the same music I did last year or the year before that, etc. If I do not grow musically and spiritually, why should anyone else that encounters my musical choices be changed. Many years ago, I knew a director of music, who was full-time, who repeated the same music year after year. If all we do is repeat the same music, why is the church paying us a full-time, or even a part-time salary?

Each year, I first look at the scriptures, which I know by heart, but I still read them again. Then I look at a wide range of musical choices, for the congregation, choirs and myself. I slowly whittle my choices down until I think I have the music that I feel will sing of our faith in this 'joyful season.' I take into account many different factors when deciding on musical choices. The first one of course is the season we are in. The second is what is going on in our neighborhood and world. The third one would be if there is a something special happening in our church and school which I would try to relate to musically.

In my office, I always have KDFC on while I am working at the computer. If I hear a piece that catches my ear, I will go to IMSLP.org and see if there is a piano or organ transcription of the work. If there is, I will learn it and play it for church. I have played quite a few organ transcriptions, and the people seem to really relate to them. One of them is the Adagio from the Mozart Clarinet Concerto in A. With the MIDI on our Rodgers organ, I am able to simulate an almost real-sounding

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March SFAGO Program Sunday, March 12, 2017

**St Mark's Episcopal Church
2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley**

by George Emblom

Free parking is available — on a first come basis — in the St Mark's Parish lot at the entrance of 2315 Ellsworth Street, between Durant Street and Bancroft Way.

SFAGO Organ Music Sale at 4:00 p.m. in St Mark's Parish Hall
Come and browse the chapter's extensive collection of music, including music from the Fred Swann Collection! Steve Wallace will be there to shepherd you through the many boxes of music.

Choral Evensong at 5:30 p.m.

St Mark's Choir Association, George Emblom, Director of Music and Jonathan Dimmock, organist. Buonemani Responses; Havergal Psalm 16; Harold W. Friedell Magnificat and Nunc dimittis in F; and Mendelssohn Verleih uns Friede

A free-will offering will be received in support of the St Mark's Choir Tour Scholarship Fund. The Choir will be offer two one-week residencies in July/August 2017 at the Cathedrals of Ely and Bristol. Checks may be made payable to St Mark's Choir Association.

Organ Recital following Evensong at approximately at 6:15 p.m. Young Artist Alcee Chriss III. A festive reception will follow the program in Lion's Hall.

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

Review: SFAGO February Program

by William Vaughan



George Emblom at the piano, and Cliff Hill conducting

On Presidents' Day, 22 of us were treated to a delightful morning of anthem reading provided for us by Cliff Hill. John Karl Hirten hosted us at St Stephen's in Belvedere. The morning began with hospitality provided for us by Jane Rosenblum. George Emblom, Sub-Dean, opened the session with an ice breaker, which made us all feel very welcome.

Cliff Hill provided us all with a packet of 'new' anthems from various publishers. As Cliff said many times throughout the reading session, he had never directed a group that read so beautifully. Some of the anthems were quite difficult. Cliff had many humorous stories about his past church jobs as a choir director, and about his current job as president of Cliff Hill Music Inc.



Cliff Hill conducting

May I add that George Emblom did a perfect job accompanying us. He had not seen the anthems before, and was spot on with his sight reading of the piano/organ score plus open score!

Chapter Competition

April 9 at 4:00 p.m.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, San Francisco.

Come, be our audience. 


After our choral reading session, we gathered for lunch which was provided for us by Piazza D'Angelo in Mill Valley. We had quite an array of thin-crust pizzas with Caesar salad. There was plenty of food for everyone.

After lunch, George and I led a discussion about our chapter. We heard from members about the highs and the lows of what is going on with the church music scene in the Bay Area. Not all the participants stayed for this insightful session, that is why the picture does not have as many people as the morning session had.



I thank all who came and drove through the wicked weather! Some members who had signed up, did not make it, I'm sure because of the drenching weather. It never stopped raining from when I left San Leandro at 7:30 am until I returned at 3:30. In fact it got worse as the afternoon went on.



I hope we have another choral reading session in our programming in the years to come. St Stephen's was a perfect setting. My thanks to all who worked on this program and to St Stephen's for hosting us. 

March Program, from front page



Alcee Chriss III, winner of the Firmin Swinnen second prize at the Longwood Gardens International Organ Competition 2016, has been celebrated for his “grace, skill and abundant proficiency” (*Journal Assist News, Albuquerque*). He has performed throughout the United States and France and is emerging as an outstanding young concert artist of virtuosity and versatility. He has won top

prizes at international and national competitions, receiving First Prize and Audience Prize in the Miami International Organ Competition (2014), the Fort Wayne National Organ Competition (2016), the Albert Schweitzer National Organ Competition in Wethersfield, CT (2013), and the Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists in Austin, TX (2013). Alcee was also selected as one of five finalists for the final round of the Taylor Organ Competition in Atlanta in April 2015, and won the \$5,000 second prize. In addition to being a “Rising Star” performer at the AGO National Convention in Boston during the summer of 2014, he also received a grant from Oberlin’s 1835 fund to spend January 2014 in France studying historic organs and repertoire. Alcee returned to France in April 2016 to perform a solo recital as a part of the Festival Myrelingues in Lyon and continues to do international music outreach work as the parrain of a music immersion course in Lyon’s Duchère district.

An alumnus of Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Alcee received the Masters degree in historical keyboard and a Bachelors degree in Organ. At Oberlin, he studied organ with James David Christie, Olivier Latry, and has had studies in improvisation with Marie-Louise Langlais. He has studied harpsichord and continuo playing with Webb Wiggins and Hank Knox. In May 2015, he served as the harpsichordist for Oberlin’s production of Marc-Antoine Charpentier’s opera *Les Plaisirs de Versailles* at both the National Museum of American History and the Boston Early Music Festival.

In the fall of 2015, Alcee began his doctorate degree at McGill University where he studies with Hans-Ola Ericsson. He has performed in such venues as the Meyerson Symphony Center (Dallas), John F. Kennedy Center, Washington National Cathedral, Caruth Auditorium, and St Olaf’s Catholic Church, Minneapolis, among others. In addition to his organ and harpsichord studies, Alcee is active as a conductor and jazz pianist.

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

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

Friday, April 21

Christ Church, Portola Valley

7:00 p.m. Greg Zelek Recital

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



His program will include:

- Toccata in D Minor, BuxWv 155
Dietrich Buxtehude (c. 1637–1707)
- Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr’, BWV 676 J.S. Bach (1685–1750)
- Organ Concerto in D Minor, BWV 596 J.S. Bach
- Six Canonic Studies, Op. 56 Robert Schumann (1810–1856)
No. 4 in A-Flat Major
- Prelude and Fugue in D Major, BWV 532 J.S. Bach

Special Projects Committee

by Helen Pereira

The Special Projects Committee met recently for its second of three yearly meetings. Three of five members were present, the other two being unavailable at the time. Our main goals were to consider recent grant applications, make a decision on a bank issue, and discuss advertising possibilities.

During the second cycle of our three yearly cycles we received two grant applications.

The first was from the Sacred Heart Music Center in Duluth, MN. They are in the process of restoring the historical Felgemaker organ in preparation for The Organ Historical Society's 2017 Convention to be held August 5-11. The request was for money to help repair and restore the organ. Unfortunately, our grant guidelines do not include organ repairs, so we have asked them to re-write the application in a different way so that we can help with their project. Perhaps funding a recital or another fundraiser would be another, more specific option that we could support. The second application was from David Pickering who asked for funds to be used to create a documentary film highlighting the organs and organ program at Kansas State University. Our Committee approved this application and awarded it with the \$3,000 that was requested. Another application has been sent to us, but since it was received after the cycle deadline of December 15th, it will be considered at our third meeting in May.

Also during our second yearly cycle, our five-year US Bank CD account matured. Action needed to be taken, as the interest rate for this account was minimal. Bank research resulted in finding an account at First Republic Bank that would give us a much higher interest rate. We are in the process of moving our account to the new bank.

Although there is no national SFAGO convention this year, there are seven regional conventions being held during the months of June and July all across the USA. We are interested in both supporting them and stimulating interest of others in our own Special Projects Committee by advertising in the convention program booklets. Momentarily we are gathering the advertising forms and will be considering which ones are of greatest interest to us.

New Members, Welcome!

Christopher Kula
Charles Miller
James Smith

Symphonic Schoenstein to Atlanta

from Jack Bethards

Schoenstein & Co. is building an organ of two manuals, 14 voices, 16 ranks for Mikell Chapel at the Cathedral of St Philip in Atlanta. The organ, which replaces an electronic instrument, is in the symphonic style and includes a double expressive division within the Swell. In the E.M. Skinner tradition, a comprehensive Swell division is duplexed onto a Great of 8' Open Diapason and 4' Principal. Schoenstein & Co.



built a new console for the Cathedral Church Æolian-Skinner organ, and the new chapel organ will incorporate many of the same combination action and other playing aids to facilitate use for practice. Mikell

Chapel, dedicated in 1947, sees heavy use for weekday services, two services on Sunday, as well as weddings and funerals. Installation is scheduled for September, 2017. The canon for music is Dale Adelman, associate organist and choirmaster is David Fishburn and Patrick Scott is assistant organist and choirmaster. The organ was made possible through the generosity of Delbert Lowell Jacks in memory of Thomas Ruben Jones.

Dean's Column, from front page

Clarinet. I then will listen to the original orchestration and compare it to what I can create, so that I can have the organ imitate the sound of a string accompaniment. Doing this has 'renewed my mind and heart.'

I have even tried this orchestration with Bach's Trio Sonatas. I will use a Flute in the right hand, an Oboe in the left hand, and a Cello in the pedals. For me, it brings the melody and the phrasing to life. Because I choose a Flute, Oboe and Cello, I attempt to phrase each part as if I were playing those instruments. This has opened my ears to listen to what I play. I don't rattle on just to get through the piece.

Part of the first sentence in the Preface for Lent in the new Roman Missal says, "For by your gracious gift each year your faithful await the sacred paschal feasts with the joy of minds made pure, so that, more eagerly intent on prayer and on the works of charity, and participating in the mysteries by which they have been reborn..." The key words for me in this rather long sentence are gift and joy. Each day is a gift, and through our music ministry, may we bring joy to others through the countless notes we play, direct and sing, and even miss! (LOL)

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 **April** issue is **March 10**. Online listings available at: www.sfago.org/jobs/

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

EAST BAY & INLAND

ORGANIST/ACCOMPANIST - St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley 94705 Seeking a part-time organist/accompanist. Responsibilities include playing for weekly worship and additional special services; conferring with the Pastor and Music Director in planning, selecting and coordinating music for worship and special services or church events. Weekly choir rehearsals (usually on Wednesday) and Sunday morning rehearsal prior to the worship service. Organist has first right of refusal to play for weddings, memorials and other special non-church services. Two manual, Brombaugh organ, opus 20 and Bosendorfer grand piano. A complete job description is available upon request. Please contact Rev. Todd Jolly, Music Director at maestrotoddjolly@gmail.com or 415/307-1787.

ORGANIST/ACCOMPANIST - St. Philip Lutheran Church, 8850 Davona Drive, Dublin. Organist/accompanist wanted for 10:30am brief rehearsal and 11:00am service – approximately 2 hours each Sunday. Play preludes/postludes, hymns, service music from the Lutheran Service Book (LC-MS, 2006) and accompany occasional musicians with demonstrated proficiency. Organ and piano in good condition. Position is available ASAP. Salary is at current rates in the area and commensurate with proficiency and experience. Contact Pastor Brady Blasdel at pastorbrady@stphilipchurch.org or call 925.549.0589 for more information

PENINSULA

ORGANIST/ACCOMPANIST - Our Lady of Pillar Church, 400 Church St., Half Moon Bay 94019. Seeking an organist/accompanist for the 5:00 pm vigil mass on Saturday with the possible addition of other masses in the future. The 5:00 pm mass is with cantor (cantor chooses the music) and is in English. The stipend is \$150.00 for the Saturday mass. Please contact Rev. Father Joseph Previtali – 415/583-8791.

NORTH BAY

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP MUSIC LEADER - First Presbyterian Church, 1333-Third St., Napa 94559 Seeking a Contemporary Worship Music Leader. In consultation with the Pastor the Music Leader will select music that is inspiring, joyful, memorable, easy to learn and easy to sing. Other requirements include are a broad knowledge of songs and hymns complementing the main themes of the sermon; Organizational skills including preparing slides with song texts, weekly rehearsals with the worship band; Attend and participate in monthly contemporary worship committee meetings; be available by phone or email within 48 hours. This position requires an average of 8–10 hours per week and availability on Sunday from 9:30–12:00. For a complete job description please email Eve Howard, evelhoward@gmail.com. To apply send cover letter and resume to David Stoker david@fpcnapa.org. Please include any links to your musical performances that you would like to share.

CLASSIFIEDS

FREE

1921, Two manual and pedal reed organ with electric blower. Restored in 2010 and is in excellent working condition. The pedal board is not extant but could be rebuilt by local builders. The organ is FREE! If interested please contact Lynn at lmhanson55@dkyates.net or 360/442-6378.

Next SFAGO Board Meeting

Monday, March 6 at 7:30 pm
Church of the Assumption, San Leandro
All are invited

SFAGO Newsletter is published monthly, August thru May, with a Summer issue for June/July, by the San Francisco Chapter, American Guild of Organists. Opinions stated herein are those of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect official policies of this Chapter. The deadline for receipt of all newsletter items is the 10th of the month preceding publication.

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2016–2017
Last updated 11/14/2016

Bay Area Concert Calendar

Collected by Brian Swager

2017 March

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 April issue is **March 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
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

March

4 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

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

5 Sunday

4pm. Ronald Ebrecht, Organ. \$10 suggested donation. GC

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

11 Saturday

4pm. Gregory Eaton, Organ. CPLH

12 Sunday

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

4pm. Robert Train Adams, Organ; Phil Sullivan Trumpet. Free/donations accepted. Mission Dolores Basilica

4pm. Gregory Eaton, Organ. CPLH

4pm. Diana Stork & Portia Diwa, Harp. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

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

18 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

19 Sunday

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

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

25 Saturday

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

26 Sunday

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

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

4pm. Naoko Maeda, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

Looking Ahead

April

1 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

2 Sunday

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

4pm. Christoph Tietze, Organ. 25th Anniversary Recital. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

8 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

9 Sunday

4pm. Cyril Deaconoff, Organ. Free/donations accepted. Mission Dolores Basilica

4pm. Jisook Park, Piano. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

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

15 Saturday

4pm. Jin Lim, Organ. CPLH

16 Sunday

4pm. Sandra Simich, Piano. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Jin Lim, Organ. CPLH

21 Friday

7pm. **SFAGO EVENT** Greg Zelek, Organ. Christ Church, Portola Valley

22 Saturday

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

23 Sunday

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

5pm. Temple Hill Choir & Orchestra. "Lamb of God" by Rob Gardner. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

29 Saturday

4pm. Jerome Lenk, Organ. CPLH

30 Sunday

4pm. Damin Spritzer, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Jerome Lenk, Organ. CPLH

May

6 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

7 Sunday

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

4pm. Hans-Uwe Hielscher, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

13 Saturday

4pm. Frédéric Blanc, Organ. CPLH

14 Sunday

4pm. Suzanna Barley, Violin; Jeanette Wilkin Tietze, Piano. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Frédéric Blanc, Organ. CPLH

4pm. Christian Elliott, Organ. Free/donations accepted. Mission Dolores Basilica

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

20 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

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

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

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

22 Monday

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

