



SAN JOSE PIPINGS
 SAN JOSE CHAPTER OF THE AGO
 February 2007 www.agosanjose.org



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Dean's Message

Thank you, members, for the wonderful show of support for our Student Recital. It is reassuring to see the talent of the students following in our footsteps. Thanks to the students who played, to member **John Jarvis** of Jarvis Music Associates who sponsored our reception, and to St. Mary's Church for hosting the recital. Thanks to Event Chair **Berdie Bowlsby** and to Reception Chair **Diane Keller** and workers **Melanie Cervi, Darryl Parker and Andrew Birling**.

See **Chris Bradshaw's** article (pg. 5) about the SF Organ Crawl. One thing that she didn't mention is that the maintenance of and additions to the Palace of Fine Arts organ are supported by an endowment fund for the life of the organ by the Bradford Trust of Pennsylvania. The whole thing is very mysterious. No one can find an address or any reference on the internet for the Trust or the lawyers responsible for administering it. Apparently this non-organist became enamored with the POFA organ upon hearing it, and set up money to keep it going in perpetuity. The organists and curator have to turn in all bills to the museum and have no direct contact with the Trust.

It was donated by Albert Spreckels of sugar fame, and was intended to be played every day from the time the Museum opened until it closed. (This actually happened for a number of years.) It was located under the central dome so that the sound would radiate throughout all the wings of the Museum, giving the public a feast for the ears as well as the eyes. Spreckels actually gave a number of organs to public places (I think 12) - think Balboa Park in San Diego. The organ is played every Sat and Sun at 4 pm and is worth a trip up there just for the experience.

Note: Please bring any old music you would like to donate to our **Feb meeting on Professional Concerns**. We will display it at 50c for a sheet, \$1 for a collection with the proceeds going into our program fund. (This idea came from the Colorado Springs Conference.) It should be quite a treat to hear Darryl's pastor, since he is an organist himself and should understand our thinking.

Remember that we DO have a library of tapes and reference books. As a matter of fact, a number of the tapes feature Keith Thompson as host. He was the recitalist at the POFA and plays there regularly on the 4th Sat and Sun. These are in need of some restoration. Do any of you have the ability and interest in transferring them to CDs? If so, please contact myself or **Kay Lee**, Librarian.

My thanks to **Jan Feller** for more info on the Atlantic City High School organ. More on that in the future.

Patricia Milstead, &

Future Events

Feb 18, Professional Concerns/Music Exchange – Pastor Bailey – 3 PM Immanuel Evangelical Luther Church, page 2.

Mar 18, 3 PM, Millennia Too!, Allison Luedeke (organ) & Susan Barrett (oboe) – page 2

Apr 22, Jeremy Filsell Concert, Los Altos United Methodist with Peninsula and San Francisco Chapters, page 2

May 19 – Saturday, Pedals, Pipes and Pizza: Help young area pianists discover the joy of the organ. Lutheran Church of our Savior, Cupertino

Melanie Cervi, Sub Dean &

PREVIOUS EVENT

Student Recital, 14 January 2007, 3PM

On a cold Winter's afternoon.....

Thank you to St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Los Gatos for opening their church between masses for our Student Recital. We gathered there on Sunday, January 14th to hear several area students play a variety of music. It was great to hear how several of the students have progressed in their studies! As always, it was a delight to hear how the organ responds to different tastes in registration and interpretation. Thank you to **Berdie Bowsby** for organizing the recital, also thanks to **John Jarvis** who sponsored our reception, **Diane Keller, Melanie Cervi, Darryl Parker,** and **Andrew Birling** who helped.

Participating were **Albert Bellefeuille, Alec Langga, Carole Holmes-DiMatteo, Scott Lillard, Chinar Merjanian, Taylor Purvis, Mary Lou Simmermacher,** and **David Wills**

We look forward to hearing more from students next year. If you are a teacher of organ students and would like to have a low stress opportunity for trying out developing skill, please let a Board Member know for next year. &

FUTURE CHAPTER EVENT

**Professional Concerns / Music Exchange
18 February 2007, 3PM**

Please come to our next meeting on **February 18, 2007** at **Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church on Moorpark in San Jose**. The **Rev. Lynn Bailey** will be talking on Clergy/Organist issue. It will be a special treat as Pastor Bailey is an accomplished organist himself. Having played in the New York area, he brings his wisdom and perspective to our quiet corner of the world. Following the program, there will be a table set up for a music exchange. So bring your music for sale to other organists and maybe to find a treasure from someone else's discards!

RSVP to by Feb. 15 **Melanie Cervi** 358-6568 or melaniecervi@verizon.net for a space at the table OR a chair in the discussion circle. &

FUTURE CHAPTER EVENT

**Millenium Too!
18 March 2007, 3PM**

Announcing a fantastic duo for your listening pleasure! Appearing **Sunday, March 18, 2007** at the **Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos**, 16575 Shannon Rd, Los Gatos, will be **Allison Luedecke**, organ and **Susan Barrett**, oboe in Millenium Too! Come hear wonderful music on the refurbished organ. For those of you planning on hearing the Silicon Valley Symphony the previous weekend, this will be a wonderful compliment to listen to. Millenium Too! will be free to the public, so please tell everyone you know about this fantastic opportunity! &

chair in the discussion circle. &

FUTURE CHAPTER EVENT

**Jeremy Filsell Concert!
22 April 2007, 3PM**

Jeremy Filsell Concert at Los Altos United Methodist Church on Foothill Expressway at El Monte. will perform. This is cosponsored by Palo Alto Peninsula and San Francisco chapters. &

Board Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb 13th, 2006 at 7:30 PM in the home of Pat Milstead, 1258 Oak Knoll Dr., San Jose. All meetings are open. &

TO JOIN THE SAN JOSE AGO YAHOO GROUP
Send an Email to Mary Ann Gee mary_ann_gee@yahoo.com

**San Jose Wind Symphony, Ed Harris, Conductor
2006-2007 Concert Season
Presents**

**Music in Motion, "Pulling Out
the Stops"**

**First United Methodist Church, 4
Feb, 2007, 3:00 PM**

1675 Winchester Blvd., Campbell, CA
95008

Featuring: **Berdie Bowsby**, Organ
soloist



There's nothing like a pipe organ!

For our third concert of the season, SJWS performs a special church concert with organ, featuring Reed's *Allelujah! Laudamus Te*, Weinberger's *Polka and Fugue* from *Schwanda the Bagpiper*, the Finale from Saint-Saens' *Organ Symphony*, J. Sousa's *King Cotton March*, Handel's *Concerto for Organ*, Op. 4, No. 6, P. Grainger's *The Power of Rome and the Christian Heart*, and *Sonata da Chiesa* by Schoonenbeek.

Ticket Information (tickets can be purchased in advance on the SJWS website):

Regular \$17.00 Seniors/Students \$15.00

**For season subscription and group sales information,
please call 408-927-7597. www.sjws.org**

FREE Freee FREE !!!!

I have a lot of old "**The American Organist**" (TAO) magazines that too good to throw out. If anyone would like to have them you are welcome to them. I have run out of storage space.

There are some very good articles that are always timely. The series "How to Improvise in 15 minutes a Day" started in 2001, so if you are missing any, now you can complete your collection.

These are mostly complete issues for the years from 1999 thru 2005. Also, there are some convention books. Call me for info. **Carol Griffin 408-269-3658**

Jarvis Music Associates, Inc.

Representing Rodgers in Northern California

PRESENTS

"Noodling" – a Class on Improvisation with Dr Robert Tall

Saturday, February 24, 2007 — 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon
7083 Commerce Circle, Suite B ❖ Pleasanton, CA 94588 ❖ (877) 734-3440

"Noodling" is a beginner's term for improvisation. This class will be helpful to those who want to freely play around on the keyboards, but feel tied to written music on the page. Improvisation can be learned. Dr Tall's approach is logical and easy to learn—he teaches how to "noodle" as he explores the sounds of the Rodgers MX200 MIDI Sound Module as his audio tool.



Robert Tall has devoted most of his life to the study of music. His tenure at the University of Utah culminated in 1967 with a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Music and Psychology. He has held important positions in churches and universities and continues his performance career as a concert organist, recording artist and clinician. He is an active member of the American Guild of Organists, presently a member of the Los Angeles Chapter Executive Board of Directors. Having served in various positions, including Dean, Dr Tall was the Convention Coordinator for the Los Angeles AGO National Convention, July 4–9, 2004.

Visit our website at:
www.JarvisMusic.com



Student Recital Participants, left to right: Albert Bellefeuille, Mary Lou Simmermacher, Alec Langga, David Wills, Carole Holmes-DiMatteo, and Chinar Merjanian. Not pictured: Scott Lillard and Taylor Purvis.

SCOTLAND/ENGLAND ORGAN CRAWL

After a very successful choral trip to the UK this year, and a wonderful organ crawl in Scotland just a few weeks ago (with glorious weather, and 32 different organs) we are happy to announce our upcoming schedule for 2007, which will include organ trips to **England** and **Scotland**, with the England trip also including a choral music bias with choral evensong in some of the top English Cathedrals. Finally in Advent we have a trip to England to attend some of the world famous Advent Carol Processions and Choral Evensongs, including services at Kings Cambridge, St John's Cambridge, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's London, and many more!

There are currently remaining places as follows:

- England Organ Crawl - 5
- Scotland Organ Crawl - 4
- England Advent Choral Trip - 6

Your help in passing this along to other interested organists/sacred music lovers would be greatly appreciated - hope to see you next year! If interested, contact **James Reed** at musicasacra@gmail.com

FRASIER ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP 2007

Chapter members: please consider applying for, or encouraging an eligible organ student to apply for, the Frasier Organ Scholarship this year. The Scholarship will be awarded on the basis of demonstrated talent and potential, and must be used for specified continuing education in organ studies. The scholarship amount is \$1000 for 2007.

The Fraser qualifications, application, and list of Hymns are on the Chapter web page, www.agosanjose.org. If you're interested in applying, please contact **Valerie Sterk** (408-249-5705; vssterk@aol.com). The deadline is **March 20, 2007**; the auditions will be in last two weeks of April (after Easter); and the winner will be notified by May 1. Please encourage any potential scholarship applicants now!

Position Opportunities

See the previous issues for more details for these opportunities.

Central Presbyterian Church, 1920 Canal Street, Merced, CA 95340, 209-723-0491. Part-time organist/accompanist. A degree and/or experience required. Contact **David Braceros**, Minister of Music and Worship, at (209)723-0491 dbraceros@cpccmerced.org. &

The First Presbyterian Church of Hollister, Organist. Accompaniment for the Sunday worship service, weddings, and funerals., & adult choir. Please contact **Rev. David B. Rodriguez**, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church at (831) 637-4350. &

All Saints' Episcopal Church, Palo Alto, one soprano and one bass, paid singers. If interested, call **Albert Campbell**, 5882campbell@comcast.net, - 510-710-1215 (cell) - 510-796-5258, home &

First Presbyterian Church of Burlingame, 1500 Easton Drive Burlingame, CA, **working with children, handbells and Orff instruments.** Please contact **Sara Prusko**, at 650-342-0875, ext. 253 or sprusko@burlpres.org. &

St. Bede's Episcopal Church, Menlo Park - Bass Section Leader Positions. Contact **Jane McDougle** at: (650) 854-6555 jmcdougle@stbedesmenlopark.org

San Francisco Girls Chorus - Level III Choral Director, knowledge of Kodaly Solfegg desirable. Contact **Elizabeth Avakian** at: avakian@sfgirlschorus.org &

Epiphany Episcopal Church, San Carlos is searching for an enthusiastic, people-oriented, as **organist/colleague** with Minister of Music, 11-month contract per year. 1 weekly rehearsal on Thursdays from 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM, all services of worship including Christmas, Christmas Eve, including Lessons and Carols, Lent, Holy Week and Easter services. Weddings and funerals are extra. Sundays: 1 service at 10:00 AM plus 9:00 AM service rehearsal, 2 Children's Choir rehearsals on Thursdays for 1 1/2 hours (8 months).

Desired traits: Knowledge of Episcopal service (desired, not required); ability to sightread, modulate and transpose. Interest in wide range of repertoire from Renaissance to Contemporary. Ability to lead congregational singing through hymn and service playing. Ability to relate to people of all ages. Sense of humor. Instrument: Galanti Preludium III - 3-manual Electronic, refurbished and expandable. Contact: **Cortlandt S. Bender**, Minister of Music - :650.281.4938, csbconsult@comcast.net. Availability: January 1, 2007. To be filled ASAP. &

St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1075 El Monte Avenue, Mountain View CA 94040, (650) 967-0666. **Organist/Choir Director.** Position available immediately - One liturgical service with adult choir, approximately 10 hours per week. Salary negotiable, based upon experience/education. Contact Church Secretary, **Lynn Colandrea**, phone as above, fax (650) 967-0667, e-mail: admin@st-paul.org. Should there be any questions or comments, please contact **Ralph Hunt**, ralphhunt@uclalumni.net and/or **Pastor Aaron Smith**, pastor@st-paul.org. &

Westhope Presbyterian Church, seeks part-time accompanist/organist to work with creative, vibrant worship team in small church environment. Our Sunday worship blends contemplative, traditional, and contemporary styles in an effort to create and hold sacred space for the congregation.

Responsibilities: Sunday morning choir practice at 8:30am followed by worship at 9:45am, music prep, music team meetings every other week for planning and community- time TBD. Salary: \$100-130 per week. Contact: **Rev. Erik Swanson** at 255-0955, esfishrev@juno.com. &

Baylor University Events

1. 13th Annual Midwinter Organ Conference, 11-13 February, 2007.
 2. Baylor Summer Organ Institute for Pianists and Organists (students 12-18), 3-9 June. Register early as this event is limited to 20.
 3. Pipe Organ Encounter Plus for Adults, 24-29 June, 2007. Register early as the POE is limited to 20.
- For Information call (254) 710-1417, fax (254) 710-1191 or J_Karen_Johnson@baylor.edu.

MEMBER DIRECTORY CHANGE

Claudett Rezos has changed her phone number. The number is (408) 224-8869

Slate of Officers to be voted on in May.

1. Dean (2 years): **Melanie Cervi**
2. Sub Dean (2 years): **Andrew Birling**
3. New Member-at-Large: **Mike Cala**
4. Member-at-Large (change from 1 year to 2 years) **Diane Keller** (taking Andrew Birling's place)

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.

PREVIOUS EVENT

"Skinner Dipping" Half Way to Heaven and Other Memories of the SF/AGO Organ Crawl Chris Bradshaw

It doesn't get much better than this! Joining the SF/AGO chapter for their unique SF organ crawl on January 15th were Pat Milstead and myself, from our SJ Chapter. Justin Kielty, SF/AGO, who was the coordinator for this event put together a phenomenal day.

First stop (no pun intended) was St. Mark's Church where we got to see and hear the new Taylor & Boody tracker (45 ranks, inc. 5 prepared) in the able hands of Rod Gehrke. The installation is still in progress, so getting to hear the organ builder – who just happened to be on hand – discuss some of this wonderful instrument's finer features was a special treat. The Kellner tuning, tracker action, gorgeous casework and glorious sound reminded me of those wonderful Arp Schnitger organs in Northern Germany. The only things missing on that organ were the candle holders, still in evidence on many of its older, transatlantic, ancestral cousins.

Dodging the traffic, we headed next across the street to St. Mary's Cathedral to hear the 89 rank Ruffatti. Pat was right to steer us around to the front door of the cathedral to get our first impression of the architecture from that perspective. It's a very contemporary building and the organ sits as a piece of sculpture to one side. No case work and elevated, free standing chests make for a dazzling display. Chris Tietze was our gracious and knowledgeable host. His playing was enjoyed by all. Here was one hands-on organ and many took the opportunity to take a little test drive.

Boarding a bus later in the morning, we headed out to the Sunset District to Holy Name Church to view, learn and play the large Reuter established there. Jim Aylward gave us interesting history and insights into the organ and he displayed his wonderful musical talent as well.

Jumping on the bus again, we headed for a pleasant lunch at the Lincoln Park Bar and Grill. How could it have been any better! From where I was seated, looking out to the north, one could see the top of one of the towers to the Golden Gate Bridge and out to the east, the Transamerica building was visible. Organists are quite a lively and gabby group and it was so much fun sitting, eating tasty sandwiches while discussing every aspect of organs and organ playing you can imagine with people who actually know what you are talking about. In the "been there, done that" discussions, some of the occupational horror stories came to light and brought a good chuckle from those of us who have

experienced similar mishaps that are far more humorous in hindsight.

After lunch, we went on to the Palace of the Legion of Honor. Oh, my goodness! That was an absolutely thrilling experience. Ed Stout did a great job of giving us the history of that wonderful E.M. Skinner (63 ranks). Ed, by the way, is curator of that organ and has been instrumental in keeping it in its present location, (and not boxed up in the basement of some public building where so many large American organs have been entombed). He manages all the maintenance on the organ and his love and devotion to the instrument is felt in his every word.

Keith Thompson presented an outstanding concert for us, featuring as much of the organ as possible in one performance. The pipes, as most of you know, are actually located in chambers high in the rotunda, half way to heaven. That's where we headed next. Joining up in small groups, we were led up and up and up narrowing flights of stairs, and even up a ship's ladder to stand high inside the chambers. We were standing on a catwalk, with a railing, but when I realized that the dome, so close you could almost reach out and touch it, is actually just canvas, painted to look like stonework, stretched over some flimsy looking boards, my stomach did a little flip flop.

The highlight for me was what I call "Skinner Dipping" – standing in the chambers, while the organ is being played. If that isn't the ultimate pipe dream experience, I don't know what is! It's going to be something that I'll always remember. In fact, I admit that I did sneak up there a second time.

The variety of instruments, the wonderful artists who performed for us, a relaxed lunch, and the pacing, where we had time to take in everything plus visit with others of like interests, made for a perfect day. Our trusty leader, Justin Kielty, deserves a gold star for putting together such a wonderful, no-fail, exciting day. Pat and I enjoyed every minute. We so appreciate SF/AGO's generous inclusion of members from the surrounding sister chapters to this magnificent event. &

Barbara Mills Gist

31 July 1935 – 1 January 2007



Barbara was born and raised in Clinton, OK. She graduated with honors from Oklahoma College for women, and worked as a medical technologist until moving to California as a newlywed in 1949. Barbara served as an organist for Methodist churches for a total of 60 years. She is survived by her husband Joseph, and her two children, Barby and Hirshel. She lived in Redding until 1968, in San Jose for 4 years, and in Palo Alto since 1972.

Barbara was organist at Campbell United Methodist Church when I first went there as Director of Music Ministries in 1979. She was a fine musician and accompanist, and a wonderful colleague. She was a real team player. When the chance came to service as organist in her home church, Wesley United Methodist Church in Palo Alto, she left her position in Campbell.

Barbara recently said, "I do believe in looking for the good in people and in the world" and this is how she lived. She will be forever remembered as a radiant light in both body and soul.

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Pryor

To Receive this Newsletter by Email, send an Email to kitalbot@pacbell.net. Email Newsletters are in Color.

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

** Chapter Sponsored Event

February

Every Saturday/Sunday

Organ Concert. 4 PM CPLH

4 Sunday

Nigel Groome, Organ, 3 PM, **St. Lukes's Episcopal Church**, 20 University Ave, Los Gatos, \$10

Arno Penet (Lourdes, France), Tenor, **Christoph Tietze**, organ, 3:30 PM CSMA

Jeffery Smith, organ, 4 PM GC

James Welch, organ, 7:30 PM **Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**, 12770 Saratoga Ave, Saratoga, Freewill Offering

11 Sunday

Ruth Onstadt Soprano, **California Baroque Ensemble**, 3:30 PM CSMA

Jonathan Dimmock, organ, formally Westminster Abbey and St. John the Divine, 4 PM GC

18 Sunday

Hans Uwe Hielscher (Wiesbaden, Germany), organ, 3:30 PM CSMA

Graham Barber (UK), organ, works by Mathias, Karg-Elert, & Whitlock, 4 PM GC

March

10 Saturday

Silicon Valley Symphony, **Michael Gibson**, Director, Margaret Kyamme, Organ, 7:30 PM, Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos, 16575 Shannon Rd, Los Gatos, Bach, Debussy, Poulence, Tchaikovsky

Free Risers

Dimensions: 8 feet long X 16 inches deep X 6 inches high. Carpeted. 3 each. Also, two risers 8 feet long X 16 inches deep X 10 inches high, carpeted. Contact: Darryl E. Parker 408-943-6608 or DarrylEParker@comcast.net

For Sale

Theater Pipe Organ and a Player Piano – Contact Roger Inkpen, (408) 720-0412

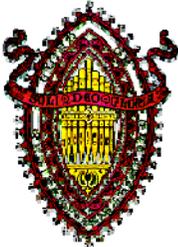
Letters To The Editor?

Would you like to see a Letters to the Editor section? We can run short entries (100 words or s). Let me know. Ken Talbot kitalbot@pacbell.net

American Guild of Organists

San Jose Chapter

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS