

August 2016

The American Guild of Organists

San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

Dean's Column

by William Vaughan

As I begin my term as Dean (July 1, 2016) I wish to thank Simon Berry for his passionate leadership over these past three years. I hope to continue his fine work.

A heart-felt thank you to all of you who came to our annual dinner event in North Beach! We had a delicious dinner and enjoyable fellowship at Original Joe's, and an exciting program on the Schoenstein organ at Saints Peter and Paul. I extend my sincere gratitude to all who worked behind the scenes in preparing a wonderful evening. I also thank Daniel Chang, Eric Zhang, Susan Jane Matthews and Paul Meier. Your playing was exciting! It was thrilling to hear our two young student organists, Daniel and Eric. Please keep up the great work. During the evening, Simon passed the gavel on to me, with a box of Advil and a bottle of wine. Is there something he knows that I will soon find out?

In June, I had the opportunity to attend the AGO National Convention in Houston. It was a full week of exciting concerts, prayerful liturgies, interesting workshops and pleasant fellowship. There were 1200 in attendance from all over the world. The convention opened and closed at St Martin Episcopal Church on the 4-manual, 80-rank Schoenstein organ. How proud I was of our local company to be featured and for building such a fine romantic instrument. It has such an incredible sound, from the whisper of a ppp, to the roar of a fff!! I wish we had an example of this symphonic-style organ in the Bay Area. (Thank you Jack!)

You know the saying, "There's an app for that." Well, one fun new feature for this convention was the use of an app for our phones. The app had all the venues, programs, bios, specs, interactive maps, daily newsletters, restaurant guide, etc. You could customize it with your own schedule of events. I did not need to carry the convention book. This will only get better as the years go on. Incredible!

After Houston, I flew off to the OHS (Organ Historical Society) Convention in Philadelphia. What an amazing week! Bus drivers maneuvered 500 of us around Philadelphia. Many times, we barely made it through the very narrow city streets. To one event the bus I was on took half an hour for the driver to maneuver a right turn at this one very narrow intersection because of all the parked cars. When we arrived at the venues, all the organs we heard were incredible. We heard organs

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The Bay Area Max Reger Festival 2016

*honoring the centennial of the death
of Max Reger (1873-1916)*

**at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption,
San Francisco, concerts at 4 pm**

- August 14 - Paul Fejko
- August 21 - Thomas Joyce
- September 4 - David Hatt
- September 11 - Stephen Hamilton
- September 18 - Angela Kraft Cross

**at Trinity Episcopal Church, Reno, Nevada
concerts at 7 pm/noon**


- July 28/29 - Angela Kraft Cross
- September 2 - Thomas Joyce

For information call 415/640-6815

Schoenstein Open House

from Jack Bethards

Please join us on Sunday, August 21, from 2-5 p.m. for an Open House at our Benicia plant. Assembled on our erecting room floor is a three manual, 28 rank organ to be installed at First Presbyterian Church of Monterey. This organ is very special – a re-creation of a 1912 Murray M. Harris organ employing many original pipes. Refreshments and a plant tour are included.

Schoenstein & Co. is located at 4001 Industrial Way, Benicia, CA 94510. Telephone (707) 747-5858. Ample parking is available. 

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Submission deadline for the **September** issue is **August 10**

American Guild Of Organists Recognizes Three Award-Winning Composers

Distinguished Composer Award

Presented to David Ashley White

AGO/Marilyn Mason Award in Organ Composition

Presented to Ivan Božičević

AGO/ECS Publishing Award in Choral Composition

Presented to Michael Gilbertson

The American Guild of Organists (AGO) honored three award-winning composers at its Annual Meeting on June 22, during the 2016 AGO National Convention in Houston, Tex. AGO Vice President Christian Lane presided over the award presentations to **David Ashley White** of Houston, **Ivan Božičević** of Croatia, and **Michael Gilbertson** of Hamden, Conn.

The 2016 **DISTINGUISHED COMPOSER AWARD** was presented to David Ashley White. The prestigious award, created in 1986, is presented biennially to recognize outstanding composers of organ and choral music in the United States. White's anthem, *With a Shining Like the Sun*, for mixed chorus, brass, timpani, organ, and congregation, was given its premier performance during the convention. Previous award recipients include: Virgil Thomson, Ned Rorem, Daniel Pinkham, Samuel Adler, Dominick Argento, William Albright, Conrad Susa, Emma Lou Diemer, Dan Locklair, William Bolcom, Alice Parker, Carl Schalk, Margaret Sandresky, Richard Proulx, Stephen Paulus, Craig Phillips, and Libby Larsen.

The 2016 **AGO/MARILYN MASON AWARD IN ORGAN COMPOSITION** was presented to Ivan Božičević for *The Moonpiper—A Bagpipe Dance for Organ*, which was given its premier performance by Joby Bell during the convention. The award included a cash prize of \$2,000, and publication by Hinshaw Music Inc.

The 2016 **AGO/ECS PUBLISHING AWARD IN CHORAL COMPOSITION** was presented to Michael Gilbertson for his anthem for SATB choir, organ, and trumpet, *The Voice of the Lord*, which was given its premier performance during the convention. The award included a cash prize of \$2,000 and publication, both provided by the ECS Publishing Co.

Additional information about AGO new music competitions and awards can be found on the AGO Web site, Agohq.org.



Highest and Most Prestigious Awards Bestowed at AGO National Convention

President's Award Presented to Frederick R. Haas

Edward A. Hansen Leadership Award

Given to Robert C. Bennett

The American Guild of Organists (AGO) bestowed its two highest awards of national distinction in conjunction with the 53rd biennial AGO National Convention in Houston, Tex. Award presentations were made during the Guild's Annual Meeting. AGO President John Walker made the presentation to **Frederick Haas**, and at Walker's request, Jeffrey Hoover made the presentation to **Robert Bennett** because of Hoover's long association with the award recipient.

The **AGO PRESIDENT'S AWARD** was presented to Frederick R. Haas of Philadelphia, Pa. The prestigious award, created in 1988, is presented biennially to recognize outstanding contributions to the art of the organ in the United States. The 2016 President's Award was given to Haas "in gratitude for his inspired artistry, faithful support, and generous patronage of the King of Instruments."

Past recipients of the AGO President's Award include: Clementine Miller Tangeman, Alice Tully, Mr. and Mrs. A.D. Hulings, Amelia Lay Hodges, J. Michael Barone, Roberta Bitgood, FAGO, CHM, Edward A. Hansen, AAGO (posthumously awarded), Anthony Baglivi, Craig R. Whitney, Pleasant T. Rowland, Mr. and Mrs. Wesley C. Dudley, Messrs. Ronald G. Pogorzelski and Lester D. Yankee (posthumously awarded), Martha Rivers Ingram, and Christoph Wolff.

The **AGO EDWARD A. HANSEN LEADERSHIP AWARD** was presented to Robert C. Bennett of Houston, Tex. Created by the AGO National Council in 1999 to honor the memory of the Guild's distinguished past president, Edward A. Hansen, AAGO, the prestigious award is presented biennially to recognize individuals who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in the AGO. The 2016 Edward A. Hansen Leadership Award was given to Bennett "in gratitude for his lifetime of devoted service to the Guild and his leadership in the Houston Chapter spanning more than seven decades."

Previous Hansen Award recipients include: Karen McFarlane Holtkamp, Ruth M. Caswell, Joyce S. Hesketh, Betty Jean Bartholomew, D. DeWitt Wasson, CHM, Marianne Webb, Frederick Swann, Peter and Lois Fyfe, and Barbara Owen.

► **Prestigious Awards**, page 4

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

Sunday, September 18

St. Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco

**Opening Recital and
Clergy-Musician Dinner**

**with Joshua Kosman
of The San Francisco Chronicle**

- 4:00 Organ Recital with Angela Kraft Cross
performing works of Reger
as part of the Bay Area Reger Festival
- 5:00 p.m. Wine and Cheese Reception
- 5:45 p.m. Installation of SF/AGO officers
- 6:00 p.m. Catered Dinner by La Mediterranee
- 6:45 p.m. Dessert talk offered by Joshua Kosman

Monday, October 17

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, San Francisco

- 7:00 p.m. Masterless Class
with SFAGO colleagues

Saturday, November 12

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, San Francisco

- 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Masterclass
with David Yearsley
- 7:30 p.m. Organ Recital by David Yearsley
followed by a festive reception.

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 SF/AGO Music Sale in the 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

National News

Prestigious Awards, *from page 2*

BIOGRAPHIES


FREDERICK R. HAAS, organist and philanthropist, is a native of Villanova, Pa., and has performed throughout the Philadelphia region his entire life. He is Assistant Grand Court Organist at Macy's Center City Philadelphia, where he performs on the Wanamaker Organ weekly, and co-chaired the 2016 OHS National Convention in Philadelphia, June 26–July 2.

Fred Haas began piano study at age six and, during high school, had organ lessons with Robert Plimpton. He was admitted to the Oberlin Conservatory as a student of David Boe, and studied with Fenner Douglass, David Craighead, Harald Vogel, and William Porter through the Oberlin Summer Organ Institutes. He was awarded a bachelor's degree in organ performance from Oberlin in 1983 and returned to Philadelphia. He was assistant organist to Jeffrey Brillhart at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church until 1986.

A lifelong advocate for the King of Instruments, Mr Haas is founder of the Historic Organ Trust, an organization dedicated to preserving and restoring important American pipeorgans. He is a board member of the Historic Organ Restoration Committee at Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall and was lead donor of the Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ (Dobson, Opus 76) in Verizon Hall, Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, Philadelphia.

Mr Haas is a trustee of the William Penn Foundation, trustee of the Wyncote Foundation, a patron of new and traditional opera at the Metropolitan Opera and at Opera Philadelphia, and a trustee of Santa Fe Opera.

ROBERT C. BENNETT has given more than 70 years of service to the AGO. At the age of 13, he was elected treasurer of the Houston Chapter and has since held multiple terms as dean and auditor. Bennett was coordinator of the 1958 AGO National Convention in Houston, cocoordinator of the 1988 AGO National Convention, and advisor to the 2016 AGO National Convention. Additionally, he was coordinator of the 1973 AGO Mid-Winter Conclave and AGO Region VII Convention.

Bennett was Diaconal Minister of Music and Fine Arts at St Luke's United Methodist Church in Houston, where he designed its organ and served for 42 years. He was chair of the subcommittee on hymn tunes for the 1988 United Methodist Hymnal and the 1993 hymnal supplement. He is a Fellow of Trinity College, London, and holds a doctorate from Southwestern University. 

Dean's Column, *from front page*

in all possible buildings: churches, a chapel, a temple, homes, a store, an atrium, and an auditorium. Through some very generous foundations, many organs in and around Philadelphia have either been restored or given new homes.


One of the highlights of the convention was hearing the 6-manual 464-rank Wanamaker organ at the Macy's department store. It has been fully restored and we were treated to an amazing feast for the ears. As we sat in chairs on the main floor, we were able to view Peter Conte maneuver the massive console by means of a video screen. It was amazing that even with the many, many, many pistons available, he and his assistant basically only used the 'Next' button, which was added in the renovation. As on the Schoenstein in Houston, we heard the orchestral music go from the murmur of a ppp crescendo up to the thunder of a fff, and back down, seamlessly. We were all awestruck.

Another highlight on the last day of the official convention was going to the Atlantic City Auditorium. Therein is contained not only the world's largest pipe organ, but also the loudest. On both sides of the stage in this massive auditorium is housed the 7-manual, 449-rank Midmer-Losh organ. To the right of the stage is the massive console, in its own large cubbyhole, which reminded me of the wizard's chamber behind the red curtain in *The Wizard of Oz*. We were told that at 5 am on Friday, July 1, 2016, the left chambers came on line for the first time in 30+ years. We were the first audience to hear both right and left chambers of the organ. We were told that only 25% of the entire organ is operational. From the sound of the high-pressure tubas and diapasons, that 25% sound was almost deafening, and we were seated at the other end of the auditorium. (That is where we were told to sit, and I am so glad we did.) The foundation's goal is that by 2023 to have the organ completely restored and playable.

Again, we did hear many other wonderful pipe organs ranging in all shapes and sizes, but I mention these two in depth because they are such icons of American organ building.

As at the Houston convention, the booklet was on line, so I did not have to carry anything extra to these events. Quite often, I was able to find the score on line at IMSLP and follow along, if I did not know the piece. I have since downloaded quite a few pieces to hopefully learn this summer. These conventions have inspired me to practice and be creative.

I hope you are having a rest-filled summer, and are being energized to try something new this fall in repertoire and in registrations.

All the very best. 

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 **September** issue is **August 10**. Online listings available at: www.sfago.org/jobs/

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

PENINSULA / SOUTH BAY

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ORGANIST, Christ Church, Portola Valley and Woodside, 815 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028. The Director of Music is responsible for playing the organ, directing the adult choir and planning music and liturgy with the Rector for Sunday services. In addition, the director of music is expected to organize concerts and special events. There is also an opportunity to support the church's events for children. The candidate is expected to have at least a graduate degree in music and/or Associate of the American Guild of Organists, with prior experience as a church organist and choir director. This is a part-time position with flexible hours. Salary will be determined based on experience and qualifications and will be informed by Diocesan standards and the guidelines published by the American Guild of Organists. A complete job description is available at <http://ccpvw.org/#/clergy-and-staff/director-of-music-search>. The church website is www.ccpvw.org. Please direct inquiries to Angela Hey, head of the search committee, at musicjobs@ccpvw.org or 650-851-2542.

EAST BAY / INLAND

ORGANIST, Concord United Methodist Church, 1645 West St., Concord CA 95421 Concord UMC is looking for an organist/pianist who is an energetic, enthusiastic, positive, visionary musician to work with our Choir Director in accompanying the Chancel and Chamber choirs as well as our Praise Team at two Sunday morning services – 9:00 am and 10:30 am. CUMC has an active music ministry which includes—in addition to the choirs mentioned above—a community orchestra, bell choir, youth ensemble and a children's music program. Thursday rehearsals 7:30 – 9:00 pm with additional rehearsals as deemed necessary by the choir director. There is also a summer choir that meets on Sunday at 9:45 am. This is a part time position (approximately 8 hours per week), benefits as identified in the Employee Policies and Guidelines handbook; salary range \$18-20k/year depending on qualifications and experience. For consideration please email your letter of interest, qualifications and/or resume to: ConcordUMC@sbcglobal.net. A complete job description is available on the church website www.concordumc.org

SUBSTITUTE ORGANIST AVAILABLE

Steve Ketterer - 415-844-0114

FOR SALE

To Be Auctioned Off by San Francisco State University

Wicks practice organ, 1976. Two 61 Note Manuals, 32 note Pedalboard; Two Ranks: 16' Bourdon/Koppel Flute 96 notes, 4' Spitz Flute; 10 stops; Bench. 110 Volt standard outlet plug, (c. 15 amps). Bonus: Extra pedal board available, but unfortunately it will not work on this organ. Auction starting price: \$750, move not included.



This organ is for sale **as is**. It does work but needs a service call and tuning. Special attention may need to be paid to the blower, and also to the pedals, which have a broken wire connection. There are 2 pipes missing: 4' C# of the Koppel Flute, and a 1/8' treble pipe.

The overall dimensions are 84 inches wide, 86 inches deep (including pedals and 16' Octave Bourdon Chest, (which is separate and not attached to main organ except for flexible windline and plug in wiring) and it's 9 feet 4 inches tall at Low C of 16' Bourdon pipe (which could be mitered lower.) Approximately. 7' Tall for pipes on main chest. Other Photos are available.

► Auction Item, page 6

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 07/17/2016

Bay Area Concert Calendar

Collected by Brian Swager

2016 August

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 **September** issue is **August 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
SME-B: St Mark's Episcopal Ch, Berkeley

August

6 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

7 Sunday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

4pm. Robert Gurney, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

13 Saturday

4pm. Tony Baldwin, Organ. CPLH

14 Sunday

4pm. Paul Fejko, Organ. Bay Area Reger Festival. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Tony Baldwin, Organ. CPLH

20 Saturday

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. CPLH

21 Sunday

4pm. Thomas Joyce, Organ. Bay Area Reger Festival. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. CPLH

27-28 Saturday & Sunday

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

Looking Ahead

September

3 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

4 Sunday

4pm. David Hatt, Organ. Bay Area Reger Festival. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. James Welch, Organ. GC

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

10 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

11 Sunday

4pm. Stephen Hamilton, Organ. Bay Area Reger Festival. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

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

17 Saturday

4pm. Daniel Lockert, Organ. Rededication of newly refurbished 1880 Bergstrom organ. Music of Bach, Schmidt, Franck, Langlais, Jongen, Bessonet, Conte, and Michel. \$25 includes recital and champagne reception. Christ Church Episcopal, Sausalito

4pm. Paul Meier, Organ. CPLH

7pm. Robert Gurney, Piano & Organ; Choir & Soloists of Trinity-St Peter's. St Peter's Hall, Trinity Episcopal Church

18 Sunday

4pm. **SFAGO EVENT.** Opening recital, Reception, Installation of Officers, Clergy-Musician Dinner, with guest speaker Joshua Kosman. CSMA

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. Bay Area Reger Festival. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Paul Meier, Organ. CPLH

24 Saturday

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

25 Sunday

4pm. Philip Manwell, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

October

1-2 Saturday & Sunday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

8 Saturday

4pm. James Hicks, Organ. CPLH

9 Sunday

3pm. Vincent Dubois, Organ. Tickets: sfsymphony.org Davies Symphony Hall

4pm. James Hicks, Organ. CPLH

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

15-16 Saturday & Sunday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

17 Monday

7pm. **SFAGO EVENT.** Masterclass with SF AGO colleagues. St Luke's Episcopal Church

22-23 Saturday & Sunday

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

29-30 Saturday & Sunday

4pm. Alexander Ffinch, Organ. CPLH

November

12 Saturday

9am. **SFAGO EVENT.** Masterclass with David Yearsley. St Mark's Lutheran Church

7:30pm. **SFAGO EVENT.** David Yearsley, Organ. Reception follows. St Mark's Lutheran Church



Auction Item, from page 5

The buyer will be required to hire professionals (aka organ builders, or other professionals with liability insurance) to remove the organ. Starting price at auction will be \$750. We will be using the auction site publicsurplus.com and are putting the word out to likely buyers ahead of time.

The University is hoping to auction it off before August 24 when school starts again. SFSU is very accessible by public transportation, including BART. I would be happy to be available by appointment for interested buyers who wish to see it before the auction. Please feel free to pass along my email and office phone number (below) to interested parties.

If by chance and great good luck we get one or two strongly interested parties, I will schedule the auction immediately.

Many thanks.

Margie Williams, Piano Technician, (415) 338-6133, margiew@sfsu.edu

Bill Visscher inspected the organ and can also be contacted with your questions. bvissch@fastmail.fm