



**SAN JOSE PIPINGS**  
 SAN JOSE CHAPTER OF THE AGO  
 October 2007 [www.agosanjose.org](http://www.agosanjose.org)



**Chapter Officers**

**Dean:** Melanie Cervi  
 (408) 358-6568  
 melaniecervi@verizon.net

**Sub Dean:** Andrew Birling  
 (650) 906-3227  
 andrewbirling@earthlink.net

**Auditor:** Rebecca Harrison  
 (408) 252-0217  
 Rebecca-HF@comcast.net

**Budget/Auditor:** Darryl Parker  
 (408) 984-6608  
 DarrylEParker@comcast.net

**Chaplain:** Rev. C. Lynn Bailey  
 (408) 297-0993  
 pastor@immanuel.lutheran.org

**Handbook:** Kay Lee  
 (408) 298-3026  
 kay\_lee02@hotmail.com

**Education/Resources & Historian:** Valerie Sterk  
 (408) 249-5705  
 vssterk@aol.com

**Members at Large:**  
 Mike Cala (408) 292-6515  
 mike.cala@lamrc.com  
 John Leslie (408) 356-8499  
 music@joitventurechurches.com  
 Diane Keller (408) 773-8771  
 dpkny@comcast.net

**Membership:** Carol Griffin  
 (408) 269-3658  
 cagriffin@prodigy.net

**Newsletter:** Kenneth Talbot  
 (408) 732-6094  
 kitalbot@pacbell.net

**Issue Deadline:** 15<sup>th</sup> of month

**Professional Concerns:**  
 Darryl Parker

**Secretary:** Theresa Oatman  
 (408) 249-0938  
 t\_oatman@yahoo.com

**Substitutes:** Richard Coulter  
 (408) 395-0909  
 Frandick@comcast.net

**Interim Treasurer/Registration:**  
 Rebecca Harrison (408) 252-0217  
 Rebecca-HF@comcast.net

**National Executive Director:**  
 James E. Thomashower  
 jet@agohq.org

**National AGO President:**  
 Frederick Swann  
 fredswann@aol.com

**Region IX Councillor:**  
 Dr. Frances Nobert  
 fnobert99organ@aol.com

**Region IX N Coast Convener:**  
 Joyce Rhodes  
 Joyce.Rhodes@comcast.net

*Dean's Message*

Fall is in the air.....

Do you have a particular piece you like to hear in the fall? If you teach, do you focus on this season for your material? If you plan services, do you try to use a particular piece or composer? If you write, do you look to see whose birthdays are in the fall?

A wonderful gift of our work is that no matter how little control we have over some choices of the music we play, we can always make some choices. I challenge you to claim your choice! That way, no matter what you are asked to do as a musician or teacher or performer, you can find yourself looking forward to your time at the keyboard.

Our Chapter programs this year are a wonderful opportunity to hear these special pieces. **Chinar** and **Susan** will be giving us an update on their studies in October. If you have a piece you love, but could never play on Sunday, let Andrew know. **Mike Cala** is opening his console for such fun in November. See the listing below.

Please join with me in warmly remembering **Anita Graves**, long time pillar of our chapter. Her sudden death has left us with questions, but more importantly with memories of her wonderful gift to us all in her life. Soli Deo Gloria.

Finally, our chapter is doing its part to limit our use of paper and save postage money. If you can remember to come to our events while receiving the newsletter by email, let Ken know and he will edit his mailing labels and number of copies to print.

Enjoy the cooler weather!

*Melanie Cervi, Dean &*

*Future Chapter Events*

**Oct 21 – Frasier Scholarship Winners Recital, 3PM, Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1710 Moorpark Avenue, San Jose**

**Nov 18 – Member's Recital at Calvary United Methodist Church**

*Andrew Birling, Sub Dean &*

**NOTICE**

On September 14 an AGO Member filed a formal complaint against Foothills Presbyterian Church in San Jose, California for wrongful termination of employment. The Guild is investigating the matter according to the AGO's Procedures for Dealing with Complaints about Termination. No determination has been made at this time.

Although Guild Members may provide substitute or interim services, no member may seek or accept regular or permanent employment with Foothills Presbyterian while these Procedures are pending. See the AGO's Web Site for the current status of this case.

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## Anita Graves 1920 - 2007

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of **Anita Graves**, our Chapter Treasurer on 16 September 2007. Our prayers as individuals and as a chapter are with Anita and her family.

As we receive more information about the life of Anita, we will include it in the next issue of the newsletter.

We thank Darryl Parker for the idea to honor Anita last June. Not knowing the future, it was a wonderful event to let her know how much she meant to each of us.



**A**nita was so special in my life. We were kind of “soul mates” and never lost that even though we saw so little of each other. I treasure my last visit with her the week before she died. We were joking, laughing and sharing some secrets once again! I miss her so! – Sophie Chang.

**I** have thought many times this week about the timing of that richly deserved tribute last June. How fortunate we had it then. – Libby Codd

**Y**es, definitely. Thank God for giving you that great idea to honor her. Who would have known the future except for Him? It is hard to believe that she passed away so quickly. My aunt passed away from Leukemia last month having suffered a lot for over six months. God must have spared Anita the suffering. Our prayers are with her family. As my signature verse says, may the Lord Himself continually grant peace in this very difficult circumstance to Anita’s family and friends, especially to those who were the closest to her. – Christine Merjanian

“Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance. The LORD be with you all. ... The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.” 2 Thessalonians 3:16, 18 &

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## SEPTEMBER CHAPTER EVENT Dr. David Cherwien 22 Sept 2007 Workshop 23 Sept 2007 Hymn Festival / Concert

“What a treat to have **Dr. David Cherwien** come to **Campbell United Methodist Church** for a workshop and Hymn Festival. Over 30 people came out on a wet Saturday morning to spend time learning the history of **Paul Manz’s** legacy of superb sacred music. Dr. Cherwien’s stories told of following Dr. Manz to take the post at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, MN. He share stories of how Dr Manz began improvising on the hymns for worship services; was greatly encouraged by the members of the congregation; studied in Europe; returned to the states and continued a lengthy career as a brilliant church musician. Interspersed with the tales Dr. Cherwien performed examples of the musical style that has become known as the Manz sound.



Some of the tidbits we heard:

How Dr. Cherwien’s background as a rock band member has influenced his improvising. How the first hymn festival he attended at Mt. Olive was the defining moment in his decision to become an organist, never dreaming that years later he would follow in Dr. Manz’s footsteps. How one participant of such a festival was overheard asking “Who’s looking at a watch?”

Dr. Cherwien spent quite a lot of time discussing how to make hymn singing an integral part of the service and providing a musical expansion on the sermon. He gave many tips on how to vary the registration for each verse of a hymn, based directly on the text.

He also gave away some of the secrets that Paul Manz used for his unusually varied and delightful registrations.

All this was but foreshadowing of the Festival on Sunday afternoon. The combined choirs from several area churches met to rehearse, then help lead a hymn sing.

With Dr. Cherwien directing from the console, we sang favorite hymns and listened to the masterful improvisations and compositions. Reflections written by Dr. Cherwien’s wife, Susan, were read between each of the hymns. The experience was very powerful and inspiring. Such a great way to spend a weekend as we start into our fall music season! Thank you **Andrew Birling** and **Mary Ann Gee** for bringing Dr. David Cherwien to our area.

Theresa Oatman & Melanie Cervi &

## NEW DIRECTORY CORRECTION

On Page 13 of the new directory, in the **Newton Pipe Organ ad**, the office phone and FAX numbers were listed incorrectly. They should both be listed as **(408) 720-0730**. Please make this change in your directories.

### COMING CHAPTER EVENT

**21 OCTOBER 2007, 3 PM**

The October Chapter event is a recital given by the Frasier Scholarship winners. The recital will be held at **Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1710 Moorpark Ave, San Jose**. We look forward to hearing from our talented members.



Susan Snook-Luther



Chinar Merjanian

&

### HYMN PLAYING

Continuing comments on Hymn Playing  
Dick Ferris (organist at St. Paul's Church in Salinas) from 1982 articles.

Each Tuesday morning, just as I push the button on the tape machine, something stirs in me much as it did when I was a child poised to open a Christmas gift. That's because each Tuesday I begin my review of the Sunday service – the one I have helped to lead the previous Sunday.

My anticipation is not for the prelude or any of the incidental music, but it is for the initial response to the introduction of the first hymn. Is it enthusiastic, joyous – is it felt and passed from person to person? Indeed, are all the responses shared and appropriate?

Next, is the ministry that is shared by choir and organist clear? Does it accomplish what is intended and is this shared by all?

Then comes the consideration of whether the instrument balances the congregation and speaks clearly to them. And then, somewhere at the last comes the listening to the Prelude, Postlude, and Communion hymns.

I would add as an aside that unless many of the above receive more than lip service, you'll make as much of a contribution to your parish as throwing a sack of water into the Grand Canyon, whether your instrument is electronic, pipe or pump &

### Board Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 7:30 PM in the **Lutheran Church of Our Savior, 5825 Bollinger Road, Cupertino**. All meetings are open. &

### UP COMING CHAPTER EVENTS

- 21 Oct**, 3:00 p.m. Frasier Scholarship Winners Recital, Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1710 Moorpark Ave, San Jose.
- 18 Nov**, 3:00 p.m. Member's Recital "Never on a Sunday", Calvary United Methodist Church – Call Andrew Birling to sign up.
- 6, Jan**, 3:00 p.m. Twelfth Night Party, Pat Milstead's home
- 13, Jan**, 3:00 p.m., Student Recital, Saint Mary's Catholic Church
- 23, Feb**, 10:00 a.m., Field Trip to Carmel Mission, Depart from, Campbell United Methodist Church
- 5 Apr**, 9AM - Noon, Pedals, Pipes and Pizza, Sunnyvale Presbyterian
- TBA May**, TBA Professional Concerns/Music Swap Meet/Music Sale
- 22 June**, 4:00 p.m. Annual Meeting/Installation, Kathy Dougherty's home

### SAN JOSE AGO CHAPTER STUDENT ORGAN RECITAL

Coming this winter, will be our 4th annual Student Organ Recital. We are looking for participants of any age - young and old alike. The criterion is that the person has to be taking organ lessons, including AGO members who are studying with someone. We want to provide a place for the students to play the pieces that they are working on, and also to encourage one another in the field of organ playing.

This year the recital will take place again at **St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Los Gatos**. The church has a 3 manual Rodgers digital organ with MIDI. Any type of piece is acceptable for the recital – classical, hymn, theatre style, etc. This organ is capable of doing any style of music.

The date is **Sunday, January 13, 2008 at 3:00 PM**. So mark your calendars for this wonderful event!

Please consider being a part of this recital, and for those of you who have students, please encourage your student to participate. If you would like to participate, please let me know.

If you have any questions, please contact me. As time gets closer, I will discuss further information regarding the recital (i.e. practice times, memory assignments, etc.).

I hope to hear from many of you. Let's make this another special event as we have the past 3 years. And for those of you who have not been attending these AGO events, please take the time to come and be an encouragement. You may find that you learn something or meet someone new.

**Berdie Bowlsby**, AGO Student Recital Organizer  
Home: (925) 479-0244 Cell: (408) 761-8681  
[bowlby@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bowlby@sbcglobal.net)

## Position Opportunities

**Foothill Presbyterian Church, 5301 McKee Road, San Jose, CA** is searching for **Organist/Pianist** San Jose. Responsibilities include working 10 hours weekly: Provide music as well as accompany ensembles during traditional Sunday worship service; and special services; Chancel Choir rehearsals; Children's Choir; and special musical events. This is a salaried position commensurate with AGO guidelines. Contact: Director of Music Ministries, **Jay Jordana, 408-258-8133 X105**, [jayjordana@gmail.com](mailto:jayjordana@gmail.com) [www.foothillpc.org](http://www.foothillpc.org). &

**Redeemer Lutheran Church, Redwood City** is receiving resumes for the position of **Organist/Accompanist**. Two styles of worship – one band-led and one organ. 10 rank Schoenstein. Resumes may be emailed to [redeemer@best.com](mailto:redeemer@best.com) or mailed to **Dr. Harold S. Draeger, Redeemer Lutheran Church, 468 Grand St., Redwood City, CA 94062**. &

**St. Jude's Episcopal Church, 20920 McClelland Ave., Cupertino, CA**, is seeking a **Choir Director** who is particularly skilled in teaching vocal development to an adult choir and who appreciates both traditional and contemporary worship. The position is available June 1, 2007. One Thursday night choir and one Sunday Eucharist weekly. If interested in applying, contact **Ned Snow** at [ned\\_snow@yahoo.com](mailto:ned_snow@yahoo.com), or Laura Green at [laurieliz@spbglobal.net](mailto:laurieliz@spbglobal.net) 408-252-4166. Website at [www.saintjudes.org](http://www.saintjudes.org) and click on "Choir Director Position Open" to see the complete job posting. &

**Holy Trinity Episcopal Church of Menlo Park** is searching for a **Part time Organist/Accompanist** to play traditional and contemporary music on the piano/organ and to accompany choir, soloists and ensembles. Should be familiar with , traditional and contemporary hymns, select appropriate prelude and postlude music and assist in selection of hymns and service music. Should have strong skills in sight-reading and experience with a variety of musical styles. Ability to improvise and read charts a plus. Compensation commensurate with experience and in line with the guidelines set by AGO. If interested, contact **Michael Taylor** [michaeltaylor@rcn.com](mailto:michaeltaylor@rcn.com). &

**Epiphany Episcopal Church, San Carlos** is searching for an **Organist/Colleague** with Minister of Music, 11-month contract per year. Thursdays weekly rehearsal, all services of worship including holiday 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). Contact: **Cortlandt S. Bender**, Minister of Music - :650.281.4938, [csbconsult@comcast.net](mailto:csbconsult@comcast.net). &

**Bethel Lutheran Church, 10181 Finch Ave, Cupertino, CA** is searching for **Organist/Pianist** to provide music for all Traditional Worship Services, evening services during Lent, Christmas, and other special services, rehearse and accompany the Adult Choir when needed, accompaniment to soloists or groups participating in Worship Services, assist the Choir Director, Pastoral Staff, and Director of Music in planning. Primary organist for weddings, funerals, and other events Position is available starting October 1, 2007. Two manual Schantz Pipe Organ and a Schimmel Grand piano. If interested, visit our website [www.bethelcupertino.org](http://www.bethelcupertino.org) or contact **Noritah Hoegel** at: [Noritah@bethelcupertino.org](mailto:Noritah@bethelcupertino.org), [PastorRandy@bethelcupertino.org](mailto:PastorRandy@bethelcupertino.org), 408-252-8500. &

TO JOIN THE SAN JOSE AGO YAHOO GROUP  
Send an Email to Mary Ann Gee [mary\\_ann\\_gee@yahoo.com](mailto:mary_ann_gee@yahoo.com)

## PIPES IN THE DESERT



### THE NEXT MID-WINTER CONCLAVE

## Pipes in the Desert - Region IX Mid-Winter Conclave

The AGO Region IX Mid-Winter Conclave will be held in Tucson, Arizona, January 20–24, 2008.

Rich in Spanish heritage, Tucson is surrounded by the diversity of the Sonoran Desert—mountains studded with saguaro cacti, desert washes, balmy winter temperatures, and beautiful sunsets. We think that the diversity of the desert will be reflected nicely in the conclave program. *Millennia Too!*, for example, will be playing the world premiere of **Stephen Sturk's California Mission Suite**. Organist **Richard Elliott** will be playing **Pamela Decker's Tango for Tucson**. The closing worship service will open with a work by Tucsonan **Jay Vosk**, for native flute and organ, and will then focus on **Joel Martinson's** *Missa Guadalupe*, with the **Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus** serving as the choir for the service.

The conclave is presenting two optional side trips that showcase the desert southwest. One trip is to Mission San Xavier del Bac, known as the "White Dove of the Desert," one of the most photographed churches in the country. Another side trip is to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. Most of the exhibits at the museum are outside and show the animals, plants, and geology of the Sonoran Desert. This is a museum like no other. It combines elements of zoos along with displays of local geology and desert plants.

Did you know that the *New York Times* called the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum "the most distinctive zoo in the United States"?

Please visit the conclave web site at [www.agoixaz.com](http://www.agoixaz.com) and read all about it, then print the registration form and send it in! Special registration rates are available until November 15, discounted hotel rates until December 20.

## THEATER PIPE ORGAN ENTHUSIASTS

### THE ORIGINAL 1925 FILM

### "THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA"

### DAVE MORENO, ORGAN

See the 1925 Original *Phantom of the Opera* with LIVE Theatre Pipe Organ Accompaniment at San Jose's **Grace Baptist Church, 10<sup>th</sup> & (484 East) San Fernando, San Jose**, on **October 5<sup>th</sup>** (Friday evening). Their **Robert Morton Theatre Pipe Organ** will perform just as it did in the 1920's when it was San Jose's largest and mightiest instrument, playing nightly at the *Liberty Theatre*.

When the house lights dim, the historic theatre pipe organ will again provide the bombast of the Paris Symphony, the clop clop of the horses hooves, the rumble of the crowds, the screams, clangs, and drum beats as **Lon Chaney** reveals the Phantom's fate.

Tickets are available at the Grace Baptist Church Office, 408.295.2035 for a **suggested \$10 donation**. Proceeds benefit the Grace - *Liberty Theatre* Organ Restoration Fund.

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### TRANSPOSING TIPS

**The Art of Transposing:** There have been a number of letters that have been sent to via the AGO Yahoo group concerning ways of transposing. Here is a collection of these suggestions.

**Question** – I would appreciate any tips or hints you can give me for transposing easily. Do you try to do it only by reading intervals, or by playing by ear, or a combination of both plus other techniques? Any suggestions would be appreciated.

**From Mark Bruce** – I don't pretend to be an expert, but the best approach I know is to think in terms of clefs. You already know the F and G (bass and treble) clefs and if you get familiar with the c clef you have it made. The next step is to move the clefs around. For instance: to transpose up a third, move the clef down a third (that essentially makes the treble clef identical to the bass clef: bottom line is a 'g', top line is an 'a', but up a couple octaves). This sounds tricky, but think of the way you teach your students the bass and treble clefs and apply it to yourself. While you want to be aware of intervals, of course, in the heat of the moment what you need to know is that the third line is 'g' or 'f' or 'd' or whatever. A little practice with moving clefs around will give you confidence in that, just as you already are at home with bass and treble clefs.

The hard part is the accidentals, of course. In 'sharp' keys natural signs are more likely to mean lowered notes, in this order (memorize): ti, mi, la, re, so, do, fa, or 7, 3, 6, 2, 5, 1, 4), in 'flat' keys naturals are usually raising notes (4, 1, 5, 2, 6, 3, 7). Best to practice transposing hymns before Stravinsky, for your own comfort and that of those you love.

Thanks for bringing this up. It is a neglected skill in this country especially, and I remember from the distant past how much one can profit from it. One piano teacher I had (French) had me play everything I worked on in keys other than the original before she let me play in the written key. "Get to know the piece before you establish the muscle memories that are so hard to change later on." And playing a passage in different keys gives you great insights into what is actually happening in the music, rather than settling for which keys to push. I wish I had continued this noble practice technique more faithfully. You've inspired me to get back to it.

I hope this was useful. In the end, the main thing is just to do it and do it and do it.

**From John Jarvis** – I was fortunate that my piano teacher when I was young taught music theory as much as he taught technique. He had me work on a hymn for every lesson with a technique that in later years my Theory teachers in college also encouraged. Take a short hymn that you know fairly well and play it in every key of the scale during your practice time. Start with a simple hymn that does not drift from the tonic key and has a simple chord structure. I try to stay in the easier keys until I really get the hang of the hymn – no Key of Cb to start! Then Practice, Practice, Practice!

I still do this a lot as my congregation really likes it when I change the key on the last verse of a big hymn. Also, many of the older hymnals had the keys set too high for men to sing comfortably on Sunday morning. Thankfully, many of the new hymnals have the keys set lower. College theory teachers will encourage the use of J.S. Bach "Choral-Gesange", the 389 Chorales for four-part mixed chorus. However, I find most of these too difficult to start with.

The transitions from one key to the next are often difficult for me and I have to really study the pivot chords before attempting changes. I can get lost during a church service as my mind wanders, so I write out almost all of my modulations so that I can remember what I had worked out earlier.

**From Barry Ford** – I was taught this technique by Peter Hurford and it works well for me,

The best way is to translate all the music into chord positions: root position, II, III, sub-dominant, dominant, etc. Then it does not matter what key you are in, you merely think in terms on the chord position in the key you want.

Inversions and complex chords (like dominant 11th, 13th, etc. are harder to transpose but even if you leave out some notes, the chord base will be correct. Try simple hymns first then you can progress into more complex hymns later.

**From Carol Griffin** – The answers that have been given so far are all good. When I started as a teen-ager, I used the combination of the Roman Numerals and the ear. You need to make notes on the page of the number of each chord change, then think of the letter name of that chord in the new key. Try to pick hymns that use only the primary chords of I IV V at first. You are already acquainted with those chords. Then the next one you would probably use would be the II, either major or minor, and that would be followed by the V, and you know where that takes you!

Intervals are definitely a help. Does the melody move by steps, skips or repeated notes? The inner voices make up the chord so that will carry you along.

I used to play in the original key, then up a second, down a second, up a third, down a third. There are some songs you can actually do in every key, for instance, Amazing Grace, Precious Lord Take my Hand, Kum ba Ya, What a Friend etc.

When I started teaching the Robert Pace Piano Method, I got much better at transposing because I played thru the books in every key so I would have a good background for teaching it. Starting with level one! Good recommendation!

To Receive this Newsletter by Email, send an Email to [kitalbot@pacbell.net](mailto:kitalbot@pacbell.net). Email Newsletters are in Color.

## Music Calendar

### Locations

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

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

**CUMC:** Campbell United Methodist Church, 1675 Winchester Blvd, Campbell.

**GC:** Grace Cathedral, 1100 California St. San Francisco

\* Chapter Member

\*\* Chapter Event

### Every Saturday and Sunday

Organ, 4 PM, CPLH

### October

#### 5 Friday – Silent Movie

**Dave Moreno**, theater organ accompaniment, **7 PM 1925 "The Phantom of the Opera" Film, San Jose Grace Baptist Church**, 10<sup>th</sup> & (484 E) San Fernando St, San Jose, Tickets are available at the Grace Baptist Church Office, 408.295.2035 for a suggested \$10 donation.

#### 7 Sunday

**Christoph Tietze**, organ, **3:30 PM CSMA**

\* **Diane Keller**, organ, dedicatory recital, **7 PM, LDS Church**, 5700 Comanche Dr., San Jose

#### 13 Saturday

**Bruce Sawhill & Vlada Moran**, historic pipe organ at **Holy Cross Church**. 126 High St, Santa Cruz, Buxtehude and Bach **7:30 PM, Santa Cruz Baroque Festival**

#### 14 Sunday

**Angelo Castaldo** (Italy), organ, **3:30 PM CSMA**

**George Baker**, organ, director of University Worship Music, Southern Methodist University **4 PM GC**

**James Welch**, organ, Music from Around the World, **7 PM, Danville LDS Stake**, 655 Old Orchard Drive, Danville, Free, Schoenstein Organ

#### 19 Friday

**The Grand Tour: Lute Music from England, Italy, France & Spain**, **8 PM, St. Alban's Episcopal Church**, 1501 Washington Ave, Albany, CA For more information and prices, <http://www.voicesofmusic.org>.

#### 20 Saturday

**The Valparaiso Singers**, **7:30 PM, The Annex, Menlo Park LDS Stake Center**, 1105 Valparaiso Ave, Menlo Park, Free

#### 21 Sunday

**\*\* Susan Snook-Luther\* & Chinar Merjanian\***, organ, Frasier Scholarship Winners Recital, **3 PM Immanuel Lutheran Church**, 1710 Moorpark Ave, San Jose, CA

**Emanuele Cardi** (Italy), organ, **3:30 PM CSMA**

**The Valparaiso Singers**, **7:30 PM, Sunset LDS Ward**, 1601 - 22nd Ave. (at Lawton), San Francisco, California, Free

#### 28 Sunday

**Michael Pelzel** (Switzerland), organ, **3:30 PM CSMA**

#### 31 Wednesday

**James Welch**, **8 PM**, Annual Halloween Organ Concert, **St. Mark's Episcopal Church**, 600 Colorado Ave, Palo Alto, \$10

### November

#### 4 Sunday

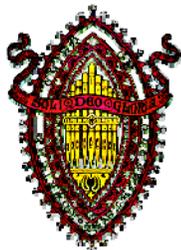
**Christoph Tietze**, organ, **3:30 PM CSMA**

NEW SF BAY  
REGIONAL ORGAN CALENDAR  
<http://www.localendar.com/public/organcalendar>

# American Guild of Organists

## San Jose Chapter

582 Dublin Way, Sunnyvale, CA 94087



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