



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



Chapter Officers

Dean: Andrew Birling

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Dean's Message

Dear Friends,

True confession number one: until I was asked to be on the board for SJAGO I had been a rather marginal member. Although I had been a member of chapters since my student days, the only events I attended were the annual potlucks!

Of course, once I agreed to be part of the leadership of the chapter as a member at large, I realized there were events planned throughout the year where I might gain skill, enjoy fellowship, or simply bask in well-performed music. I also realized that if I wanted to see good attendance at events, that I better be part of making that happen through my own attendance! Working as sub-dean brought a whole new perspective, as one tries to plan a program year that is interesting and varied and that will encourage members and non-members to give their ever-shrinking free time to attend. (Any ideas?)

The primary roles of the dean, I'm finding, are to be the "face" at events (giving a word of welcome, making announcements, etc.) and to run the board meetings.

Ugh. More meetings, right?

True confession number two: I am finding myself energized and encouraged by the monthly meetings of this AGO Chapter. Your very dedicated board meets for an hour and a half one Tuesday evening a month to look at various aspects of our chapter.

This past month's meeting was a lively one! We discussed how we might get the word out to the community. We talked about how we might contact organ teachers at the various colleges in the area about both our Frasier scholarship for organ students and our other work as a chapter. (Any ideas?)

Well, getting the word out to colleges sparked conversation about getting the word out to churches, arts groups and other organizations in the area. Should we advertise with local performing groups? What about being part of the Arts Commission? (Any ideas?)

Another topic addressed was certification. How many of us look at the requirements for certification as they are published each year and then quickly set them aside for when we have more time? Please see Mary Ann Gee's excellent article on why she took the steps toward becoming certified. Is there something about certification the chapter might offer to entice and encourage? (Any ideas?)

You'll note many of these paragraphs end with the same two word question. Our chapter is only as strong as each of us makes it. Where is your passion? Is there something you've always thought we should do but haven't touched on yet? Is there some way you might become involved that you haven't considered yet? Let me know! I'd love to hear from you. I can always be telephoned (650-906-3227) or

emailed (andrewbirling@gmail.com)

As we enter our busy November and December months, I am thankful for each member's dedication to the AGO, and look forward to hearing about all of the wonderful music going on at your places of worship at our "Twelfth Night" party in January!

In peace,

Andrew Birling, Dean ♪

OLDEST PLAYABLE ORGAN IN THE WORLD

From Lothar Banderman

My younger brother from Hannover, Germany (he is also an organist-on-the-side) just visited this church in northern Germany, St. Andreas, in a small village near Soest, Westphalen. (I am from Westphalen myself). It dates from the 11th century and is home to the oldest playable organ in the world (so it is claimed) dating back to 1430.



More on old organs: Jim Welch sent a web site address (listed below) for old organs, which lists the organ in Sion, Switzerland. He understood to be the oldest playable organ in the world. From the information about the German organ on its website, I suspect that the first, earliest version of that organ (which has been changed, added to and restored numerous times) may date before the Sion organ. Germans as well as Swiss are sticklers about precision and order, so I would not attempt to figure this one out.

Re: <http://www.ohscatalog.org/worsolor.htm>
Sion would be even older, nicht wahr?



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 **Verne's Symphony No. 1** in d minor will be featured. ♪

Board Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th November, 2009 at 7:30 PM in the **Lutheran Church of Our Savior, 5825 Bollinger Road,**
NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

LOOKING AHEAD

Times and Dates may Change

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.

Contact **Berdie Bowlsby** at bowlsby@sbcglobal.net or call her at (925) 479-0244.

HOW TO CURE A NON-TALKER

A mother had an eight-year-old boy who didn't talk. She took him to specialist after specialist. "The boy is healthy and intelligent. I can't understand what is wrong with him," said the doctors. Finally, one of the specialists said, "Take the lad to church." "Well," said the mom, "We hardly ever go to church, but I'm willing to try anything." So off they went to church. They arrived nice and early. When the organist began the prelude, the boy turned to his mother and said, "Mom, I have lots of things to say to you!" He talked and talked. The mother was stunned.

After church she went home and phoned the doctor. "How did you know that going to church would help?" "Easy," said the doctor. "Everyone talks during the prelude!"

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

WHY CERTIFY

Submitted by **Mary Ann Gee, CAGO**

When I think back to why I applied to be certified as a Colleague of the AGO, the answers that came to me were mostly cliches that you all probably don't want to hear. I did it because it was a worthwhile challenge and because it afforded me a chance to refresh and improve my skills in transposition, modulation and improvisation. Another reason was I wanted to model for the membership (I was serving as dean then) that we should take advantage of what National Office has to offer for our continuing education.

I found that the rigorous preparations months before the actual test date gave me renewed focus and a sharper sense of discipline. After all, I had the weekly service pieces to prepare for while also honing the required repertoire/technical aspects for certification. It also made me feel like I was back in my younger days as a student aiming for the recital (test) day.

Certification was an enriching experience that I would encourage fellow members to try. If you ask me why certify? I would reply, why not? There's a lot of personal reward for you and I recommend that you take the plunge; it's swimmingly good!

CALENDAR CONTINUED

November

29 Sunday

Yeonkyeong Go, violin, **CSMA, 3:30 PM**

Messiah Sing-along, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 771 W. Fremont Ave., Sunnyvale, **6:30-8:30PM**, Featuring ***Diane Keller**, organ, and **Christopher Koelzer**, piano. Free, General seating. Doors open at 6PM. Bring a score if you have one. For full program details and maps, see www.sunnyvalesing.org.

December

4 Friday, 5 Saturday & 6 Sunday

Silicon Valley Symphony, Tchaikovsky Nutcracker Ballet, Friday 7:30 PM, Saturday 2 PM & 7:30 PM, Sunday 1 PM, in collaboration with **San Jose Dance Theatre – Center for the Performing Arts, San Jose:** <http://www.siliconvalleysymphony.net>

6 Sunday

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

7 Monday

The Bay Brass and Jonathan Dimmock, organ, **GC, 7 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

Every Second Sunday

The Music Guild of Christ Episcopal, 1040 Border Rd, Los Altos, announced the schedule for **Evensong/Concerts** for this coming season. All of these events are at **4 PM** on the **second Sunday of each month from October through March**.

Evensong is sung in the Anglican Tradition. Each event is followed by a lovely reception to which everyone is invited – Free offering.

November

1 Sunday

Jeanette Wilkin, piano, with **Bonnie Rasmusen**, violin, **CSMA**, **3:30 PM**

8 Sunday

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

Main Street Singers from **Los Altos High**, directed by **Mark Shaul**, **Christ Episcopal Church**, 1040 Border Rd, Los Altos, **4 PM**

9 Monday

Congregational Oratorio Society and Orchestra, **Mozart**

15 Sunday

Britt LaGatta, soprano, with **Stephen Repasky**, organ. Langlais "Missa in simplicitate", **CSMA**, **3:30 PM**

Handbell and Organ Concert, Nine pieces by our English Handbell choir and ensembles, "Suite Gothique" by Leon Boellmann on our Casavant organ, two choral pieces, **Immanuel Lutheran Church**, 14103 Saratoga Ave, Saratoga, **7 PM**. Freewill offering; reception following. www.ilcsaratoga.org

20 Friday & 21 Saturday

Silicon Valley Symphony,

Tribute to **Lawrence Granger**

7:30 PM, both nights,

Tschaikowsky: Nutcracker Suite, **Saint-Saëns**: Cello Concerto No. 1 in A Minor **Peter Wyrick**, Cello Soloist (Associate Principal SF Symphony), **Brahms**: Symphony No. 2 in D Major:

<http://www.siliconvalleysymphony.net>

22 Sunday

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

David Hatt, organ, Assistant Cathedral Organist of St. Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco, **GC**, **4 PM**, free

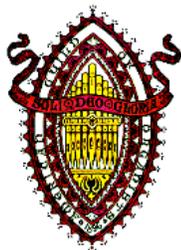
Sandra Soderlund, Baroque and neo-Baroque music by Buxtehude, Bach, Hugo Distler, **St. John's Presbyterian Church**, 2727 College Avenue in Berkeley, 4 PM (Free parking available), TICKETS: 20 gen/ \$10 students w/ ID available at the door, online at www.brownpapertickets.com

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American Guild of Organists

San Jose Chapter

582 Dublin Way, Sunnyvale, CA 94087



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS