



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



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DEAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings for October

As we all unpack our Fall decorations.....

You do have the requisite number of leaves in your yard, right? Oh, you're ignoring them also. I thought I was the only one. Guess the guilt is not just mine. That's good!

Please join me in another activity (and bring a friend or two):

October 19, 2008 Organ Spectacular

Our event this year is *listed below*. If you have a short piece from around the world you would like to share with the chapter, please let Andrew know. We have several countries represented so far. He has requests for pieces from other spots in the world. So, if you're not sure where you want to claim organ representation, please ask. Perhaps you have a fun piece from one of those areas of the world. Andrew would like to hear from.

I will be there with my t-shirt and ready for fun! See you all there.

Now where IS that rake?

Melanie Cervi, Dean ♪

FUTURE CHAPTER PROGRAMS

OCTOBER CHAPTER EVENT:

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. **Saint Mary's Catholic Church, Los Gatos**.

NOVEMBER CHAPTER EVENT:

On **Sunday, November 9th at 3:00 PM**, we will hold a Thanksgiving Choral Concert, featuring the choirs of several member churches. Is your church interested in participating? Please contact Andrew Birling at 650-906-3227 or andrewbirling@gmail.com and let him know. There are opportunities for solo choir pieces as well as a couple of combined pieces. A reception will follow the program. **Immanuel Lutheran Church, San Jose**.

Andrew Birling, Sub Dean ♪

CHAPTER SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

A Special Weekend at Campbell United Methodist Church - September 20 and 21, 2008!

The weekend started Saturday with a Workshop on "The Heritage of the American Organ." Dr. Gail Archer, recent Grammy nominee for her Messiaen CD, "A Mystic in the Making", gave a presentation to fifteen attendees at Campbell United Methodist Church, on the history of the American organ, in conjunction with our American Composition contest and her American music concert performance. Her lively lecture and discussion were full of interesting facts and anecdotes. At the turn of the 17th century Spanish influence spread north from Mexico into New Mexico. A church and monastery were built in San Felipe and an organ was installed in the chapel. From there Spanish church music and organs spread into California via the Missions. Not until late in the 17th century did organs come to the east coast. Gail traced the import of organs to this country, to the first organ builders. There are still some of these early organs built by American builders still in use today! It was a fascinating morning - enhanced by a wonderful written account of her research including pictures and a bibliography.



Gail Archer is enthusiasm personified! Her program had great variety. She started with Horatio Parker's Sonata in E Flat Minor. I was struck by the similarity in style to Frank Bridge who was Benjamin Britten's teacher. They both have that turn of the century "symphonic" feel; rich and warm

with lovely touches of chromaticism. The scherzo movement really did make you want to get up and dance! The Sonata ends with a grand 4 voice fugue.

This was followed by a piece commissioned by Gail - Praeludium super Pange Lingua by David Noon. It begins with a wonderful rumble and roar that makes you feel firmly grounded. This is followed by the introduction of the theme which is worked in many imaginative ways. The composition ends with a strong positive open Fifth.

The first half of the program ended with a wonderful Sonata by Leo Sowerby. The first movement has a surprising quiet ending. The Lento is warm and quite romantic with a liberal use of pedal tones. The third movement has an angular melody and rushes forward with a sort of perpetual motion!

The second half of the program started with The Morning Trumpet by Michael Barker - one of the winning compositions. The melody is stated initially with the trumpet, followed by some short variations. This would make a very good Prelude for a worship service. The second winning composition, Variation Prelude on Dunlap's Creek by J. William Greene, made a subtler use

of the melody. He played with the tune in many different ways, and near the end played especially with the first part of the tune; a very nice setting.

Next was Joan Tower's Ascent. It was a vigorous and exhilarating climb! And it ends very quietly on one note - maybe reaching the summit and just quietly taking in the wonderful view!

Gail ended the program with Vincent Persichetti's Sonata for Organ. The opening movement is full of color, jazzy syncopated rhythms and lots of pizzicato bass effects. The second movement is very contemplative - starts with a lovely reed melody with a soft accompaniment, then a lovely flute melody, then a flute duet. The third movement is energetic and driven - almost frantic. You feel you are racing forward at breakneck speed towards some finish line. It ends with a hug dissonant chord that almost lifts you from your seat!

Brava, Gail, for bringing us music that is new to most of us, helping us to open our ears to an entire century of American organ music!!

Gail's program was expanded to include two new compositions -- the two winners of the 2008 organ composition contest sponsored by the Campbell United Methodist church and the San Jose Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. The two winning compositions were: The Morning Trumpet by Michael Barker from North Carolina, and Variation Prelude on Dunlap's Creek by J. William Greene from Virginia. Both of the compositions are accessible to organists of average skill.

Over thirty compositions were submitted. Honorable mention was given to two compositions by two members of our own San Jose AGO chapter - Valerie Sterk and Lothar Bandermann. The judges didn't know anyone's name until all of the compositions were judged! So bravo to Valerie and Lothar!

Workshop write-up submitted by Melody Bast & Carolyn Pryor

Concert write-up submitted by Carolyn Pryor 🎵

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. 🎵

Board Meeting

The next meeting is Tuesday 14th October, 2008 at 7:30 PM,
Lutheran Church of Our Savior, 5825 Bollinger Road,

Discounted Church Music

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

CHAPTER OCTOBER PROGRAM

ORGAN SPECTACULAR

19 OCTOBER, 2008, 2:30 PM

Saint Mary's Catholic Church
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.

Los Gatos United Methodist Church is seeking a **part-time Choral Director** to direct the adult Chancel Choir. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings Sunday morning services are 8:30 - 10:15 AM. Please contact **JoAnne Neish**, Worship Ministries Director, for more information. Joanne.neish@lgumc.org.

First Presbyterian Church, Hayward is seeking a part-time **organist**. Sanctuary has two Rodgers 3-manual organs, Steinway B Grand Piano and Steinway upright Please email me, williamgile@msn.com, or call, 510-538-0442, cell number 510- 421- 4194, home 510-538- 5632.

Carol Griffin

1932 - 2008

Carol Griffin was born in French Camp, CA and died of cancer at home in San Jose on Sept. 14, 2008. She leaves behind her husband Bill, son David, daughter Susan, six grand children and four great-grand children.

Carol attended SJSU, majoring in organ. She was a church organist for 59 years serving various churches in the Bay Area, from the age of 17 until her death. Among some of the churches she served for 17 years or more are: First Christian Church in downtown San Jose, Willow Vale Community Church, and Trinity Presbyterian Church.

She began teaching piano in 1956. In 1958, she also began teaching organ. Besides teaching in her private home studio, she taught organ for San Jose Metropolitan Adult Education for 17 years.



Carol was a member of the American Guild of Organists, serving in several different capacities. She earned the Colleague Certificate in 1981. She was also a member of the Music Teacher's Association of California. For 41 years, Carol held various offices for MTAC, including President, VP, and Branch Chairman of the Composers Today (CT) project and State Coordinator of CT. At the request of the State President of MTAC, Carol wrote the first Improvisation Syllabus for the CT program in 1971. In addition, she served as Educational Consultant for the National Piano Foundation and the International Piano Teaching Foundation. In these positions she trained many teachers for certification to teach the comprehensive musicianship piano course of Dr. Robert Pace.

Carol loved playing for church services and teaching music. She enjoyed the friendship of many musicians and working in her garden. She will be buried in the San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery, Gustine CA.

Her memorial service was held on Friday September 26 at 1:00pm at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 3151 Union Ave. in San Jose. A friend of Carol's shared at the memorial service by closing with "slightly paraphrased" words of a contemporary Christian chorus which she believes was Carol's final prayer:

*O may all who come behind Me find me faithful
May the fire of My devotion light your way
May the footprints that I leave, lead you to believe
And the life I lived inspire you to obey.
O may all who come behind Me find Me faithful!*

Carol was a Godly woman, loved by all who knew her and eager to please her Lord. We will miss her!

THIS YEAR'S COMING PROGRAMS

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 🎵

AGO CONVENTIONS

Carolyn Pryor

Two events stand out in my mind. The first was a Service of Psalms held at the Plymouth Congregational Church. The singers were superb (Minnesota Choral Artists, director Matthew Culloton. The Psalm settings (everything from Palestrina to Poulence and Distler) were interspersed by readings beautifully read by The Rev. Cathie Crooks. One of the commissioned pieces, Psalm and Dance by David Evan Thomas for organ and flute was done for the Prelude and was lovely.

The second was our final concert at the Cathedral of St. Paul in St. Paul. This concert ended with Te Deum by Siegfried Matthus. This is a massive work for full orchestra, multiple choirs, organ and many soloists. It was written for the reopening of the Cathedral (the Frauenkirche) in Dresden. It reminded me of Britten's War Requiem. It is a powerful and moving work utilizing poetry from Germany's best poets, and moving words by people who lived through that terrible fire storm.

The whole convention was a feast for the eyes, ears and heart! And, believe it or not, the weather was wonderful! 🎵

STUDENT RECITAL

Berdie Bowsby

Coming up is our 5th annual Student Organ Recital. We are looking for organ students to participate of any age – young and old alike. This can also include AGO members. We want to provide a place for organ students to play their 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 at **West Valley Presbyterian Church** in Cupertino. The church has a new 3 manual Allen organ. The date is set for **Sunday, January 25, 2009 at 4:00 PM**. The deadline for sign-ups is Dec. 1st. If you have any questions, please contact me. 🎵

PIPE ORGAN FOR SALE

Möller pipe organ, 2 manuals and pedals, 13 ranks. Opus 10339, built in 1967. Includes chimes. Organ is in excellent condition and has had consistent, meticulous maintenance. Asking \$10k or best offer. Organ is located in a church in Palo Alto, California. Must be removed by November 20, 2008. Buyer to remove. Please contact

<pennybarrett@sbcglobal.net> or call 650-328-7562 for information or to play the organ. Photos of the organ and scans of the specifications can be seen at:

<http://tinyurl.com/4p5exh>

GREAT

Principal 8	Octave 4	Fifteenth 2
Erzahler 8	Erzahler Celeste 8 (T.C.)	
Trompette 8	Chimes	Tremulant

SWELL

Gedeckt 8	Koppelflöte 4	Harmonic Flute 4
Viola Pomposa 8	Viola Celeste 8 (T.C.)	
Krummhorn 8	Tremulant	

PEDAL

Broudon 16	Gedeckt 16
Major Bass 8	Gedeckt 8
Trompette 16	Trompette 8

REGION IX EVENT

Festival 2009

Phoenix Rising: AGO Region IX Festival

June 22-25, 2009

Phoenix, AZ

www.AGOinPhonix.com



Kessler Organ

Article from Arlene Zimmerman

Kessler Organ #45 was the first pipe organ on the west coast of **North America**. Manufactured in 1844 in Estonia at the Ernst Kessler Organ Works and shipped to Sitka in 1846, it served the Finnish–Lutheran congregation established in 1840 on this site.

Aron Sjöstrom, principal organist for many years, also provided leadership in promoting the arts in the Russian American Colony. Mr. Sjöstrom conveyed his perspective on life in Sitka through faithful correspondence to loved ones in Finland. A 68 page packet of letters in Sjöstrom's elegant handwriting gives researchers a rich primary source for probing the multicultural aspects of life in Russian America.

Part of a rich Lutheran cultural legacy which includes a Finnish–Lutheran Cemetery, Swede–Finn, Baltic–German, Lithuanian, Estonian and Latvian officials, the Kessler Organ is living testimony to the important place music played in the first Lutheran Church on the west coast of North America.

“It is a very high standard of craftsmanship. The inside – the details of the mechanics – really show the skill that the people had. It's a one-of-a-kind instrument.”

Although the original Finnish–Lutheran Church was torn down in 1888, the Kessler was saved by the famous Presbyterian educator, Dr. Sheldon Jackson. It was moved into the Sheldon Jackson Museum where it remained until 1983, when it was returned to Sitka Lutheran Church.

After the 1993 fire which damaged it, Martin Pasi, Master Organ builder, assessed the damage. Though the instrument's casing was severely charred in the blaze, and pipes were melted, Pasi was undaunted by the prospects of restoration. “The mechanics of the organ, the wooden pieces that translate motion of the keys into airflow to the pipes, are still essentially intact. The wood joints that you can see in there, the dovetail joinery, that was made by hand, 150 years ago, they didn't have machines to do that kind of thing and they were made a hundred percent. I mean, they were just perfect.”

Pasi also noted, “It is a very high standard of craftsmanship. The inside – the details of the mechanics – really show the skill that the people had. It's a one-of-a-kind Instrument.”

“I was very surprised about the clever construction of it. It was probably a multipurpose instrument. Not only for church services but probably had some other features like for recitals. But it was also transportable. Nothing was sticking out. It was made for shipping. Otherwise, some of the parts would have never been built the way this one is built. So that makes it very special.”

Today, the Kessler Organ continues to play an important role in the life and ministry of Sitka Lutheran Church. Upon completion of Pasi's masterful and loving restoration, the instrument was placed in its specially-constructed balcony Swallow's Nest in the sanctuary. Once again Sitkans and visitors from throughout the world can hear and play this wonderful instrument.
<http://www.sitkalutheranchurch.org/kessler.htm>

Musicians Wanted!

Guest musicians are invited to come for two weeks or more. Please [contact](#) the church office for more information.

<http://www.sitkalutheranchurch.org/music.htm>

<http://www.pasiorgans.com/instruments/opus6art.html>

The Kessler's five stops:

1: Gedact	8 fuls	2: Principal	4 fuls
3: Octave	2 fuls	4: Viola di Gamba	8 fuls
5: Flöte	4 fuls		

There are six stops with the sixth labeled, "Nihil" – nothing, it is there for balance.

Reger Festival Highlights for October

Scott Lillard



The Bay Area Max Reger Festival continues with three remaining concerts in October: two concerts at **St. Mary's Cathedral** in San Francisco, on **October 5th** and **12th**, and a concert at the **First Presbyterian Church** of Oakland on **October 8**.

The **October 5th** and **8th** concerts will feature **Mr. Hatt** performing the Op. 63 Monologues, also known as the Twelve Pieces, which were composed in Munich during 1901/02. These works are organized in three volumes of four pieces each, and there are three paired works: Prelude and Fugue (#1-#2), Introduction and Passacaglia (#5-#6) and Toccata and Fugue (#9-#10). The Introduction and Passacaglia in particular are quite well known, with many commentators observing that the theme of the Passacaglia may be one of the best ever written for organ. With a duration of just over one hour, this set dramatically illustrates the power and variety inherent in Reger's middle-period style. The Oakland concert will be slightly abbreviated due to time constraints.

On **October 12th**, German organist **Richard Gehrke** brings the Festival to a dramatic close, with a complete reading of the Op. 145 Seven Pieces, Reger's last works for the organ. They are a reflection of his preoccupation with the brutality of war, augmented by his manic fear of death. The pieces are also related to the church year. The first two, Trauerode and Dankpsalm, share a chorale tune. The famous Weihnachten includes two Advent chorales and two Christmas carol tunes. The Passion includes Herzliebster Jesu. After the next two movements, Ostern and Pfingsten, the final piece, Siegesfeier, includes Nun danket alle Gott followed by Deutschland über Alles. This final piece has always been an embarrassment in Germany, leading the publishers to reduce the set to six pieces. But it is available in the edition of complete works published by Breitkopf and Härtel.

5 Oct, David Hatt, Op. 63 Monologues, **3:30 PM**

8 Oct, David Hatt, Oakland – **12 Noon**

12 Oct, Richard Gehrke, Op. 145 Seven Pieces, Variations and Fugue on “Heil dir im Siegerkranz” **3:30 PM** 🎵

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

October

5 Sunday

David Hatt, organ, Works of Max Reger in conjunction with the Cathedral Festival of Flowers, **CSMA, 3:30 PM**

Bede James Perry (UK), organ, in tribute to **Richard Purvis, GC, 4 PM**

8 Wednesday

David Hatt organ, Works of Max Reger, **Presbyterian Church** of Oakland, **Noon**

12 Sunday

Richard Gehrke (Germany), organ, Works of Max Reger, **CSMA, 3:30 PM**

Benjamin Bachmann, organ, Grace Cathedral's assistant director of music, performs favorites by Franck and Bach, **GC, 4 PM**

19 Sunday

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

Janette Fishell, organ, **GC, 4 PM**

26 Sunday

No Recital - CSMA

November

2 Sunday

Festival of Harps, **CSMA, 3:30 PM**

9 Sunday

California Baroque Ensemble, Works by Telemann, Bach, Blavet, and Corelli, **CSMA, 3:30 PM**

16 Sunday

Scott Dettra, organ, Associate Director of Music at Washington National Cathedral, **4:00 PM,**

22 Saturday

James Welch, organ, a recital to honor Ed Soberanes, **Carmel Mission Basilica, 7:00 PM,** free

23 Sunday

Jeffrey Smith, GC's Director of Music, **4:00 PM**

American Guild of Organists

San Jose Chapter

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FIRST CLASS