



SAN JOSE PIPINGS
SAN JOSE CHAPTER OF THE AGO
September 2011 www.agosanjose.org



Chapter Officers

Dean: Diane Keller

Sub Dean: Elisabeth Pintar and
Darryl Parker, co-subdeans

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Auditor: Melanie Cervi

Budget/Auditor: Darryl Parker

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**Education/Resources &
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Dean's Message

Welcome to a new year!

It may technically be the ninth month of the year, but the smell of fresh school supplies in the air reminds us that it's also the start of a new year for students and, of course, the AGO. As incoming dean, I am looking forward to a great year filled with opportunities to enjoy the music of our great instrument, improve our skills and socialize with other organists and friends.

Our numbers are down a bit this year. I want to offer a reminder to those who may have forgotten to renew. I include myself in this category. I distinctly remember writing the check and filling out the form, but it turns out it was last year! This past year has flown by.

I'm not much of a New Year's resolution person, but September usually finds me making lots of new music goals for the coming year. Most summers I have the opportunity to teach at a week-long organ workshop. I have the opportunity to spend time with many beginners who are only just learning what the organ is all about. It is wonderful and inspiring to see people catching the excitement of our great instrument as well as spend time with many of my colleagues that I have so much respect for. I come home renewed for another year of practice and inspired to challenge myself and improve my skills.

My goal for this year is to offer ways for each member of our chapter to find motivation, inspiration, and friendship at our chapter events. We have two wonderful sub-deans who are working hard to bring us many wonderful events this year. There should be something for everyone. Please come join us and renew your organ spirit and share our wonderful instrument with others.

I want to thank **Myrna Emata** for her fabulous addition to our June installation dinner and meeting held at **Pat Milstead's** home on 5 June 2011. Those who were able to attend thoroughly enjoyed her jazz piano improvisations and comments!

I would also like to congratulate Elisabeth Pintar for doing her part to grow the AGO. I'm sure it won't be long before her new daughter Charlotte will be helping her practice!

I hope to see you all at our September event!

Diane Keller, Dean

CHAPTER SEPTEMBER EVENT

Elisabeth Pintar, Darryl Parker, co-subdeans
and Mary Ann Gee, member

The **September Event** will be a Workshop by **Angela Kraft Cross** and a Concert by **Nahri Ahn**.

On **September 25, 2011** (Sunday) at **3:00 PM**, **Campbell United Methodist Church** and the **San Jose Chapter of the American Guild of Organists** (AGO) will jointly sponsor our 9th annual Fall organ concert. This year the artist is **Nahri Ahn**, a 15-year-old organist who hails from Livermore. She concurrently studies classical organ with **Angela Kraft Cross** of San Mateo and theater organ with **David Hegarty** of San Francisco. In July, she performed at the Region IX AGO Convention in San Francisco and was a competition winner. Her program will feature Bach, Mendelssohn, Franck, Vierne and Langlais, followed by a “dessert” group of theater-organ music that includes “Phantom” by Andrew Lloyd Webber. The program is one hour in length and all are welcome. Everyone is encouraged to invite and bring family and friends. There is no admission charge but only an opportunity for you to give a **free-will donation**.



Nahri Ahn

On **September 24, Saturday, at 10:00 AM**, **Angela Kraft Cross**, a prominent Bay Area concert organist and Nahri's teacher, will give a workshop on teaching and working with young organists. This workshop is

FREE to all AGO members and will last till **11:30 AM**. The last half-hour will be for Q and A.

On **Saturday morning**, if you come at **9:30 AM**, you can browse our used music on sale from the estates of **Anita Graves**, **Carol Griffin** and **Gloria Lamy**. You will see lots of “good stuff” and the price of \$1 per 2-inch stack of music should be enticing. The money will go to the chapter's educational fund.

Both events will take place at **Campbell United Methodist Church**, 1675 Winchester Blvd, south corner of Hamilton Ave, Campbell, CA.

Hope to see everybody there. 🎵

CHAPTER JUNE EVENT

We're Moving Ahead! On Sunday, June 5, a sizeable crowd of organists, piled into **Pat Milstead's** home for a great afternoon of conversation, excellent food, and the installation of officers for the coming year! Thank You, Pat! We were entertained by **Myrna Emata** with some great jazz—Thank You! **Melanie Cervi**, Past Dean did the actual installation for us—Thank You! It is exciting for me, as Past Dean, to see that the chapter is in good hands (**Diane Keller** is our new Dean) and will flourish. My deep appreciation is extended to all those officers who worked so diligently this past year. You all did a great job! I look forward to seeing many of you on 24 & 25 September. Cheers, Dick Coulter

Board Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday **13th September, 2011** at **7:30 PM** in the at **Diane Keller's home, 665 Ashbourne Dr. Sunnyvale**

OPEN POSITIONS

The Villages Community Chapel, 5000 Cribari Lane, San Jose, a non-denominational church in the Villages Golf and Country Club, has openings for a **choir director**, and an **accompanist/organist**. Our service is traditional. Candidates must be Christian and pass an interview with our Pastor. Salary is commensurate with experience, subject to Board approval. Candidates should apply at **Church Office 408-238-3079**, Mondays thru Wednesdays, and at **Gary Hill, 408-274-8086**.

1) Choir Director -- Lead and direct a Choir of 25 - 30 members, in music that is traditional. The Choir practices weekly from 4:30 pm until 6 pm (currently on Thursdays). We also have a 6 to 7 member Wind ensemble. The Choir Director is responsible for providing music for the Services in the Choir's absence.

2) Choir accompanist and church service organist. To support choir practices and Sunday services, and special meetings. Choir practice is 2 hours each week. Special arrangements can be made to accommodate schedules. Salary is commensurate with experience. The accompanist must also play Our Baldwin Electric Organ on occasion.

The Los Gatos United Methodist Church, 111 Church Street, Los Gatos, has openings for an **organist**. The organ is a Wicks 2 manual organ and piano in the sanctuary. As musical leader for the traditional service and accompanist to the choir, the organist plays a critical role in the worship experience and spiritual formation of the congregation. The organist duties are year-round, although

Duties: Play organ/piano for 9:15 A.M. Traditional Sunday Services; Accompany any special music groups. Accompany choir on Thursday nights. Accompany special music during the year.

Contact Pastor Jennifer Murdock, 408-354-4730 or Jennifer.murdock@lgumc.org 🎵

WANTED

Two-manual electronic organ for small chapel in Palo Alto. If you have one for sale or that you would be interested in donating, please contact James Welch, 650 856-9700, james@welch.net 🎵

LOOKING AHEAD*

Times and Dates may Change

September.24th and 25th (See the first article)

Workshop by **Angela Kraft Cross** and a Concert by **Nahri Ahn**, a 15-year-old organ competition winner at the recent Region IX AGO Convention.

October 31, Sunday

Halloween Suprise

December 31, Saturday

12th Night

January 15, Sunday

Schoenstein Organ Factory Tour

February 12, Sunday

Workshop: Resources and Improvisation

March 10 or 17, Saturday

PPP or Organ Crawl

May 19, Sunday

Student Recital and Advanced PPP

June 10, Sunday

Annual Meeting and Recital by Frasier scholarship winner, Elisabeth Pintar

*Programs subject to change

JULY 3 INTERFAITH SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

AT CONGREGATION EMANUL-EL

JOYCE RHODES

AGO REGIONAL CONVENTION, SAN FRANCISCO

The service was beautifully and ably led by **Cantor Roslyn Barak** and organist, **Rodney Gehrke**. It was a rare treat to hear some wonderful Prelude and Postlude music by such composers as Shalit, Altman, Bloch and Freed.

There were two commissioned works played - **Fantasia and Fugue on Leoni** by **David Conte**. This served as a

lead in to the singing of the hymn. The second was a **Psalm Prelude on Hinei Ma Tov** by **Mark Wings**. This was paired with Cantor Barak leading us all in the singing of Hinei Ma Tov. I especially liked the David Conte composition. Not only does Cantor Barak have a beautiful voice, but she sings with great understanding of the text and with great passion. Her singing of the psalms with the choir was wonderful.

The address of the evening was given by **The Very Reverend Jan Shaw**, dean of Grace Cathedral. She was recently in Turkey and visited some of the holy caves. She spoke of the caves stimulating singing of all kinds. She said that they found themselves constantly singing songs of all kinds! Her remarks were inspiring!

All faith traditions were included in the service including a moving Islamic Call to Prayer at the beginning of the service led by **Khaled Olaibah** from the Islamic Society of San Francisco.

The service ended with a rousing version of O Beautiful For Spacious Skies ending with the Cantor on a high descant a – a goose bump moment! 🎵

LOTHAR BANDERMANN'S BIRTHDAY CONCERT

Note of Thanks.

I want to thank all who did me the honor to come and play in, or just enjoy, an unforgettable 75th birthday concert of compositions of mine at St. Joseph's that many musician friends (20 plus the combined choirs of St. Joseph, St. Jude and Union Church) put together last month. Sophie Chang's and Berdie Bowlsby's magnificent renditions of variations on "Veni Creator Spiritus" and 'We Shall Overcome,' respectively, were especially inspiring. Free CDs from the concert are available from me.

Lothar Bandermann 🎵

EROI FESTIVAL 2011, NOV 10-13

EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

IMPROVISATION AND ORGAN PEDAGOGY

Made possible with support from the Westfield Center.

The Eastman School of Music announces the tenth annual Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative (EROI) Festival presented in conjunction with the 16th annual AGO Conference on Organ Pedagogy. This year's Festival will present the topic of organ improvisation through a variety of compositional techniques and styles. The conference will alternate master classes featuring students at a variety of levels, panel discussions addressing the teaching of improvisation, and sessions that will provide attendees with resource material in the pedagogy of improvisation.

For more information and registration, go to: <http://www.esm.rochester.edu/eroi/festival-2011.php>

Leslie Wolf Robb

AGO REGIONAL CONVENTION, SAN FRANCISCO

A great time was held by all who attended the AGO Regional Convention held primarily in the Bay Area. Fifteen of our members held a dinner there (pictured below) and enjoyed each others company.



Back row: Mary Ann Gee, Joyce Rhodes, Valerie Sterk, Carl Moore, Dick Coulter, Dick Ruder, Pat Milstead, Paul Rosa

Front row: Kay Lee, Libby Codd, Melanie Cervi, Carolyn Pryor, Cecelia Lung, Alice Chen (Taiwan Chapter), Dian Ruder

JULY 4 CONCERTS OF MUSICAL FIREWORKS

MARY LOU SIMMERMACHER

AGO REGIONAL CONVENTION, SAN FRANCISCO

Majestic musical fireworks from organists **Robert Huw Morgan** followed by **Alison Luedecke** and the **Millennia Consort** earned standing ovations July 4 at the Memorial Church at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California. The San Francisco Chapter of the American Guild of Organists offered the free public concerts as part of its 2011 regional convention. The church echoed and hummed as enthusiastic organ fans surged through the doors, flashing their cameras at the floor to ceiling spectacular views: stained-glass angels shining in front above glittering gold mosaics to decorous ranks of silver-grey pipes in rich redwood casings in back.

Robert Huw Morgan opened on the **Hupalo & Repasky Tudor Organ** in front with two 16th century antiphons. Crisp bright sounds of “Lucem tuam” by Richard Wynslate raced responsively above soft mid-range colors that echoed

around the sanctuary. The contrasting bright and dark intertwining melodies of “Beatus laurentius” by Thomas Preston alternated at a stately tempo.

Morgan then jogged down the center aisle and climbed to the Fisk – Nanney Organ (1984) high above the pews at the back of the church. Although his profile seemed tiny at the organ bench in the midst of pipes spanning the width of the church, his music filled the space as the first low notes of Louis Marchand’s “Dialogue” boomed for six long seconds before brighter notes joined the long chord. Melodies alternated conversationally back and forth, bright and stately, loud and soft, and echoed under sunlight streaming through the huge, circular window at the top of the sanctuary. Then loud dark tones held constant while bright melodies played over them followed by contrasting bright notes held over darker, dancing melodies. The piece built to a climax, ending with deep loud pedals supporting magnificent joyful chords. The thrilling, booming sounds music vibrated around the church, as exciting to hear as the loudest fireworks.

Morgan playfully featured a myriad of colors with Bach’s “Sei gegrüßet, Jesu gütig” (BWV 768), ten variations on

the chorale. After beginning with basic moderate tones, dark melodies alternated separately and together with shining bright tones. Stately and detached dark voices blended and alternated with racing shining colors above; then high bright melodies skipped above lower accompaniments. Joyful voices alternated and came together as the piece ended with a crashing major chord that rattled walls.

Morgan's final piece, Dieterich Buxtehude's "Praeludium in G minor" (BuxWV 148), began loud, dark and full, moving to racing melodies and answering voices, also stately in bright and dark colors, building with to a full, deep crescendo at the end.

Alison Luedecke and the Millennia Consort performed music of the 19th through 21st centuries with Alison Luedecke Murray Harris organ; Beverly Reese Dorcy, percussion; and Presidio Brass members Bill Owens, and Ray Nowak, trumpet; Sean Reusch, trombone; Mike McCoy, French horn; and Scott Sutherland, tuba.

Soft atmospheric waves of organ sounds opened "Jupiter—a movement of Gustav Holst's suite "The Planets"—and continued as horns built more mysterious sounds with later dark tuba and deep organ-pedal emphasis. "Jupiter" ended with a rich, mellow blending of organ and brass.

"Prelude and Exultation" by Craig Phillips began with long, stately notes of the organ blending and building louder as the brass joined in and extended the melody. Bright organ notes skipped over accompaniment of deep horns and organ pedals. Sounds turned majestic, loud and joyful as brass called and organ joined with varying colors. Soft, soothing drums become louder in celebration as the horns announced exploding good news. The audience rose with cheers and applause.

"Tribute: A Lullaby for Organ" by Craig Phillips and "America the Beautiful (Materna)" by Calvin Hampton provided soft contrast. The lullaby's gentle melody seamlessly blended organ and brass, with one or the other taking the lead. It ended with crisp accents and melody above the soothing sounds. "America" as thoughtful and contemplative was a pleasing contrast to traditional patriotic songs.

"Pinot: A Suite in Three Tastings" by John Karl Hirten grew out of a playful Millennia rehearsal. Would it be possible for organ and brass to play a piece about wine? Intrigued by the idea and after drinking an entire bottle of Pinot Noir — according to the program notes — Hirten composed a group's jaunt into wine country of Pinot grapes. Dark organ and brass colors joined high, bright, twinkling notes. Humorous burps from the tuba suggested disagreement or perhaps too much wine too fast. Grunts resolved into soft melodies of organ and brass. Gorgeous ending harmonies with suggestions of chirping and flying made hearts soar, likely the effects of Pinot Blanc, Pinot Gris and Pinot Noir.

Millenia Consort ended with selections from "Pictures at an Exhibition," written by Modest Mussorgsky and arranged by Scott Sutherland. After the death of painter and architect, Victor Hartmann, Mussorgsky in 1874 composed a musical walk through an exhibition of his

friend's work. The steady step-by-step beat of "Promenade" set the pace as horns alternated and then combined with organ. "Samuel Goldenberg and Schmuyle" began dark and frightening followed by high trills. A stealthy, loud conclusion felt like an ogre jumping out to scare you. Then trumpets and horns raced and raced in "The Hut on Fowl's Legs" (Baby-Yaga) as though this witch-like folklore character (thought to live in a hut on chicken legs) was running after us. "The Great Gate of Kiev" ended the concert in safety with majestic, fireworks of sound exploding and alternating with twinkling bells, variations of the "Promenade" theme and passages of solemnity.

As the audience rose to cheer and applaud, their colorful red, white and blue clothing added suitable harmony to the concerts of many colors. 🎵

WORKSHOP OF RECENT MUSIC OF
EMMA LOU DIEMER FROM ZIMBEL PRESS
DIAN RUDER
AGO REGIONAL CONVENTION, SAN FRANCISCO

In the last 10 years, Emma Lou has continued to write music of creativity, freshness and character. As she presented this music, along with her publisher, Conrad Coonan, I began to understand how this is possible. She is about 83, energetic, sharp, witty and talented, playing with skill and speed. Since she is of the opinion that too much organ music is legato, hers is often staccato, with frequent rests which she would prefer that you honor!

The rhythms are fun, often in 5 or 7 beats to the measure. She includes a lot of dissonance, but with the quick tempos and joyous nature of those pieces, they are quite likeable. The slower pieces are lovely, with more lush harmonies. She gave us the printed copies of first pages of seven works, which proved her statement that there are repetitive patterns that lie within the hand, so that the music is easier than it sounds.

One of my favorites was "Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart," which starts out in 5/4, then accompanies the melody with syncopated, staccato dancing eighths. A set of "Odes to Beethoven's Ninth and Simple Gifts" won me over with its clever combination of the themes.

The Zimbel Press website lists her music with descriptions. You actually order from Subito Music Corporation, where it is printed and distributed. 🎵

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

UCMC: United Campbell Methodist Church, 1675 Winchester Blvd. Campbell

* Chapter Member

Every Saturday & Sunday

Organ, 4 PM, CPLH

September

4 Sunday

TBA, Organist, CSMA, 3:30 PM

11 Sunday

Angela Kraft Cross, Organist, CSMA, 3:30 PM

18 Sunday

Albert Bellefeuille, Organ and Harpsichord, Organist, **Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley**, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington, CA, 3 PM, works by Couperin, Frescobaldi, and

Scarlatti, Bach, Buxtehude, Franck, and Vierne, (Albert has participated in our Student Recitals.

Robert Gurney, Organist, CSMA, 3:30 PM

25 Sunday

Christoph Tietze, Organist, CSMA, 3:30 PM

October

16 Sunday

James Welch, Organist, **Cathedral of Christ the Light** (RC) 2121 Harrison St., Oakland, CA 94612, 5PM, Freewill donation, Berveiller Suite, Rulon Christiansen Lyric Symphony

31 Monday

James Welch, Organist, Annual Halloween concert, **St. Mark's Episcopal Church** 600 Colorado Ave, Palo Alto CA 8PM, \$10 at the door

If you have forgotten to renew your membership, this will be the last newsletter you will receive.

The renew your membership go to our web page, www.agosanjose.org, click on "Membership," and then click on "Membership Application" and follow the directions.

The Allen Organ show room is now located in Livermore

J. Nelson & Company
3987 First Street, Suite G,
Livermore, CA 94551, (800) 464-6742, (925) 447-8174

The Rogers Organ dealer is now

Art Yeap, 1722 38th Ave, San Francisco, CA 94122
(415) 235-4900
art@novogroupinc.com

To join the AgoYahooGroup, send your Email address to Mary Ann Gee at mary_ann_gee@yahoo.com

To receive the newsletter by Email (in color) and help us save money, Email Ken Talbot at kitalbot@pacbell.net

American Guild of Organists

San Jose Chapter

582 Dublin Way, Sunnyvale, CA 94087



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