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Two Chapters: One Newsletter

Holiday Season 2023

A Message from Leadership

Members of the San Jose Chapter may wonder why you see my name under the dean's letter. That's because the Palo Alto/Peninsula Chapter can't find a newsletter editor. Thankfully both our boards have agreed to share Margaret Kvamme as editor of a joint newsletter. I am hoping that Elisabeth Pintar and I will alternate writing the dean's letter as time goes on. My inestimable thanks to Margaret, who kindly offered to do this extra work for both chapters. Thank you for all the wonderful events you all have created and attended. We are blessed with so many talented and generous colleagues around us in the Bay Area. See you soon!

~ Rani Fischer, Palo Alto/Peninsula SubDean



Recent events and upcoming PPP

October brought smiles, learning and great music to our chapters. To name a few opportunities we enjoyed:

A festive recital of members' favorite mostly-postludes at Christ Church, Portola Valley was enjoyed by Palo Alto/Peninsula members on October 14, followed by a chili dinner sponsored by the church. Thanks to Lauren Wittine for organizing. Performers are shown above posing in front of the Visser-Rowland organ.

San Jose members gathered at the Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos on October 4 for an informative talk and slide show by Ruth Kamas (below on the right with her souvenir reed pipe —which she took apart to demonstrate cleaning techniques). afterwards all enjoyed conversation over a potluck lunch. Ruth recently completed an internship with Jean-Paul Buzard Organ Builders in Illinois.

A festive recital of members' favorite mostly-postludes at Christ Church, Portola Valley was enjoyed by Palo Alto/Peninsula members on October 14. Both the Los Gatos and Portola Valley events were followed by a potluck meal and great conversation. Performers are shown above posing in front of the Visser-Rowland organ,

Angela Kraft Cross and 9 young students presented a spookily fun Halloween Concert at First Congregational Church in San Mateo on October 27.

Even more young people will be exposed to pipe organ excitement at the San Jose Chapter's Pedals, Pipes and Pizza at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church on February 3. See the registration link under Sunnyvale in the event list below, and please spread the word to area piano teachers and musically-inclined families. Be sure to mark your calendar for some of the upcoming chapter events and the many performances surrounding the holidays. We have so much to be thankful for!



15-year-old Elizabeth Kamas (above left) is shown after receiving her 3rd AGO Achievement Award Certificate. The Achievement Awards are opportunities for intermediate organists (and keyboardists newer to the organ) to set goals that can be set and met at any time. All that is needed is a sponsoring AGO mentor and the witness/recognition of a chapter dean upon completion. Find out more [here](#) about the

5 awards available so far (The Console, Registration, Manual and Pedal Techniques, Harmony, and Transposition). More awards and levels will be added in the future by the National AGO.



SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 30-JULY 4

Planning is well underway for our 2024 National Convention to be held right here in the Bay Area, and those who are in on the planning can hardly wait to share it all with you! We're eagerly anticipating welcoming up to 1,500 organist colleagues for a wonderful week next summer. New compositions have been commissioned, written and submitted. A diverse array of recitals, worship experiences, and workshops has been scheduled. Wonderful venues with amazing organs have been contracted. We are now putting the finishing touches on our website and registration portal, and within the next few weeks you'll be able to see every detail, get registered, and anticipate Summer, 2024! Take a look at our website [here](#) and check back often; there will be substantial updates very soon.

Would you like to help with the convention? Here are the two main opportunities:

1. Make a financial gift. Did you know that convention registration fees cover only about 60% of the cost this huge event? The rest comes from the generous support of donors who contribute amounts both large and small. Read all about sponsorship opportunities and make your contribution [here](#):
2. Give of your time during the convention. We'll need volunteers of all stripes for a variety of tasks: help with registration, personal hosts for individual artists, bus captains, and much, much more. We'll be creating schedules and specific needs after the New Year, but in the meantime, if you'd like to be put on a list of potential helpers, contact Rani Fischer at ranifisc@gmail.com

Looking forward with you to this biennial grand organists' reunion!

~ Tim Getz, Deputy Convention Coordinator/Executive Assistant

Jobs Available

All Saints' Episcopal Church, Palo Alto (revised listing) seeks a **Music Director** to oversee and provide a music program in support of weekly worship services, including Advent and Holy Week, building on the strong musical tradition of our parish. This is a half-time position, approximately 20 hours/week. The Music Director will plan and lead congregational singing, conduct and lead the choir, participate in worship planning, and provide musical expertise for all aspects of parish life. The sanctuary houses a 22-rank mechanical action organ (Flentrop 1967), a positiv organ, and a grand piano. We have a dedicated volunteer choir of 15, with 2 paid section leaders. We currently have a 10:00 am Sunday Eucharist; we anticipate the addition of a Friday evening healing service with contemplative music. We seek to broaden our outreach to the local community, and there may be opportunities to expand and enhance our music program as part of these efforts.

Experience needed: a minimum 3-5 years as a church musician with a Bachelor's degree in music. A Master's degree in Music is preferred. This is a non-exempt, salaried position, with benefits; salary is commensurate with education and experience. Email allsaints125@gmail.com for more information; the detailed job description is available on the church's [website](#).

[Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Fremont](#) is seeking a part-time **Organist/Accompanist**. The position is for a qualified keyboard instrumentalist for scheduled worship services and other activities to support the music ministry of the church with in-person and online services, volunteer choir, and congregation. This individual is a team player with a commitment to the faith and understanding of how music contributes to meaning and flow of the service. The commitment is for 40 Sundays per year; the second Sunday of each month is off, since it is the regular schedule for when the Praise Band is playing. The Sunday off may be negotiable but must be coordinated before the start of each month. Expected time commitment is 6-8 hours on average per "on" week, playing for a single Sunday morning service each "on" week (prelude, hymns, liturgical accompaniment, postlude) and accompanying choir rehearsal once/week on Wednesday evening and before Sunday service at 9:30am. The individual will also play for the special services throughout the Lutheran calendar (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Thanksgiving). Desired qualifications include experience/proficiency playing organ and/or piano literature and accompanying church worship music sufficient to play hymns and anthem accompaniments. Ability to sight read including choral pieces, improvise, transpose, and read open scores is a plus. We are looking for a team player, able to communicate well and in a friendly manner with leadership, members, visitors and to work with the Worship Committee to facilitate meaningful

corporate worship. This position is being offered at a compensation rate dependent on experience and training, which will be paid monthly. Sick time will be available as is dictated by California law. Hours may be uneven between church seasons. For a more detailed job description and information, or to submit a resumé, please contact the Holy Trinity Mutual Ministry Committee at htlc.mutualministry@gmail.com

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

Positions described in previous newsletters, as of yet unfilled:

(see previous newsletters/job listings on our websites: <http://www.agosanjose.org>;
<https://papenago.org/jobs>

Updated openings:

Music Director: Organist/Pianist. The Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), San Jose. [Job Description](#)

Organist/Choir Director. St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, Carmel. [Job Description](#)

Concerts and Special Events

*Chapter events (Palo Alto/Peninsula, San Jose, and San Francisco) are noted in red,

marked with an asterisk, and are open to all.

On Zoom:

* Nov 18, 10:00 am: **PA/Pen Chapter Lecture** on Messiaen's *La Nativité Du Seigneur* by scholar Stella O'Neill on Zoom. Email [Rani Fischer](mailto:Rani.Fischer) for a link.

The remaining events are listed by venue, in order of Northernmost to Southernmost.
Northern limit is San Francisco/Oakland. Southern limit is Carmel Valley.

Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland, 2121 Harrison St; Parking garage attached.

November 10, 3:00 pm: Jonathan Dimmock, organ. *La Nativité du Seigneur* by Olivier Messiaen
freewill offering

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.

All Saturdays in December, 4:00 pm: Jonathan Dimmock: Christmas Pipe Dreams. More info here: <https://www.famsf.org/events/organ-concert>

Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, 110 California St. @ Taylor; Pay parking underneath the cathedral, entrance is on Taylor Street between California and Sacramento streets.

November 5, 4:00 pm: **Stephen Price**, organ recital. Free with advance registration [here](#).

Admission at the door is \$12. Live-stream (also requiring registration) is here:

<https://gracecathedral.org/watch-grace-cathedral>

November 12, 11:00 am: **All Souls' Requiem (Fauré)**, Choir of Men and Boys and orchestra

December 3, 3:00 pm: **Advent Lessons & Carols**, Choir of Men and Boys

December 10, 16, 17 and 23, 3:00 pm; December 22, 7:30 pm: **A Cathedral Christmas**, Choir of Men and Boys, orchestra, and organ. Tickets at gracecathedral.org/christmas

December 18, 7:30 p.m: **Bay Brass and Jonathan Dimmock, organ.**

Tickets at gracecathedral.org/christmas

December 24, 4:00pm: **Christmas Lessons & Carols**, Choir of Men and Boys

January 21, 4:00 pm **Weicheng Zhao**, organ recital. (co-sponsored with SF AGO)
freewill offering

Trinity and St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 1620 Gough St @ Bush

Dec 3, 5:00 pm: **Evensong followed by recital** by William Vaughan, organ.

St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Cathedral, San Francisco, 1111 Gough St. @ Cleary

Sunday Musical Meditations, 4:00 pm unless otherwise noted†

Parking under/beside the cathedral). Live-stream available here (click on the url):

<https://YouTube.com/cathedralofstmaryoftheassumption>

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

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

November 19: **Jayne Diliberto**, soprano, with **Octavio Mujica**, cello, and **Michael Li**, piano

November 26: **Bay Area Reger Fest: David Hatt**, organ

December 3: **August Lee**, cello

December 10: **Mario To**, guitar, with **Jessica Folson**, violin

December 17, 7:00† pm: **Cookies and Carols: St. Mary's Cathedral Choir + St. Brigid School**

Honor Choir Songs of the season in the cathedral, followed by cookies in St. Francis Hall.

\$25/\$15

January 7: **Angeline Kiang**, cello

January 14, 4:00 pm: **Gail Archer**, organ

January 21, 4:00 pm: **Christoph Tietze**, organ

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, San Francisco, 1111 O'Farrell St.

*** SF Chapter Fall 2023 Keynote Recital**

Nov 18, 4:00 pm: **Lauma Akmene**, organ

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

November 12: **Alex Trytko**, organ

February 11: **Elizabeth and Ruth Kamas**, organ/piano

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Burlingame, 415 El Camino Real

Sundays at 4:00 pm

November 19: **Choral Evensong for Saints Hilda, Margaret, and Cecilia**

Choir of St. Paul's, Susan Jane Matthews, director; **Bryan Dunnewald**, organ, Music of Herbert Howells and Katie Burk. Free-will offering

December 3: **Advent Lessons and Carols**

Choir of St. Paul's, Susan Jane Matthews, director; **Jake Street**, organ, Music of Melissa Dunphy, Elizabeth Poston, André Thomas, Gerald Near, and Ēriks Ešņvalds. Free-will offering

December 17: **Annual Christmas Concert: In the stillness**

Choir of St. Paul's, Susan Jane Matthews, director; **Jake Street**, organ; **Michael Goldberg**, guitar; string quartet

Program and tickets at <https://stpaulschristmasconcert23.eventbrite.com>

January 21: **Marcia McCowin Concert. Susan Jane Matthews**, organ and piano

Music for strings, organ, and piano by Isabella Leonarda, Fanny Hensel, and Florence Price. Free-will offering

Location TBD on the Peninsula (email [Rani Fischer](mailto:Rani.Fischer) for more info)

* *January 15*, 4:00 pm: PA/Pen chapter event: Film “The Genius of Cavaille-Coll” with French wine & cheese

St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Palo Alto, 600 Colorado Ave

* *April 20*, 4:00 pm: **PA/Pen Spring Members’ recital**

St. Joseph’s Catholic Church, Mountain View, 582 Hope St

* *November 24*, 7:00 pm: **PA/Pen chapter Member’s Recital** consisting of member **Don Knuth’s *Fantasia Apocalypta***, a major multi-movement organ solo work with projected images; a literal aural record of the Book of Revelation

Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church, 728 W Fremont Ave

February 3*, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm: **Pedals, Pipes and Pizza for ages 8 - 18

Sponsored by the San Jose chapter. Please direct piano students and their families to register [HERE](#) (no charge for registration or pizza lunch). Limited to the first 15 students to register.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Saratoga, 12770 Saratoga Ave.

November 17, 12:00 pm: Angela Kraft Cross, organ

Oren’s Hummus, downtown Los Gatos, 1 No. Santa Cruz Ave.

Nov. 11*, 1:00 pm: **No-host Social time lunch, San Jose Chapter; All are welcome!

(Note this replaces the previously-advertised Nov. 4 repertoire sharing session)

Peace (UCC) Church, 900 High St, Santa Cruz

December 31, 4 p.m: **19th Annual New Year’s Eve Organ Kaleidophone**

Music for organ solo, and in ensemble with other instruments, performed by local organists with their musical friends. Free will donation

The next newsletter will be published in mid-January The deadline for submitting concert listings, articles, photos, job listings and notices of organs or harpsichords for sale, is **January 8**. 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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