



SAN JOSE PIPINGS
 SAN JOSE CHAPTER OF THE AGO
 October 2009 www.agosanjose.org



Chapter Officers

Dean: Andrew Birling

Sub Dean: Diane Keller

Secretary: Elisabeth Pintar

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Budget/Auditor: Darryl Parker

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Dean's Message

I don't know about you, but I always find September to be a bit of a blur. Rehearsals ramp up again for the year, additional meetings seem to be scheduled, piano lessons are arranged and rearranged and rearranged again, and Advent and Christmas seem to loom ever closer over the horizon. To add to my own sense of blur, I have traveled abroad this year and last year during September. While it has made things a tad more hectic, I've also found that I come back more ready to get things going for the church year than I normally would. Perhaps it is because I spent much of the time of the last two trips in churches. Isn't that the way for us as organists? We go on vacation, only to place ourselves in similar environments to what we left at home. There is something in us that is inescapably drawn to the beauty of those great old houses of worship in Europe.

*B*ack at home, things continue to chug along. This year, my trip got me home smack dab in the middle of our weekend with Chelsea Chen. Though a bit jet-lagged, I was very glad I was able to make her recital on Sunday afternoon at Los Altos UMC. Her program had variety and interest, and I invite you to read Carolyn Pryor's excellent write-up on it in this newsletter. I had the great pleasure of taking Chelsea to dinner and the airport Monday evening, and I found her to be just as warm in person as she is on the bench. An excellent young spokesperson for the organ!

*H*uge thanks to all of the folks who made the weekend possible, and especially to Paul Rosas, Joyce Rhodes and Mary Ann Gee for handling so many of the details. There are many others who helped in ways both big and small, and huge thanks go to all of them as well!

*O*ur next event is the October Members' Recital, on Sunday, October 18 at 2:30pm at St. Mary's in Los Gatos. The theme is an easy one: "My Congregation Loves it When I Play..." Not being the "regular" organist at CUMC, I'm going to have to think about that one, but believe me, I'll be on the bench that day! Why not join me? Dig out that old chestnut that your congregation loves to hear, and plan on playing on the 18th. Be sure to let Diane Keller know that you'll be playing at dpkny@comast.net or 408-773-8771.

*N*ot able to play? We will be having a reception following the recital, so why not plan on bringing something for that, or helping out serving? You can let Diane know about that as well.

*L*ooking forward to a wonderful afternoon of music with you all!

*I*n peace,

Andrew Birling, Dean ♪

Chelsea Chen

WORKSHOP – 19 SEPT, 2008, 10 AM

26 members from the San Jose, Peninsula and San Francisco Chapters attended **Chelsea Chen's** Masterclass at Campbell United Methodist Church on Sept 19.

Selections with some of her suggestions included

Bach's **PRELUDE IN C MINOR** performed by **Melody Bast**.

- If you switch manuals, you need lots of contrast in sound
- 2nd manual, no reeds or mixtures, but high pitches – try 8 & 2
- When going back to big manual, add sound with toe stud or coupler
- When pedal has active part, think of it as its own melodic line
- If downbeat is a suspension, make preceding chord detached
- Hesitate before climax on downbeat
- Legato cantus? Make accompaniment triplets playful, detached
- Make tiny break after climax or after tied note
- A 'run on sentence' is not good
- When changing manuals in Bach, move LH first, then RH
- Make no manual changes in the middle of triplets or 16ths
- Play a convincing ending – dramatic, even as to how you lift your hands

Mendelssohn's **PRELUDE IN C MINOR** performed by SF's **Natsudo Murayama**.

- Make the RH melody a little detached
- "Push off" the LH chords
- Decide where the lines are
- Bench too high? Pull it back and sit forward on bench
- Bench too low? Push it forward and sit back on bench

Langlais's **CHANT HEROIQUE** (#IV from Nine Pieces) performed by **Paul Rosas**.

- Start quietly – maybe with box closed to have someplace to go
- 15/8 time – need to hear 5 beats per measure
- We get 'heroic' sound from the dotted rhythm – detach slightly after dotted notes
- We want DRAMA – 'milk' each chord tone
- Start crescendo and diminuendos early because of speed of shutter action
- Make ending CRISPY not rushed, to be most effective.
- Today's organist's job, to win friends for the organ

We found Chelsea to be warm, personable, humorous, and encouraging to the performers. She had imaginative and practical suggestions often presented with an infectious laugh.

Our thanks to Chelsea, to the performers and to CUMC.

Respectfully submitted by **Pat Milstead** 🎵

Chelsea Chen

CONCERT – 20 SEPT, 2008, 3 PM

Organ recital by Chelsea Chen, Sunday, Sept. 20 at 3 p.m. at Los Altos United Methodist Church



I was most impressed by **Chelsea's** connection with the music (all played by memory). She obviously has a love and a passion for each piece which she programs, and she effectively communicates that with the audience.

She opened with a joyous piece by a Julliard schoolmate, **Ola Gjeilo**. The "**Sinfonietta**" is toccata like, with some alternating sections that were almost like a chorale. The piece (which was Ola's first organ composition) showed off Chelsea's wonderful technique, and wonderful registration choices.

This was followed by the "**Prelude and Fugue in A minor**", BWV 543 by **Bach**. She started the Prelude with a very light registration, and gradually increased the volume ending with a good full registration, and utilizing the reeds for the pedal solos. The fugue also started with a rather light registration. And in the middle section she cut way back on the volume, with then made the ending very exciting! It really packed a punch. Everything was crystal clear with excellent phrasing and articulation.

The first half ended with **Chelsea's** "**Taiwanese Suite – Hills in the Springtime, Moonlight Blue, and Mountain of Youth**". Based on pentatonic folksongs, this suite is absolutely delightful!

The second half opened with three of **Robert Schumann's** "**Six pieces in Canonic Form, Op. 56**". These pieces were new to me. Such lovely compositions! However, very tricky, I'm sure to make sure that the two canon voices can be heard

within the thick texture. She was very successful in doing this through clever registration choices and strategic manual changes.

These pieces were followed by two transcriptions of **Debussy** pieces. “**Girl with the Flaxen Hair**” and “**Arabesque No. 2**”. I wasn't sure how I would react to an organ version, but they were lovely!

The program ended with the “**Final from Symphony No. 6, Op. 59**” by **Vierne**. Quite a splash!! and she made it look easy! She looks so comfortable at the console, and her footwork is a joy to behold.

Lots of applause and a standing ovation brought forth a frothy encore! A well designed and balanced program that was enjoyed by all!

Respectfully submitted by **Carolyn Pryor** 🎵

THANK YOU'S

Our chapter held an exciting organ weekend on September 19/20 with organ recitalist Chelsea Chen to kick-off our 2009 season. Those who attended either the workshop or concert or both I know now have beautiful memories and stories they can treasure.

Numerous thank you's go to people who have worked many hours to make this weekend a success. **Zita Weyland** and **Mary Ann Gee** with the help of **Marilyn Taddey** and **Carolyn Pryor**, organized a very busy music sale to benefit our scholarship fund. We collected \$375 from this effort. The materials were from the estates of **Anita Graves** and **Carol Griffin**.

Paul Rosas, **Andrew Birling** and **Mary Ann Gee** played the roles of chauffer/hosts while Chelsea tooled around our town. Our **UTMOST** appreciation needs to go to **Joyce** and **Bob Rhodes** for offering a home-stay for **Chelsea Chen**. The chapter is grateful for your generosity.

Lots of people brought delicious goodies for the reception after Chelsea's amazing concert. Thank you's go to **Tom Ingalz** (SVAC), **Pat Milstead**, **Sophie Chang**, **Rani Fischer** (Palo Alto), **Kay Lee**, **Marilyn Taddey**, **Christine Merjanian**, **Valerie Sterk**, **Arlene Zimmerman**, and **Mary Ann Gee**. Some folks from the Los Altos UMC congregation also contributed to our reception. My apologies if I unintentionally omitted somebody's name. Please know ALL assistance helped this weekend a success.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Respectfully submitted by **Mary Ann Gee** 🎵

Our Scholarship Fund

Even though they are no longer with us, **Carol Griffin** and **Anita Graves** are still contributing to the good of the Chapter. Thanks mostly to the sale of their music on Saturday before and after the masterclass, we added \$375 to our scholarship fund.

BROAD SPECTRUM: THE RECITAL

A broad spectrum of music performed by a musical spectrum of br...uh?WOMEN.

Brahms to Bernstein! Verdi to Weill! A little opera, a little Broadway, a little Shakespeare, a little Stravinsky, a little folk, a little blues? but mostly a lot of wonderful music, a lot of drama and a lot of fun!

Saturday 10 October at 7:30 pm, Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos, 16575 Shannon Road, Los Gatos CA 95032. Free will offering will be taken to benefit the PCLG Music Ministry in memory of **Walter H. Borlase**.

Shirley Harned, mezzo-soprano (former ECA choir member); **Margaret Martin Kvamme**, organ/piano (former Joint Venture music director); **Carolyn Lowenthal**, viola/violin; **Carolyn Pryor**, piano 🎵

JAMES WELCH HALLOWEEN CONCERT

On Halloween night, **October 31**, at **8 p.m.**, James Welch will present his annual Halloween recital at **St. Mark's Episcopal Church**, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. \$10 at the door in Palo Alto. The complete **Vierne's Symphony No. 1** in d minor will be featured. 🎵

LAST MONTH DEAN'S COLUMN

Last month I forgot two paragraphs of our Dean's article. Here are the paragraphs – Sorry Andrew – Ken Talbot, Editor

On May 2nd, the Chapter is organizing a field trip to Davies Hall San Francisco to hear Cameron Carpenter on the Ruffati organ. Carpenter is a dynamic, flamboyant and sometimes controversial player. I also believe he is something like a Virgil Fox for our time: one who can bring the organ to a more mainstream audience than your “typical” organist. We are looking to get a group rate for the tickets. Please respond to me at andrewbirling@gmail.com or 650-906-3227 by September 30th to reserve yours.

Musically, these two performers [referring to Chelsea Chen] will bring us very different perspectives on the organ. Our overall program year will offer us many facets of the organ and choral world. All are valid, and all need our support if we are to continue “*to promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles, to encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music, and to provide a forum for mutual support, inspiration, education, and certification of Guild members.*”

Miscellaneous

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

<http://www.merlot.org/merlot/index.htm>

<http://library.humboldt.edu/infoservices/MusicScores.htm>

<http://music.merlot.org/materials.html>

<http://jan.ucc.nau.edu/~tas3/bachindex.html>

<http://www.psalmody.co.uk/index.html>

Annual Member's Recital

October Chapter Event
Diane Keller, Sub Dean

We need you! Our October event is our annual member's recital. It will be held on Sunday, **October 25th at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 219 Bean Ave., Los Gatos at 2:30 PM.** We even have a theme to help you choose from your repertoire of works for the event. "My congregation love it when I play ----." Please join us. If you have a piece you would like to play, please contact **Diane Keller** at dpkny@comcast.net, and then contact **Pat Milstead** at patriciamilstead@att.net for practice time at the church.

Board Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th October, 2008 at 7:30 PM in the **Lutheran Church of Our Savior, 5825 Bollinger Road,**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Doris Reed, 1310 Burkette Dr., San Jose, CA 95129, (408) 257-8371, dreed1310@aol.com
Member of West Valley Presbyterian, Cupertino

Patty Sempell, 15 Hayes St., Novato, CA, (415) 892-0642, psempell@comcast.net,
Organist – First Presbyterian, San Rafael

Paula Mi-Kyung Seo, 355 N. Wolfe Rd Apt 633, Sunnyvale CA 94085,
Leppa26@gmail.com, Choir director at Living Word Korean Church in Milpitas

Gloria Steele, 1590 Wright Ave, Sunnyvale, CA 94087, glos0610@yahoo.com

Edward Millington Stout III, 21800 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, CA 94541, (510) 782-8002, edward.stout@comcast.net, dual membership with San Francisco Chapter, Quality Pipe Organ Services Co.

Karen Wolff, 4922 Seneca Park Loop, Fremont, CA 94538, (510) 651-8140, chanelbonnie@yahoo.com, Organist – Centerville Presbyterian, Fremont

UP COMING CONCERTS

From Paul Rosas

Master Sinfonia's (<http://www.mastersinfonia.org/>) first concert of the season is titled "London Festival". It will feature Handel's "Royal fireworks Suite" and the "Concerto for Organ in F" (The Cuckoo and the

Nightingale) with guest soloist T. Paul Rosas, followed by Haydn Symphony #1 "Clock".

Performances will be at **Valley Presbyterian Church, Portola Valley Oct 24 at 8pm** and **Los Altos United Methodist Church, Oct 25 at 3pm.**

Tickets are \$20 at the door, Senior (60+) \$16, and Youth (under 18) tickets \$5

LOOKING AHEAD

Times and Dates may Change

October 25 ~ 2:30p.m.

Members' Recital: "My Church Loves When I Play..."
St. Mary's Church, 219 Bean Ave ~ Los Gatos, CA

January 3 ~ 2:00p.m.

"Twelfth Night" - Party & Open console on the Aeolian Skinner, Mitchell & Kay Lee's Home, San Jose, CA

January 24 ~ 3:00p.m.

Student Recital - West Valley Presbyterian Church, 6191 Bollinger Rd, Cupertino

February 27 ~ 10:00a.m.

Mind, Body & Soul: A Day to Rejuvenate
Dealing with conflict (The Rev. Linda Taylor); Healthy playing (Jean Couch of the Balance Center); Lunch; Worship, \$25 fee
Campbell United Methodist Church, 1675 Winchester Blvd, Campbell

March 20 ~ 9:00a.m.

Pizza Pedals & Pipes
Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church, 728 W Fremont Ave ~ Sunnyvale, CA

May 2 ~ 6:00p.m.

Cameron Carpenter in Concert
Group price TBA
Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness ~ San Francisco, CA

Late May ~ Early June

Annual Meeting/Installation, Location TBA

STUDENT RECITAL

It is once again that time of year for this year's San Jose AGO Chapter Student Recital.

Coming up is our 6th 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. 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.

The deadline for sign ups is **Dec. 15th**. If you have any questions at this time, please contact me

I look forward to hearing from many of you. Let's make this another special event as we have the past 5 years.



Some of those who attended Chelsea's concert: From Left to Right: Melody Bast, Sophie Chang Andrew Birling, Chelsea Chen, Rani Fischer (Peninsula Dean), Joyce Rhodes, and Angela Kraft-Cross (Peninsula Chapter).

On Saturday, the fifth of August, a good half-hour after the stated time of 2:00 P.M., Ann Jones and Bob Smith were married at a local church which is well known for its poor acoustics. The groom wore a black suit and the bride wore a dress. The organist's shoes, by Organmaster, were in stylish basic black, complementing his full length black cassock. His fresh pressed white surplice was a model specially designed for organists.

The organ was built by a local hack whose cousin is a member of the church. It contains pipework from the original tracker that existed before the tragic fire and odds and ends of old pipework bought mostly on eBay. Although the harmonic flute had the potential to be smooth and singing and certain notes of the cor anglais provided a lovely solo, the organ was poorly voiced and the combination action was unreliable. The organist did a first class job of performing under these difficult circumstances.

There were attendants all over the place, but the organist still got only part way through "The Prince of Denmark's March" using no repeats and ending in the dominant when the pastor decided it was his turn to talk even though the processional was not complete. The 8' trompette was the central feature of the processional, much to the delight of those in attendance, none of whom noticed that several notes of the trompette were dead and that others squawked like a goose in pain.

After a few minutes of mindless chatter by a lector who spoke too fast, forgot to turn her microphone on, and was essentially inaudible, the organist played the first four phrases of the Schubert "Ave Maria" in the key of E-flat on the gemshorn 8' while the couple did something else. Later, the bride's best friend's niece, who saw no need to practice before hand, breathily sang "The Wedding Song" from the balcony, without interludes or a sense of rhythm. She was sometimes flat and sometimes sharp, and only every other word could be understood. The organist, who left the interludes in, managed to cover for the soloist in admirable fashion. All this mattered little because the soloist used a microphone which was turned up much too high, completely overpowering the organist, whose subtle and practiced registrations went for naught.

The recessional was the Mendelssohn "Wedding March," played on a satisfying plenum in ABABA form to fit the length of the run down the aisle and out the doors. The guests talked through much of the piece, but the organist added stops as the noise level increased, masterfully maneuvering each drawknob, coupler, and reversible without missing a single note! This noble feat did not go unnoticed by members of the congregation, who stopped talking only after Miss Manners, who was in attendance, glared at them in response to their rude inattentiveness.

The bride and groom went to college somewhere, but they did not take any music appreciation courses, which explain why the bride's mother, who had 3 piano lessons 20 years ago, was in charge of the musical arrangements. After their honeymoon, Mr. and Mrs. Jones-Smith (or Smith-Jones, as you prefer) plan to blend into suburbia, where the highlight of each year is expected to be the replaying of their wedding video and reliving each musical moment.

(Author unknown) Sent by Edwin S Russell to Daniel Harrison who set it to Kenneth Talbot.

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

2 Friday

James Welch, organ, **Valley of the Flowers United Church of Christ, 3346 Constellation Rd., Vandenberg Village (Lompoc), CA, \$15/\$8, 7:30 PM**

4 Sunday

Archdiocesan Choir Festival, in conjunction with the **Cathedral's Festival of Flowers**, Choirs from throughout the Archdiocese of San Francisco join their voices on the Feast of St. Francis. Works by Vivaldi, Mozart, Britten, Bartok, and Purcell, CSMA, 4 PM

James Welch, organ, **St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Ojai, CA, Free-will offering, \$15/\$8, 4 PM**

10 Saturday

Robert Bates, organ, Annual Halloween Concert, **Messiah Lutheran Church, 1835 Valota Road and Woodside Road, Redwood City, works by Bach, Vivaldi, Buxtehude, and Distler for the 10th anniversary of the installation of the Steiner-Reck pipe organ, 7 PM, Admission \$10 at the door, with a reception immediately following.**

Broad Spectrum: The Recital, organ, See page 3. **Shirley Harned**, mezzo-soprano;

*Margaret Martin Kvamme, organ/piano; **Carolyn Lowenthal**, viola/violin; *Carolyn Pryor, piano, **Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos, 16575 Shannon Road, Los Gatos. Free will offering, 7:30 PM**

11 Sunday

St Michael Trio, piano, violin, cello, with **Russell Hancock, CSMA, 3:30 PM**

18 Sunday

Bede Parry, organ, **CSMA, 3:30 PM**

24 Saturday

Master Sinfonia's "London Festival", Handel's Royal Fireworks and Concerto for Organ in F", **Valley Presbyterian Church, Portola Valley \$20, 8 PM**

25 Sunday

Anthony Hammond (UK), organ, Reconstruction of a Cochereau organ symphony improvised at St. Mary's Cathedral in 1972. Co-sponsored by the AGO, **CSMA, 3:30 PM**

Master Sinfonia's "London Festival", Handel's Royal Fireworks and Concerto for Organ in F", **Los Altos United Methodist Church, Los Altos \$20, 3 PM**

31 Saturday

James Welch, organ, Annual Halloween Concert, **St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Palo Alto, Vierne's Symphony #1 (complete), \$10, 8 PM**

November

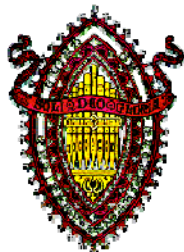
9 Monday

Congregational Oratorio Society and Orchestra, Mozart

American Guild of Organists

San Jose Chapter

582 Dublin Way, Sunnyvale, CA 94087



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS