



SAN JOSE PIPINGS
 SAN JOSE CHAPTER OF THE AGO
 September 2020 www.agosanjose.org



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Dean's Column

Greetings again amidst turbulent times!

It has been almost six months now that we have been tossed at sea, navigating the unpredictable and dangerous waters of Covid-19. Hopefully no AGO member has capsized! Added to the Covid-19 dilemma, we are confronting smoke and devastating wildfires on both sides of our valley, more fierce and widespread than seen here ever before!

Faced with multiple and devious dangers, society seems to be retreating further into our virtual realities, much like a chambered nautilus, even as we try desperately to reach out! Often we rail against this new imposter of reality and become irate with the technologies we rely on to try to connect with each other as real human beings.

But wait! Some amazing and inspiring things have been happening--the virtual AGO Organfest 2020 being a prime example in our field. Plus, the donations raised during that week have made it possible for members financially impacted by Covid-19 to receive help toward their AGO dues!! If any of you need this assistance, please contact me or AGO Headquarters! We don't want anyone jumping overboard!

Another amazing thing is that, despite a steep learning curve, many people have been involved in creating beautiful online church services, online studio recitals, and giving lessons on one of the online platforms.

Isn't that what we need to be about as musicians--creating beauty, bringing joy, comforting heavy hearts, and uplifting weary spirits? What an art we have to attempt and accomplish that! Music, Martin Luther declared is "a gift from God"! As musicians, we find it gratifying to give that gift in person, but we can give and receive music online as well. Isn't that another amazing thing? What if we didn't have this technology to turn to during these trying times? Let us rejoice, then, that the desire for community is so strong that we do all these things to connect with one another! Reaching out, even in a virtual way, shows that our human spirit is alive and strong. This September, let us remember to be thankful!

Susan Snook-Luther, Dean

Libby Codd Update

Libby Codd is currently in a rehabilitation facility at The Forum and she can NOT receive visitors at this time. She would welcome phone calls. Her call phone number is (650) 353-6641. She seems to be doing well but gets tired easily.

She can receive mail through her daughter.

Libby Codd 555 Center Drive, Palo Alto, CA 94301 kclark@clarklayw.com.

As you may know, **Christine Merjanian** is continuing her Chemotherapy which will last for quite a number of weeks. We ask our members to please keep her in their prayers that this procedure will work and that the Lord will bless her with His rich blessings.

Christine – get better soon and be healthy!

One License

An easy and convenient way to get music publishers' permission for live-streaming or broadcasting music during online church services is for your church to buy an annual license from One License (onelicense.net). The price for their licenses varies, based on the average weekly attendance of your congregation. Here is One License's summary of what their licenses provide:

“Through ONE LICENSE, License Holders have access to thousands of congregational hymns, songs, and service music from today's top liturgical music publishers to use in worship aids, service bulletins, and projections to inspire congregational singing. Our list of Member Publishers is regularly growing, and as new ones join, you will immediately have access to their catalogs.”

To see One License's list of music publishers, visit: <https://onelicense.net/publishers>

OPEN POSITIONS

AGO Members: If you know of any Open Positions at any Church please let me know so that I can pass that information on to any members who call me. I know of one of our members who needs a position. Kenneth Talbot

Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos, 16575 Shannon Rd, Los Gatos, CA, is looking for a **Part-Time Organist/Pianist** to play one to two Sundays a month, a choir rehearsal the Thursday evening proceeding the Sunday playing, and for various church holy days. The salary is very competitive and available upon request.

Abilities: The applicant must have experience playing the organ and piano in church services and accompanying choirs and instrumentalists. Sight reading skills and a background in musical liturgy are required.

The church currently needs a third organist, who would join a rotating roster with two other organists. Each organist plays one or two times a month throughout the year, depending on the number of Sundays in a month.

When the choir is in session, the organist playing a Sunday service usually rehearses with the choir the previous Thursday. The rotating organists decide their schedule, based on their availability and in collaboration with the music director.

Send resume, **references and letter of intention** to: michael.taylor@pclg.org 🎵

Stanford Memorial Church

Dr. Robert Huw Morgan and others have been recording Sunday Morning and Wednesday Lunchtime Music on a YouTube channel. I have not seen any references for August or beyond.

The web address is

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTEJGegC9rg3FYUbmTlsLZg>. Check here for possible August and previous music.

To join the Virtual Broadcast click on <https://spiritual.sites.stanford.edu/music>.

St. Mary's San Francisco

St. Mary's in San Francisco is streaming their “Musical Meditations” which occur every Sunday at 4 PM. The link to the streaming links is <https://www.youtube.com/archdioceseofsanfrancisco%20>.

They can also be viewed later.

Date to Remember

6 Sep Sunday, Ugo Sforza, Cathedral of St Mary of the Assumption, PM - CANCELLED

🕒 **11 Sep Friday, Ugo Sforza, organ, Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church, 728 W. Fremont Ave. Sunnyvale, 7:30 PM - CANCELLED**

Next Executive Committee Meeting

The next meeting Tuesday 13th October 2020 at 7:30 PM
Zoom Meeting

Mary Norton has Retired



Mary Norton, organist for 31 years, at Saratoga Federated Church, has retired and move to Nebraska. Her address is 17526 O Street, Omaha, NE 68135 and her cell phone number is 408-202-4127. We wish her and her husband Dave the best of luck.

Her email is daveandmarynorton@gmail.com.

Six Bach Trio Sonatas



After it became clear that COVID-19 wasn't going away anytime soon, I decided that I should undertake a worthy musical project so I'd have something to show for all these months.

Accordingly, I decided to present a live-streamed concert of all six of the trio sonatas by J. S. Bach. These sonatas are among Bach's liveliest and most charming works for the organ. They are also considered to be among his most difficult organ compositions. The challenge of playing all of the trio sonatas consecutively is something akin to playing all of the Well-Tempered Clavier at one sitting. While I learned these sonatas in college and have played them individually many times over the last 50 years, this is the first time I will have played them all in one program.

Each of these sonatas (BWV 525-530) has three movements: fast, slow, fast. Bach shows his mastery of counterpoint in every movement. The fast movements are light and breezy; the slow movements are exceptionally lyrical. To play these 18 movements takes about 75 minutes. Bach made no suggestions for registrations, leaving the "orchestration" to the performer's discretion. Each movement will receive a different registration, demonstrating the variety of tonal colors on the Casavant organ at St. Mark's.

Bach assembled this collection in Leipzig in the late 1720s (300 years ago!). In addition to movements newly composed for this collection, there are also reworkings of prior compositions by Bach from earlier cantatas, organ works and chamber music. The sixth sonata, BWV 530, is the only one for which all three movements were especially composed for the collection.

These sonatas represent the culmination of Bach's collections of keyboard works, but they also served a

didactic purpose. They were described in 1802 by Bach's biographer Johann Nikolaus Forkel as follows: "Six sonatas or trios for two keyboards with obligatory pedal. Bach composed them for his eldest son, Wilhelm Friedemann, who, by practicing them, prepared himself to be the great organist he later became. It is impossible to say enough about their beauty. They were written when the composer was in his full maturity and can be considered his principal work of this kind."

My thanks to Romain Kang, Marius Milner, and Don Bennett, who are handling the cameras and sound.

The Program

Sonata No. 1 in E-flat major, BWV 525
Allegro – Adagio - Allegro

Sonata No. 2 in C minor, BWV 526
Vivace – Largo - Allegro

Sonata No. 3 in D minor, BWV 527
Andante – Adagio e dolce - Vivace

Sonata No. 4 in E minor, BWV 528
Adagio, Vivace – Andante – Un poco allegro

Sonata No. 5 in C major, BWV 529
Allegro – Largo - Allegro

Sonata No. 6 in G major, BWV 530
Vivace – Lento – Allegro



Theater Organ For Sale



For sale-Three manual Allen theater organ model 4600 with alternate classic voicing and 4 Allen HC15 speakers.

Organ and speakers in excellent condition. **\$4500.**
Contact **Mike Cala** if interested and to schedule an appointment to see and play it. **510-516-9867** or e-mail michaelcala232@gmail.com



Streamed Tabernacle Organ Recitals

The Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square begin a livestream organ recital series from the Salt Lake Tabernacle on Temple Square which started on the 22nd of June. Noon (Mountain Time) recitals have now resumed via the internet, without an audience, three days a week, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

A new feature is the recitals have a host, **Dr. Luke Howard** who is an Associate Professor of music history at BYU and a member of the Choir. He introduces the pieces that are to be performed and tells about the composers as well. He also provides comments in the running Chat column.

The easiest way to view the recitals is use the following web address:

<https://www.thetabernaclechoir.org>

Then click on the “Piping Up: Tabernacle Organists in Concert,” window.

Kenneth Talbot 

New Allen Organ Dealer

Allen Organ Company has had a history in California and Nevada for over 50 years. **The Northern California Music Company, LLC** (<http://ncaorgans.com/>) was established in 2019 to continue the legacy of excellent customer care for churches, theaters, concert halls, and individuals within the Northern California and Western Nevada areas.

CEO and President, Jim Swihart, has been a musician and a technology specialist for over 30 years. He has a Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems from California State University, Sacramento, and an Associate of Arts from Santa Barbara City College in Spanish (Language & Culture). Jim has also directed, composed, and participated as a featured choral soloist in venues throughout the world.

Please contact Jim Swihart to make an appointment.

(916) 420-1712 (Talk/Text)

jswihart3@outlook.com 

AGO CERTIFICATION WINNERS

We express our congratulations the following who completed the examinations for the follow AGO Certifications:


Ruth J. Kamas, the SPC Certification

Renee G. Gastelum, the CAGO Certification (former chapter member)

Amelia Riegert, SPC Certification

These Certification Winners were announced on the Wednesday AGO Organ Fest Streaming Broadcast.

Remember Your Membership Renewal

You can renew by going to www.agohq.org and select “Membership” and then Membership/Update” you can renew anytime by calling the national office (212-870-2310) with a credit card. Be sure to renew now so that you will not miss any ATO issues. 

Vierne Symphony No 5 Official Assessment!

Andrew Larson

I just finished hearing it and I am GIDDY!!!!!! Absolutely one of the GREATEST COMPOSITIONS EVER WRITTEN!!!!!! ABSOLUTELY AND UNQUESTIONABLY!!!!!! I don’t know where to begin with this STUPENDOUS musical achievement!!!!!!’ Where did Vierne come up with this?????!! This rises to the elite class of a GREAT MUSICAL MONUMENT. The combination of ASTOUNDINGLY brilliant compositional inspiration with utterly PROFOUND musical expression are the hallmarks of this work. The haunting Grave perfectly introduces the two main motifs or players in this vast drama. Brooding, reflective, tortured even can be adjectives to describe this opening movement. There are times I even hear echos of Franck, especially the B minor Chorale. The passage in which Vierne calls for 16ft Quintaton and 4ft Flute is both weird and beautiful at the same type. Then he asks for that same passage to be played on the Gambe 8ft and Octavin 2ft for a very creepy effect!! Then comes the Allegro molto marcato.....WOW!!!! What a TOWERING piece of symphonic writing!!! UNBELIEVABLY brilliant and I can’t stop being impressed by the complexity (and technical difficulty!) of many of the contrapuntal passages. After the extended introductory movement, Vierne prudently kept the exposition relatively brief and got right down to business with that incredible development section. Jeremy Filsell pointed out that the unexpected syncopated passage utilizing whole tone harmonies is actually the second theme inverted!! The forward thrust and masterful working out of the material is breathtaking, and it leads into the fierce recapitulation with such energy. And my oh my that recap!!! Those unexpected and jagged unison lines and that ending A Major chord that is set up in such a non-traditional fashion!! Then there is the stunning Scherzo, which is at once both demented and fun!! Vierne really adapted Paul Dukas’ Sorcerer’s Apprentice harmonies to to the organ with such fantastic results!! The two main themes of this symphony are worked out skillfully and one cannot listen to this without thinking of mischievous ghosts prancing around!! Vierne really took this concept and wrung the most out of it in several of the Pieces de Fantasie as well as the Sixth Symphony Scherzo. Then we arrive upon the emotional centerpiece of this symphony: the Larghetto. This is the most beautiful, touching and expressive slow movement I have ever heard, and when I finished hearing it I felt like I just heard someone tell me their life story!! Nowhere else have I heard such an honest outpouring of emotion in a piece of music. Vierne holds nothing back, and what we

get is a very intense musical articulation of melancholia, frustration, exacerbation, yet all throughout there is a string of hope. The ending further underscores this positive affirmation. What occurs between in this monumental edifice is simple jaw dropping in its nuance, power, and almost raw expression. The ending is so touching, and I paused before going to the Final. This movement demands the UTMOST in sensitivity from the organist, not to mention some harrowing passages of technical difficulties during the central section. I find it interesting that Vierne based much of this on the fore-mentioned inverted second theme that appeared in the Allegro. And then that Final!!! OH MY MY!!!! What an IMMENSE achievement!!!! In this firecracker of a finale, Vierne works out all of the remaining unresolved thematic and emotional elements from the previous four movements in an EXTREMELY complex and virtuosic movement. I am just in AWE of any organist who can pull this one off successfully.....it is tremendously demanding. Jeremy Filsell does a fantastic job with it, and capping off what to me is an award winning performance throughout this entire symphony. A separate review will present my observations of this AMAZING organist!! There are many passages of bafflingly intricate chromatic counterpoint that could be a study all in themselves!! Emotionally, this movement really provides a huge transformation from the previous movements. The ending is such a BRILLIANT display of unbridled joy!!!! BUT, we have to get through a whole lot of turbulence before we get there. The opening joyful tune (the primary theme of this symphony transformed) gets interrupted, as if Vierne is saying “wait now, I’m not yet done with the conflict, but this is the final coup de grace”!!! As stated previously, the final pages are truly triumphant!!!

15 Aug 2020

See Jeremy Filsell perform the Vierne Symphony #5. It was performed During the 2010 National Convention of the American Guild of Organists, Jeremy Filsell spent an entire day performing the 6 organ symphonies of Louis Vierne. The marathon concert was on the very French III/47 built by Lively-Fulcher in 1994 for St. Patrick's RC Church

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NkzQxxArgb4>

Three Free Organs

Michelle Kinkaid MichelleKinkaid5678@gmail.com (415-802-3325) has three organs that she is giving away.

The first one is a Thomas Theater organ. It was working when it was moved to a storage area.

The second one is a Hammond Spinet (looks like a M100 series), two short keyboards (44 keys) and 13 pedals. This organ was turned on in the last few days and it appears to be working correctly.

The third one is a Hammond A122 (serial 28422) organ with 25 pedals. This organ was turned on in the last few days and it is NOT working correctly. When you press a key, all you get is a hum. The Hammond A122 will sound like the Hammond B3. If one is interested in this organ, one could contact Camp’s Organ Service (925-294-8633) www.campsorganservice.com for repair – an initial service call is \$215 minimum for a diagnostic of the problem.



Thomas Organ



Hammond Spinet



Hammond A122

Musical Calendar cont.

October 2020

14 Wednesday

Robert Morgan, organ, Virtual link on page 6, **Stanford, Noon.**

18 Sunday

David Hatt, organ. **Vierne: Symphony No. 6.** This performance is part of the St. Mary’s Cathedral Vierne/Tournemire Festival, **CSMA, 4 PM \$10**

21 Wednesday

Robert Morgan, organ, Virtual link on page 6, **Stanford, Noon.**

25 Sunday

Angela Kraft Cross, organ, **CSMA, 4 PM \$10**

28 Wednesday

Robert Morgan, organ, Virtual link on page 6, **Stanford, Noon.**

AGO San Jose Music Calendar

Venue Locations

CSMA: Cathedral of St Mary of the Assumption, 1111 Gough St., San Francisco, "Musical Meditations"
Streaming Link address of the concerts:
<https://www.youtube.com/archdioceseofsanfrancisco>

GC: Grace Cathedral, 1100 California St. San Francisco

★ Chapter Event ▶ Chapter Member

Every Saturday at 4 PM

Organ, Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park, 34th Ave & Clement St., San Francisco.
Jonathan Dimmock, organist

Stanford: Has YouTube files of music recorded on Sundays and Lunchtime Wednesday recitals by Dr. Robert Huw Morgan and others. Check <https://spiritual.sites.stanford.edu/music>.

September 2020

2 Wednesday

Robert Morgan, organ, Virtual link on page 6, **Stanford, Noon.**

6 Sunday

Dr. James Welch, organ, **The 6 Trio Sonatas of Bach, Live-streamed on September 6, 3 PM, St. Mark's Episcopal Church,**

Palo Alto, California, YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCXpzW95-uc&feature=youtu.be>

You can go to the site now and set up a reminder if you want.

6 Sunday

Duane Soubirous, organ, Works by Boehm, Vaughan Williams, Franck, Vierne, and Bach, **CSMA, 4 PM \$10**

6 Wednesday

Robert Morgan, organ, Virtual link on page 6, **Stanford, Noon.**

11 Friday - CANCELLED

☪ **Ugo Sforza,** organ, **Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church,** 728 W. Fremont Ave. Sunnyvale, **7:30 PM**

13 Sunday

Angela Kraft Cross, organ. **Vierne: Symphony No. 2;** Tournemire: Improvisations on "Ave Maris Stella" and "Victimae paschali." This performance is part of the St. Mary's Cathedral Vierne/Tournemire Festival., **CSMA, 4 PM \$10**

20 Sunday

Ben Bachmann, organ. **Vierne Symphony No. 3.** This performance is part of the St. Mary's Cathedral Vierne/

Tournemire Festival, **CSMA, 4 PM \$10**

23 Wednesday

Robert Morgan, organ, Virtual link on page 6, **Stanford, Noon.**

27 Sunday

Sun-hee Lee, Geomun'go (traditional Korean string instrument), with ▶ **Jin Kyung Lim,** organ, Work by Loeb, Lee, and improvisation, **CSMA, 4 PM \$10**

30 Wednesday

Robert Morgan, organ, Virtual link on page 6, **Stanford, Noon.**

October 2020

4 Sunday

Christoph Tietze, organ. Tournemire: **Triple Choral.** This performance is part of the St. Mary's Cathedral Vierne/Tournemire Festival, **CSMA, 4 PM \$10**

7 Wednesday

Robert Morgan, organ, Virtual link on page 6, **Stanford, Noon.**

11 Sunday

Joel Mahan, Mandolin, **CSMA, 4 PM \$10**

American Guild of Organists

San Jose Chapter

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