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## Fall Newsletter '23

### Dean's Message

Greetings to everyone,

This past weekend I attended a San Francisco Giants game and was delighted to hear simulated "organ" music bringing the crowd together. Songs were sung, cheers were started, celebrations made extra loud, all from the doing and talent of the individual at the keyboard. That is the power of music: bringing people together and enhancing our quality of life!

My hope for our Chapter is that we all will increase our efforts to come together as a Guild by attending and helping out at our events. You can get started by attending our October 7 presentation and lunch (see below). Your presence is the best way to promote our marvelous instrument! If you are giving a concert or are part of a performance, please let our newsletter editor Margaret know so we may promote attendance and clap a bit louder for you! A red button at the bottom of each newsletter takes you right to her inbox!

As summer quickly ends and fall approaches, changes can be felt in the air. If your chapter directory information has changed over the summer, please look at your entry from last year and let Kay Lee know. She also appreciates your confirmation of no

changes. Please email [kay\\_lee02@hotmail.com](mailto:kay_lee02@hotmail.com)

Warm regards,

~ Elisabeth Pintar, Dean

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**Fall San Jose Chapter Events**

On **Saturday, October 7 at 11:00 am**, we will kick off the new season with ***What I Did on my Summer Vacation***, when we will hear from **Ruth Kamas** (pictured above), who completed a summer internship last month in Champaign, Illinois with John-Paul Buzard Pipe Organ Builders. Ruth came back after her summer of hands-on experience with some great photos, a large reed pipe, and an insider's perspective on what it takes to keep our instruments singing! **Potluck lunch** will be part of this event. It will be a great chance for members new and long-time to get to know one another. Mark your calendars. Exact location in the Los Gatos-Saratoga area is being confirmed. Watch your email for more details.

**Saturday, November 4, at 10:00 am**, we will share favorite Advent and Christmas music, playing excerpts of our favorite service repertoire for each other. Conveniently timed to allow ordering of new music for the upcoming season. Location and more details are coming soon!

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**A regional treasure: organist Ethan Haman shares his artistry, improvises a symphony!**



On August 13, I had the pleasure of witnessing Ethan Haman's "homecoming" performance at Christ Episcopal Church in Los Altos, where Ethan's name is enshrined on a plaque on the console of the Wicks organ. Haman was the organist there from 2011 to 2015 (while a young student of Angela Kraft Cross, serving in his first church position at the tender ages of 13 - 17!) The church was wise to install the plaque when Ethan went off to college at USC/Yale; they recognized that Ethan would go on to create and perform on a continuing accelerated path. The current 25-year-old handles the concert stage, and the tenuous tradition of live improvisation, with great poise and flare.

Christ Church is an intimate space tucked into the rolling hills of Los Altos. Although

the organ is a somewhat puzzling overgrown 2-manual instrument for a small space, it is a delight to view the console and performer, as they appear flanked by gorgeous stained glass windows. The French artist Gabriel Loire, the same artist who designed the rose window at Grace Cathedral, completed the project for Christ Church in 1986.

The French theme was prominent in the first half of the concert, with well-known works ranging from the Marchand *Grand Dialogue*, Böhm's *Präludium* (the sole German piece), several movements from Couperin's *Mass for the Parishes*, and Franck's *A Minor Choral*. Also included were unusual but delightful offerings of the spritely *All Hallows Voluntary* by Haman's former teacher, Angela Kraft Cross, and a romantic-style arrangement Bach's *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* by Harvey Grace. Throughout all of the program Haman chose colorful registrations and made good use of the plentiful reeds of the Christ Church instrument. His playing was sensitively phrased, and the lively tempos complimented the rather dry acoustics. Each piece had its own character, sensitively conveyed by Mr. Haman.

After a brief pause, he emerged to collect themes from the audience, in an interesting method which was explained just enough to pique our interest while preserving an element of mystery: First, Haman asked for numbers between 1 - 11 (the number of pitches in a chromatic scale). Then, he requested numbers between 1 - 7 (the number of notes in the diatonic scale). Haman didn't reveal the connection to the scales until after he asked for the numbers. Next, hymn tunes from the hymnal in the pews were requested. After explaining that he might use just one or two of the suggested hymn tunes, Haman asked for a few minutes to make some notes. Then after a few brief words about the hymn tune he selected (*Ellers*), Haman settled in at the organ and tore into the first movement. A photograph of the few notes he had in front of him while improvising a 5-movement symphony in a French Symphonic style à la Vierne is seen below. The 5 improvised movements included an *Allegro maestoso* on the hymn tune, a romantic *Fugue* using one of the "number" themes, a charming *Scherzo* using the other "number" theme, an *Adagio* on *Ellers*, and a *Finale* with *Ellers* in the minor mode.

It is obvious that Haman has absorbed and continues to be inspired by his excellent education from Kraft Cross; a long list of instructors at the University of Southern California including Morten Lauridsen and Cherry Rhodes; and an equally long list from Yale including Craig Cramer, Martin Jean and Jeffrey Brillhart. But it is also clear that he is a unique artist with his own unique voice. Not only is he young and has already performed on multiple continents, he is also respected around the U.S. for his

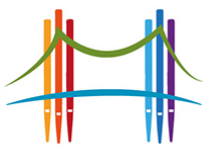
3rd place finish in the 2022 National Competition in Organ Improvisation at the Seattle AGO convention, and for his excellence as a workshop presenter (he gave a compelling 2-part online workshop for the Palo Alto/Peninsula AGO chapter over Zoom that I attended during the pandemic, and recently he presented for the Orange County chapter, and for the Church Music Institute in Dallas).

As a composer, he is receiving commissions for choral and keyboard music. You can find Ethan's music on [www.SheetMusicPlus.com](http://www.SheetMusicPlus.com), and on his YouTube channel. His new website will be up soon as well ([www.EthanHaman.com](http://www.EthanHaman.com)).

This young man has time for all of this, in addition to his current positions as Staff Accompanist for the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, Staff Accompanist for the Greater New Haven Community Chorus, Director of Music for the Episcopal Church at Yale, and Organist/Associate Director of Music at Noroton Presbyterian Church in Darien, Connecticut. By the way, he speaks French, Spanish, European Portuguese, Cantonese, Mandarin, and is currently learning German and Korean!

Our chapter is proud to know and promote Ethan Haman, and we wish him every success in his sure-to-be successful future!

~ Margaret Kvamme, editor



**AGO 2024**  
SAN FRANCISCO

**SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 30-JULY 4**

Plan to attend the National Convention in our own Bay Area next summer, and volunteer your time if you are able. Click [HERE](#) for more information about targeted giving to make it all possible.

## Jobs Available

Bethel Lutheran Church: **Adult Choir Accompanist**. 6 – 7 hours per week, September through Trinity Sunday. Hourly rate based on experience. Seeking someone with a BA or advanced music degree and familiarity with Lutheran worship settings and accompanying choirs and following the director. Accompany at all adult choir rehearsals and the Sunday morning and special service



anthems, including Christmas, Easter, Lent, and other events. Meet monthly with director to plan and review. Be an active part of supportive rehearsal atmosphere; provide encouragement and positivity to build team confidence. For a complete description contact Melody Bast:

[pianowithmelody@gmail.com](mailto:pianowithmelody@gmail.com)

First Congregational Church of San Jose (<https://firstccsj.org>) is searching for a **Director of Music**. Open and Affirming Progressive Christian Church of the UCC. Qualifications: Bachelor's degree or credential in a music field, 3 years of church and/or school choir conducting, ability to coordinate the overall church music program, including major responsibility for Adult, Handbell, and Youth Choirs. and supervision of all other music staff; appreciation for traditional, contemporary & jazz worship music. Part-time position – 15 to 20 hours/week (less during the summer) at an hourly rate of \$32 - \$35. Responsibilities: select music for Adult, Handbell, and Youth Choirs; select hymns for each Sunday service and provide vocal leadership for hymns or arrange for volunteers; rehearse and conduct the Adult and Handbell Choirs weekly; lead the choirs in weekly Sunday services, special events, and holiday services; organize performing arts opportunities for children and youth during Family Sunday, collaborating with the Family Ministry team; manage summer music program from mid-June through mid-September; supervise maintenance of pianos, organ, and handbells; and ensure music copyright compliance for AV content. For a more detailed job description and information, or to submit a resumé, please contact the Music Director Search Team c/o [receptionist@firstccsj.org](mailto:receptionist@firstccsj.org).

St. Ambrose Episcopal Church, Foster City, seeks a **Music Director** to work 15-20 hours per week. Negotiable, competitive hourly compensation commensurate with experience. Additional compensation available for extra services, including memorials and weddings. The candidate should have experience with choral direction and leadership in congregational music, spirituals, and contemporary and classical choral repertoire, excellent keyboard skills; fluency with both organ and piano, possess a collaborative style in engaging with church leadership, have an understanding and affinity for the liturgical style of the Episcopal/Anglican tradition with flexibility to engage with a wide variety of music styles and tastes. Weekly Thursday evening (2-hour) and Sunday morning (30-minute) rehearsals with the choir during the annual choir season (September through early June). Collaborate with the rector, staff, and choir in repertoire and hymn selections and seasonal planning, oversee organization and maintenance of the parish choral library, collaborate with occasional volunteer and guest instrumentalists, coordinate music for Children's Chapel, collaborate with community to recruit more choir members. The St. Ambrose Choir is a dedicated, volunteer group of 5 members with a repertoire ranging from traditional Anglican hymnody to classical choral music to spirituals. St. Ambrose has a long history of church music and a warmly welcoming congregation. To apply, send resume and references to: The Rev. Fr. Jason B. Lucas-Green [frjason@stambrosefostercity.org](mailto:frjason@stambrosefostercity.org)

## Positions described in previous newsletters, as of yet unfilled:

(see previous newsletters on our website: <http://www.agosanjose.org>)

Music Director: Organist/Pianist. The Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), San Jose [www.churchinalmaden.org/news/churchinalmaden/job-details/music-director-search2](http://www.churchinalmaden.org/news/churchinalmaden/job-details/music-director-search2).

Todd Axtell, Music Director Search Committee: [toddger@aol.com](mailto:toddger@aol.com)

Organist/Choir Director. St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, Carmel. The Rev. Laurel Coote.  
Email: [revlaurelc@gmail.com](mailto:revlaurelc@gmail.com)

# Concerts and Special Events

*(Listed by venue, in order of closest to farthest distance from downtown San Jose. Note embedded Livestream links for some venues).*

## **Campbell United Methodist Church, 1675 S Winchester Blvd**

October 28, 2:30 pm: "Gratitude" - Choral Concert featuring 3 movements of *Requiem* by Maurice Duruflé, **Margaret Martin Kvamme**, organist; **Will Schneider** (Master of Choral Conducting candidate, SJSU), conductor. Other works include Gabrielli, Elton John, Duke Ellington, and Will Schneider.

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## **Congregational Church of San Mateo, 225 Tilton Ave.**

October 27, 8:00 pm: Annual Halloween concert featuring young organists and **Angela Kraft Cross**

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## **Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, 1750 29th Avenue, San Francisco**

September 23, 7:30 pm: **Angela Kraft Cross**

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## **Mission Dolores, San Francisco, 3321 16th St.**

### **Second Sunday Basilica Concert Series. 4:00 pm**

Free Admission, suggested donation: \$10

**Livestream:** [www.facebook.com/missiondoloressf](http://www.facebook.com/missiondoloressf)

September 10: **Jerome Lenk**, organ, Music of Purcell, Bach, Guilman and Franck

October 8: **Jin Kyung Lim**, organ

November 12: **Alex Trytko**, organ

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**St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Cathedral, San Francisco, 1111 Gough St. @ Cleary  
Sunday Musical Meditations, 4:00 pm**

Parking under/beside the cathedral). Live-streamed and available here (click on the url):  
<https://YouTube.com/cathedralofstmaryoftheassumption>

Sundays and begin at 4:00 pm.

September 10: **Angela Kraft Cross**, organ

September 17: **Corina Santos**, violin, with **Chia-Lin Yang**, piano

September 24: **August Lee**, cello

October 1: **Alex Trytko**, organ

October 8: **Hans Use Hielscher**, organ

October 15: Bay Area Reger Fest: **Benjamin Bachmann**, organ

October 22: Bay Area Reger Fest: **David Hatt**, organ

October 29: **Alexander Ffinch (UK)**, organ

November 5: Bay Area Reger Fest: **Samuel Lee**, organ

November 12: **Andrew Balio**, trumpet, with **John Wilson**, organ

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**Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, 110 California St. at Taylor**

**Organ Recital series - First Sundays of the month, 4:00 pm:**

pay parking underneath the cathedral, entrance is on Taylor Street between California and Sacramento streets. \$10 donation is requested. Live-streamed and available here (click on the url): <https://gracecathedral.org/watch-grace-cathedral/>

September 3: **Nicolas Haigh**, organ

October 1: **Kai Krakenberg**, organ

November 5: **Stephen Price**, organ

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Saturdays at 4:00 pm, there are free organ recitals (for Bay Area residents) at the **Palace of Legion of Honor, San Francisco, in the Presidio**. Usually, these are played by **Jonathan Dimmock** or **Joy-Leilani Garbutt**, with occasional guests. More info here:

<https://www.famsf.org/events/organ-concert>

Please note:

October 28: **Angela Kraft Cross** will play the 4 pm recital at the Legion.

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**St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, Carmel Valley, 28005 Robinson Canyon Rd, Carmel**

September 30, 4:00 pm: **David Lim** (DMA candidate, Univ. of OK)

October 14, 4:00 pm: **Angela Kraft Cross**

Tickets for these concerts are \$25, \$40 for both concerts and are available at the door or by clicking [HERE](#)(click on the Fund drop-down menu and enter "Concerts").

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## Your SJ AGO Board 2023 - 2024

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The next newsletter will be published in early November. The deadline for submitting concert listings, articles, photos, job listings and notices of instruments for sale, etc. is **October 28**. Click on the red button below for a set-up email where you can conveniently type and attach items.

[submit newsletter content](#)



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c/o Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos

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