

September 2017 The American Guild of Organists San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

Dean's Column

by William Vaughan

Please join us for our first chapter event of the 2017–2018 year. This season, I am really focusing on hospitality. I would like us to meet, greet and eat our way through the season. I have lowered our member cost of the catered dinners to \$35 so that all of us can participate. The quality of the meals will still be the finest! La Mediterranee will be the caterers for our opening dinner. They were really superb at St Mary's Cathedral at last year's opening dinner.



Our opening event is at St Mary the Virgin Church, Union and Steiner Streets in San Francisco. I know parking is rough, but please, do not let that deter you from coming. I'm hoping there will be plenty of street parking.

If not, the closest parking lot is 2001 Union Street, (\$5/hr.). There is a less expensive lot at 2055 Lombard, at Webster, (\$2/hr.). If you prefer to take public transit, the 41 Muni bus stops right near the church.

The Evensong will begin at 4:15 p.m., and the choir of St Mary the Virgin, conducted by Eric Choate, will lead us in prayer. We will then have the installation of officers. Around 5:00 p.m., we will have appetizers and dinner.

During dessert, Byron Adams will speak to us. Byron is a composer and musicologist at UC Riverside. The choir of St Mary's will be singing his setting of Evening Service during Evensong.



You can purchase your dinner ticket with your credit card by clicking on the link in the other column. If you wish to pay by check, please send it to Bill Vaughan, 1100 Fulton Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577. Please call me to let me know you are sending me a check. My number is 707-373-0643. The cost of the dinner is \$35. We will have lots of fun. We have made the event a bit earlier so that all of us who commute far and work the next day can be home at a decent hour.

Opening Chapter Event

from William Vaughan

**Sunday, September 24
St Mary the Virgin Church
2325 Union Street, San Francisco**

- 4:15 Evensong and installation of officers
- 5:00 Appetizers with wine
and catered dinner by La Mediterranee
- 6:00 Byron Adams to speak during dessert

La Mediterranee menu

Appetizers

Hummus served with vegetables and pita bread

Dinner

Mixed green salad
Chicken Pomegranate, Chicken Kebabs,
Lebanese Kibbeh Meatballs and Couscous

Dessert

Sweet Tray: baklava and cake bites

Please click on the link below to reserve your dinner by credit card.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/opening-chapter-event-tickets-36943739720>

If you are paying by check, please send \$35 to:
Bill Vaughan, 1100 Fulton Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577

Cutoff date for reservations is Wednesday, September 20

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

Charles F. “Chuck” Swisher

from Vic Ferrer

I had the good fortune to have known Chuck for some 20+ years. He led the charge to save and restore San Francisco’s great Exposition Organ (Austin Opus 500) located in the San Francisco Civic Auditorium. Like so many other municipal pipe organs, the Exposition Organ was forgotten and went silent; but in 1984 Chuck founded “The Citizens’ Committee To Preserve The San Francisco Municipal Pipe Organ” and shined a spotlight on this important piece of San Francisco history.

Through out the mid-late 1980s Chuck rallied to get the instrument back up and playing. He organized volunteer organ builders and organists, conducted “organ crawls” and recording sessions and helped raise funds.

In 1988, the instrument was showcased at the 33rd Annual National Convention of the Organ Historical Society. Things looked promising, but in 1989 the Loma-Prieta earthquake caused great damage to the instrument. Since then, the organ has never played another note.

Chuck loved this pipe organ and were it not for his dedication, “The Exposition Organ” would surely have been forgotten and lost. Chuck’s spirit will always be connected with Austin Opus 500.

In early 2002, I got to spend some time with Chuck and interviewed him to capture some of his important recollections and stories about the instrument.† He was an expert in audio, lighting and pipe organs and a creative and smart audio consultant and engineer. He also co-produced some of Virgil Fox’s legendary multimedia light shows at Winterland and Amazing Grace, both in San Francisco.

Chuck was also involved with the Midmer-Losh Boardwalk Hall organ in Atlantic City, New Jersey. He, along with the late John “Jack” Clotworthy would eventually become executive producers for my documentary film “The Senator’s Masterpiece”. Their belief and trust in me opened many doors and allowed me access to tell the story of the world’s largest pipe organ.



I spoke with Chuck only a couple of weeks ago. I am sad to hear about his passing. We often take for granted that people will be around forever, and then one day, they are gone...

Rest in peace Chuck.

† I put a video up on YouTube: “Charles Swisher in his own words”: https://youtu.be/16UysrkP_Fo

...more Salt Lake City Convention News

from William Vaughan

In my convention report in the August newsletter, I omitted the fact that our own chapter member Jim Welch gave a recital on the Conference Center organ on Wednesday, June 14 at 2pm, and then he immediately made his way to the Cathedral of the Madeleine to present a French romantic masterclass at 3pm. Congratulations to Jim for his excellent work! I received emails from other chapter members who were at the convention, but our paths did not cross. There were a lot of attendees, and I walked to and from the convention venues instead of taking the bus. Thank you to all of you who attended.

East Contra Costa County

from William Vaughan

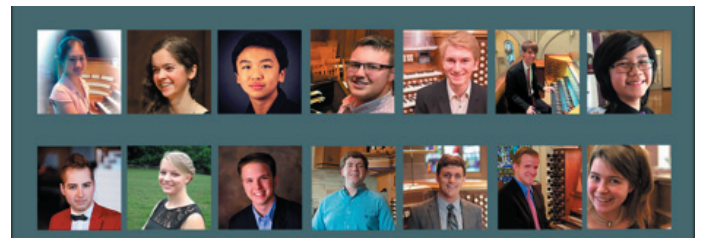
A boys’ choir from France sang an exquisite program at Saint Ignatius of Antioch Catholic Church in Antioch. The church was almost full which is so remarkable considering it is in east Egypt. Father Robert Rien is the Pastor, and Don Pearson is the Director of Music. The organ is a Rodgers with 18 ranks of pipes.



The TAO

from William Vaughan

I happened to go to www.agohq.org, and guess who I saw? There is Dominic Pang, our winner of the competition in June. These are all the 1st and 2nd place winners from each region. Congratulations!



San Francisco Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

2017–2018 Program Year

Sunday, September 24

St Mary the Virgin Church, San Francisco

~ Opening Event ~

4:15 – Evensong and
Installation of Officers,
5:00 – Catered Dinner (\$35)

Saturday, October 28

St Mark's Lutheran Church, San Francisco

~ Luther's 500-year Celebration ~

10:00 – Rehearsal for choir
11:30 – Lunch
12:15 – Rehearsal with instruments
1:00 – Hymn Festival
2:30-6 – Oktoberfest

Saturday, November 18

St Luke's Episcopal Church, San Francisco

~ Masterless Class ~

10:30 – Members play for one another
12:00 – Lunch (\$15)

Sunday, January 28, 2018

Grace Cathedral, San Francisco

~ Jonathan Ryan ~

4:00 – Organ Recital
Reception to follow

Monday, February 19

St Mark's Episcopal Church, Berkeley

~ Presidents' Day Workshop ~

10:00 – Choral Reading Session:
Sacred works by Bay Area composers,
and Organ Music sale
12:00 – lunch (\$15)

Saturday, March 3

First Presbyterian Church, Oakland

~ Improvisation Masterclass ~

10:00 – Masterclass with
Jonathan Dimmock
and John Karl Hirten
12:00 – Lunch (\$15)

Wednesday, April 18

St Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco

~ Katelyn Emerson ~

7:00 – Organ Recital
Reception to follow

Sunday, May 20

St Stephen's Church, Belvedere

~ Concert and Annual Dinner ~

4:00 – Young Organists and
Dominic Pang (competition winner)
5:00 – Annual Dinner (\$35)

Past & New Board Members

from William Vaughan

Thank you to past board members

I would like to thank Sub Dean, George Emblom; Treasurer, Bill Visscher; Secretary, Clara Co; Special Projects Committee, Lenore Alford and Donald Mulliken; Program Committee, David Howitt, Timothy Zerlang and Jan Robitscher, for all their wonderful work with various aspects of the board over the past few years. Their terms have timed out, and we wish them well.

Welcome to new board members

Now we have some new board members to introduce. Below are their bios.

SUB DEAN ELECT – KYMBERLY PAYNE

Kymerly (Stone) Payne is a young organist who is passionate about sharing her love of the organ, and the power we have as organists to bless others and change lives. Kymerly began her organ studies at Brigham Young University in 2009 and completed her Masters of Music there with an emphasis in Organ Performance in 2016.

While at BYU, Kymerly taught and performed extensively, both on the organ and carillon. As part of her graduate assistantship, Kymerly taught group organ classes, sight singing and dictation classes, as well as private carillon and organ lessons. In addition to teaching, Kymerly was an Associate Carillonneur at Brigham Young University where she gave weekly carillon recitals, and assisted in organ tuning and repair on campus.

In January of 2016, she began working as Organ Department Executive Assistant, and continued her work for BYU after graduation. She married Curt Payne in November 2016 and moved to California, but she is humbled that she gets to continue her involvement with these LDS Organ Workshops from her home in San Leandro, CA as BYU Organ Workshop Administrator.


Kymerly currently serves as Ward Organist at her local LDS congregation in San Leandro, CA, and is building her piano and organ studio. She is a member of the American Guild of Organists (AGO), the Organ Historical Society (OHS) and the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America (GCNA). Her newest organ service opportunity is her lifetime appointment as Guest Organist at the Tabernacle on Temple Square.

SECRETARY – ELIZABETH FORSYTH

A native of San Francisco, Elizabeth Forsyth first studied organ with Esther Johnson of Berkeley, CA. She received her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in organ performance from Brigham Young University where she studied with Robert Cundick and J.J. Keeler. Long active in the AGO, she has


Directory News

from Bill Vaughan

I am in the process of putting the finishing touches on the directory. Many have responded to my email checking to make sure their info is correct. Thank you so very much for replying! The new directory will be given to you at the Opening Event dinner. Please come and pick one up. 


Recital Series Donors

from Bill Vaughan

When you renew your guild membership, would you consider donating to the Recital Series? It is through your generous gifts that we can host these wonderful events each season. Thank you so very much if you already have donated. We are compiling a list of the current donors, and we hope to print that list in the October newsletter. 

served on the Executive Committees of both the San Francisco and the Philadelphia chapters and has chaired committees on Long Range Planning and The Young Organist, most recently serving as Sub dean of our chapter. Active in church music for over 40 years, she is currently the organist at First Congregational Church of Berkeley. A past guest organist at the Salt Lake Tabernacle, she has frequently been a Philadelphia AGO Chapter noon recitalist and has also performed at The National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa and the Philadelphia Cathedral. Recent collaborations have been with Young People's Symphony Orchestra, Folsom Lake Symphony and Chora Nova. Elizabeth teaches both piano and organ students and delights in getting her teenage piano students over to the organ bench. Each August she can be found presenting classes and workshops at the BYU Organ Workshop. She is the proud mother of four sons and grandmother of eight.

TREASURER – MICHAEL PAGE

I am currently a resident of San Leandro and I consider myself to be a full-time substitute organist. My first organ job was as a junior in high school, and I have had an organist position of some sort ever since. I am a graduate of the University of Redlands in Southern California, a veteran of the Air Force (Vietnam era) and I had a 23-year career in winemaking after that. Following my retirement from the wine business, I went to work for Edward Millington Stout III in his organ shop, and participated in the care and restoration of many of the instruments in his care. I have been completely retired from "real" work since 2009. At this time, I am very busy as a substitute organist, travelling around the Bay Area to fulfill commitments. I have decided that I should follow the good examples of many of my fellow guild members and volunteer to work for the guild as treasurer. I expect this will be a very valuable experience. 

Steve's Corner of Organ Lit

from Steve Repasky

The organ music of Denis Bédard is gaining popularity. This Canadian composer now has up to 52 opus numbers including variations on Amazing Grace, Christus Vincit, Lasst uns erfruen, Ein' fest Berg, Veni Creator, and Victimae Paschali Laudes. For starters, I recommend his Suite in the classical French organ style as an introduction to his accessible writing. The entire organ book is quite accessible and the Récit from this organ book is often heard in recitals. The three following books are progressively more difficult.

Suite du premier ton pour orgue (1993)

1. Plein Jeu, 2. Dialogue, 3. Récit, 4. Grand Jeu
RSCM Catalogue number: CH 12; Éditions Cheldar

Variations sur Sine Nomine pour orgue (1998)

Two short movements: Maestoso & Allegro moderato followed by the toccata Allegro non troppo
RSCM Catalogue number: CH 25; Éditions Cheldar

Pater Noster: Eight Pieces for Organ (2007)

Based on eight versets of the Lord's Prayer commissioned by Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver.
RSCM Catalogue number: CH 44; Éditions Cheldar

Huit Invocations (2011)

1. Awake, Organ, sacred instrument, sing the praise of God our Creator and Father.
2 . . . celebrate Jesus our Lord . . .
3 . . . sing to the Holy Spirit . . . etc.
RSCM Catalogue number: CH 58; Éditions Cheldar



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

No new listings this month. Please see the August issue for positions that are still open:

MUSIC DIRECTOR - San Francisco Swedenborgian Church

INTERIM ORGANIST - Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, San Carlos

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - St Matthew Catholic Church, San Mateo

ORGANIST / PIANIST - Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Concord



J.S. Bach Free Downloads

via John K Hirten

James Kibbie is offering FREE downloads of the complete organ works of J S Bach. I will put a notice about it in the next newsletter.

Here is the web address — the link is clickable:

http://www.blockmrecords.org/bach/?utm_source=Organ+Playing&utm_campaign=f498136dc9-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8550672c28-f498136dc9-325593709&mc_cid=f498136dc9&mc_eid=50749fe501

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all submissions due by 10th of the month preceding publication

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Newsletter Articles: George Morten, 209.565.6660, sfago-editor@att.net

2017-2018
Last updated 08/13/2017

Bay Area Concert Calendar

Collected by Brian Swager

2017 September

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 **October** issue is **September 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

DSH: Davies Symphony Hall

SPE-BU: St Paul's Episcopal Ch, Burlingame

September

2 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

3 Sunday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

4pm. Yoonie Han & Enrico Elisi, Piano. Complete Goyescas by Granados. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

9 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

6pm. James Welch, Organ. Free-will offering. First Presbyterian Church, Monterey

10 Sunday

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

16 Saturday

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

17 Sunday

4pm. Ugo Sforza, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

23 Saturday

4pm. Ugo Sforza, Organ. CPLH

24 Sunday

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

4pm. Ugo Sforza, Organ. CPLH

4:15pm. SFAGO CHAPTER EVENT Evensong and Installation of Officers followed by Catered Dinner (\$35). St Mary the Virgin Church, San Francisco

30 Saturday

5pm. Choral Evensong for Michaelmas. Susan Jane Matthews, Director. Music of Bruckner, Parry, and Brewer. Free-will donation. Reception. SPE-BU

NOTE: Until further notice, weekend concerts at the Legion of Honor have been suspended.

Looking Ahead

October

1 Sunday

5pm. Robert Gurney, Organ. 25th Anniversary Concert. Choir and Soloists of Trinity-St. Peter's and SF Lyric Chorus. Trinity Episcopal Church

22 Sunday

3pm. Nathan Laube, Organ. Tickets \$28-\$38. sfsymphony.org Davies Symphony Hall DSH

28 Saturday

10am-6pm SFAGO CHAPTER EVENT
Luther's 500-year Celebration: **10:00am** Choir Rehearsal; **11:30am** Lunch; **12:15pm** Rehearsal with instruments; **1:00pm** Hymn Festival; **2:30-6pm** Oktoberfest. St Mark's Lutheran Church, San Francisco

29 Sunday

10am. All Souls' Sunday. Susan Jane Matthews, Director. Mozart *Requiem*. SPE-BU

31 Tuesday

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

November

5 Sunday

3pm. James Welch, Organ. Dedication of Reuter organ. St Robert's Catholic Church, San Bruno

18 Saturday

10:30am. SFAGO CHAPTER EVENT
Masterless Class **10:30am** Members play for one another; **12:00** Lunch (\$15)
St Luke's Episcopal Church, San Francisco

5pm. Choral Evensong for St Cecilia. Susan Jane Matthews, Director. Music of MacMillan and Howells. Free-will donation. Reception. SPE-BU

December

2 Sunday

5pm. Advent Lessons and Carols. Susan Jane Matthews, Director. Free-will donation. Reception. SPE-BU

17 Sunday

4pm. Christmas Concert. Choir of St Paul's. Susan Jane Matthews, Director. Highlights from Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* and Handel's *Messiah*. SPE-BU

2018

January

27 Saturday

5pm. Choral Evensong for St Paul. Susan Jane Matthews, Director. Music of Baynon, Rütli, and Stanford. Free-will donation. Reception. SPE-BU

March

3 Saturday

4pm. Choir School Concert. Susan Jane Matthews, Director. Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day. Music of John Rutter. Free-will donation. Reception. SPE-BU

April

8 Sunday

3pm. Paul Jacobs, Organ. Tickets \$28-\$38. sfsymphony.org DSH

May

12 Saturday

5pm. Choral Evensong for Ascension. Susan Jane Matthews, Director. Music of Rheinberger and Howells. Tickets for choir celebration dinner. SPE-BU

27 Sunday

3pm. Felix Hell, Organ. Tickets \$28-\$38. sfsymphony.org DSH

