



SAN JOSE PIPINGS
 SAN JOSE CHAPTER OF THE AGO
 March 2006 www.agosanjose.org



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Dean's Message

Our special thanks this month to **Berdie Bowlsby** who was the chair of this year's Student Recital, to **Valerie Sterk**, our hostess who made us feel most welcome, and to **Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church** who gave us use of their beautiful organ. Sixty people turned out to give support to these students, who ranged in age from 10 through adult.

Did you ever have someone ask "What's the AMA" or "What's the ABA"? Frequently when I use the initials "AGO" people will ask "What does that stand for?" A friend of mine who is an excellent music minister/choral director with a degree in Pastoral Ministries asked when I mentioned the AGO: "Is that still going on? Is the organ used much in church anymore?" When I mentioned our student recital and our younger members, another acquaintance was surprised to learn that there are young organists out there. Apparently our relationship with the general (and more specific) public is in an alarming state.

These and other pertinent issues can be asked of **Frances Nobert**, our Regional Councillor, when she visits our Chapter on **Sunday March 5, 3 pm**, at St. Joseph of Cupertino. Just what can National do for us? How do they use our money? What are they / we doing to get our name and purpose before people?

March is a very busy month for the Chapter. When else will we have a chance to hear an authentic early Colonial style organ played by an extremely talented Mexican organist, **Laura Carresco** featuring authentic music of the period? Come to Mission San Jose on **Sunday March 12, 3 PM** to hear this interesting and appealing combination. It is my understanding that **Manuel Rosales** who built the organ in traditional style will be there. Our Chapter was honored to be asked to participate in this special program. Let's show lots of support. Tell everyone you know and bring lots of friends. See you in "downtown" Mission San Jose on the 12th. Are you interested in carpooling? No admission charge.

Remember **Lothar Bandermann's** performance of his *Requiem* at St. Joseph of Cupertino on **Mar 26th**. Organ, orchestra and combined choirs from DeAnza college and SJC.

See the August 04 TAO for an article on the new Task Force on Digital Inclusiveness that National has set up. The ongoing Task Force is addressing concerns re the instruments that we play, and has stated that the **QUALITY** of the instrument is more important than the method of sound production. Did you know that electronic instruments are outselling pipe organs 15 to 1? This is a reality, and we need be realistic about this fact. We need to encourage ALL organists to join and be active in our Chapter.

Member **Joyce Rhodes** recently had surgery – remember her break from the sled ride in Switzerland? Let us know when you are on the disabled list.

There will be Board changes at the end of the year. If you are called to serve, please say "Yes". We are always looking for fresh suggestions, ideas from the members.

Thought for the month: "Compare your manifold blessings with the trifling annoyances of each day".

Patricia Milstead, Dean &

Future Events

March 5 Dr. Frances Nobert, page 2. **March 12** Carrasco Concert, page 2.
March 26 Lothar Bandermann's Requiem, page 4. **May 21** Boomaria, 2 PM see page 2.

Melanie Cervi, Sub Dean &

THE SAN JOSE CHAPTER FEBRUARY EVENT
Student Recital

Melanie Cervi

The San Jose Chapter student recital was held February 5, 2006 at Sunnyvale Presbyterian church. We enjoyed music presented by **Carole Holmes**, **Jessica Cabrera** students of Pat Milstead; **Mark Johanson** student of Zita Weyland; **Scott Lillard** student of David Hatt; **Chinar Merjanian**, **Dorothy Schwartz** students of Christine Merjanian; **John de Villiers**, **Taylor Purvis** students of Berdie Bowlsby; and **Gary Carleton** student of Dr. James Welch.

A wide range of literature was played showcasing the Balcom and Vaughan instrument. Music by Bach, Langlais, Dupre and several arrangements of hymn tunes was heard. Thank you to Valerie Sterk and Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church for sharing their wonderful instrument. Each year it's a treat to encourage these new organists and hear the improvement made by returning organists.



Left to Right: Scott Lillard, John de Villiers, Taylor Purvis, Mark Johanson, Carole Holmes-DeMatteo, Chinar Merjanian, Gary Carleton, Jessica Cabrera and Dorothy Schwartz (not pictured). &

UP COMING EVENT

Sunday, March 5, 3 PM. Dr. Frances Nobert will be at **St. Joseph of Cupertino, 10110 N De Anza Blvd, Cupertino** to answer questions we have about national and what national can do for us. See you there. Questions can include what we as a chapter can expect the Regional officers to do. It can also include asking advice on what a chapter like ours should focus our energies on. &

CHAPTER CO-SPONSORED EVENT

Laura A. Carrasco, Organist

Mexican Music at the Mission San José
Sunday, March 12, 3:00 pm

Historic Mission San José
43148 Mission Boulevard, Fremont, California



Voluntary donations accepted for the maintenance of the Colonial Mexican style pipe organ built by Manuel Rosales, Opus 14.

This event is sponsored by National University In cooperation with the Mission San José and the San José Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.
(916) 855-4145.

See last months issue for additional information and a specification of this unique organ she will play. Organ builder **Manuel Rosales** will there to talk about the organ. &

Sunday, May 21, 2 PM – BOOMARIA - Come join us for a trip over the mountain to see the organ installed in the cave. No Mystery here! We will gather to car pool, so if you would like to drive or would like to ride with someone else, please call 358-6568 to put your name on the list. If you have internet access, check out this website for more info: www.boomeria.com &

CHAPTER MEMBER EVENT

Carolyn Pryor

Sunday, March 5, at 3 pm
Mountain View Presbyterian Church, Custa at Miramonte, Mountain View., Cupertino, CA

SAI Public Musicale - Carolyn Pryor, organ: Prelude in G minor by Brahms, Sonata II by Mendelssohn; Doris McCune, piano and also Chamber Music FREE &

THE FRASIER ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP 2006

The Frasier Organ Scholarship has been established to encourage talented musicians of any age to continue organ studies. The award (\$800) will be made on the basis of demonstrated talent and potential. The scholarship must be used for specified continuing education in organ studies. Such studies may include weekly organ lessons, course fees, workshops, etc. The Frasier scholarship is open to current chapter members and to organ students studying with or sponsored by current members (previous winners are not eligible).

To qualify for the Frasier Organ Scholarship, applicants must (1) submit an application form and two recommendations to the Chair of the Scholarship Committee **by April 1, 2006**, and (2) audition in person before the Scholarship Committee. The two recommendations should be from persons qualified to evaluate the applicant's musical ability, professional activity, and potential. For the audition, each applicant will play three organ compositions/movements in various styles and characters, and three verses of a hymn. The three organ compositions must include one written before 1800, one written between 1800 and 1900, and one written after 1900. Applicants will be given a choice of four familiar hymns, and should prepare to play three verses of one of those hymns: the first verse in traditional four-part harmony, and the other verses may be original, published, or improvisational. Auditions for the Frasier Organ Scholarship will be held in late **April**, and the winner will be notified by May 1, 2006.

Please consider applying or encouraging an eligible organ student to apply for the Frasier Organ Scholarship this year. You can read over the complete qualifications/requirements for the scholarship on our website, www.agosanjose.com. If you're interested in applying, please contact **Valerie Sterk** (Chair of the Scholarship Committee) by phone or email (408) 249-5705 / vssterk@aol.com, and she will mail you an application form. &

Slate of Officers to be voted on in May.

1. Auditor: **Rebecca Harrison** (Thank you Rebecca!)
2. Secretary: **Theresa Oatman** (Thank you Theresa)
Our current, capable secretary, **Kathy Dougherty** will be taking off for a year or two to play at the retirement game.
3. New Members-at-Large: **Bill Ferguson** and **Andrew Birling** (Thank you gentlemen!).

As of this printing, all other officers will continue in their present position.

Any member may propose any other member to fill a position as long as the person agrees to be nominated. Call **Carol Griffin** AND send a written proposal ASAP. We must have a definite slate by next month.

Thanks to my committee helpers: Christine Merjanian and Anita Jamison-Blanks!

Short bios will appear next month.

AGO CERTIFICATION

The Professional Certification Requirements for 2006 is posted on page 47 of the **July 2005 TAO**. It also has the examination dates, application procedures, and fee for all levels of AGO Certification. Repertoire for the Service Playing Certificate and the Colleague Certificate changes only every other year. The National Headquarter has many materials available to assist candidates preparing for the examinations. See "Certification Study Materials" on page 6 of every TAO issue's [AGO Resources](#) page. Our chapter library also has some materials for members to borrow. Contact our Dean Pat for titles available. I prepared for the CAGO exam with lessons with Dr. Jim Welch. Playing the accompaniment of vocal solo and choral work numbers without a soloist or a choir singing along, I find listening to live performance and recordings were very helpful with registration and get the feel of the music, particularly when the accompaniment was written for orchestra.

Articles on performing the 2006 CAGO exam Repertoire in recent TAO issues:

"A Select bibliography for AGO certification preparation," October 2005, page 79

"Colleague Exam Repertoire," by Joyce Shupe Kull, FAGO, CHM November, 2005, page 54

"CAGO Examination Repertoire," by John Walker, FAGO. December 2005, page 111

"CAGO Contemporary Repertoire. 2006-2007," by Ronald L. Gould, AAGO Jan. 2006 p.74, and

"AGO Colleague Choral and Solo Repertoire," by Denise Lanning, FAGO, Feb, 2006, page 100

Have fun! Cecelia Lung &

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Woodside Village Church (UCC) is seeking applicants for the position of Organist. 1960 Moeller pipe organ (3/23). Services are on Sundays from 9:30am until 10:40am or so. **CONTACT: Mark Adams**, Director of Music Woodside Village Church, Woodside 408.838.7400. t3nor@aol.com . &

San Diego Pipe Organ Encounter

A Pipe Organ Encounter is an incredible opportunity for piano students between 13 and 18. San Diego will host a POE for the third time, (**July 16-22**). Contact

Lea Schmidt-Rogers, District Convener

Chris Cook Coordinator for Professional Development

Beverly McGahey, 2006 Chair of the San Diego POE &

Board Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14th, 2006 at 7:30 PM in the home of Pat Milstead, 1258 Oak Knoll Dr., San Jose. All meetings are open. &

Conn 650 Theater Organ

A 20 year old Conn 650 for Sale. Three manuals, AGO Pedals. One owner, in excellent condition. Call Louise Mullenback at (408) 268-5997. &

TIPS AND CHALLENGES

Elizabeth Codd

TIP: How many of you have wanted to modulate from your offertory to the key of G for the Doxology? Maybe you came up a bit short while there were several rows left to collect from, or you wanted to avoid that abrupt change of key. I have heard it done quite thrillingly.

While looking over the articles on improvisation in some 2005 TAO's I came across *The Modulating Bridge* by **Philip Gehring** in the May issue, page 72. When he demonstrated the use of the Neapolitan 6th (which I had long forgotten) it was like an answer to prayer—a foolproof way to move down a minor 2nd. So I worked out getting from **Ich Ruf' zu Dir** to the **Doxology** using the A-flat chord as the pivot, per this example



CHALLENGE:

Not exactly thrilling, but fun to do and not nearly as difficult as exercising my shaky command of Sibelius. Now that I have pushed my eyeballs back in, I urge you to look over this article and try it yourself. Improvising a bridge between two hymns is one of the requirements in the CAGO exam. The AGO offers lots of help in getting ready for these certification exams. I found them well worth preparing for even though I had to try several times. &

CHAPTER MEMBER EVENT

Lothar Banderman's Requiem

Sunday, March 26, at 7:30 pm

**St. Joseph of Cupertino Catholic Church
10110 N. De Anza Blvd., Cupertino, CA 95014**

First performance of a 10-movement *Requiem* by (chapter member and former sub-dean) Lothar Bandermann, for Solo, Mixed Chorus, **Berdie Bowlsby**, organ and orchestra, performed by the combined De Anza College choirs under the direction of **Roger Letson**, head of the De Anza College Vocal Department

The performance will be part of the annual Winter Quarter choral concert given by the three De Anza choral groups (Chorale, Women's Chorus and Vintage Singers). Lothar's *Requiem* was premiered at St. Joseph's in 2004 with organ accompaniment and a small choir in a performance dedicated to then recently deceased chapter members. Two new movements have since been added and the score has been such that the work can be performed either with organ and instrumental ensemble (string quartet plus flute and/or oboe) or with orchestra only, and it can of course also be performed with organ accompaniment only. The March performance will be with organ and instrumental ensemble. Choral works by Lothar Bandermann are published by Cantus Quercus Press (website <http://cantusquercus.com>), and the *Panis*

Angelicus from the *Requiem* just came out by as a choral anthem. **For more information please see last months issue.**

Welcome To Our Newest Members

Andrew Birling is serving as Director of Music Ministries at Campbell United Methodist Church, where he directs three choirs and oversees a program including eight handbell and vocal choirs. Mr. Birling holds a B.M. in Organ and Harpsichord Performance from Lawrence University of Appleton, WI. His past teachers include George Damp and Miriam Duncan, organ and harpsichord, and Richard Bjella, conducting. Also a composer, Mr. Birling's handbell arrangement of "For All the Saints" is available from Hope Publishing, and three choral anthems, "The Wintertime Has Come Again," "Walk Softly in Springtime" and "The Loving God Who Made Us All," are available from Augsburg Fortress.

John DeVilliers is a Junior at the Kings Academy and studies organ and piano with Berdie Bowlsby. He also plays in the bell choir at his church and is now learning the guitar, plus he plays soccer.

He had the good fortune to have lessons from Felix Hell at the POE in San Francisco last September. After the PEO the San Francisco Chapter generously awarded him a membership in **our** Chapter for this year.

Ann Thiermann began her studies in piano at six and accompanied both ballet and opera in Manhattan putting herself through art school. Her organ teachers include Tom Harmond, James Welch, and Marcia Farmer. She has been a practicing church musician since the 1970's, currently the organist at Christ Lutheran Church in Aptos. She can be reached at 662 Cathedral Dr., Aptos, CA 95003 aet@ucsc.edu 831-685-0744.

Ann is also a classically trained fine artist with extensive academic background in both landscape and figurative painting. Her paintings are included in numerous private and public collections through out California. She has designed over sixty murals for museums, libraries, and educational institutions. Some of her murals are in State Park Centers in the Monterey Bay and Santa Cruz Counties. She attended the Regional Organ Conclave in Las Vegas along with Pat Milstead and Libby Codd.

ESTEY PIPE ORGAN FOR SALE

The value was about \$8000. 16 ranks - Two pedal 16 & 8 - reed and mixture on the swell. Contact Greg: greghulsechina@yahoo.com

Music Calendar

Locations

CPLH: Calif. Palace of the Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park, 34th Ave & Clement St., San Francisco

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

GC: Grace Cathedral, 1100 California St. San Francisco

PC-AGO: Advertised by Peninsula AGO Chapter

* Chapter Member

** Chapter Sponsored Event

March

3 Friday

Sili Deo Gloria, guest conductor **Chad Runyon** presents Latin Elegance, cappella concert celebrating the Italian Renaissance music of Victorian & Palestrina, **7:30 PM, First Lutheran, Palo Alto** (600 Homer Ave), **PC-AGO**

4 Saturday

David Hegarty, Pops Concert, **4 PM CPLH**

Sili Deo Gloria, guest conductor **Chad Runyon** (see 3 March), **5 PM, St. Gregory of Nyssa, San Francisco** (500 Del Haro St, between 17th and Mariposa), **PC-AGO**

5 Sunday

Sili Deo Gloria, guest conductor **Chad Runyon** (see 3 March), **3:30 PM, Zio Lutheran, Piedmont** (5201 Park Blvd.), **PC-AGO**

David Hegarty, Pops Concert, **4 PM CPLH**

* **Carolyn Pryor**, organ and **Doris McCune**, piano. Also Chamogger Music. Plays Prelude in G minor by Brahms, Sonata II by Mendelssohn, **3 PM Mountain Veiv**

Presbyterian Church, Custa at Miramonte. FREE

11/12 Saturday/Sunday

Robert Gurney, Mozart, Sousa, Rodgers, **4 PM CPLH**

12 Sunday

** **Laura A. Carrasco**, organ. **3 PM Mission San Jose, 43148 Mission Blvd, Fremont, CA Chapter Co-sponsored**

Raymond Garner, organ. Plays Tournemire **3:30 PM CSMA**

Tom Barra, organ. **4 PM GC**

16 Thursday

Rachmaninoff Festival Choir, will sing Sergei, *The Liturgy of St. John Chrysotom*. **7:30 PM GC**

18/19 Saturday/Sunday

John Karl Hirten, Purcell, Bach, Ernst, Saint-seans, Kaarg-Elert, Vierne, **4 PM CPLH**

19 Sunday

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Choir, Ragazzi Boys Chorus and Saratoga Symphony. "Mass of the Children," Shulamit Hoffman, Director. Director of Music: Lynda Alexander Choir Director: Dale Peppers. **3: PM St. Andrew's Episcopal, 133601 Saratoga Ave, Saratoga**, \$15 General, \$100 Seniors/Students

Mauro Correa, guitar, with **Latin American Chamber Music Society**. **3:30 PM CSMA**

Rodney Gehrke, organ. Plays Bach, Mendelssohn, & Alain. **4 PM GC**

25 Saturday

Keith Thompson, Pops Concert, **4 PM CPLH**

Schola Cantorum, Gregory Wait, Music Director. "*The Many Moods of Russia*." All-Russian celebration in song, featuring the music of Tchaikovsky (*Liturgy of St. John*, Chrysostom), Titov, Chesnokov, and other outstanding Russian composers,

including Rachmaninov. **8 PM First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamilton Ave, Palo Alto, PC-AGO**

26 Sunday

David Hatt, organ. Plays Tournemire, **3:30 PM CSMA**

Keith Thompson, Pops Concert, **4 PM CPLH**

Wolfgang Rùbsam, organ. **4 PM GC**

Schola Cantorum, Gregory Wait, Music Director (see 25 Mar). **4 PM Los Gatos United Methodist Church, 111 Church St Los Gatos, PC-AGO**

* **Requiem** by **Lothar Bander mann**, De Anza College Choral Concert featuring *Requiem* for Soprano solo, Organ and Instruments, by * **Lothar Bander mann**, conducted by **Roger Letson**, with * **Berdie Bowlsby**, organ. Suggested donation: \$7 general, \$5 seniors and students. **7:30 PM St. Joseph of Cupertino Catholic Church, 10110 N De Anza Blvd, Cupertino &**

April

2 Sunday

St. Dominic's Church Choir, Simon Berry, Director **3:30 PM CSMA**

Brian Swaager, organ. **4 PM GC**

9 Sunday

David Hatt, organ **3:30 PM CSMA**

First Thursday Concerts: Albert Campbell, All Saints Episcopal Church in Palo Alto, at 555 Waverly St. **12:15 PM** Featuring two Flentrop organs. &

Countdown to ChicAGO

The AGO will hold its 48th biennial NATIONAL CONVENTION in Chicago, Ill., **July 2-6, 2006**. More than 2,000 are expected to attend; 1,300 have already pre-registered, eclipsing the mark set by the AGO National Convention in Los Angeles. While convention registration is open to all, AGO members receive a discounted registration rate. Convention headquarters will be the Downtown Chicago Marriott Hotel on Michigan Avenue and the "Magnificent Mile." Complete details, including online registration, are available online at www.ago.org/2006.

The convention program includes a plethora of inspiring performances of organ, choral, and handbell music by leading artists in the field; 78 workshops on a variety of professional and interesting topics, including twelve choral reading sessions; and 100 exhibits by organbuilders, music publishers, and other vendors. Premier performances of new music by Frank Ferko, Adolphus Hailstork, Naji Hakim, Aaron Miller, Emily Maxson Porter, Richard Proulx, Shulamit Ran, Augusta Reed Thomas, Richard Webster, Sharon J. Willis, and Carl Wiltse/Donald Allured have won the support of the National Endowment for the Arts.

DAZZLING! An opening night concert spectacular on the Casavant organ in Symphony Center's Orchestra Hall features organists Thierry Escaich, Philippe Bélanger, Maxine Thevenot, David Schrader, and the ChicAGO Orchestra performing newly commissioned works for organ and orchestra conducted by Julian Wachner.

DIVERSE! Hear Thomas Murray playing the 1922 E.M. Skinner at St. Luke's Episcopal; Chelsea Chen playing the new Fisk at St. Chrysostom's; James O'Donnell playing the Dobson/Schlicker at Valparaiso University; Chicago Community Chorus and Mickey Thomas Terry at Moody Church; plus Janette Fishell, Alan and Jeannine Morrison, Carol Williams; and international artists Sophie-Véronique Cauchefer-Choplin (France), Alexander Fiseisky (Russia), Wolfgang Seifen and Stefan Engels (Germany).

DYNAMIC! A symphony of performing ensembles includes Chicago a cappella, the Bach Week Festival Orchestra and Cathedral Singers, Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus, Saint Clement Choir, House of Hope Presbyterian Church Choir, and the Trinity Church Wall Street Choir.

DRAMATIC! Savor organ recitals and performances of choral music in many of the grandest cathedrals and churches in the greater Chicago area, including Holy Name Cathedral, St. James Cathedral, Fourth Presbyterian Church, and Valparaiso University Chapel.

DIVINE! A heavenly host of worship opportunities in Chicago's houses of worship, plus daily Compline and Vespers; a Festival of Hymns, a workshop on "Singing the Psalms," and an inspirational forum on "Where Is Worship Going?"

DEFINITIVE! Hear the award-winning finalists in the National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance and the National Competition in Organ Improvisation, AGO/Quimby Rising Stars, as well as the world premier performances of compelling works by the winners of the AGO/ECS Award in Choral Composition and the Holtkamp-AGO Award in Organ Composition.

DARING! An unprecedented array of workshop choices from Gregorian chant to Gospel music; Hispanic resources to Dutch organ music; playing the pedals to performing arts medicine; the music of Buxtehude to that of Reger; Sowerby., to the life of Virgil Fox.

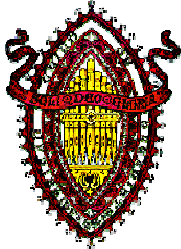
DELIGHTFUL! Exquisite dining, unparalleled shopping, fabulous fireworks, and all of the sights and sounds of cosmopolitan Chicago.

Please contact ChicAGO National Convention Coordinator Ron Vanderwest at 630-369-2994, or e-mail rvanderwest2006@hotmail.com &

American Guild of Organists

San Jose Chapter

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