



# e-Newsletter

OCTOBER 2003

[www.agosanjose.org](http://www.agosanjose.org)  
Bob Birnstihl, e-Editor, [bobb@envysys.com](mailto:bobb@envysys.com)



## OCTOBER PROGRAM

# Members' Concert

**Sunday, October 19, 2003, 4 PM**

*St. Jude the Apostle Episcopal Church*  
20920 McClellan Road (at Stelling), Cupertino

Performers:

**Berdie Bowlsby**

**Elizabeth Codd**

**Anita Graves**

**Carol Griffin**

**Cecilia Lung**

**Pat Milstead**

**Carolyn Pryor**

**Alishan Merjanian**

*Frasier Scholarship winner*

Members will be playing pieces related to the Liturgical Year from Epiphany through Pentecost. An offering will be received to support the work of the Guild. Please invite your neighbors and friends to attend with you.

Following the concert, you will have an opportunity to select from three boxes of (mostly classical) used music generously donated by a retired organist. Come and choose what you wish.

## Dean's Column

Dear Colleagues,

By now everyone must be in the swing of things. Perhaps those of you who are efficient planners are working on Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas music. Some of you are thinking about it. No matter what, I hope we all do our work with dedication and diligence.

Eighty years ago a group of people were hard at work in getting our chapter started. Thus on Oct. 3, 1923, the San Jose Chapter came into being. We have a most appropriate time to celebrate our chapter birthday on Oct. 19, 2003, immediately following our annual members' concert. It would be a good time for fellowship and sharing stories about our chapter's history. I think taking a group photo would be a good idea.

Come and take part.

Since it is important to your



Board of Directors that all members keep abreast of chapter events, we have decided to mail each of you a hard copy of our newsletter every month. We will continue to post it on our website, and I encourage you to look it up. The site is in color and very likely to contain photos. Have you gone back and checked your September newsletter? Please do.

If any member would absolutely NOT want to receive a hard copy each month, PLEASE EMAIL ME and I will then send you an email reminder when the newsletter is posted on the web. I NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Your executive board welcomes ideas from you—go to [www.agosanjose.org](http://www.agosanjose.org), click on "officers" and then click on the envelope next to each board member's name and "speak up"—we'll take it from there.

Mary Ann Gee, Dean  
408-259-8923  
[mary\\_ann\\_gee@yahoo.com](mailto:mary_ann_gee@yahoo.com)

## Positions Available

**Organist. Naval Postgraduate School, #1**  
University Circle, Monterey 93943. Sun. serv. 9 a.m. in Episcopal/Lutheran tradition and 11:15 contemporary praise service, keyboard style—3-manual Allen organ. Renewable yearly contract. Please contact Chaplain Mark Smith for the Statement of Work and info on the bidding process. Call 83-656-2241 or email pkalliso@nps.navy.mil

**Organist/Pianist, P.T. First Unit. Methodist Church, Sunnyvale.** Sun. serv. 8 & 10:30 ; Wed. choir. 30 yr. old Allen, 3 man., grand piano. Salary negotiable., vacation and health benefits. Contact Tim Riley 408-404-8593 days, or tim.riley@earthlink.net

**Organist/Pianist. Bethany Lutheran Church, 1095**  
Cloud Ave., Menlo Park CA 94025. Salary negotiable. 1972 Wicks organ; Baldwin piano. Sun. serv. 9:30 a.m.; Choir prac. Wed. & Sun. 9 a.m. Require proficiency in piano & organ, contemp. & classical; choir and inst. accomp, small ensembles and children's concerts. Send letter and résumé to Deborah Sutherland at church or email: dsresound@bethany-mp.org

**Pianist. First Presbyterian Church, 1667 Miramonte Ave., Mt. View, 94040.** Steinway piano. Sun. serv. 10:30 a.m.; choir reh. Thursday eve. and Sunday 10 a.m. Require proficiency in sight reading of contemporary & classical choral music. Salary negotiable. Pos. begins Sept. 4th rehearsals; 1st serv. on Sept. 21st. Send letter and resume to K. Forrester, dir. of music, at the church or email katherine4ster@aol.com. Church contact: Margie Haines: 650-968-4473 or email: office@fpcmv.org.

**Organist/Choir Director. St. Mary's by the Sea Episcopal Church** 146 12th St., Pacific Grove, CA 93950. 4 rank 1997 Schantz organ. 20 member SATB adult choir. Quality, organized music library. Children's music program awaiting director. Salary negotiable. Contact Rector, Rev. Richard Leslie at 831-373-4441 or email rbl111@scualum.com

**Organist. Trinity Presbyterian Church 3151 Union Ave., San Jose, CA 95124.** Salary for Sun. serv. at 9:30 a.m.: \$150, for Thurs. choir practice: \$50. Rodgers 3 man. organ plus MIDI-12 yrs. old. Additional choir warmup 9 a.m. Sun. No choir July 9:30 a.m.: \$150, for Thurs. choir practice: \$50. Rodgers 3 man. organ plus MIDI-12 yrs. old. Additional choir warmup 9 a.m. Sun. No choir July & Aug. Send resume to Vem Tegger at the church.

**Wanted:** Organist to play continue with me (recorder)—baroque chamber music—for pleasure now, possibility of securing future gigs. Roland C-180 Continue Organ with Gedakt 8' stop and other possible registration, transposable to A415 and A392 (pitches of my recorders). Ability to play from figured bass a plus. Call Charles Fischer 408-734-2484 (Sunnyvale).

**Position Wanted:** Professional Organist seeks Sunday afternoon church position. Call Raymond Ruckle at 831-601-4951.

## October Music Calendar

### Wed. / 1st / 8 pm

Robert Huw Morgan, orgn. Part I of the Complete Works of Buxtehude. Memorial Church, Stanford campus, Palo Alto. \$10/\$5

### Fri. / 3rd / 8 pm

James Welch, organ. All Bach program to mark 10th anniversary as SCU organist. Santa Clara Mission Church on SCU campus. \$10/\$8/\$5

### Sun. / 5th / 2:30 pm

Simon Gledhill, (England), Mighty Wurlitzer. Community Theatre, Kittredge at Milvia Street, Berkeley. \$12 at the door.

### Sun. / 5th / 3 pm

The Gentlemen of The Choir. Choral music for St. Francis Day. Grace Cathedral, SF.

### Sun. / 5th / 4 pm

Gwen Adams, organ, Jim Duncan, trumpet. Music of Bruhns, Bach, Hindemith, Torelli. First Lutheran Church, 600 Homer at Webster, Palo Alto. \$10/\$8

### Sun. / 5th / 4:30 pm

Babak & Pedram Falsafi, classical guitars. St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 20 University Ave., Los Gatos. two

### Fri. / 10th / 8 pm

SJSU Choraliers, C. Archibeque, dir. A Choral Sampler: German madrigals, Schumann lieder, 20th C. chansons by Poulenc & Distler, folk songs of Bulgaria, Scotland, USA. United Methodist Church, 1675 Winchester Blvd., Campbell. \$25/\$15/\$10

### Sun. / 12th / 2 pm

Peninsula Chapter Members Concert. "Pipes Spectacular". Memorial Church, Stanford, Palo Alto.

### Sun. 12th 3pm

Lynda Alexander, organ. Dale Peppers, baritone, Jamie Pamam, liturgical dance. "Expression of the

Spirit: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 13601  
Saratoga Ave. Saratoga. \$10

**Sat. / 18th / 4 pm**

San Francisco Chapter Members Concert. Lakeside  
Presbyterian Church, 201 Eucalyptus Dr. at 19th  
Ave., San Francisco.

**Sun. / 19th / 4 pm**

Chapter program. See p. 1.

**A LOOK AHEAD** (details next month)

**Nov. 7th, 7:30 pm.** Sophie Chang. Immanuel  
Lutheran, Saratoga.

**Nov. 9th, 4 pm.** Tom Hazleton, Presbyterian  
Church, Los Gatos.

**Nov. 15th, 10 a.m.**- Chapter event.

## Board Meeting

Oct. 14, 2003, 7:30 pm at Campbell Unit. Methodist  
Church, 1675 Winchester Blvd. at Hamilton,  
Campbell. If you cannot attend, please call the  
secretary to be excused. All meetings are open.

## Directory Changes

**WELCOME! New Members:**

SABEROLA, Sally Lo (Reg.)

1991 Landess Ave., Milpitas 95035, 408-942-9882  
Sally is Dir. of Music at Grace Lutheran, S.J.

WU, Te-Lun (Reg.)

2326 Lucretia Ave., Apt. 1, San Jose 95122  
408-295-9679

**addenda:** Please clip these entries & paste on page  
18:

WONG, Michael

840 Sierra Madre Blvd.

San Marino, CA 91108

408-888-3595

michael@galaxy.nsc.com

ZIMMERMAN, Arlene

21386 Amulet Drive

Cupertino, CA 95014

408-739-7094

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Jean Drahmann, Newsletter Editor

16239 Jacaranda Way

Los Gatos, CA 95032

408.356.2813

Next copy deadline: October 20, 2003

## Convention Reports

(More reports of workshops and musical events from  
the 2003 Regional Convention in Salt Lake City.)

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### The Alexander Technique

presented by James Drake

by Libby Codd

This technique was originated by an  
Australian actor who was getting tense and tight  
to the point that he could no longer act. Over  
many years he found that all our activities are  
dependent upon relationship of the head, neck  
and back. The head should be balanced by the  
small muscles, not the large ones. James Drake  
began with the following instructions:

1. Let the neck be free
2. Allow the head to go forward and up
3. Lengthen and widen the back
4. let the knees go forward and away from  
the hips

Do not try to make things happen—these  
directions are only a thought process. Trust—do  
not try to feel in the body to see if the directions  
are happening. They are below the conscious  
level and the body will move in the direction you  
are thinking.

I was one of his subjects, and he held my  
head very firmly and pulled it upward with my  
chin tilted down. The sensation was pleasant,  
resembling traction which I do occasionally for  
pinched nerves. Drake also said that tension  
results from false messages the body sends about  
its position. I have experienced this myself, in that I  
tend to tilt my head to the right. When I try to  
correct it and then look in the mirror, I see that it is  
barely straight, although I felt I had tilted much  
more.

One can acquire this technique in as little as  
25 sessions. Drake gave us as reference  
Alexander's book: "The Use of Self", Centerline  
Press, Long Beach.

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### Hancock-Hunter-Welch Concert

by Kay Lee

A nice change of pace from all the organ  
recitals we had heard was a concert given by  
Kathryn Hunter, soprano, Robin Hancock, piano  
and James Welch, organ. The program was  
comprised of art songs by French Romantic

organists: Widor, Pierné, Saint-Saëns, Guilmant and Vierne.

The concert took place in the very ornate chapel in the Joseph Smith Memorial Building, built in 1911 as the Hotel Utah. The organ is a white 2 manual, 45 rank Casavant Freres.

The organ-piano duets were all very lively and were placed between soprano numbers. My favorite was the Saint-Saëns "Scherzo", #5 of the *Six Duos for Harmonium and Piano*, op. 8. It was playful and brought lots of smiles from the audience.

The vocal pieces were sung in French and all were beautiful. Kathryn Hunter was very expressive in her singing and wonderful to hear. My favorites were the Widor *Ave Maria* and the *Les Angelus* by Vierne. The latter was the last piece on the program and had added color to set a religious mood with the ringing of an actual F# chime. It was a fitting end of the day with bell ringing and calling the faithful to prayer.

This was a delightful concert!

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### **Workshop: Mormon Hymnody**

presented by Karen Davidson  
by John Eldred

The first of 2 workshops was entitled: "We'll make the Air with Music Ring—a hymn tradition blossoms in the desert." Each attendee was given a copy of the LDS hymnal from which we sang 5 hymns during the course of the presentation. The text of one hymn was written by Ms Davison. I enjoyed these hymns, all of which were new to me.

According to Mormon teaching, 3 months after the LDS Church was organized, the Lord, through Prophet Joseph Smith, instructed Joseph's wife Emma to make a selection of sacred hymns for the church. Since that time music and singing have been an integral part of Mormon life. Choirs and congregational singing are essential parts of church meetings. The Mormon Hymnal is their fifth book of scripture. They are also encouraged to have music in the home for the power of music to lift the spirits.

The second workshop was: "Hark All Ye Nations!—the global reach of Mormon hymnody today." Davidson told of the challenges the Saints face in their desire to have one church world-wide and still accommodate the customs, languages and desires of many peoples. She has been directly involved in missionary work in several countries, focusing on music. Preparing a hymnal for each country to contain its own hymnody plus

the prescribed Mormon hymns meant making compromises. Non-Mormons had to be hired to translate verses and, in some cases, words were changed because literal translation did not convey the original meaning.

Davison described Mormons as being optimistic, hopeful and not knowing when to quit! As a missionary in Africa she taught singing and conducting. However, the people did not have keyboards. The Mormons devised a portable, inexpensive (\$89) keyboard having organ and piano voices—then the Africans needed lessons! Enter the Mormons. Davidson showed slides of keyboard classes, choirs and people carrying the small keyboards through the countryside. There was a picture of a Little Mormon Tabernacle in west Africa which had 3 pianists and a 30-voice choir.

This workshop gave me an excellent insight into the workings of the LDS Church and how the Saints use music and singing to preach, to draw their congregations together and for their own enjoyment.

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### **Joyce Jones Recital**

by Joyce Rhodes

The recital was played at Libby Gardner Concert Hall on the campus of the University of Utah on the new Lively-Fulcher 2000, mechanical key action with assist, electric stop action, 3 man., 64 ranks. Wow—what can I say? Dr. Jones played with her usual flourish, lightning quick fingers and heels and toes. The pedals rumbled—you could feel them!

Her humility, wit and charm came through as she told stories between each selection. The program included works of Widor, J.S. Bach, Mozart, Franck, Vierne, Litaize, Boulnois, Dupré and Van Hulse. With the exception of "Prelude et Danse Fugue" by Litaize, she had memorized the entire program. Although she put out music beginning on page 6, she did start on page 1.

Two interesting stories. Camille Van Hulse was a good friend and she played for his 75th birthday. Karl Richter didn't take any money for lessons. 'If you want to learn, I'll teach,' he told her.

She made a pitch for memorizing music, saying that page turners either turn too early or too late, or two pages. No other reason should be necessary to memorize, although there are many. She first played for an AGO regional convention fifty years ago. The piece was J. S. Bach's *Fantasy and Fugue in g minor*, BWV542. She played this

selection with a feeling of love and sentiment for Bach, for music, for the organ, for life.

This was a most enjoyable program, especially since I'd had the chance to get to know her while she was in San Jose last year as our chapter's featured artist. She had also played at the 1989 regional convention which our chapter hosted. I enjoyed her wit and charm and stories and her interesting program, played superbly. She is an artist to behold and enjoy.

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### **Organ Pedagogy Workshop**

presented by Joyce Jones  
by Pat Eldred

After a brilliant recital the night before, Joyce Jones delivered a workshop on Organ Pedagogy in her own inimitable style. Part mother hen, part stand up comedienne in the Grand Ol' Opry style, she introduced her new book "King of Instruments; Organ Teaching Book"\*

I believe that every method book is a history of someone's success in teaching and if your circumstances are similar to those for which Joyce Jones developed her materials, her book can be quite useful.

She began by describing its purpose: this is NOT a full academic course of instruction such as a Gleason or Davis method. It is intended for persons who have adequate, moderate piano skills who have been "zapped," as Joyce put it, into being instant organists for service playing and who wish to play simple hymn tunes on the organ in a creditable manner. The book was developed as material for a two-week summer camp where pianists could be trained to acquire basic organ

skills in a short time. The received daily instruction for four hours and had four hours practice time daily. She related delightful stories of successes where young people could learn the hymn arrangements. There are 28 familiar hymns in the book with introductions, preludes, trios, voluntaries or toccatas based on them. Some plus factors became evident:

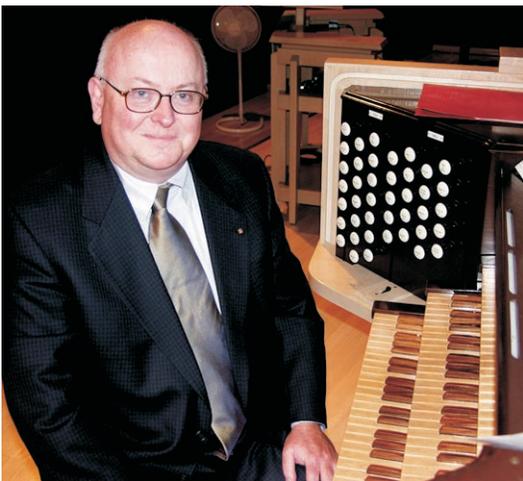
1. Comparison of piano and organ playing, tone production, registration, etc. in simple academic style.
2. Graded exercises meant to be done by rote to build confidence in the student. Exercises can be transposed.
3. Insistence on a "Seven Step method for Organ Practice" on every level to build good habits.
4. Carefully chosen original supplementary materials useful for services.

This book can be useful for disciplined adults wanting to develop organ skills on their own, although guidance would work best. I would use it to teach a person who is already playing the piano for church services, one who is motivated to learn organ. Its best use seems to be for total immersion, intense sessions for young people who may experience enough success to inspire them to further study.

Joyce Jones presented an entertaining workshop with many stories and demonstrations of neck and shoulder exercises developed by her physical therapist—and pivoting versus scooting on the bench—which kept the audience in stitches.

\*"King of Instruments: Organ Teaching Book"; Morning Star Music Publishers of St. Louis, 1727 Larkin Williams Rd., Fenton, MO 63026. ISBN0-944529-33-x,\$24.95

### ***Dr. Charles Callahan with Organist Mary Ann Gee and Director of Music Dorothy Straks at***



***Campbell  
U.M.C.  
concert,  
Sunday,  
Sept.  
28.***