

SFAGO Special Projects Committee: Latest Grant Recipients
By Douglas Franks
Chair, SFAGO Special Projects Committee

The Special Projects Committee is pleased to announce the recipients of grants awarded at our committee's September meeting.

The San Diego AGO Chapter received a grant of \$1000 to cover transportation, housing, and honoraria for two "exceptional young artists," organists Thomas Mellan and Susanna Valleau, both of whom will appear in recital at the 2015 AGO West Region Convention in San Diego. Their performances, taking place at San Dieguito United Methodist Church, will be part of "Youth Day" at the convention.

Thomas Mellan was born in 1995 in Lyon, France and has lived in San Diego since 2000. In 2010 and 2011 he won first place in the Spreckels Organ Society Scholarship Auditions. In 2011 he won the Bach prize in the AGO's Regional Competition for Young Organists. He was the youngest winner of a prestigious competition sponsored by the San Diego-based Musical Merit Foundation. Ms. Valleau serves as Music Director at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Renton, Washington and is currently pursuing her Masters of Music in organ performance at the University of Washington.

The Evansville AGO Chapter (Indiana) was awarded a grant of \$1500 as payment towards a major organ commission by Pulitzer-Prize winning composer William Bolcom. Bolcom was engaged by the Evansville Chapter to compose a significant work for organ and brass in honor of the 35-year teaching career of Dr. Douglas Reed, University of Evansville Organist. The finished work will be performed in the spring of 2015 by Dr. Reed and the American Brass Quintet.

The third and final grant recipient of our summer funding cycle is the Indianapolis AGO Chapter. Their \$2000 grant will be used as needed for the 2015 AGO Great Lakes Region Convention in Indianapolis. One of Indy AGO's chief financial goals is to keep registration, transportation, and lodging costs affordable so as to maximize attendance. Organizers aim to provide a wealth of continuing education opportunities for an "underserved population."

Sponsoring rising-star organists, underwriting important new organ compositions (and honoring esteemed colleagues in the process), and supporting an AGO regional convention are just the most recent of the SPC's good works. Stay tuned to find out what the next funding cycle has in store!

Our committee is also pleased to report that announcements of our chapter's grant program appeared in last August's issue of *The American Organist* and in the program book of the Organ Historical Society's convention in August as well. SFAGO's grant program really does have a far-reaching effect. Let us make sure it continues to do so for some time to come.

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