



SAN JOSE PIPINGS

SAN JOSE CHAPTER OF THE AGO

January 2007 www.agosan jose.org



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DEAN'S MESSAGE HAPPY NEW YEAR

What are organ plans for the New Year? Joyce Jones said we should learn at least four new bit works each year. How do you find time to work on these? How do you fit them into your services? Let me know the hints and ideas you have.

A friend recently handed me an article from the Wall Street Journal about the process of building a pipe organ. This happened to be about **Schantz**, but I'm sure it applies to any pipe organ manufacturer. Here are some of the highlights:

This company, founded in 1873, is still profitable and business is steady, with about one organ completed monthly. On average, it takes 4-6 months to build an organ. An order placed today wouldn't START production until April 2008. The company has only 92 employees, half of them from nearby farms where they learned woodworking and mechanical skills while growing up. This gives the company deep community roots.

It takes a worker 30-40 hours of hand labor to build a rank with small pipes. A complete single rank is built by only one worker. They have no quality control people, because they know who to "blame" for a problem. Each seam is hand-dabbed with solder. The shorter pipes use an alloy of lead and tin to be highly pliable. The longer pipes are cut from tougher sheets of zinc because they need to be stronger. One of their few computer mechanized machines is a router for cutting out the wooden grillwork. This is one place where we've "outsourced" to a "cheaper labor supply". It takes 4-5 years to become a good pipe maker, and voicers each spend as much as 7 years as an apprentice. The voicers work with a machine like a stripped down organ with a keyboard that slides along a track as he tunes each one.

\$80 million dollars worth of pipe organs are sold in the US yearly. Global competition comes from Britain and Europe. The biggest competitor to US made organs is Casavant

Wonder why they're so expensive? An elaborate pipe organ can cost as much as \$2 million. Labor costs run an astounding 57%. The average US manufacturer has labor costs of about 17%, and those highly mechanized can be as low as 2%! This company also does a brisk business in refurbishing old pipe organs.

Three of their 4 top executive are actually organists who have Sunday jobs. Interestingly enough, Mr. Schantz himself (great grandson of the founder and current CEO) is not an organist.

The industry faces challenges from the growth of new-style churches that often have no organ, from the gradual decline in numbers of mainline denominations, and from new computer technology which more closely copies the rich pipe organ sounds.

See you all at the **Student Recital Jan 14 at 3 PM at St. Mary's** 219 Bean Avenue in Los Gatos. Hear and support our future replacements in concert. **Patricia Milstead,** &

Future Events

Jan 14, 3PM, Student Organ Recital at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Los Gatos

Feb 18, Professional Concerns/MIDI Discussion Panel

Mar 18, 3 PM, Millennia Too!, Allison Luedeke (organ) & Susan Barret (oboe)

Apr 22, Jeremy Filsell Concert, Los Altos United Methodist with Peninsula Chapter

Melanie Cervi, Sub Dean &

PREVIOUS DECEMBER EVENT

Holiday Party, December 3rd, 4 PM

On Sunday, December 3rd at 4 PM about 20 of us gathered at **Pat Milstead's** home for an afternoon of Holiday relaxation. There was plenty of socializing and food. Later there where Christmas Caroling with Pat at her piano. A good time was had by all. &

PREVIOUS EVENT

Member's Recital, November 19th

DIANE KELLER

The annual member's recital was held on November 19th at **St. Joseph's Church** in Mt. View. The recital raised scholarship funds and also celebrated the centennial of the Murray Harris organ. The 1906 organ has a colorful history having survived an earthquake and two fires. It survived the 1906 earthquake and the fire that followed and burned its church home to the ground. The organ was installed in Mt. View in 1926 and was said to be the first pipe organ in that town, until the original St. Joseph's church was destroyed by fire in 1928. The organ again survived, although it was badly damaged. It has been repaired and renovated, most recently in 1981.

We were treated to a fabulous concert and informative narration from sub-dean **Melanie Cervi** in full period costume. **Pat Eldred, Andrew Birling, Mary Ann Gee, and Pat Misteard** performed a variety of pieces that would have been heard around the turn of the century. **Cathleen Kalcic** from St. Joseph's church also performed two art songs. Many thanks to the St. Joseph parish for sharing their organ with us and to the performers and Melanie for a wonderful afternoon. &

New Dupré Improvisations to be Premiered, January 7th, 3:00 PM

On January 7th at 3:30 p.m., the **Music Department of St. Mary's Cathedral** (Geary and Gough Streets) will present a unique and historic recital, the first performances of four transcriptions of improvisations by Marcel Dupré. The two improvised Communion Meditations, from St. Sulpice on January 17, 1971; and the Recitatif and Final, from a recording at the Dupré residence in 1949, have been transcribed and reconstructed by **Dr. David A. Stech**, Professor of Music at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Dr. Stech will be in attendance at the recital, given by Assistant Cathedral Organist **David Hatt**, which will also include Dr. Stech's previously-published transcriptions of two chorale-versets on Veni Creator Spiritus and eleven versets performed at the dedication of the Beuchet-Debierre organ at St. Louis des Invalides in Paris. This will be the first known complete performance of the eleven versets. Also, this set, which was improvised by Dupré fifty years ago, will include intonations by Cathedral Cantor Stephen Walsh.

The program will be followed at 5:30 p.m. by Candlelight Epiphany Lessons and Carols. Both performances are free and open to the public.

JOINT VENTURE CHURCHES ORGAN CONCERTS

Saturday, Jan. 13 at 7:30 PM, James Warren, organ.

Saturday, Jan. 27 at 7:30 PM, Ruthanne Adams, organ,
piano, harp and hand bells.

For both events – A Soup, Salad and Bread Buffet is available at 6:30pm, free of charge, to all our ticket-holders and artists. Tickets reserved in advance are \$15.00 (\$20.00 not reserved purchased at the door). Ask about student and children's ticket prices. Child care provided. **Joint Venture Churches of Almaden Valley, 6581 Camden Ave., San Jose, 95120 (408) 268-0243.**

FUTURE CHAPTER EVENT

Student Recital, 14 January 2007, 3PM

Come and enjoy a wonderful recital given by many organ students of varying ages, including one from the San Francisco AGO Chapter. This year we have quite a number of new participants and are looking forward to hearing them play. The recital will take place at **St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, 219 Bean Avenue, Los Gatos, CA.** There will be a reception in the church's Fellowship Hall following the recital to give us a chance to congratulate and encourage the recitalists. Let's all come to the recital and be a great support for one another!

We appreciate **Berdie Bowsby** organizing this annual event.

&

Board Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan 9th, 2006 at 7:30 PM in the home of **Pat Milstead, 1258 Oak Knoll Dr., San Jose.** All meetings are open. &

SAN FRANCISCO/PENINSULA AGO ORGAN CRAWL

MONDAY 15 JANUARY 2007

Peninsula/AGO members have been invited by SF/AGO to attend its organ crawl in January and we may also join them.

Many members have asked about our January 15th organ crawl because of the unique opportunity to visit the **California Palace of the Legion of Honor** while the museum is closed to the public. On this excursion, the organ is available to hear and crawl through under the expert guidance of our hosts, **Ed Stout** and **Keith Thompson**.

Many other members particularly relish the opportunity to see and hear the new **Taylor and Boody organ** at St. Mark's Lutheran with our host **Rod Gehrke**. BUT WAIT!!!! THAT'S NOT ALL!!!! We will also visit **St. Mary's Cathedral's Rufatti** and **Holy Name's Reuter** with our hosts **Chris Tietze** and **Jim Aylward** respectively.

The number of folks we can accommodate is limited. In your upcoming newsletter there is a form to complete and send in with your money in order to guarantee a seat on the bus (no private cars). The cost of this excursion is **\$30.00** per person, which covers the bus, lunch, security and tour.

We are required to submit the names of all attendees to the Legion for security purposes so we will not be able to accept last minute applications. To view the details and locate an application form go to <http://www.sfago.org/SFAGO-12-2006.pdf> and print page 6. **Fill out the form and send in with your payment.**

All applications and payments must be received by **January 8, 2007.** Sincerely yours, Justin Kielty, Registrar

TO JOIN THE SAN JOSE AGO YAHOO GROUP

Send an Email to Mary Ann Gee mary_ann_gee@yahoo.com

Hector Olivera in Concert

Rodgers Touring Organ IV / 194 — Patricia Witham Mount Hermon Organ



Wednesday, January 24, 2007

7:30 p.m. Concert

with reception immediately following

5:30 p.m. Pre-Concert Dinner with the Artist

(Reservations required, \$15.00, and includes priority concert seating)



Mount Hermon Conference Center

37 Conference Drive

Mount Hermon, CA 95041

1-888-MH-CAMPS (888-642-2677)



For further information, go to:

www.mounthermon.org/concerts/organ.php

Concert is sponsored by

Javis Music Associates, Inc.

Showroom: (877) 734-3440

San Jose Wind Symphony, Ed Harris, Conductor 2006-2007 Concert Season Presents Music in Motion, "Pulling Out the Stops"

First United Methodist Church, 4 Feb, 2007, 3:00 PM
1675 Winchester Blvd., Campbell, CA 95008

Featuring: **Berdie Bowlsby**, Organ soloist

There's nothing like a pipe organ! For our third concert of the season, SJWS performs a special church concert with organ, featuring Reed's *Allelujah! Laudamus Te*, Weinberger's *Polka and Fugue* from *Schwanda the Bagpiper*, the Finale from Saint-Saens' *Organ Symphony*, J. Sousa's *King Cotton March*, Handel's *Concerto for Organ*, Op. 4, No. 6, P. Grainger's *The Power of Rome and the Christian Heart*, and *Sonata da Chiesa* by Schoonenbeek.



Ticket Information (tickets can be

purchased in advance on the SJWS website):

Regular \$17.00 Seniors/Students \$15.00

For season subscription and group sales information, please call 408-927-7597. www.sjws.org

SCOTLAND/ENGLAND ORGAN CRAWL

After a very successful choral trip to the UK this year, and a wonderful organ crawl in Scotland just a few weeks ago (with glorious weather, and 32 different organs) we are happy to announce our upcoming schedule for **2007**, which will include organ trips to **England** and **Scotland**, with the England trip also

including a choral music bias with choral evensong in some of the top English Cathedrals. Finally in Advent we have a trip to England to attend some of the world famous Advent Carol Processions and Choral Evensongs, including services at Kings Cambridge, St John's Cambridge, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's London, and many more!

There are currently remaining places as follows:

England Organ Crawl - 5

Scotland Organ Crawl - 4

England Advent Choral Trip - 6

Your help in passing this along to other interested organists/sacred music lovers would be greatly appreciated - hope to see you next year! If interested, contact

James Reed at musicasacra@gmail.com

FRASIER ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP 2007

Chapter members: please consider applying for, or encouraging an eligible organ student to apply for, the Frasier Organ Scholarship this year. The Scholarship will be awarded on the basis of demonstrated talent and potential, and must be used for specified continuing education in organ studies. The scholarship amount is \$1000 for 2007.

If you're interested in applying, please contact **Valerie Sterk** (408-249-5705; vssterk@aol.com). The deadline is **March 20, 2007**; the auditions will be in mid/late April (after Easter); and the winner will be notified by May 1. Please encourage any potential scholarship applicants now!

To Receive this Newsletter by Email, send an Email to kitalbot@pacbell.net. Email Newsletters are in Color.

Music Calendar

Locations

CPLH: Calif. Palace of the Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park, 34th Ave & Clement St., San Francisco

CSMA: Cathedral of St Mary of the Assumption, 1111 Gough St., San Francisco

GC: Grace Cathedral, 1100 California St. San Francisco

JVC: Joint Venture Churches of Almaden Valley, 6581 Camden Ave., San Jose,

** Chapter Sponsored Event

January

Every Saturday/Sunday

Organ Concert. 4 PM CPLH

13 Saturday

James Warrne, organ, 7:30 PM,
See Page 2, JVC

14 Sunday

**** Student Organ Recital, 3 PM**
St. Mary of the Immaculate
Conception, 219 Bean Av, Los Gatos

Russell Hancock, piano,
Mendelssohn Trio in D-minor
3:30 PM CSMA

Jonathan Biggers, organ, 4 PM GC

21 Sunday

John Dillistone (UK), organ,
3:30 PM CSMA

Alison Luedecke, organ, &
Susan Barrett, oboe. **Millennia**
Too!. 4 PM GC

24 Wednesday

Hector Olivera, organ,
7:30 PM Mount Hermon
Conference Center, 37
Conference Drive, Mount
Hermon, CA (831) 335-4466

27 Saturday

Ruthanne Adams, organ,
piano, harp, hand bells, 7:30
PM, See Page 2, JVC

28 Sunday

Benjamin Bachman, organ,
4 PM GC

Position Opportunities

See the previous issues for more
details for these opportunities.

Central Presbyterian Church, 1920
Canal Street, Merced, CA 95340,
209-723-0491. Part-time

organist/accompanist. A degree
and/or experience required. Contact
David Braceros, Minister of Music
and Worship, at (209)723-0491
dbraceros@cpcmerced.org. &

The First Presbyterian Church of
Hollister, Organist. Accompaniment
for the Sunday worship service,

weddings, and funerals., & adult choir.
Please contact **Rev. David B.**

Rodriguez, Pastor, First Presbyterian
Church at (831) 637-4350. &

All Saints' Episcopal Church, Palo Alto,
one soprano and one bass, paid singers. If
interested, call **Albert Campbell,**
5882campbell@comcast.net, – 510-710-
.1215 (cell) – 510-796-5258, home &

First Presbyterian Church of Burlingame
, 1500 Easton Drive
Burlingame, CA, **working with children,**
handbells and Orff instruments. Please
contact **Sara Prusko,** at 650-342-0875, ext.
253 or sprusko@burlpres.org>. &

Christ Church Portola Valley and
Woodside, Director of Music – Salary is
approximately \$18,000/ yr. Send resumes
to: The **Rev. Mitch Lindeman,** Rector
Christ Episcopal Church, Portola Valley &
Woodside Office: 650.851.0224 Fax:
650.851.0229 e-mail:
mitch_lindeman@aya.yale.edu &

St. Bede's Episcopal Church, Menlo
Park–Bass Section Leader Positions.
Contact **Jane McDougale** at: (650) 854-
6555 jmcdougale@stbedesmenlopark.org

San Francisco Girls Chorus – Level III
Choral Director, knowledge of Kodaly
Solfegg desirable. Contact **Elizabeth**
Avakian at: avakian@sfgirlschorus.org or
call (415) 863-1752.

American Guild of Organists

San Jose Chapter

582 Dublin Way, Sunnyvale, CA 94087



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS