

**December 2018**

**The American Guild of Organists**

**San Francisco Chapter Newsletter**

**Dean's Column**

*by William Vaughan*

Season's Greetings!

As we journey once again through these awe-inspired and prayerful celebrations, are we able to see with new eyes, play with new fingers and feet, and hear with new ears?

I've mentioned to you in past articles about the Utah Shakespeare Festival. Each year Fr Bob, a classmate who lives in Las Vegas, and I attend the festival held in Cedar City, Utah. Cedar City is in Southern Utah, just about 2-1/2 hours north of Las Vegas, and about 3-1/2 hours south of Salt Lake City.

This year we went to the festival twice. The first time was at the beginning of August to see the summer plays, and the second time was in the middle of September to see the fall plays. There was one overlapping play called *The Foreigner*, which we wanted to see again. It was so hilarious the first time, that out of all the plays we saw in the summer, I was grateful that we would see this play again.

The first time we saw *The Foreigner*, it was full of energy, excitement and great one-liners. The second time we saw it, it was still full of as much energy, as much excitement, and great one-liners that were still very funny. In fact, I caught more of the subtleties that I had missed the first time around.

I mention this Cedar City experience because as we journey into this time of year, many times we play the same carols over and over again. How is our energy after we have played these hymns and carols for so, so many years? How is our energy after we have played the Widor *Toccata* quite often?

Speaking of the Widor, I remember in graduate school being the choir accompanist for class and tours. At each choir concert, I would be responsible for playing an organ solo. At one church, I picked the Widor *Toccata*. I had played it so many times, that I knew it wouldn't be an issue. Well, towards

► **Dean's Column, page 5**

**Next SFAGO Board Meeting**

**Monday, December 3 at 7:00 pm  
St. Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco**

**January Chapter Event  
January 13, 2019 — 4:00 pm  
Bruce Neswick at Grace Cathedral**

**B**ruce Neswick is Canon for Music at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Portland, Oregon, following his post as Associate Professor of Music in Organ and Sacred Music at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University. Prior to joining the Indiana faculty, he was the Director of Music at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, where he directed the



choirs and had oversight of the musical life of that historic Cathedral. Mr Neswick holds the Fellowship degree from the Royal School of Church Music, for whom he has conducted numerous courses for boy and girl choristers. He has served on the faculties of and performed for several church music conferences, including the Mississippi Conference, the Association of Anglican Musicians, Westminster Choir College Summer Session, the Montreat and Westminster Conferences of the Presbyterian Association of Musicians, the Conference of Lutheran Church Musicians, the Sewanee Church Music Conference, and the Evergreen Conference.

In 2015 he performed at St Florian Abbey, in Austria, at the Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative conference, and for the Yale Organ Week. Recital and masterclass engagements during the 2015-16 season took him to the U.S. cities of Eugene (OR),

► **Neswick, page 5**

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

Memorial for Christopher Putnam . . . . .	2
Steve's Corner . . . . .	2
Program Year 2018-2019 . . . . .	2
50 Years as Church Organist . . . . .	2
SFAGO Young Organist Scholarships . . . . .	3
Scholarships Application Form . . . . .	3-4
Information Box — Last updated 8/22/2018 . . . . .	5
Events Calendar & Looking Ahead . . . . .	6

Submission deadline for the **January** issue is **December 10**

## Memorial Liturgy for Christopher Putnam

by William Vaughan



I wish to thank the Reverend Phil Brochard, Jamie Apgar, Jonathan Dimmock and the combined choirs of All Souls Parish, Berkeley, for such a moving liturgy for Christopher on Saturday, November 3. All Souls church was full, and there were many chapter members in attendance. From the prayerful music to the powerful sermon, I left feeling very uplifted about the gift of life and music in our church.

## Steve's Corner

by Steve Repasky

A Finzi Organ Album, compiled by Robert Gower, Oxford Univ. Press, c. 1994.  
Catalogue No: 9780193753686  
Arrangers include: Robert Gower, Alan Ridout, and Philip Brunelle.

From back cover: Gerald Finzi was one of those quintessentially English composers, and his music achieves a unique distillation of gentle melancholy, lyricism, and nostalgia.

As Finzi wrote no organ works, the contents of this collection include seven most welcome transcriptions: Forlana and Carol from *Five Bagatelles*, My Lovely One from *A Marriage Anthem*, Intrada from *Dies Natalis*, Prelude for String Orchestra, Romance, and Eclogue for Piano and String Orchestra. I particularly enjoy playing the *Forlana* and *Carol* from this collection. After listening to the original version for clarinet and piano, you might consider adding more of the clarinet part to the *Forlana* arrangement by Gower.

If you have a clarinetist in the congregation, Finzi's *Five Bagatelles for Clarinet and Piano*, published by Boosey & Hawkes, are well worth exploring. They are Finzi's most popular work. If you do not know his *Dies Natalis*, it is also well worth a listen. I have known it to be a life-changing experience for some.

### Program Year 2018–2019

#### September 16

4:00 pm Evensong and Opening Dinner  
St. Paul's, Oakland

#### October – No Event

#### November 17

4:30 pm Rich Spotts – Tournemire  
Trinity, San Francisco

#### January 13, 2019

4:00 pm Bruce Neswick  
Grace Cathedral

#### February 19, 2019

10:00 am East Bay Organ crawl  
LOPC; Eric Walling's house; more venues to come

#### March 16, 2019

10:30 am Choral Reading session – Cliff Hill  
Assumption Church, San Leandro

#### April 2019 – No Event

#### May 20, 2019

Closing Banquet and Recital  
Christ the Light Cathedral, Oakland

### 50 Years of Service

On December 23, Christoph Tietze will celebrate 50 years as a church organist.

He will present a program featuring the music of Bach, Pachelbel, Daquin, and Franck at St Mary's Cathedral starting at 4:00 p.m.

Free parking. Freewill offering.

# SF/AGO Young Organist Scholarships

## Information and Application Form for those Seeking a Financial Award.

The San Francisco Chapter of The American Guild of Organists is committed to the support of those wishing to follow a course of study on the organ. The scholarship committee will consider applications for financial support twice each year. Completed application forms should be received by SF/AGO by the last day of June or December at [sf.ago.scholarship@gmail.com](mailto:sf.ago.scholarship@gmail.com).

Annual awards will be made of up to \$500 per successful applicant.

The funds for these awards will be drawn from the Joanna Smullin Organ Educational Fund, donations made by chapter members and from collections taken at SF/AGO program. There is a finite amount of scholarship money available and awards will be made based on a combination of order in which they are received and merits of the video provided.

Student age range is from the 11th birthday to the 26th birthday.

Successful applicants in full time education will also be given student membership of the SF chapter of AGO.

Teachers should be current members of the SF/AGO chapter or an immediately adjoining chapter. These include Palo Alto/Peninsula; Redwood Empire & Sacramento.

If there is no current organ teacher then SF/AGO will supply a list of teachers in the area.

Applications: Students should have some experience in playing the piano or organ. First time applicants should be able to demonstrate in a short video:

- Performance of any short piece of piano or organ music by a recognized classical composer. For piano this could be a Beethoven, Clementi or Scarlatti Sonata/Sonatina etc. For organ this could be one of the eight short preludes attributed to JS Bach or any simple piece written for the organ.
- Playing of scales in E major, B flat major, C harmonic minor and F melodic minor. Both hands in parallel motion (no pedals), 2 octaves each.
- Performance of a simple hymn of their choice, either with manuals and pedals or manuals only.

Video recordings may be submitted via Email; on CD, on a memory stick or uploaded to YouTube, dropbox or Vimeo etc.

Towards the end of each program year scholarship awardees shall play one or two short pieces at a members' recital or organ crawl or similar event. If the student cannot play for these events because of schedule conflicts, an opportunity to play for members of the Board will be given. This will indicate progress made since audition videos were sent or from the previous year.

Reapplication for scholarships will be considered at the discretion of the scholarship committee.

The award money will be paid directly to teachers.

Revised 10/9/18

---

## Application Form, second page

Statement of support from a teacher, choir director, band director or pastor:

---

---

---

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email & Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Revised 10/9/18

**SF/AGO Young Organist Scholarships  
Application Form for a Financial Award.**

Applicant's name \_\_\_\_\_

Street address \_\_\_\_\_

Email and phone \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

In full-time education? Details of school \_\_\_\_\_

SF/AGO Membership status \_\_\_\_\_ Member/non member

Current organ teacher (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Where will you be practicing the organ? \_\_\_\_\_

A statement about what you desire from organ lessons and how the scholarship may help you:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian if applicant is under 18 years old \_\_\_\_\_

This application form, together with video recordings (or details of how to access them), must be received by **sf.ago.scholarship@gmail.com** by June 30 or December 31.

Decisions about the application will be sent to applicants via email no later than July 31 or January 30.

**See lower half of previous page: Statement of support from teacher, etc.**

## Dean's Column, from page 1

the end of the piece, (which was going flawlessly), and as I was playing those arpeggios up to the very high F, I landed on G! An organ student from another university who was turning pages, gasped. I can still see my finger landing on that G. Well, I played that G as if it were part of the piece. I did not quickly go to F. I sat on that G then proudly moved to F and concluded the piece. Only he and I knew what had happened. In fact, he said afterwards, "Wow, you would have thought that G was a part of the piece." As you can see, I have remembered that moment. Every time I play an organ piece now, I remember the old saying, "the opera ain't over 'til the fat lady sings." I concentrate until the bitter end on each piece. I teach my students to do that also.

Each weekend, I play for five Masses at Assumption. If I just went on autopilot, I would not be fulfilled musically or spiritually. Quite a few hymns have four or five verses. I play all the verses so that the poetry makes sense. I do not cut verses just because the priest is ready to go, or I am tired of playing. Let's see, five Masses times four or five verses equals a lot of repetition. If I expect the congregation to pray through music, I need to also. I sing the powerful texts while I play these hymns.

I wish you a Joyous Advent, a Happy Hanukah and a Merry Christmas! ~~~~~

## Neswick, from page 1

Tulsa, Arlington Heights (IL), New York City, and Atlanta. As a recitalist, Mr Neswick has performed extensively throughout the United States and Europe and played the opening convocation for the national AGO convention held in Dallas (1994) and he was a featured recitalist at the national AGO conventions in Seattle (2000), Washington, DC (2010) and Boston (2014).

Mr Neswick has been commissioned to compose organ and choral music for several performers and churches throughout the U.S., and his music is published by Paraclete, Augsburg-Fortress, Selah, Vivace, Hope, Plymouth, and St James' presses. Mr Neswick's skill at improvisation garnered him three first prizes from the 1989 San Anselmo Organ Festival; the 1990 American Guild of Organists' national convention in Boston; and the 1992 Rochette Concours at the Conservatoire de Musique in Geneva, Switzerland.

A graduate of Pacific Lutheran University and of the Yale School of Music and Institute of Sacred Music, Mr Neswick's teachers have included Robert Baker, David Dahl, Gerre Hancock, Margaret Irwin-Brandon, and Lionel Rogg. He is a Fellow of the American Guild of Organists and was awarded an honorary doctorate in 2016 by the University of the South, Sewanee, TN. Bruce Neswick is represented exclusively by Phillip Truckenbrod Concert Artists, LLC. ~~~~~



**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.

**Dean:** William Vaughan, billyv32@gmail.com  
**Sub Dean:** Eric Choate, ericchoatemusic@gmail.com  
**Sub Dean Elect:** Susanne Rommel, susanne.rommel@sbcglobal.net  
**Secretary:** Elizabeth Forsyth, e\_forsyth@yahoo.com  
**Treasurer:** Michael Page, michael.erwin.page@gmail.com  
**Registrar:** Christoph Tietze, 415.924.1377, orgelchris@yahoo.com  
**Webmaster:** Frank Torrano, ftorrano@gmail.com  
**Chapter Website:** www.sfago.org

**Newsletter Departments:** *Send your entries to the appropriate editor; all submissions due by 10th of the month preceding publication*

**Events Calendar Listings:** Brian Swager, 415.551.7866, sfagocal@gmail.com  
**Job Placement & For Sale Listings:** David Howitt, 510-437-0254, dhowitt@sjbalameda.org  
**Obituary Listings:** William Vaughan, billyv32@gmail.com  
**Newsletter Articles:** George Morten, 209.565.6660, sfago-editor@att.net

2018-2019  
Last updated 08/22/2018

# Bay Area Concert Calendar

Collected by Brian Swager

# December 2018

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** issue is **December 10**. Send event listings to [sfagocal@gmail.com](mailto:sfagocal@gmail.com). For the most up-to-date calendar, visit [www.sfago.org](http://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
- CSMA:** Cath. of St Mary of the Assumption
- GC:** Grace Cathedral
- LOH:** Legion of Honor Museum
- SME-B:** St Mark's Episcopal Ch, Berkeley
- SPE-BU:** St Paul's Episcopal Ch, Burlingame
- TESPE:** Trinity & St Peter's Episcopal Ch

---

## December

### 1 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. LOH

5pm. Advent Lessons & Carols. Freewill donation. Reception follows. SPE-BU

### 2 Sunday

4pm. Amanda Mole, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

5pm. Evensong. Followed by organ recital at 5:35pm. TESPE

5:30pm. Advent Procession & Carols. Cathedral Camerata; Rudy de Vos, Director. CCL-O

6pm. An Advent Liturgy: Candlelit Procession with Lessons & Carols for Advent Sunday. Paul M. Ellison, director. George Anton Emblom, organ. Music of Bach, Hands, Howells, Messiaen, Palestrina, Stopford, and Willcocks. A festive reception follows. CACK

### 8 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. LOH

7pm. San Francisco Lyric Chorus; Robert Gurney, Director. "Magnificat" Music of Herbert Howells and Arvo Pärt. Tickets \$20. TESPE

### 9 Sunday

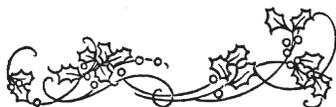
4pm. Amy Stephens, Piano. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

5pm. San Francisco Lyric Chorus; Robert Gurney, Director. See 8 December.

6:05pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. Reception follows. SME-B

### 15 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. LOH



### 16 Sunday

4pm. Solemn Evensong & Benediction for Advent III (Gaudete). Paul M Ellison director, Schola Adventus. Music of Byrd, Gibbons, Tallis, and Tomkins. A festive reception follows. CACK

4pm. Christmas Concert. Ešenvalds: *Stars*; Holst: *Christmas Day*; Carols for choir & congregation. Tickets on sale in November. SPE-BU

4pm. Basma Edrees, Violin; Chia-Lin Yang, Piano. Bach: *Sonata in E*; Brahms: *Sonata in G*. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

### 18 Tuesday

7:30pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. Messiaen: *La Nativité du Seigneur*. Freewill offering. CCL-O

### 21 Friday

5:30pm. Blue Christmas; A Service of Readings & Reflection for the Longest Night. CCL-O

### 22 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. LOH

### 23 Sunday

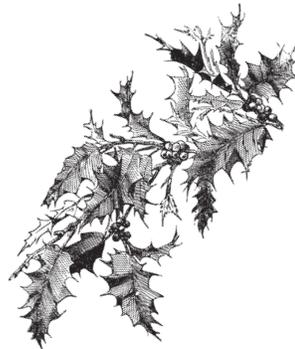
4pm. Christoph Tietze, Organ. Celebrating 50 years as a church organist. Music of Bach, Pachelbel, Daquin, and Franck. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

### 29 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. LOH

### 30 Sunday

4pm. Anna Maria Lopushanskaya, Flute; Christoph Tietze, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA



---

## Looking Ahead

# Happy New Year

## January 2019

### 6 Sunday

5:30pm. Epiphany Lessons & Carols. Cathedral Camerata; Rudy de Vos, Director. CCL-O

### 13 Sunday

4pm. Bruce Neswick, Organ. \$10 suggested donation. GC

4pm. Cavatina Music Society. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

6:05pm. Ethan Haman, Organ. Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. Freewill offering. Reception follows. SME-B

### 20 Sunday

4pm. Agnieszka Kosmecka (Poland), Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

### 26 Saturday

5pm. Choral Evensong for St Paul. Kimble: *Preces & Responses* (premiere); Aston: *Magnificat & Nunc dimittis in F*; Wood: *Hail, gladdening light*; Rütti: *St Peter and St Paul*. Freewill donation. Reception follows. SPE-BU



## February

### 3 Sunday

4pm. Wyatt Smith, Organ. \$10 suggested donation. GC

### 10 Sunday

6:05pm. Gail Archer, Organ. Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. Freewill offering. Reception follows. SME-B

### 16 Saturday

5pm. Susan Jane Matthews, Piano & Organ. Fanny Hensel: *Das Jahr* for piano. SPE-BU

