

May 2017

The American Guild of Organists

San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

Dean's Column

by William Vaughan

After playing five Masses for Palm Sunday, I took BART over to San Francisco to attend our Chapter competition at St Luke's Episcopal Church. What an absolutely delightful afternoon and evening we all had.

Our two competitors were Eric Zhang, a high school student, organ student of Chris Tietze, and Dominic Pang, an 8th grader, organ student of Angela Kraft Cross.

On the Friday before, I met both Eric and Dominic at St Luke's for them to practice three hours each on the Aeolian-Skinner. Well, they had their programs down perfectly. It was incredible listening to them practice. Those three hours each flew by rather quickly.

On Sunday afternoon at 4pm, the judges: Sandra Soderlund, John Karl Hirten and Brian Swager along with the competitors: Eric and Dominic, their teachers and families gathered in St Luke's to hear the competition. Dominic Pang performed first. He played the following:

- Toccat, Adagio and Fugue in C Major — J. S. Bach
- Mass for Dedication — Frank Ferko
 - I. Entrance
 - II. Offertory
 - III. Consecration
 - V. Finale
- Final - Symphonie 1 — Louis Vierne
- Hymn - Son of God, Eternal Savior (IN BABILONE)

After giving the judges ample time to write comments and tally their scores, we continued with Eric Zhang, who played the following:

- Hymn - Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
(LOBE DEN HERREN)
- Prelude and Fugue in C Minor — J.S. Bach
- Mass for Dedication — Frank Ferko
 - I. Entrance
 - II. Offertory
 - III. Consecration
 - V. Finale
- Sonata VI (1st Movement) — Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

► **Dean's Column**, page 2

Final Chapter Program 2016–2017 Monday, May 22, 2017

Congregation Sherith Israel

2266 California Street at Webster, San Francisco

from George Emblom

Come celebrate and enjoy the company of colleagues and friends.

6:00 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres

6:30 p.m. Catered Dinner

by Town's End Restaurant and Bakery
followed by Annual Meeting

8:00 p.m. Music for Organ and Cello

with Angela Lee, Cello,
and Jonathan Dimmock, Organ

Reservations for dinner are required and are due no later than Monday, May 8.

Credit Card Payments, in the amount of \$50.00 per meal, can be made via the SFAGO Website at www.sfago.org/ **Click on the word Reservations, and follow the instructions.**

The Chapter will cover the costs of the credit card fees.

For students under 30, the cost will be \$25.00. The chapter will cover the additional costs.

If you prefer to pay by check, please make it payable to SFAGO in the amount of \$50.00 and mail your check to:

George Emblom
St Mark's Church
2300 Bancroft Way
Berkeley, CA 94704

► **May Program**, page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Review: April Event.	2
New Chapter Website.	4
Information Box	5
Events Calendar & Looking Ahead	6

Submission deadline for the **June & July** issue is **May 10**

Review: Joint-Chapter April Event

from William Vaughan

For our April Event, we teamed up with the Palo Alto/ Peninsula Chapter, who in turn teamed up with Christ Church, Portola Valley, who presented young organist Greg Zelek. It was an incredible evening of beautiful music making!

First off, Christ Church is situated in one of the most beautiful and lush parts of the Bay Area. I started my drive from San Leandro quite early in order to meander through the Palo Alto hills and Portola Valley. Once out of the car at the church, I was struck by the crispness and the aroma of the clean air. I had forgotten how fresh the air was there. The last time I was in that area was 25 years ago when I used to ride my bike from Saint Patrick's Seminary making the loop through Portola Valley.

Sorry for my trip down memory lane, now back to the concert. The first half of the program included: Mendelssohn - 1st Sonata; Mulet - Rosace; Bach - Prelude and Fugue in a; Liszt - Liebestraum; Weaver - Fantasia. After a brief intermission, the second half was the Guilman 1st Sonata, followed by an exciting and rhythmic Cuban encore. (Greg is Cuban on his mother's side, and is from Miami.)

Greg is currently pursuing an Artist Diploma as a student of Paul Jacobs at the Julliard School. He is also the Music Director at the Episcopal Church of St Matthew and St Timothy in New York City. He also concertizes quite a bit throughout the year.

The Visser-Rowland organ — as you can see from the picture — is situated in the sanctuary. Christ Church is a very beautiful and quite tall A-frame wood church, with not so live acoustics. Greg chose his stops carefully and we heard so many exquisite solo sounds. The full organ even with the horizontal Trompette wasn't too much for the ears. Because of the sudden upsurge in the Bay Area temperature, the reeds were a bit out with the rest of the organ. That made adding the horizontal reed quite interesting.

Greg's sensitive playing was incredible. His phrasing was tailored to the acoustics of Christ Church. He wasn't just rattling



Dean's Column, from front page

As you look at the repertoire played, each performer had to choose a Bach piece and a piece written after 1750. The Frank Ferko piece had to be learned by all competitors. They also had to play a prescribed hymn which we all sang.

Really, I thought both players did an extremely excellent job. I turned pages for both players, and I noticed they were both so very relaxed! Their handling of the instrument was of such ease, especially the way they changed pistons and toe studs during the pieces.



Angela Kraft Cross, Dominic Pang, Eric Zhang and Chris Tietze

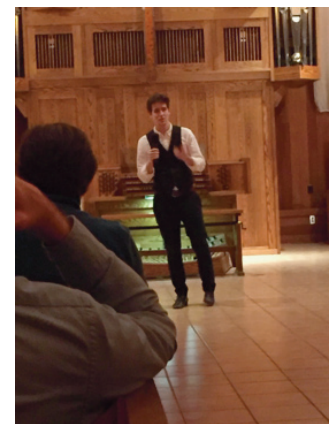
► **Dean's Column, page 4**

off memorized music. There were times that he would add the tremolo and then take it off towards the end of a phrase. His ears were listening to the phrasing also. Along with using the pistons and toe studs, Greg actually pushed and pulled stops quite often. That was refreshing to see.

I hope Greg makes concertizing his career. He was really at home with us, the audience. Before each piece, he would not only talk about the composer and the piece, but he would also say something funny about himself or something that had happened. He drew us in, and the 90+ minute concert flew by.

There was a hand full of us from the SFAGO. I would say the majority of the audience was parishioners of Christ Church. They were bubbling with enthusiasm throughout the evening's concert.

I wish to thank Ed and Mary Jennings from Christ Church who hosted Greg, and Tim Getz, Dean of the Palo Alto/ Peninsula Chapter for allowing us to dovetail onto their series. I spoke with Tim at the reception, and we both agree that we would like to do more combined events in the coming years.



May Program, from front page

The Menu

Appetizers on the buffet

Roasted red pepper, goat cheese & pesto on cucumber rounds

Wild smoked Alaskan Sockeye salmon, on mini potato-carrot pancakes, red onion & capers

Parmesan breadsticks

Mixed nuts

Main Courses

Today's Fish (always sustainable) pan roasted & served with lemon caper sauce

Natural Niman Ranch Brisket, braised with red wine & brown sugar, au jus

Vegetarian dish

Grilled polenta, creamy mushroom-madeira sauce

Served with

Organic seasonal grilled vegetables

Assortment of house made breads

Side dish

Basmati rice pilaf

Desserts

Assorted house made pastries including chocolate & fresh fruit selections

Coffee Service

The Program

Cello & Organ Concert Congregation Sherith Israel

22 May 2017 | 8:00 p.m.

Angela Lee & Jonathan Dimmock

Sonata in A (Psalm 130) Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809–1847)
Con moto maestoso

Sonata #1 in G, BWV 1027 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
Adagio
Allegro ma non tanto

Une Idylle for Cello & Organ Edward Elgar (1857–1934)

A Song Without Words Craig Phillips (b. 1961)

Mass Leonard Bernstein (1918–1990)
Fast and primitive

From Jewish Life Ernest Bloch (1880–1959)
Prayer

Five Pieces on Folk Themes (1950) Sulkhan Tsintsadze (1925–1991)
Villain's Song on a Carriage
Tchonguri (Chonguri)
Sachidao
Nana
Dance Tune



The Artists



Organist JONATHAN DIMMOCK (www.jonathandimmock.com) is well-known internationally as a recitalist, conductor, accompanist, ensemble musician, entrepreneur and writer. A graduate of Oberlin and Yale, he has the unique privilege to have been the only American Organ Scholar of Westminster Abbey; he has also served three American cathedrals: St John the Divine (New York), St Mark's (Minneapolis), and Grace (San

Francisco). For over twelve years, he was Music Director at St Ignatius Church in San Francisco (the largest Jesuit church in the United States) and is currently the Artist-in-Residence at First Presbyterian Church (Oakland), Organist for the San Francisco Symphony, Accompanist at Congregation Sherith

Israel (San Francisco), Principal Organist at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor, and Organ Instructor at Sonoma State University. He is one of the few organists in the world to tour on six continents. Mr Dimmock has recorded more than forty CDs and can be heard on the Grammy Award-winning San Francisco Symphony recording of Mahler's Symphony No. 8. He has been interviewed and featured on numerous radio and television stations including National Public Radio, Radio France, BBC3, ABC (Australia), MTV2 (Budapest), BCC (Barbados), and SABC (South Africa). His teachers and mentors include Olivier Messiaen, Gillian Weir, Simon Preston, Jean Langlais, Peter Hallock, Haskell Thomson, William Porter, Thomas Murray, Ton Koopman, Harald Vogel, J. Franklin Clark, Paul Halley, Naji Hakim, and Frédéric Blanc. He is co-founder of the highly acclaimed American Bach Soloists, founding director of Artists' Vocal Ensemble (AVE), and founding

► **May Program, next page**

May Program, from page 3

President of THE RESONANCE PROJECT – which uses music in international conflict resolution. He is a certified teacher of Meditation in Daily Stress, a technique developed by Michel Pascal and the Dalai Lama. He is deeply committed to healing our world through the beauty of music, and talks eagerly on the subjects of spirituality, psychology, aesthetics, and the Arts.

Cellist ANGELA LEE has performed recitals in Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, Victor Borge Hall and Carnegie Hall in New York, Chicago's Cultural Center, The Phillip's Collection and Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., Copenhagen's Nationalmuseet, and the Purcell Room at South Bank Centre in London. A graduate of The Juilliard School and Yale School of Music, she is a recipient of a Fulbright scholarship to study in London with William Pleeth, a grant from the Foundation for American Musicians in Europe, the Jury Prize in the Naumburg International Cello Competition, and a cello performance fellowship from the American-Scandinavian Foundation. She is frequently invited to festivals including St Petersburg's Revelations, IMS at Prussia Cove, Taipei Summer Festival, Pontino Festival, La Musica, Banff, Marlboro Music Festival, Anneberg Festival, Chelsea Music Festival, Music Mountain, Mahler-Jihlava Festival, and Mainly Mozart collaborating with Nobuko Imai, Bruno Giuranna, Frans Helmerson, Isabelle Faust, Lydia Artymiw, Andras Schiff, Alexander Lonquich, Anthony Newman, Franco Petracchi, and members of the Beaux Arts Trio and Guarneri Quartet.



Using music to foster peace and goodwill, Angela Lee has made numerous humanitarian trips to the Republic of the Philippines and the former Yugoslavia. While on a U.N.-sanctioned tour of six war-torn cities throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina, she performed for American and NATO troops and displaced civilians. As part of The Lee Trio with her sisters—Lisa, violinist, and Melinda, pianist—Angela Lee traveled to Ukraine in 2010 and to Romania in 2017 to work and perform for underprivileged children. For more information, please visit <http://www.theleetrio.com/>

Dean's Column, from page 2

At the end, the judges said it was a rather hard decision to make because they both played so very well. After tallying the judges scores, Dominic Pang won first place.

In June, Dominic will go to the Regional Convention in Salt Lake City and compete with the other winners from around the West. We certainly wish Dominic the very best as he prepares for the next round.



(Front row) Brian Swager, Sandra Soderlund, Dominic Pang, Eric Zhang and John Karl Hirten; (Back row) Steve Repasky and Bill Vaughan

I am really quite proud of both Dominic and Eric, and their teachers. It was such mature playing, and mature poise interacting with the adults before and after the competition.

After the competition, we all had dinner together at Ti Piacera on Polk Street. There were 15 of us, and we laughed and carried on with plenty of tasty food and wine.

I wish to thank Steve Repasky, Birgit Jacobsen and the rector of St Luke's for allowing us to hold the competition there, and the ample time they gave us in arranging everything!



Our new website is up and running.

Plases check it out and sign up for the annual dinner while you are there.

www.sfago.org

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 **June & July** issue is **May 10**. Online listings available at: www.sfago.org/jobs/

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

NORTH BAY

Kenwood Community Church, 9637 Channing Row, Kenwood, CA. MUSIC DIRECTOR/ORGANIST position available June 1, 2017 or soon thereafter. Sunday service at 10:30 am. Gathering music at 10:15 am. Ash Wednesday and Holy Thursday at 5:00 p.m. Baldwin 32 rank organ, Yamaha baby grand. Occasional choir scheduled by director. Salary range \$125-\$165 per service. Skill with both organ and piano is higher salary. \$200 Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday. 12 choir rehearsals per year at \$125 arranged by director. Memorial services and weddings, \$225 - first right of refusal. Five paid vacation/sick Sundays per year. Familiarity with Protestant liturgy required. Music Director plans music, meets with Pastor and another person seasonally to plan services. Email résumé to Mr. Tim Dorman, Chairman of the KCC Board, at timothydorman@aol.com

SAN FRANCISCO

St Dominic Catholic Church, 2390 Bush St., San Francisco, CA 94115 – 2ND TENOR/BARITONE to be a cantor and a member of the St Dominic Schola Cantorum, a well-known liturgical choir. Weekly choir rehearsal is on Thursday, 7:00–9:30 pm. The repertoire is classical. The weekend masses are at 5:30 pm on Sat. and at 9:30, 11:30 and 9:00 pm on Sun. with a rehearsal 30–60 minutes prior to mass plus Holy Days of obligation. Applicants will need to have excellent vocal control, sight-singing ability and freedom to commit to this calendar. A familiarity with Catholic liturgy is very desirable. Starting date would be June 1, 2017. Contact Simon Berry, Director of Music & Liturgy at 415-674-0430; Simon@stdominics.org. Please attach your résumé.

PENINSULA

Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos, CA 94024 - ORGANIST/PIANIST position, three-quarter time available at Los Altos United Methodist Church. Must be comfortable with popular and classical styles on piano and organ as well as a strong sight reader. Two choir rehearsals (Tuesday and Thursday evening), three Sunday morning services. Possibility of sharing the position. Health insurance and Vacation benefits. Competitive salary. Position opens July 1, 2017. Please contact the Minister of Music, Dirk Damonte (dirkdamonte@laumc.org) or call the office 650-948-1083

EAST BAY

Faith Lutheran Church, 50 Woodsworth Lane, Pleasant Hill 94523 – ORGANIST/ACCOMPANIST wanted for 9:00 am service and 10:30 choir rehearsal – approximately 3 hours each Sunday. Extra services during Advent and Lent. Play preludes/postludes, hymns, service music from the Lutheran Service Book (LC-MS, 2006) and accompany the choir with demonstrated proficiency. Two manual, Bosch tracker action organ in good condition. Position is available ASAP. Salary is at current rates in the area and commensurate with proficiency and experience. Contact Pastor Peter Woodward at pastor@welcome2faith.com or call the church office at 925-685-7353

SEEKING TEACHER

I am 70-year-old with plans to learn to play church hymns on Hammond Organ for my own personal worship at home. I have intermediate piano keyboard skill. I'm looking for a teacher who loves hymns; I am good student and a professional. Do you know of someone who can tutor me? I live in Walnut Creek area and I will drive up to 100 miles for a good teacher. Thanks. Jire Idowu, 925-708-1263



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Job Placement & For Sale Listings: David Howitt, 510-437-0254, dhowitt@sjbalameda.org

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 May

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 June & July issue is **May 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

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

7:30 pm. Voices of Silicon Valley; Cyril Deaconoff, Conductor. Haazen: *Missa Luba* & Stockhausen: *Stimmung*. \$20 in advance (www.stimmung.brownpapertickets.com), \$30 at door, \$15 students/seniors. St Elizabeth Catholic Church

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

3pm. Voices of Silicon Valley; Cyril Deaconoff, Conductor. See May 13. Tateuchi Hall, Mountain View

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

7:30pm. Ēriks Ešēvalds Choral Festival. \$25. Mission Dolores Basilica

22 Monday

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

27 Saturday

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

28 Sunday

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

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

Looking Ahead

JUNE

3 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

4 Sunday

3pm. Wayne Marshall, Organ. Tickets: sfsymphony.org Davies Symphony Hall

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

4pm. Chamber Ensembles, Young Peoples Symphony Orchestra. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

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

10 Saturday

4pm. Jane Cain, Organ. CPLH

11 Sunday

4pm. Sergio Militello, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Jane Cain, Organ. CPLH

17 Saturday

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

18 Sunday

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

