



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



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Dean's Message

Fitting it all in

A huge thank you to MaryAnn Gee and Campbell United Methodist Church for a fabulous weekend. On Saturday, we were able to hear ideas from Angela Kraft-Cross on how to spot potential young organists and how to get them hooked on our incredible instrument. On Sunday, we were treated to a very well done recital by her fifteen year old student, **Nahri Ahn**. Although the turnout for the workshop was small, the concert had over 110 people there!

We all agree that finding and training new organists is a very important goal for the AGO. Our chapter holds a very successful Pedals, Pipes and Pizza every year. We also hold a student recital each year for students of AGO members. But what do we do with those students who fall in between these two stages of learning? There are many PPP attendees each year who would like to learn more about the organ, but aren't quite ready or don't have time to make the jump to private lessons.

Angela shared information about her Organ Camp which she holds each year. It consists of three or four Saturday mornings, a small group of students, and organs at several churches in the area. Students learn the basics and then get to spend two hours each Saturday morning at a different pipe organ.

We all have so many demands on our time. It seems every time I turn around someone is asking me to serve on just one more committee, or coordinate another event. It won't take much time, they promise. And here I am asking you to take on one more task as you go about your organist duties. Go find and encourage young organists.

We are not all teachers, but we are all organists and have a great love for our instrument. We can all take the time to answer a few questions from a young person after a service. We can answer the small child who says, "Wow, that's a big piano!" We can spot those who seem to be curious about the organ and share what we love about it. We can share PPP with them, help them find a teacher, or maybe even share our church instrument with them on a Saturday morning.

Diane Keller, Dean

CHAPTER SEPTEMBER EVENT

WORK SHOP BY ANGELA KRAFT CROSS

Melanie Cervi

On Saturday morning, **Sept. 23, 2011**, the San Jose Chapter of the AGO hosted a workshop on Raising Young Organists. The presenter was **Angela Kraft Cross**, AAGO from just north of us. Angela is serving as Regional Coordinator for Education (Region IX). Her experience and expertise in this subject made for an informative and delightful morning. Drawing on her years teaching lessons, directing an organ camp and encouraging other organists to "harvest potential young organists", Dr. Kraft Cross gave us an overview of points she has found important. After listening to her suggestions and stories, I had all kinds of ideas of where to use what skills, who to ask for help, and how to go about building a better organ world. If you have missed hearing Angela Kraft Cross speak of her work, please consider attending a workshop or concert or hers in the future. You will come away refreshed, encouraged and challenged.

NAHRI AHN OPENS AGO SEASON

Patricia Milstead

We need have no fear for the organ scene after hearing the likes of 15 year-old **Nahri Ahn** perform for our season opener at Campbell United Methodist church on Sunday, Sept 25. A student of both **Angela Kraft-Cross** and **David Hegarty**, equally adroit in both classical and theater organ, the Livermore high school sophomore performed with confidence and poise throughout her varied program. The enthusiastic audience of 110 was quick to acknowledge her talent. Opening with a rousing Cook Fanfare, and closing with a medley from Webber's Phantom of the Opera / Bach d minor Toccata, she exhibited an ease of performance, wide dynamic range in her use of the pedals, and technical control that could be the envy of any much more experienced performer. She played "Kehaar's Theme" from Watership Down arranged by David Hegarty for her encore. Her presentation of the Vierne showed a wide range of tone color and emotion belying her young age. She has been studying piano only since the age of 12, and organ since Nov of 2010. After having been one of the winners of the Quimby Young Organists Competition, Nahri has a bright future ahead of her in the organ world. ♪



David Hegarty, Nahri Ahn, Angela Kraft-Cross

OCTOBER CHAPTER EVENT

MONDAY 31 OCTOBER, 8 PM

The chapter's October event will be the **James Welch's Annual Halloween Concert** at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave, Palo Alto. Chapter members will get in free and all others will pay \$10 at the door,

His Halloween concerts usually contain a wide variety of music and guest artists. There is generally a surprise at each concert. See you there.
♪

STUDENT RECITAL

22 January 2012

Hello Everyone:

It is that time of year again when I send out information for the San Jose AGO chapter's student recital. It will be held on **Sunday, January 22, 2012 at 3:00 pm at Union Church in Cupertino (on Stevens Creek near De Anza College)**. This will take place on their 3 manual Rodgers organ, of which is only a few years old. **Please note that there is a change on the date for the recital from the September San Jose AGO Chapter's newsletter.** It was originally scheduled for May, and we are moving it back to January.

I hope you will consider participating or encourage someone else that you know who is studying organ to participate. If you are an organ teacher, consider encouraging your students to participate, as this is a great opportunity for them to perform the piece/s they have been working on. Priority will be given first to local organ students, especially those within our chapter who are members or studying with chapter members. If there is room on the program, we will then include organ students from other chapters/areas who are studying with an AGO member or sponsored by an AGO member. So sign up early!

For the local students and teachers, **please let me know no later than Nov. 15th** if you plan to participate or have students who will be participating. It will help me know if we have room to include other students from other chapters

or students studying with organ teachers from other chapters.

Again, I'm looking forward to this exciting event. Please encourage your family, friends and other AGO members to come and hear this wonderful program. We want to encourage those who are participating. 🎵

Best regards,

Berdie Bowlsby

San Jose AGO Student Recital Organizer

bowlbsy@sbcglobal.net

Piano/Organ Instructor

Home: (925) 479-0244 Cell: (408) 761-8681

OPEN POSITIONS

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

1st Church of Christ, Scientist, 3045 Cowper St. in Palo Alto has an opening for an **organist/pianist**. Start January 2012. The organ is a 3 manual Rogers organ. Play prelude, postlude, offertory, solo, and 3 hymns. Deadline of 5 October.

Contact **Julie Freeman** at 650-855-9646. 🎵

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 🎵

From Margaret Kvamme

Here is the link to the post-convention materials. My list of works for organ and narrator is there.

<http://www.sfago.org/2011convention.html>

CORRECTION

In last month's newsletter **Carolyn Pryor** wrote the article "July 3 Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving at Congregation Emanul-El" instead of **Joyce Rhodes**,

Board Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday **15th November, 2011** at **7:30 PM** in the at **Diane Keller's home, 665 Ashbourne Dr. Sunnyvale**

LOOKING AHEAD*

Times and Dates may Change

October 31, see above

December 10, Saturday

12th Night

January 22, Sunday

Student Recital at Union Church, Cupertino

February 12, Sunday

Workshop: Resources and Improvisation

March 10 or 17, Saturday

PPP or Organ Crawl

May 20, Sunday

Schoenstein Organ Factory Tour

June 10, Sunday

Annual Meeting and Recital by Frasier scholarship winner, Elisabeth Pintar

*Programs subject to change

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. 🎵

JAMES WELCH CONCERT, 16 OCTOBER, 5 PM

CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE LIGHT

On **Sunday, October 16, at 5 p.m.**, at the **Cathedral of Christ the Light** in Oakland, **James Welch** will be performing two major works for the organ: the rarely performed "Suite" by **Jean Berveiller**, and "Lyric Symphony" by **Rulon Christiansen**, composed in 2009. Free-will offering.

Jean Berveiller, a gifted French organist and composer and student of Marcel Dupré, composed several virtuoso jazz-inspired works for the instrument. These include "Cadence: Etude de concert" (1951, for Jeanne Demessieux); "Építaphe" (1951); and his riveting "Mouvement" (1953). His only full-scale work is the "Suite," dated 1947. This four-movement work incorporates textures and

harmonies reminiscent of Vierne, Gershwin, Fauré, Dupré, Poulenc (and a hint of Perry Mason?). 🎵

Rulon Christiansen is Lecturer in Music at Weber State University and Organist of St. Paul's Church in Ogden, Utah. His Lyric Symphony is a suite in six movements in the style of the organ symphonies of Charles Marie Widor, Louis Vierne, Marcel Dupré, and André Fleury, but conceived on a somewhat smaller scale. This new symphony, premiered in 2009 at the Mormon Tabernacle by James Welch, is dedicated to longtime friends and colleagues who share in their love of French organ music: Rollin Smith, James Drake, Clay Christiansen, James Welch, Daniel and Elizabeth Berghout, and Chester Berry. . 🎵

SAINT MARY' SERVICE – CHANT VESPERS
MARY JANE JUDGE

AGO REGIONAL CONVENTION, SAN FRANCISCO

The organist was **Samuel Soria** and his part was all improvisation. **Chris Tietze** directed the choir. Samuel has been organist at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Angels in Los Angeles since its dedication in 2002. A few highlights of his career follow: 1993 – prizewinner in the Bach International Competition at Kennedy Center, DC; 1996 – AGO Improvisation Competition at Trinity Church, NY; 2004 – featured artist for AGO National Convention at the Cathedral. He has two CD's, and a third Delos CD on organ improvisation is forthcoming.

The prelude consisted of non-legato chords played “piano” during which time the choir came in. The opening verse started by the Presider, followed by the Assembly, then All. The Opening Hymn was “O Radiant Light.”

The Psalmody (Psalm 110) followed with the **Schola** (choir) singing the antiphon. The choir alternated with the congregation for the verses and the antiphon was then repeated by the Schola. The Psalm Meditation was an organ improvisation, based on the antiphon, with the last note held a long time, like French music.

Next was a Canticle on Revelation 19:1-7. Again the Choir alternated with the congregation. Then the organ improvisation started very quietly without chords and used scales mainly with reed solo, heavy pedal and building up to very loud chords.

The Reading from 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 followed.

Then Homily was by **Father Robert Rien**. It was very touching, because he apologized for pain caused by the church and included treatment of organists. He spoke of his teacher, **Esther L. Johnson**, and how he had substituted at various churches (in the city, I believe.)

Following was a Motet, “Ave regina Caelorum” by Josef Rheinberger. The Magnificat Antiphon by the Schola was followed by the Cantor and the congregation. The Organ then alternated with the congregation. The first organ part consisted of trills and turns. The next had a legato reed

accompanied by staccato chords. The next had loud non-legato chords, alternating with soft connected chords. The next had soft flute melody against legato chords. The final one was very loud non-legato with heavy pedal.

The Intercessions followed with people responding “Remember your people, Lord” after each petition. Then the Lord's Prayer and Closing Prayer, Blessing and Dismissal.

The closing hymn was “Salve Regina.” The organ improvisation followed with very loud non-legato chords, toccata-like structure, and very busy. Chords like C E G A were used, for example. In one part a heavy legato pedal melody was used. 🎵

DIVERSITY IN WORSHIP

PAT MILSTEAD

AGO REGIONAL CONVENTION, SAN FRANCISCO

Gregory Norton former AGO National Chaplain

1. Some needs for various styles of worship
So all feel welcome
Contemporary is welcome with a beat
To offer other languages
For the new who know nothing of former worship styles
To offer different music than we hear in our everyday lives.
2. Three focuses of worship
Should be toward God – he is our ‘audience’
To show who and whose we are
To offer a chance of togetherness
3. The style is our stuff, not God's. Worship should shape us into God's people. It is community based religion – hearing one another forms community. We should sing whatever brings us together. Our music should offer a glimpse of God. It should offer a healthy respect for the past with openness to the future.
4. We should be reformed and reforming, open to other cultures and thoughts. When we sing A MIGHTLY FORTRESS, JOYFUL JOYFUL, AND SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD, it is a blended service. Think who we are and start with that repertoire, then gradually broaden our rep.
5. Quality should be the primary characteristic. It involves using our talent and resources in Planning, Execution, and Energy. Taste involves our craft, beauty, art and appropriateness (Does it serve God's people?)
6. Think Architecturally
Is the music Durable – don't use newness for its own sake
Is it Sanctuary from the world, and does it direct us toward God
Does it fit everyone in Teaching, Encouraging, Explaining
- 7 Every era tends to develop it's own tastes. Disagreements can be good. Learn from a person who does a particular style well. The best church music should be art that a Christian can grow into but not out of.
8. Two good books re music for worship

GOOD TASTE BAD TASTE CHRISTIAN TASTE
PRAYING TWICE –Brian Wren
Togetherness in song models togetherness in love. 🎵

PRACTICE LESS, PLAY MORE

SARAH WANNAMAKER

PAUL ROSAS

AGO REGIONAL CONVENTION, SAN FRANCISCO

Sarah Wannamaker presented a very interesting workshop on practice techniques called “**Practice Less, Play More**”. I admire the different ways that were presented to master difficult music as well as keeping oneself interested and challenged. As I have tried some of the methods, I have discovered that the techniques also develop a mental flexibility that is necessary in understanding and performing every kind of music. The workshop was informative and well paced. The gem at the end of the presentation was her website “**organrep.com**”. I recommend that everyone take a look at it. It has the information from the workshop as well as useful information on: Organ Literature; Church Music; Weddings; and Resources. 🎵

ASLAP (As SLOW aS Possible) by John Cage

In earlier newsletters (June 2006 and June 2007) we reported about the piece of music written by John Cage titled ASAP. This piece was started on his birthday (5 Sep 2001) and will be completed in 2604. The actual performance commenced in the St. Burchardi church on September 5, 2001 with a pause lasting until February 5, 2003. The first chord was played from then until July 5, 2005. The most recent new chord from the organ was a three-note chord, A above [middle C](#), C above middle C and the F# above that (A4-C5-F#5), which began on January 5, 2006 and concluded on July 5, 2008. For additional information see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/As_Slow_As_Possible 🎵

From Our Regional Councillor

Leslie Wolf Robb

Summer is almost over and another AGO season begins soon! Mom was right when she said that time goes faster as we get older. I'm in the midst of planning my choirs' schedules, organizing folders, ordering music, polishing handbells, and getting excited about having a music season in full swing! Of course fall always means a return to board meetings, AGO meetings, and concerts. After a long day at work it's easy to think that putting my feet up and enjoying a good book is a great way to spend the evening instead of heading off to a meeting, workshop, or concert. But when I make the effort to go, I'm ALWAYS glad I did! Spending time with colleagues talking about what we are doing in our respective church jobs, brainstorming ideas to deal with problems, getting motivated to practice more by a phenomenal performer, hearing a new organ, hearing new ideas (or old ideas that I'd forgotten about or

hadn't used in awhile) at a workshop, gaining inspiration from a terrific presenter – all of these energize me and help me do what I do better and with more passion. Join me this fall – go to that AGO meeting, workshop, or concert. Introduce yourself to someone you haven't met before. Ask someone if they have a creative way of solving a problem you are dealing with in your work. Share an idea or new piece that you're excited about. Get fired up about the King of Instruments and share that with everyone you meet! 🎵

Pipe Organ Encounter, 2011

July 22-28, 2012, San Diego, CA

The 2012 National Convention

The Nashville Chapter of the AGO invites you to Tennessee for a world-class convention, **July 1-6, 2012**. We have planned the schedule with your convenience in mind:

- Convention hotels in the heart of downtown
- Luxury motor coaches, with no need for early-morning departure times
- Ample time between events for meals
- All venues air-conditioned
- 65 workshops, all in the morning and just steps from your hotel room
- Recitals and worship services in the afternoon

Famous for our Southern hospitality, Nashville offers you a week you will long remember: Great City. Great Music. Great Organs. A Great Convention.

Concert for Raising Funds for Alzheimers

Paul Rosas

I will also be doing a fund raising concert on **Nov 12 at 4PM** at **Los Altos United Methodist Church**, 655 Magdalena Ave, Los Altos, CA. The concert will be broadcast on the internet from the LAUMC.ORG/live website. I will be having our fabulous singers, **Laura Lang Ree** and **Casie Walker** joining me for this event. We will be weaving some storytelling about people's experiences with Alzheimers as well as giving you beautiful music for your listening pleasure. (<http://walktoendalz.kintera.org/sf11/tpaulrosas>). You can donate anytime between now and Nov 12. Many thanks. 🎵

Welcome New Member

We wish to welcome a new member to our chapter

Jeffery Abbott

322 Vienna St, San Francisco, CA 94112

(412) 965-3549

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

October

2 Sunday

Archdiocesan Festival of Choirs, in conjunction with the Cathedral Festival of Flowers, CSMA, 4 PM
– Note time change

9 Sunday

Christoph Tietze, Organist, CSMA, 3:30 PM

16 Sunday

Rexphil Rallanka (Sacramento), Organist, CSMA, 3:30 PM

James Welch, Organist, Cathedral of Christ the Light

(RC) 2121 Harrison St., Oakland, CA 94612, 5PM, Freewill donation, Berveiller Suite, Rulon Christiansen Lyric Symphony

23 Sunday

Elna Johnson (Pittsburgh, PA), Organist, CSMA, 3:30 PM

Adam Sheetz, Organist, Winner, 2011 Quimby / AGO Regional Competition for Young Organists, All Saint's Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto, 4 PM

30 Sunday

John Cannon Organist, CSMA, 3:30 PM

31 Monday

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

November

4 Friday

Jonathan Dimmock, Organist, San Francisco, Stanford Memorial Church, 8PM, a recital performed on the Fisk-Nanney organ

6 Sunday

St. Mary's Cathedral Choir performing Durufle's Requiem,

Christoph Tietze, organist and director, CSMA, 3:30 PM

12 Saturday

Alzheimers Benefit Concert, *Paul Rosas, Singers Laura Lang Ree and Casie Walker, Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave, Los Altos, 4PM,

13 Sunday

Elfrieda Langemann O'Neill, Soprano. Sacred works for voice and piano CSMA, 3:30 PM

19 Saturday

James Welch, Organist, St. Immanuel Lutheran Church, 14103 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga, 7PM, "From Bach to The Romantics", \$Free will offering, Casavant Organ

Allen Organs, J. Nelson & Company, (800) 464-6742, (925) 447-8174

Rogers Organ, Art Yeap, (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

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