



December 2016 The American Guild of Organists San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

Dean's Column

by William Vaughan

"Keep on looking, go on seeking, don't stop hoping, He will come.
Keep awake now, watch and pray now, trust and see that He will come.
Shake off slumber, dawn is breaking, come with full expectancy!
Years of groping, years of hoping, all fulfilled when He will come."

This is the text of our Entrance Chant, He Will Come, here at Church of the Assumption in San Leandro, as we begin this Advent Season. I wedded this text to W ZLOBIE LEZY (Infant Holy). My prelude will be based on this hymn tune too, in case there are people who do not know this tune.



I got this idea of wedding different texts with hymn tunes a while back because as I look through hymnals, the hymn tune PUER NOBIS, for example, has been set to not only a Christmas text, but now to an Easter text. I have also used it in Ordinary Time. I thought since there are so many carols that

do not get sung each Advent and Christmas, that I would try to wed Advent texts to some lesser sung Christmas carols. The above is one example. Another is REGENT SQUARE, (Angels from the Realms of Glory). I have found some wonderful Advent texts and have coupled them to that melody.

We always sing MORNING SONG, STUTTGART, WINCHESTER NEW, and HYFRYDOL throughout the year, so why not be creative and try adapting various holiday melodies? I was also able to put a setting of the Magnificat to ST LOUIS (O Little Town of Bethlehem) and to CAROL, (It Came Upon a Midnight Clear). This way, people are very familiar with the carol melody while singing an Advent text. I do all this through the music software program called Finale. It takes time, but I really feel it is worth it.

At times though, it is tricky to wed a text to a well-known melody. Some texts and tunes are not possible to adapt. Some carols, too, I will not change for obvious reasons, like ADESTE FIDELES, ANTIOCH and other very well-known Christmas carols.



As we celebrate this holiday season with Advent, Chanukah and Christmas, how do we as church/temple musicians prepare? For starters, I'm sure we all begin this holiday season

Review: October Event

by William Vaughan

On Monday, October 17, we had our Masterless Class at St Luke's Episcopal Church in San Francisco. I thank Helen Lee, Joan O'Connor, Terry Farrow, Gary Sponholtz, and Steve Repasky for playing the Aeolian-Skinner organ, and for



listening to comments about their playing. Stephen Lind guided us through the evening giving us ideas for questions and comments to ask each player. The performers received our comments well, and the atmosphere was

one of collegiality. I thank Steve Repasky for hosting us at St Luke's.

ANNOUNCEMENT

from William Vaughan

We have a new webmaster! Frank Torrano is his name. Frank is the Director of Technology at Grace Cathedral. We welcome him with open arms.

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

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DAVID LOGAN MESSINGER
FEBRUARY 5, 1928 - OCTOBER 30, 2016

Resident of Lafayette



David grew up in Denver, Colorado, with his parents, Howard and Lucile Messinger, and his brothers, Bill and Jim. He learned to use tools and to build things in his grandfather's garage and liked to say he knew he would be an engineer from the time he was 12 years old. He graduated from the University of Colorado in Boulder, receiving his degree in Civil Engineering in 1950. On

the following day he boarded a Greyhound bus bound for San Francisco.

His first job was with Bechtel Corporation and soon he met Carol Aberley, a Cal student. After a whirlwind courtship, they married in August, 1951, and the next year they moved from Berkeley to Pasadena. They bought their first house in Covina where their three children, Casey, Steve and Pam were born. The 'fifties' were a happy time to raise a young family. Soon after David became a licensed Structural Engineer, the family returned to the Bay Area in 1960 where he fulfilled a life-long dream when he opened his own consulting engineering office in Oakland. After a career spanning 44 years, 32 in private practice, he retired in 1994. The family had moved to Lafayette in 1968 and David and Carol have continued to live in the family home they have loved for 48 years.

In addition to designing schools, hospitals, churches, civic buildings and other structures throughout the Bay Area and beyond, nearly half of his practice was as a consultant on seismic analysis to the University of California, Berkeley campus, the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, the City of Oakland, County of Alameda and Kaiser Hospitals. In the 1980's he lead his company into the computer age and embraced the changes that new technologies brought to the profession.

David was active in professional associations: he served as president of the Structural Engineers Association of Northern California (SEAONC) in 1974 and later as a director for three years on the State Board of Directors. He also served on the State Building Code Committee, acting as chairman for two years. In 2004 he was elected to College of Fellows of the State Association (SEAOC) in recognition of his service. He was also an active member of

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LEONARD GEORGE FITZPATRICK



Passed away peacefully on November 10th, 2016 in San Mateo at the age of 90. Beloved husband of Pearl; loving father of Glenn, Mark (Susan), Anne (Frank) and John (Triana); affectionate grandfather of Joseph, Ashley, Arielle, Matthew, Adriana, Declan and Maeve; adoring great-grandfather of Mariyah and Alaiyah; loving brother of

Robert; godfather and uncle to many.

A proud San Francisco native, Leonard attended Balboa High School and graduated from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He served honorably as a Master Sergeant in the 8th army during the War in the Pacific. As a devoted musician, organist and choir master, Leonard inspired many in the Catholic Community with his love of music for over 35 years. He retired from S.F. Park & Recreation as Superintendent of Recreation after 29 years of service.

Throughout his life, Leonard truly enjoyed the company of everyone he met, and made his joy yours.

Friends may visit Thursday, November 17th, 2016 from 4:00-9:00 pm at Duggan's Serra Mortuary, 500 Westlake Ave. Daly City, where a Vigil Service will be begin at 7:00 pm. The Funeral Mass will be celebrated Friday, November 18th at 11:00 am at St Dominic's Church, 2390 Bush Street, San Francisco, CA.

The Committal will be held privately at a later date. ~

New Member October 11–November 13, 2016

from Patricia During, Membership

Harry Whitney

Welcome! ~

SFAGO Events 2017–2018

Would you and your faith community
consider hosting an event
for the 2017–2018 program year?

Please contact your Dean at billyv32@gmail.com for
more information. Thank you!

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+)

Tuba Mirabilis (\$500-\$999)

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Jan Robitscher
Eric Stevens

Vox Humana (\$1-\$24)

Patricia Harre
Valda Volkova-Moran

Thank you so very much to our donors who have contributed \$4,925.00 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.ago.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. 

Review: November Event

by William Vaughan

On the morning of Saturday, November 12, David Yearsley from Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, led our Masterclass at St Mark’s Lutheran Church in San Francisco. David began by speaking about the double pedaling (and even quadruple pedaling) of some composers in the 18th century. The example he played for us was rather incredible!

Dominic Pang, a student of Angela Kraft Cross, played *Toccata, Adagio* and *Fugue* by Bach. Jeff Weng, a student of George Emblom, played *Toccata in F* by Buxtehude. Eric Zhang, a student of Chris Tietze, played *Sonata VI* by Mendelssohn. All three played



the Taylor & Booty organ brilliantly! David gave each student pointers on registration, attack and phrasing. His comments were geared towards the tracker touch and the flat pedalboard of the instrument. The three young students adapted incredibly well figuring that they had had only one practice each on the instrument. Bravo to each of the three players!

In the evening, David gave a fantastic concert with the music of J.S. Bach and his sons. We heard the incredible versatility of the Taylor & Booty. I was spellbound with David’s fluidity of the many rapid passages that he played flawlessly. After an hour and a half of playing, David gave us an encore. I can’t believe he had any fingers left. It was an improvisation on the final movement of Handel’s *The Messiah*. At the end of this improvisation, David played an incredible pedal cadenza which included double, triple —and yes — even quadruple pedaling. Wow, if you weren’t there, you missed an amazing evening of music making. 

Special Projects Committee

by Helen Pereira, Chair

At this time we are receiving and encouraging the applications of those who are interested in receiving a financial grant from our committee. During this part of the yearly cycle, called Period 1, applications are received through December 15th. They are then reviewed and awarded, if accepted, at the committee's January meeting.

During the previous period, we gave financial assistance to the Eastman-Rochester Organ Initiative (EROI) Festival through this process. I want to share with you a report by one of our SFAGO members who attended this festival. It is satisfying to see our efforts in action.

EROI CONFERENCE A GREAT SUCCESS

Jan Robitscher attended the Eastman-Rochester Organ Initiative Festival in November and came away with much enthusiasm about what she saw and heard there—and delighted to see that the SFAGO was a sponsor. Held every other year, the conference began fourteen years ago "[w]ith the aim of making Rochester a global center for organ performance, research, building and preservation". (from the conference booklet).



The theme of the Festival was "BREATH FOR SINGING: The organ and the Human Voice". Organs at the Eastman School of Music, Christ Church and even the Memorial Art Gallery resounded with music, both ancient and modern, answered by the gathered conference participants as the "choir", assisted by students from the Eastman School of Music. We explored Alternatim styles of singing from the late Medieval to modern periods. In addition there were scholarly lectures, organ recitals and a festive banquet which was enjoyed by all. Jan says, "I came away astonished by the variety of alternatim styles over the centuries and also excited by the possibilities for their use in worship".

Jan Robitscher

AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists

Do you have students who are interested in this competition? It will be held on Sunday, April 9, 2017 at St Luke's Episcopal Church in San Francisco. For more information, please visit <https://www.agohq.org/performance-competitions/rcyo/> and/or email me at billyv32@gmail.com.

Messinger, from page 2

the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute. He wrote over 20 professional papers and presented many at overseas conferences including England, Australia and China.

When our first daughter was born, David bought his first camera and photography became a life-long hobby. He became interested in all aspects of photography, often setting up a dark room in the kitchen. He loved the outdoors and took the family on a camping trip every year, (with the red station wagon and the green tent) visiting nearly all the National Parks in the Western States. Family ski trips to the Tahoe area were also a favorite activity and later ski trips included the grandchildren.

David loved classical music and was an amateur organist, an activity he enjoyed until the end of his life. He was active in the Organ Workshop of Contra Costa County and a member of the American Guild of Organists (AGO). In addition to concerts, he enjoyed reading, fishing, Cal football and track meets. He was active in the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church, as a Deacon and member of the Concerts on the Hill program, among other activities. Throughout his retirement he enjoyed keeping abreast of advancements in earthquake research and other scientific subjects.

David and Carol loved to explore new places and they travelled the world on their annual overseas trips, usually planning their own itineraries or going with small group tours. They celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in August with a trip to Mendocino, their last road trip.

We are thankful that he was able to be active and engaged up to the time of his death, and that he died peacefully in his sleep, Carol at his side. He was a loving and beloved husband, father and grandfather and we are grateful for the years we had him with us. In addition to Carol, he is survived by his children: Casey Mc Bride of Chico, Pam House (Jeff) of Chico, and Steve Messinger (Linda) of Oakland and five grandchildren: Caleb House (Celine), Abram House (Sarah), Ben House (Liz), Jack and Kate Messinger. He was predeceased by his parents and his brothers, Bill and Jim.

A celebration of David's life will be held at the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, CA, on December 3, at 11:00am. Donations in David's name may be sent to LOPC, address above, designated to Congo Mission or Atfaluna School for the Deaf.



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

Travels from Around the Chapter

by Richard Ditewig

In late September I traveled to Chicago/Evanston, Illinois to re-visit my organ school at Northwestern University. I played for an hour on the 100-rank Aeolian-Skinner organ in the University Chapel. I also had an hour on the 3-manual Goulding & Wood organ at Loyola University's Madonna della Strada Chapel. Both are outstanding instruments! I also heard a fine recital on the Dobson organ in Elliott Chapel at Presbyterian Homes, Evanston.

I traveled to these destinations via the CTA Red Line and Purple Line. Quite an experience! The weather was perfect and I re-connected with several people I had previously known.

Dean's Column, from front page

very early. I started picking hymns and anthems this past summer. (I have all the anthems picked until the middle of June 2017.) Do we look to see what we did last year, and repeat the same music? I would hope not. Do we re-read the beautiful scriptural texts and allow them to transform us and look for 'other' music? Do we go to various publisher websites and listen to new ideas? All the websites I visit for choral music have a PDF sample and a recording of the piece. Talk about instant gratification, and more sales for the publishers!

As we prepare, as we play, as we pray, and as we celebrate this holiday season, may we remember that all we have is gift. God has gifted us musicians with the ability to transform people where the spoken word perhaps will not. I end with a verse of our Hymn of Praise, We Are Yearning for the Season, set to REGENT SQUARE:

*"We are hoping for a new earth breathed in dreams the prophet tell.
Though the word is but a whisper, Love endures; all shall be well.
We are hoping, still believing Love endures; all shall be well."*

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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Obituary Listings: To be announced

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2016–2017
Last updated 11/14/2016

Bay Area Concert Calendar

Collected by Brian Swager

December ²⁰¹⁶

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 **January, 2017** issue is **December 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.

CACK: Ch. of the Advent of Christ the King
CCL-O: Cath. of Christ the Light, Oakland
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

December

3 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

4:30pm. James Welch, Organ. Crèche Exhibit. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Palo Alto

5pm. Advent Lessons and Carols. Susan Jane Matthews, Director. Music of Palestrina, Rachmaninoff, Howells, Tavener, Ticheli. Freewill donation. Reception. SPE-BU

4 Sunday

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

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

10 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

11 Sunday

10am. George Oldroyd: *The Mass of the Quiet Hour*. SME-B

4pm. Vytenis Vasyliunas, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

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

7pm. Cookies and Carols. Cathedral Choir and Cathedral Choir School. \$20/\$10. St Francis Hall (lower level) CSMA

17 Saturday

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. CPLH

18 Sunday

3pm. Festival of Lessons and Carols. Don Pearson, Director. St Ignatius Catholic Church, Antioch

4pm. Victor Xie, Viola; Xiyan Wang, Piano. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. CPLH

4pm. "The Littlest Angel" Daniel Pociernicki, Narrator; Christine Springer, Soprano; Brian Swager, Harp. CACK

4pm. An English Christmas Concert. Susan Jane Matthews, Director. Music of Vaughan Williams, Howells, Finzi. Benefit for Gloucester Residency. Ticketed. Festive reception. SPE-BU

4:30pm. A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. SME-B

5:30pm. Advent Lessons & Carols. Cathedral Choir, Brass, and Organ. CCL-O

24 Saturday

10:30pm. George Malcolm: *Missa ad Praesepe (Mass at the Crib)*. SME-B

31 Saturday

8pm. James Welch, Organ. \$10. St Mark's Episcopal Church, Palo Alto

Looking Ahead January 2017

8 Sunday

4pm. Epiphany Lessons and Carols. St Mary's Cathedral Choir School and Golden Gate Boys Choir & Bellringers. 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

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

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

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

SAN FRANCISCO

MUSIC DIRECTOR - Bethany United Methodist, San Francisco. Bethany United Methodist Church seeks a part-time music director. Bethany is a progressive, reconciling congregation in the heart of the Noe Valley Neighborhood of San Francisco.

A successful applicant will:

- Select liturgical repertoire for Sunday services including a prelude, anthem, offertory and postlude, in collaboration with the pastor.
- Teach repertoire to a small choir and provide general leadership to choir members.
- Interface with the pastor on selection of music and service characteristics.
- Have a background in traditional and current Christian music and an interest in using secular music when appropriate.
- Have a friendly, outgoing demeanor regarding church communities.
- Be available for occasional special services (Christmas Eve, Holy Week etc.)

Minimum qualifications include a demonstrated experience directing and conducting, the ability to work approximately 8-10 hours per week, accompany the choir/congregation during the Sunday service. The position is available immediately. Compensation is \$18,000-20,000 DOE. If interested please contact Gloria Soli, glisol@aol.com

