



SAN JOSE PIPINGS
 SAN JOSE CHAPTER OF THE AGO
 September 2008 www.agosanjose.org



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Dean's Message

Welcome back!

I hope summer gave each one of us new opportunities. I also hope the loafing hormone kicked in and you found yourself loafing at least once or twice. I usually find myself smitten sitting in a chair on a deck in the middle of the forest, or by the sea or a lake. The guilt caused by doing nothing usually doesn't get too bad unless the hormone takes over for 2 or 3 days! My to-do list usually banishes any and all traces of said hormone for a few months.

My trip to Minneapolis to enjoy the convention was marvelous! I had great fun representing our chapter and listening to ALL THOSE ORGANS. I'll confess to being a bit overwhelmed on occasion, but overall it was a blast! Please consider attending a convention sometime soon.

I hope your fall calendar is ready for our Program Calendar. Andrew and his committee have been hard at work preparing a set of programs sure to stretch us, challenge us, comfort us, and entertain us. Please find a way to attend, help, enjoy and be involved. With this year as The Year of the Organ, there will always be extra events to catch, special programs to enjoy, and new ways to be counted as we stand up and say, "Yes, I am an Organist!"

Melanie Cervi, Dean ♪

Future Chapter Events

21 Sept, Gail Archer, Composition Contest and Concert. In September our chapter in conjunction with the Campbell United Methodist Church will be celebrating the 85th Anniversary of the chapter and the 15th Anniversary of the 3- Manual, 48-rank Schantz organ at Campbell United Methodist Church. A prize of \$500 may be given to the best submitted composition. Approximately 10 people have submitted a composition for the event. By 21 September the judges will have selected a winner and Dr. Archer will play it as part of her concert.

Andrew Birling, Sub Dean ♪

From the Editor, Kenneth Talbot

I will be spending the last two weeks of September in Denver. Therefore, **I would like a volunteer to put together the October Newsletter**, take them to the printer, fold them, address them, and mail them. I will put everything that is needed on a CD and instruct you on the way I do it. The newsletter is put together in Word and the Web page newsletter is in PDF.

If you would like to do this, please contact me at 408-732-6094 or Email me at kitalbot@pacbell.com. ♪

CHAPTER SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

WORKSHOP – 20 SEPT, 2008, 10 AM

CONCERT – 21 SEPT, 2008, 3 PM

CAMPBELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1675 WINCHESTER BLVD, CAMPBELL



Mark your calendar for this exciting event, On **Saturday, September 20th**, **Gail Archer** will present a workshop on American Organ Music for us from **10 AM to Noon**. Registration at 9:30 AM. Following the workshop we will enjoy a potluck lunch together. Please bring a dish to pass.

Workshop cost \$25. Questions? please contact Mary Ann Gee 408-515-0841 or mary_ann_gee@yahoo.com. Campbell UMC, Campbell.

On **Sunday, September 21st**, **Gail** will present a program of American Organ music at 3 PM. Suggested donation of \$10. The concert will include the premiere of the winning composition from the SJAGO/CUMC composition contest, and will follow with a gala reception. If you can bring some goodies for the reception, please contact Mary Ann Gee at mary_ann_gee@yahoo.com or 408-515-0841

This year is the 85th anniversary of our AGO Chapter and the 15th anniversary of the Sanchez Organ the Campbell United Methodist Church. We have received many compositions and a committee will select the winning composition.

We will see you there. 🎵

CHAPTER OCTOBER PROGRAM

19 OCTOBER, 2008, 2:30 PM

Saint Mary's Catholic Church, Los Gatos
219 Bean Avenue, Los Gatos

On **Sunday, October 19th at 2:30 PM.**, as part of the International Year of the Organ festivities, we will have our **Members' Recital**, with the theme of *Around the World in 80 Minutes*. We are looking for folks to take part in this event. Do you have something to offer? French, German, Dutch, Japanese, American, etc. All are welcome! Please contact Andrew Birling at 650 906 3227 or andrewbirling@gmail.com and let him know you'd like to play! A reception will follow the program. 🎵

Open Positions

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Saratoga is seeking a **part-time music director** to oversee the music ministry. The position includes directing chancel and handbell choirs. Rehearsals for bell choir on Thursday evenings from 6:15pm - 7:15 pm, chancel choir 7:30pm- 9:00pm. Sunday morning traditional service at 8:30 am. Extensive experience in choral music and voice training is essential and experience in Liturgical Church Music desirable. Salary commensurate with level of education and experience. Please contact Larry Stovall at 408 858-2750 or by email larrystovall@comcast.net

Joint Venture Churches. Almaden Valley United Church of Christ and Episcopal Church in Almaden are seeking an **Organist/Choirmaster/Music Director**. Half-time. Salary \$20-25,000, benefits negotiable. 2 Sunday services, 2 adult choirs (rehearse separate nights), one Sunday off per month. oversight of bell and youth choirs, English-made Phoenix digital organ. Send or e-mail resume and references attn: Music Search Committee by September 5. See avucc.org/music_search or eca-sj.org/music_search for details and specific contact information.

This Coming Year's Program

Saturday, 20 Sept – 10 AM – Gail Archer Workshop (\$25) – see page 2.

Sunday, 21 Sept – 3 PM – Gail Archer Recital – American works, including premiere of winning composition from CUMC/SJAGO contest– see pg. 2.

Sunday, 19 Oct – 2:30 PM – Members' Recital: "Around the World in 80 Minutes" part of the International Year of the Organ

Sunday, 9 Nov – 3 PM – Thanksgiving Choral Concert featuring solo choirs and massed choir

December – No event

Sunday 25 Jan – 4 PM – Student Recital

21 or 28 Feb– 9:30 AM to 2 PM – Mind, Body and Soul: A Day to Rejuvenate

Saturday 14 Mar – 9 AM –Pizza Pedals & Pipes

Sunday 17 May – 4 PM – Annual Meeting & Installation/Officers' Recital 🎵

Discounted Church Music

<http://discountchurchmusic.com/contact/contact.htm>

Board Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th September, 2008 at 7:30 PM in the **Lutheran Church of Our Savior, 5825 Bollinger Road,**

Reger Festival Highlights for September

Scott Lillard

The **Bay Area Max Reger Festival** will include five concerts on consecutive Sundays at **St. Mary's Cathedral** in San Francisco, beginning on **September 14**. Two additional concerts will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Oakland and Trinity Episcopal Church in Reno.

The inaugural concert on Sept. 14 will be given by **David Hatt** and will contain the two experimental chorale preludes of the middle period, Come, Sweet Death and O Traurigkeit, O Herzeleid, works which are remarkable for their density. The latter work was probably composed for a two-pedalboard organ, which may be difficult to visualize, but just think of short, stubby pedal keys placed above the normal pedalboard. In that work, the melody in long notes is played by the right foot on the short keys, while the left foot plays a bouncy bass part.

The highlight of the on Sept. 14 concert will be the Introduction, Passacaglia and Fugue, Op. 127, which was composed in 1913 for the dedication of a huge organ by Sauer in Breslau. The architecture of the piece attempts to match the grand scale of the organ, and the Passacaglia theme is quite beautiful.

Isabelle Demers will present the following two Sunday concerts, **Sept. 21** and **28**, as well as the **Sept. 26** noontime concert at **Trinity Episcopal Church in Reno**. She was recently appointed organ scholar at Trinity Wall Street in New York, and she brings a wealth of performing knowledge to her task, which is the complete Chorale Fantasias. On Sept. 21, her program is the Op. 27 Ein feste Burg, Op. 30 Freu dich sehr and Op. 40 Wie schön leuchtet und Straf mich nicht. On Sept. 28, she will play the Op. 52 Alle Menschen müssen sterben, Wachet auf, and Hallelujah! Gott zu loben Fantasias. Each of these works is a massive musical statement, full of beauty and complication. A complete list of the October concerts will be published in next month's Newsletter.

Locations: St. Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco, Trinity Episcopal Church, Reno, and First Presbyterian Church, Oakland. Concerts at St. Mary's (3:30 PM) unless otherwise noted.

14 Sep, David Hatt Op. 127 Introduction, Passacaglia and Fugue (St. Mary's – 3:30 PM)

21 Sep, Isabelle Demers Op. 27, 30, 40 Chorale Fantasias

26 Sep, Isabelle Demers, Reno – 12 noon

28 Sep, Isabelle Demers, Op. 52 Chorale Fantasias

5 Oct, David Hatt, Op. 63 Monologues

8 Oct, David Hatt, Oakland – 12 noon

12 Oct, Richard Gehrke, Op. 145 Seven Pieces, Variations and Fugue on "Heil dir im Siegerkranz" 🎵

AGO 2008 Annual Meeting

Melanie Cervi

For those of us who have attended many Annual Meetings, for those who equate Annual Meeting with nap time, for those who dreaded the time spent away from the Display rooms, Wednesday, June 25, 2008 was not an afternoon to look forward to. For those of us who have only attended local chapter Annual Meetings, curiosity reigned. I was not disappointed!

The meeting was billed as "not a boring, report-laden, 'nuts and bolts' meeting". Prizes and Awards were announced and presented; elected officers and National Council Members were thanked, introduced and Installed. And reports were brief with reference to published versions. So much for the business.

There were also several compositions performed. A Stephen Paulus composition written for the Organ Spectacular Concerts next October was performed. Outgoing President Frederick Swann was feted and thanked, musically of course. And Marilyn Keiser played the delightful Ornament of Grace by Bernard Sanders. After all, what would an Organists meeting be without music centering on the organ?

As I sat listening to the description of the gift given by Marianne Webb to the AGO, I began to put names with faces, connect past Pipings & Mixtures shorts with people of note, and generally feel more connected. All that made Washington DC a likely destination on July 4, 2010 for me and perhaps a friend or two. Ok, I'll admit to getting distracted trying to figure out how to grab a quick dinner and make it to the busses for the taping of Pipeworks, but all-in-all, the Annual Meeting of the American Guild of Organists was an experience to share, not groan about. Besides, now I have ideas for our chapter Annual Meeting!

AGO Conventions

Kay Lee

The National AGO Convention at Minneapolis/St. Paul was a wonderful convention, featuring great music played by great organists and sung by wonderful choirs. A number of very exciting concerts/recitals happened on Tuesday, June 24, featuring **Cristina García Banegas**, **James Diaz**, **Stephen Cleobury**, **John Weaver**, and **Cameron Carpenter**.

Recital by Cristina García Banegas at the St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul -- Noack organ, II/27 (2000).

St. Paul's Seminary Chapel was a beautiful, clean-look chapel with the white casings of the Noack organ in back of the altar. There was an attention-riveting painting on the entrance wall depicting St. Paul, on the ground on the road to Damascus, with Jesus Christ appearing and speaking to him.

Ms. García Banegas is a specialist in Latin American music, and a lot of her outstanding program reflected this. It was divided into 3 parts: Old World, New World, and Both Worlds. She played Buxtehude, Georg Kaufmann,

and J.S. Bach for the Old World selections; Zipoli, Joseph Gil Paolmar, Sabatan, and Palazin for the New World selections; a composition by Ms. García Banegas and the Organ Sonata #3 by Hindemith for the Both Worlds selections. I really enjoyed the whole program, but especially liked the Bach transcription "Concerto/Trio in E flat", the joyful Zipoli piece "Introducción de la Princesa de Madrid", and the Paolmar piece "Sonata en Do". This last piece was neat with the use of the chimney flute stop and her toe percussion effects.

Ms. García Banegas was so very gracious in her presentation.

Concerto Concert with Stephen Cleobury and James Diaz at Bethel University, Benson Great Hall, in Arden Hills -- Blackington organ, III/67 (2003).

This was a neat concert with the two organists playing alternately with the Festival Orchestra, **Philip Brunelle** conducting. The opener was a dazzling piece "Pebble Beach Sojourn" by Ron Nelson, featuring **James Diaz** at the organ with the brass & percussion sections of the orchestra. The middle two works had **Stephen Cleobury** at the organ with the string section of the orchestra. The last piece again was a dazzler with **James Diaz** at the organ with the full orchestra – "Grand Concerto #3" by Stephen Paulus. (We would be hearing a number of Stephen Paulus pieces at this convention. Mr. Paulus was chosen the 2008 AGO Composer of the Year.) This was a great work, and Mr. Diaz sure showed off his virtuosity!

John Weaver/Cameron Carpenter concert at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, in Mahtomedi -- Casavant organ, IV/108 (1927); Schantz (2001).

Oh, boy! Hold onto your seats! **Michael Barone** gave the introduction. He introduced the two organists as "The Esteemed" and "The Steamy". There was laughter in the audience.

John Weaver began the program. His opener was "A Trumpet Minuet" by Alfred Hollins. This was a great piece with a great trumpet sound, good melody, and fanfare. His second piece was Mendelssohn's "Sonata in C minor", which was played so expressively. The Ernest Bloch piece "Suite Modale" followed, with **Marianne Weaver**, flute. A very, very lovely piece. Mr. Weaver ended with a Gian-Carlo Menotti piece and one of his own, "Partita on 'Kingsfold' ". Of course, he got a standing ovation.

After a brief intermission, John Weaver introduced **Cameron Carpenter**. He told us, among other things, how he marveled at Cameron's Mozartian virtuosity.

And then, out on stage came **Cameron Carpenter** – in his white pants, white shirt, and white shoes. He began with Chopin's "Etude", Opus 10, #12. Oh, my!!! Cameron had arranged this, and played all the tremendously fast arpeggios not with his left hand, but with his feet! Unbelievable! Sowerby's "Carillon" followed, and the chime stops used were very nice.

Jeanne Demessieux' "Octaves" was next, and was great to watch – his octave technique was fantastic throughout all those mean, angry octave passages.

The next piece delighted all – Bach's "Tocatta and Fugue in D minor". Leopold Stokowski would have loved to hear this rendition! Again, Cameron Carpenter arranged this. The orchestration on the organ was astounding. All orchestral sounds were represented. He changed some of the dynamics that one typically hears, just for a really different effect. WOW!!!

The last two numbers on his program were a piece by Joe Hisaishi and one of his own compositions "Nautical Rondo". Yes, he got a standing ovation PLUS. He played "Stars and Stripes Forever" for his encore. You'd have to see it to believe it! He played the piccolo part (even the trills) with his feet! Unbelievable! We left the hall in total amazement. 🎵

Concert for Pipe Organ and Brass

T. Paul Rosas

Senior organist, pianist and composer **T. Paul Rosas** invites you to the "Concert for Pipe Organ and Brass," Sunday, **Sept. 28, 3 PM.** at the **Los Altos United Methodist Church**, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos. Tickets are not required; a free-will offering will be taken to help cover costs.

Also performing will be the five-member Valley Brass, which was organized in 2001 as the successor ensemble to the Stanford Brass Quintet. Concerts by the Valley Brass range from serious original works for brass instruments to contemporary popular and jazz arrangements for this uniquely 20th century chamber music ensemble.

The program will begin with J.S. Bach's lively Prelude and Fugue in B Minor. The program also will include major works for brass and organ by American composers whom Mr. Rosas discovered at the 2004 Los Angeles National Convention of the American Guild of Organists. "Triptych" by David Ashley White is a lyrical and wonderfully melodic piece. The program will end with the delightful "Variations on Auld Lang Syne" by the talented Bay Area composer and organist John Karl Hirten. The music for the rest of the recital will be filled with pieces that explore the wonderful colors of the organ.

National AGO Year of the Organ

For information on the "The Year of the Organ" and the activities that National AGO has planned, see the article in the May Newsletter or the following web pages, <www.agohq.org/os

CHAPTER ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND INSTALLATION

The June installation meeting was hosted by **Kathy and Bill Dougherty** in their Saratoga home. We were greeted with wonderful mature shade trees on our path to the house. A quaint bridge over the Saratoga creek serves as the Dougherty drive way; a true country estate in the middle of town. **Andrew Birling** and **Mary Ann Gee** of Campbell United Methodist Church presented an eclectic program of four hand piano music featuring Mozart K. 381, baroque transcriptions, popular American favorites of yesteryear, some wonderful jazz, and two exceptional arrangements of American hymnody by Larry Shackley.

The 2008 **Frasier Scholarship** winner **David Wills** and his teacher, **Margaret Kvamme**, attended and were officially congratulated. **David** has been studying organ for two years with **Margaret**. He is a graduating senior at Los Gatos High School. **David** plans to attend Reed College in Portland, Oregon, in the fall; and intends to use this Frasier Organ to continue his organ studies.

A sumptuous potluck was held in the scenic backyard alongside company of several attractive Koi. **Chaplin Reverend Bailey** spoke about the important role of the church, reading passages from Psalms 100 and 137. **Reverend Bailey** encouraged us in our formidable task as church musicians, bringing the message and music of God to the world and the worldly.

Joyce Rhodes announced the new slate of chapter officers. (Slate listed here?) It was an exceptional afternoon of good music, food, wine, and fellowship. We thank **Kathy and Bill Dougherty** again for their warmth and hospitality. 🎵



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 Member

Every Saturday & Sunday

Organ, 4 PM, CPLH

September

7 Sunday

Richard Pilliner (UK), organ, CSMA, 3:30 PM

14 Sunday

David Hatt, organ, Works of Max Reger, CSMA, 3:30 PM

21 Sunday

Isabelle Demers (New York), organ, Works of Max Reger, CSMA, 3:30 PM

28 Sunday

T. Paul Rosas, Concert for Pipe Organ and Brass, 3 PM. Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos.

Isabelle Demers (New York), organ, Works of Max Reger, CSMA, 3:30 PM



Another unusual organs, **The Beer Bottle Organ**. There are a number of manufactures that are making organs from beer bottles. As complex a device as it is, the Beer Bottle Organ is actually a very old invention. When Gary Rickert decided to make an organ that used bottles to create notes, he had no idea that someone had tried it 200 years ago. The pastor of the church on the island of Helgoland apparently got tired of paying for an organ tuner to sail out every month, so he commissioned an organ builder to make one that wouldn't go out of tune. Johann Samuel Kühlewein soon created the world's first bottle organ... until 1998. That's when Rickert made his version.

The design positions everyday beer bottles so each one is right next to a small air pump. A keyboard up front controls the pumps, and, yeah, the liquid inside really does determine the sound that comes out. But it's not beer — the design uses mineral oil so it doesn't evaporate. The Beer Bottle Organ is really an amazing achievement in instrument design. If you want one, you'll have to get it custom made, but as conversation pieces go, it's tough to beat. http://dvice.com/archives/2008/06/beer_bottle_org.php

American Guild of Organists

San Jose Chapter

582 Dublin Way, Sunnyvale, CA 94087



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