



**SAN JOSE PIPINGS**  
 SAN JOSE CHAPTER OF THE AGO  
 January 2009 [www.agosanjose.org](http://www.agosanjose.org)



**Chapter Officers**

**Dean:** Melanie Cervi  
 (408) 358-6568  
[melaniecervi@verizon.net](mailto:melaniecervi@verizon.net)

**Sub Dean:** Andrew Birling  
 (650) 906-3227  
[andrewbirling@earthlink.net](mailto:andrewbirling@earthlink.net)

**Secretary:** Theresa Oatman  
 (408) 249-0938  
[t\\_oatman@yahoo.com](mailto:t_oatman@yahoo.com)

**Auditor:** Mike Cala  
 (408) 292-6515  
[mike.cala@lamrc.com](mailto:mike.cala@lamrc.com)

**Budget/Auditor:** Darryl Parker  
 (408) 984-6608  
[DarrylEParker@comcast.net](mailto:DarrylEParker@comcast.net)

**Chaplain:** Rev. C. Lynn Bailey  
 (408) 297-0993  
[Johannes48@aol.com](mailto:Johannes48@aol.com)

**Handbook:** Kay Lee  
 (408) 298-3026  
[kay\\_lee02@hotmail.com](mailto:kay_lee02@hotmail.com)

**Education/Resources & Historian:** Valerie Sterk  
 (408) 249-5705  
[vssterk@aol.com](mailto:vssterk@aol.com)

**Members at Large:**  
 Melody Bast (408) 541-9016  
[melodiousone@rediffmail.com](mailto:melodiousone@rediffmail.com)  
 Diane Keller (408) 773-8771  
[dpkny@comcast.net](mailto:dpkny@comcast.net)  
 Arlene Zimmerman  
 (408) 739-7094

**Membership:** Pat Milstead  
 (408) 253-8630  
[palm53@earthlink.net](mailto:palm53@earthlink.net)

**Newsletter:** Kenneth Talbot  
 (408) 732-6094  
[kitalbot@pacbell.net](mailto:kitalbot@pacbell.net)

**Issue Deadline:** 25<sup>th</sup> of month

**Professional Concerns:**  
 Darryl Parker

**Substitutes:** Richard Coulter  
 (408) 395-0909  
[Frandick@comcast.net](mailto:Frandick@comcast.net)

**Treasurer/ Registration:**  
 Rebecca Harrison (408) 252-0217  
[Rebecca-HF@comcast.net](mailto:Rebecca-HF@comcast.net)

**National Executive Director:**  
 James E. Thomashower  
[jet@agohq.org](mailto:jet@agohq.org)

**National AGO President:**  
 Eileen Guenther  
 (212) 870-2310  
[agoprez@gmail.com](mailto:agoprez@gmail.com)

**Region IX Councillor:**  
 Dr. Frances Nobert  
[fnobert99organ@aol.com](mailto:fnobert99organ@aol.com)

**Region IX N Coast Convener:**  
 Joyce Rhodes  
[Joyce.Rhodes@comcast.net](mailto:Joyce.Rhodes@comcast.net)

**DEAN'S MESSAGE**

*“When will **them** sing?”*

*This question was overheard by a visitor in a church recently. The harried Mother answered “soon, dear” as the family made their way to the pew. The toddler was gazing up at the organ and choir. The scene did look impressive. As all who quiver when excited do, the toddler began to fidget. The visitor could see the wheels turning in the minds: “how can I keep him occupied quietly?”; “when will them sing?”; and perhaps “why?”. Just as the adults were forming the next whisper, the organist began to play. The toddler burst out with “I knew they would sing!” and happily listened to the music. As the service continued, the visitor became aware that the toddler was not focused on the choir singing, but on the “pencils” and listened each time the organ played. It turns out “**them**” was his word for the pipes, not the choir.\**

*I wonder if we in the business of church music really realize how much we are involved in branding. Companies have spent much money creating their brand (logos). Even governments (flags) and families (shields and crests). What can we, as organists, add to the church? How can we, as organists, represent a community like San Jose? It’s fashionable now to spend a lot of energy on coming up with answers like this. If you have ever spent the better part of a day trying to express yourselves when asked: *{(interrogative) you are?}*, you know it’s not easy and should be fluid. So, as the economy turns to rough sailing, let’s remember:*

*We have new challenges.....just the same old where to find funding.*

*We have new opportunities....just the same old how to keep up the visibility of the organ.*

*We have new problems.....just the same old how to introduce more people to the organ.*

*Lest we get discouraged, let’s remember to make “**them** sing” and revel in our gifts. See you in January for our annual post Christmas “Twelfth Night” AND our Student Recital.*

*\* This was related to me at a friend’s Open House by an acquaintance of the host. You never know what treasures are given to you when you claim your profession!*

*Melanie Cervi, Dean* ♪

**JANUARY CHAPTER EVENT**

**On Sunday, 25 January at 4:00 PM at the West Valley Presbyterian Church, 6191 Bollinger Road, Cupertino.** This event is being organized by **Berdie Bowlsby**. Contact here at (925) 479-0244 or [bowlsby@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bowlsby@sbcglobal.net) for further details.

*Andrew Birling, Sub Dean* ♪

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## January Chapter Event STUDENT RECITAL

Berdie Bowsby

Coming up is our 5th annual Student Organ Recital. This year the recital will take place at **West Valley Presbyterian Church** in Cupertino. The church has a new 3 manual Allen organ. The date is set for **Sunday, January 25, 2009 at 4:00 PM**. If you have any questions, please contact me (925) 479-0244 or [bowsby@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bowsby@sbcglobal.net).

**Come and support the students.** ♪

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### Board Meeting

The next meeting is Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2009 at 7:30 PM, **Lutheran Church of Our Savior, 5825 Bollinger Road,**

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### THIS YEAR'S COMING PROGRAMS

**Saturday 14 Mar 2009 – 9 AM** –Pizza Pedals & Pipes

**Sunday 17 May 2009 – 4 PM** – Annual Meeting & Installation/Officers' Recital ♪

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## February Chapter Event

**Mind, Body, and Soul: A Day to Rejuvenate**  
**28 February 2009, 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM**

**Campbell United Methodist Church**

Mark your calendars and plan to attend our "retreat" day. We'll begin with a session on dealing with conflict, led by the Rev. **Linda Taylor** of St. Mark's Episcopal in Santa Clara. Many of us have been involved in situations in the church where there are real people challenges, whether with clergy, other staff, congregation members, or even other musicians! The Rev. Taylor will discuss strategies and techniques for resolving disagreement without "winners" and "losers."

**Jean Couch**, from the Balance Center in Palo Alto, will then present ideas and techniques for healthy playing. How many of us find ourselves hunched over the console while we practice? Perhaps we are experiencing other issues like shoulder tension? Ms. Couch will offer insights and ideas into dealing with these issues. She is the Founder and Director of the Balance Center, where she has developed methods for teaching concrete guidelines for pain free posture.

Of course, a day like this needs a nice simple meal, provided by the United Methodist Women of Campbell UMC. This is a wonderful opportunity to discuss the morning with friends over a nice lunch. There is a vegetarian option provided by request only.

Finally, we'll end the day with worship. Many of us never have the chance to just "be" in worship, as we are usually leading the services, whether from console or podium. This is your chance to be part of a worshipping body without being in charge!

To help defray the costs involved with this event, we are asking a \$20 registration fee, payable at the door. This will be a great event for musicians of all types: notify your friends and mark your calendars!

RSVP to [andrewbirling@gmail.com](mailto:andrewbirling@gmail.com) or 650-906-3227 by February 18 to ensure we have enough workshop materials and food!

Questions? Feel free to email me or call at the above info. See you then!

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### *Ruth Martin*

1908-2008

**Ruth Martin**, long time member of our Chapter and Dean from 1964-1966 died recently at the age of 100. She will be remembered for organizing the highly successful Friday Night Concert Series for twenty years at the Methodist Church in Palo Alto. Ruth is survived by her daughters Marjorie and Kathleen.

Respectfully submitted by John and Sophia Chang

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### FRASIER ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP 2009

Chapter members: please consider applying for, or encouraging an eligible organ student to apply for, the Frasier Organ Scholarship this year. As a reminder, the scholarship is open to current chapter members and to organ students studying with or sponsored by current members (previous winners are not eligible). The Frasier Organ 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.

You can find last year's qualifications/requirements for the scholarship on our website; the 2009 application and hymn list will be posted there by January 2009. [[www.agosanjose.org](http://www.agosanjose.org) -- Under "What's New," click on "Frasier Organ Scholarship"] If you have questions about the scholarship, please contact Valerie Sterk (408-249-5705; [valeriesterk@gmail.com](mailto:valeriesterk@gmail.com)). The **deadline** for sending the application (application form and two recommendations) is **March 20, 2009**; 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! ♪

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### Here's the party announcement

**Kay Lee**

All chapter members are cordially invited to the home of **Kay & Mitchell Lee** on Sunday, **January 4, 2009**, for a **12th "Night" party**, from **2-5 p.m.** Kay will supply a main entree and hot apple cider. Members may bring side dishes, salads, goodies, or desserts. Bring your organ shoes and music you'd like to play and share. RSVP to Kay Lee using Kay's information in our chapter directory. Please come and enjoy some after-Christmas festivities!

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# Santa Cruz Baroque Festival 2009

36<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season • Linda Burman-Hall, Artistic Director



## NATURAL BAROQUE

### Season Concerts

(Spring of 2009)

#### I. MUSICAL ECOLOGY

Saturday, February 7 • 7:30pm

Featuring Susan Judy (soprano), with Lux Musica

#### II. THE NATURAL MANDOLIN

Saturday, March 14 • 7:30pm

Featuring Caterina Lichtenberg (mandolin)

#### III. COSMOS: The Art of the Fugue

Saturday, April 4 • 7:30pm

Featuring the Galax Quartet

#### IV. LISTENING TO NATURE: Musique Plein Air

Saturday, April 18 • 7:30pm

Featuring The Kirby Chamber Choir with Lux Musica

#### V. FIAT LUX: In Praise of Light

Saturday, May 9 • 7:30pm

Featuring Sheila Willey (soprano)  
and Matthew Auerbach (harpsichord)

All season concerts will take place at the  
UCSC Music Center Recital Hall.

### Post-Season Events

(Summer of 2009)

#### MUSIC IN THE GARDENS TOUR

Sunday, May 24 • 1 - 5pm

5 Gardens • 5 Musical Groups • Snacks & Drinks

#### BOOMERIA EXTRAVAGANZA

Saturday, July 11 • 1-5pm



Lux Musica



Galax Quartet



Caterina Lichtenberg

**ATTENTION STUDENTS  
& EDUCATORS:**  
\$2 Tickets for Youth K-12  
\$5 Tickets for Students (w/ID)

For more information, tickets and subscription packages please visit  
our website at [www.sbaroque.org](http://www.sbaroque.org) or call us at 831-457-9693.

Santa Cruz Baroque Festival • P.O. Box 482, Santa Cruz, CA 95061 • [info@sbaroque.org](mailto:info@sbaroque.org)

## Hymns and Choruses

Contributed by Lothar Banderman

An old farmer went to the city one weekend and attended the big city church. He came home and his wife asked him how it was. "Well," said the farmer, "it was good. They did something different, however. They sang praise choruses instead of hymns." "Praise choruses?" said his wife. "What are those?" "Oh, they're OK. They are sort of like hymns, only different," said the farmer. "Well, what's the difference?" asked his wife. The farmer said, "Well, it's like this - If I were to say to you:

'Martha, the cows are in the corn' - well, that would be a hymn. If on the other hand, I were to say to you:

'Martha, Martha, Martha, Oh Martha, MARTHA, MARTHA, the cows, the big cows, the brown cows, the black cows the white cows, the black and white cows, the COWS, COWS, COWS are in the corn, are in the corn, are in the corn, are in the corn, the CORN, CORN, CORN.' Then, if I were to repeat the whole thing two or three times, well, that would be a praise chorus."

The next weekend, his nephew, a young, new Christian from the city came to visit and attended the local church of the small town. He went home and his mother asked him how it was.

"Well," said the young man, "it was good. They did something different however. They sang hymns instead of regular songs." "Hymns?" asked his mother. "What are those?" "Oh, they're OK. They are sort of like regular songs, only different," said the young man. "Well, what's the difference?" asked his mother. The young man said, "Well, it's like this - If I were to say to you: 'Martha, the cows are in the corn' - well, that would be a regular song. If on the other hand, I were to say to you:

'Oh Martha, dear Martha, hear thou my cry  
Inclinest thine ear to the words of my mouth  
Turn thou thy whole wondrous ear by and by  
To the righteous, inimitable, glorious truth.

For the way of the animals who can explain  
There in their heads is no shadow of sense  
Hearkenest they in God's sun or His rain  
Unless from the mild, tempting corn they are fenced.

Yea those cows in glad bovine, rebellious delight  
Have broke free their shackles, their warm pens eschewed  
Then goaded by minions of darkness and night  
They all my mild Chilliwack sweet corn have chewed.

So look to the bright shining day by and by  
Where all foul corruptions of earth are reborn  
Where no vicious animals make my soul cry  
And I no longer see those foul cows in the corn.'

Then if I were to do only verses one, three and four and do a key change on the last verse, well that would be a hymn.

My choral publisher, Dr. Wilbur Skeels, a musician and minister, sent me this informative commentary on **Hymns and Choruses** which I am passing on with his permission:

It is of course partly a matter of perspective (usually framed, but I think wrongly) as generational. It is hardly a new issue. Martin Luther was vilified for using a bar-room melody to set the words of "Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott." In the late 1890s and early 1900s English church music saw the rise of the "gospel song" which provoked an intense debate that has never really ended, just morphed into the praise song thing. In those days the issue was framed in two ways: (1) as class based - hymns for the educated and gospel songs for the masses; (2) theologically - hymns focusing on God and doctrine, gospel song that focus on self and salvation. The praise song movement actually began with camp songs for youth. In their modern reincarnation (to use a non-Christian term!), they sometimes seek to avoid the charge of self-centeredness brought against gospel songs, but have retained their essential childishness musically (and often theologically) speaking. The caveat against hymn language (in the parody) is really met in modern hymns which use contemporary language and sensibilities. Unfortunately most churches have not a clue about modern hymns and have defaulted to the rather specious charms of the praise song thing.

The other "elephant in the room" seldom discussed, is the purpose of the music in liturgy. Is it to communicate ideas, express worship, stir up emotions, etc? This enters into the whole thorny arena of rationalism v. mysticism in the area of faith. Musicians find themselves at different places on that spectrum. I know, and therefore also distrust, the power of music to motivate listeners in irrational ways, so I am always looking for counter-balances to manipulation that do not exclude real emotion from music. To me the emotion has to be grounded in the text which, when it enters the mind through the musical portal, is then most powerful. A banal text with powerful music will never have the same result.

And here is a brilliant poetic commentary by Michael Morris:

*Lothar, O Lothar, thank you for sharing.  
It shows your sense of humor  
And your caring.*

*My wife, Linda, and I attended  
A praise service on Sunday  
That our son recommended.*

*The part of your story that was missing, you see,  
Is that people who attend praise services  
Are full of glee.*

*But the more traditional song  
From the church, as you know,  
Is more somber and sung with faces that are long.*

*Perhaps we can mix the two forms of praise  
And sing hymns with a grin  
'Til the end of our days.*

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## Immanuel Lutheran Church Concerts

**Immanuel Lutheran Church** located in downtown San Jose is looking to start an organ concert series. The organ is a II/31 Schlicker. This organ has the ability to play all Baroque and some French organ music. The concerts will be scheduled every three months with the hope of starting in March.

The only stipend available at this time will be a free will offering. The concerts will be on a first come first serve basis so please sign up now to reserve a spot. If anyone is interested in giving a concert or for more information please contact **Scott Lillard** at [urbanlights@yahoo.com](mailto:urbanlights@yahoo.com) or call, 408-781-9337 (cell). . . ♪

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## Two Organs in Sydney Australia

Lothar Banderman

Dear organ friends:

Here are websites to two of the largest organs in the world – both in Sidney, Australia: one in the Sidney Town Hall, and the other in the Sidney Opera House:

<http://www.ohta.org.au/confs/Sydney/GRANDORGAN.html>

<http://www.ohta.org.au/confs/Sydney/SYDNEYTOWNHALL.html>

The **Sydney Town Hall** was the largest town hall to be built in the world so it had to have the largest organ at that time built late in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is organ the largest pneumatic action organ in the world, Romantic in disposition and has a 64' Contra Trombone stop! The low C is over 10 m in length and weighs several tonnes! You can here it being played by itself on the website.

The Opera House organ was built to compete with the Town Hall organ and to be as “un-Romantic” as possible yet the same size. It is rarely played in concert, alas, but is supposedly the world's largest (at the time) mechanical action and neo-classical organ whereas the Town Hall. . . ♪

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## Organ Concert

**Hector Olivera** will present an organ concert at the **Church of the Assumption**, 1100 Fulton Avenue, San Leandro, CA on **March 1, 2009 at 3:00 pm**. There is no charge; however, a freewill offering will be taken towards the church's organ fund.

This concert is sponsored by Jarvis Music Associates, Inc. . . ♪

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## 2009 REGION IX EVENT

Phoenix Rising: AGO Region IX Festival  
June 22-25, 2009, Phoenix, AZ  
[www.AGOinPhonix.com](http://www.AGOinPhonix.com)

Plan now to be in the heart of the action for Phoenix Rising and stay at The Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa, the only existing hotel in the world with a Frank Lloyd Wright-influenced design. We have negotiated with the Biltmore Resort and locked our special Festival rate at \$139.00 (plus tax) per night, an outstanding rate for the world's Jewel of the Desert. This special rate will also be available for three nights both before and after the actual Festival dates-thus, from June 19 to 29. Go to our Phoenix Rising group page at the Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa to make your reservations - and for more Biltmore history, photos, and information. Please note that it is not necessary to use the group code “AGO” when booking your room via this special page. Parking at the Biltmore is free in the covered garage, and, by using our transportation, you will have more opportunities to relax and visit with other Festival attendees. . . ♪

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## OPEN POSITIONS

**Joint Venture Churches, Almaden Valley United Church of Christ and Episcopal Church in Almaden.** 6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, 408/268-0243, are seeking an **Organist**. Part-time. Salary \$10-12,000, benefits negotiable. 2 Sunday services, 2 adult choirs (rehearse separate nights). State-of-the-art 3-manual Phoenix digital organ, one Sunday off per month, four weeks per year vacation. Email resume and references to: [music\\_search@jointventurechurches.org](mailto:music_search@jointventurechurches.org) by October 30. See [www.avucc.org/music\\_search](http://www.avucc.org/music_search) or [www.eca-sj.org/music\\_search](http://www.eca-sj.org/music_search).

**First Presbyterian Church, Hayward** is seeking a part-time **organist**. Sanctuary has two Rodgers 3-manual organs, Steinway B Grand Piano and Steinway upright Please email me, [williamgile@msn.com](mailto:williamgile@msn.com), or call, 510-538-0442, cell number 510- 421- 4194, home 510-538-5632.

**Cambrian Park United Methodist Church** is seeking a **part-time music director** with strong vocal technique and choral conducting skills, who can also play piano and/or guitar and has experience working with church music programs. Leads weekly rehearsal night and Sunday worship, plus extra services during the Christmas and Easter seasons. This person would be a great team planner, co-collaborator and someone who is interested in growing the church's music/ music theater program. BA or MA in music required, plus good interpersonal, communication and leadership skills. No health benefits. Normal paid vacation accrues to four weeks per year. Compensation meets AGO standards. Contact: Pastor Charlotte Bear at [pastorbear@aol.com](mailto:pastorbear@aol.com) 408-341-5438

To Receive this Newsletter by Email, send an Email to [kitalbot@pacbell.net](mailto:kitalbot@pacbell.net). Email Newsletters are in Color.

## Music Calendar

### Locations

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

**GC:** Grace Cathedral, 1100 California St. San Francisco

\* Chapter Member

### Every Saturday & Sunday

**Organ, 4 PM**, Calif. Palace of the Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park, 34<sup>th</sup> Ave & Clement St., San Francisco

### January

#### **4 Sunday**

**Epiphany Lessons and Carols.**  
Cathedral Choir of Boys and Girls,  
Golden Gate Boy's choir and  
Bellringers, **CSMA, 3:30 PM**

#### **11 Sunday**

**Robert McKean**, organ, **CSMA, 3:30 PM**

#### **18 Sunday**

**St. Michael Trio, CSMA, 3:30 PM**  
**Carol Williams**, Civic Organist and  
Artistic Director of the Spreckels  
Organ Society in San Diego,  
California, **GC, 4 PM**

#### **25 Sunday**

**Three to Tango**, Piano Trios,  
music of Beethoven, Piazzolla,  
Schumann, **Congregational  
Church of Palo Alto**, 1985 Louis  
Road, Palo Alto, **4 PM**

### February

#### **1 Sunday**

**James Welch**, organ, & **Dan  
Levitan**, harp, The music of Dale  
Wood, **CSMA, First  
Congregational Church of  
Berkeley**, 2345 Channing Way,  
Berkeley, **3 PM** - Free

**Christopher Tietze**, organ,  
**CSMA, 3:30 PM**

#### **8 Sunday**

**Angela Kraft Cross**, San  
Francisco Bay Area organist,  
pianist and composer, **GC, 4 PM**

#### **15 Sunday**

**Christoph Tietze**, organ, **CSMA,  
3:30 PM**

**Douglas Cleveland**, organist and  
director of music at Plymouth  
Congregational Church in Seattle,  
**GC, 4 PM**

#### **22 Sunday**

**Hans-Uwe Hielscher**, (Germany)  
organ, **CSMA, 3:30 PM**

**Benjamin Bachmann & Jeffrey  
Smith**, Grace Cathedral's Associate  
Director and Director of Music, **GC,  
4 PM**

### March

#### **1 Sunday**

**Hector Olivera** organ concert,  
**Church of the Assumption**, 1100  
Fulton Avenue, San Leandro, **3 PM**.  
No charge; however, a freewill  
offering will be taken towards the  
church's organ fund.

#### **15 Sunday**

**Congregational Oratorio Society**,  
Celebrate 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of  
Mendelssohn, **Joe Guthrie**, organ,  
**Congregational Church of Palo  
Alto**, 1985 Louis Road, Palo Alto,  
**4 PM**

# American Guild of Organists

## San Jose Chapter

582 Dublin Way, Sunnyvale, CA 94087



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS