



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



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

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Budget/Auditor: Darryl Parker

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Dean's Message

REGION IX LEADERSHIP BREAKFAST

JOYCE RHODES

PAST CONVENER NORTH COAST DISTRICT
 AGO REGIONAL CONVENTION, SAN FRANCISCO

Deans from all chapters in Region IX met for a continental breakfast to share ideas, successes and failures of their chapter. Leslie Wolf Robb, CAGO, councillor, District IX was the hostess.

James E. Thomashower, executive director, National AGO, gave out several membership folders, and announced to contact him by email should you like one for your chapter. He also said National is in the process of collecting dues; and that each chapter has a \$1 million dollar insurance policy purchased by National. Cost is \$40,000 a year, but, we must have it, and the cost would be covered if every member donated \$2. The goal of growing your chapter by 2 or 2% was offered.

Linda Margetts, FAGO, education coordinator for Region IX, encouraged everyone to study and take the exams offered by AGO. She also asked us to always use letters after our name, e.g., Spec., AAGO, CAGO, FAGO – saying this lets others know of your achievements and it just might encourage them to aspire to the same goal.

Lea Schmidt-Rogers, professional development coordinator, Region IX, emphasized the need for contracts and staff/committee meetings.

A compilation of good ideas: Facebook page, coordinating with churches that have recital series for support and sharing of programs, reaching out to young persons through PPP's, POE's, "Bach-a-Thon's", dinners – always food, top notch artists, main stream radio PSA'S, issue Recognition Certificates – low cost to make and huge benefits received, 12th Night parties, OHS programs – history is always a big draw, many "Bach-a-Thons" raising significant income, French Music Festival with French wine and French cheese, programs featuring local composers, Friday evening ½ program followed by dinner at a nearby restaurant, important to have something exciting to work on, field trips – to Schoenstein, neighborhood recitals, open console in a theater, get members to perform often for one another, program – "Get a Handle on Handel", program with instruments and organ, local junior college connection for Holiday party, did bio's of members – good for fellowship and team building, regularly held socials for hors d'oeuvres and drink with as few as 2 attending and as many as 15, free-will offering at a big star concert netted 67 cents profit!, established new education fund(s) with profit from conventions/conclave, have the same piece played on the organ, then piano so folks can hear the difference, conduct an evaluation after each concert – able to see that 50% are return attendees, and lastly Taiwan held once a month recital/concerts that were always sold out!

Problems: aging membership, huge distances of area served, publicity is hard, and how to turn lay organists into AGO members were the major problems of chapters.

All in all, this was a very informative and encouraging meeting, inspiring us to continue working for and with our chapters. ♪

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 Bowsby

San Jose AGO Student Recital Organizer

bowsby@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

The **First Presbyterian Church of Monterey** is seeking an **organist**. Duties include weekly Thursday evening rehearsals with the Chancel Choir and Sunday morning worship service at 10:30am. First Presbyterian Church has a long history of excellent, classical music in worship. If you are interested, please contact me. John Koza, Director of Music, 831-320-5085, First Presbyterian Church, Monterey, 501 El Dorado Street, Monterey

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.

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 ♪

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

November, On chapter event

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. 🎵

ORGAN AND NARRATIVE WORKSHOP

VALERIE STERK

AGO REGIONAL CONVENTION, SAN FRANCISCO

On July 4, **Margaret Kvamme** (organist) and **Shirley Harned** (narrator and singer) presented an excellent workshop on music for organ and narrator. They performed excerpts from nine featured works, including four by Region IX composer/organists present in the audience: Carson Cooman, Pamela Decker, Paul Rosas, and David Hatt. Margaret (a member of our chapter) and Shirley were fabulous—giving us excellent musical performances and superb acting/characterization, woven together with delightful humor. Additional thanks to First United Methodist Church Palo Alto and staff, who graciously hosted the workshop and provided skillful sound operation.

Some works were organ demonstrators targeted for younger audiences: the *Zaccheus Biblical Sonata* (also performed last January at our student recital), *The Transportation Age* (featuring vignettes about a bus, bicycle, and subway), and *The Child's Book of Beasts* (delightful humorous poems about animals, spoken in rhythm over the organ music characterizing each animal).

Several of the works had appeal for teen-and-up audiences, such as the toe-tapping *King Rap* and the dramatic, movie-soundtrack-like *Apollo 13*. The audience favorite (granted, we were a crowd of organists!) was *The Organist's Audition*, a humorous narrated story about five organists vying for a church position. Margaret donned various hats to personify their widely-contrasting musical styles: a vintage flowery hat for the soft-strings and chimes, a flamboyant glittery hat for the overly dramatic bravura, a glitter-strapped white fedora for the rollicking boogie-bass music...until finally the high-church-hatted candidate won the job with a traditional trumpet voluntary. The complete list of Margaret's workshop pieces, along with handouts from other convention workshops, is available online (<http://www.sfago.org/2011convention.html>).

These works for organ and narrator demonstrated the instrument in exciting, fun, and creative ways—inspiring us with ideas for introducing the organ to wider audiences of various ages. Bravo, Margaret and Shirley! 🎵

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>

JAMES WELCH'S CONCERT

"RICHARD PURVIS, THE SAN FRANCISCO ORGANIST"

ARLENE ZIMMERMAN

AGO REGIONAL CONVENTION, SAN FRANCISCO

As we entered, St. Marks Episcopal Church was draped with red streamers. There was a projected picture of Richard Purvis in front and prelude music consisting of recordings of him playing.

When James Welch came in, he woke us up by playing "A Prayer of Patriotism from Five Folk-hymn Orisons for Organ". He then took us through Richard Purvis colorful biography.

To end the presentation, Dr. Welch played four Purvis' compositions: *Elegy from Three Pieces for Organ*, *Melody in Mauve from Gentle Moods*, *Les Petites Cloches*, from *Four Dubious Conceits*, and *Toccatà Festiva (In Babilone)*, from *Seven Choral Preludes*. 🎵

RESTAURANT HOPPING WITH ORGANISTS

MELANIE CERVI

AGO REGIONAL CONVENTION, SAN FRANCISCO

The delicious part of going to conventions is exploring restaurants. Now, you don't always end up at restaurants you would choose to go to on your own....or ever return to for another meal. But, it's always an adventure!

This past summer, our Region IX convention was in San Francisco. Since we were staying at the Holiday Inn on Van Ness Ave, we had a score of restaurants to choose from all within walking distance. From a corner shop for a quick breakfast, to a deli, to sit down cafes featuring food from around the world and every price range imaginable. What I had forgotten until we were will into the schedule was how often friendships were formed, renewed, and strengthened during these brief (and I mean brief sometimes) breaks in the programs/workshops. The problems life throws our ways don't seem so difficult if you have friends.

I won't spend time in this article detailing all the wonderful, humorous, or interesting experiences we had. You'll have to meet me for lunch or coffee to hear those. I will say that I have begun to look around whenever I'm out eating now; to see who's there, who I might greet, or wave to. We live in a wonderful area full of vibrant, exciting places. I challenge you to explore one new place or location each month. Who knows who you'll see, what you will do, where you will discover? 🎵

BUS RIDES AT THE CONVENTION
LIBBY CODD

AGO REGIONAL CONVENTION, SAN FRANCISCO

When I go to an AGO convention I look forward to the bus rides because I meet such interesting people. On the first day I sat with Fr. Robert Rien, chaplain of SFAGO and asked him how well the Catholic Church supports its music. He told me that when he started in his parish music was in a moribund state. The congregation could barely sing hymns, to say nothing of any other parts of the mass and they had no paid organist. With great effort he gradually won them over to better singing and willingness to support the music program. Now they are enthusiastically singing hymns and chants and the program is the envy of other local Catholic churches.

On my next trip I sat with Fr. Jeremy from the Midwest, and asked him the same question. He groaned and said it was awful and he didn't seem able to change it. I told him about Fr Robert and said he must meet him but the only clue I could give was that the day before he had on a light blue shirt with darker lines on it. I thought he would have a tough time locating him. Later I ran into Fr Robert and told him, then saw him again the next day at a wine reception at Stanford. He said they had met and had a wonderful conversation. He wasn't sure how much help he was because they come from different traditions. I hope this didn't represent to great a gulf. Next day my seat-mate looked at my badge and said he had been dying to meet someone from the San Jose Chapter as he lived in Paso Robles and hadn't been able to attend any meetings. I went looking for Pat Milstead at the next concert, who was surprised and pleased. So I tried to get them together, having forgotten what he looked like, but finally succeeded. I recommend not sitting with someone you know because it's fun to meet other organists. 🎵

GOTTA GET THIS OFF MY CHEST
A MEMO FROM THE PAST DEAN

I'm sure that you all remember my pleas to find an organ for my student—about three months ago. Well, after much tribulation and frustration, the problem was solved by **BILL FERGUSON & THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of San Jose.**

It seems that members of Bill's congregation take music seriously and are concerned over the diminishing numbers of organists. Consequently, they are doing what they can to support and encourage my student in his musical endeavors and are making it possible for him to practice in his after-school hours!

It concerns me that one church in the Willow Glen area said that "only members of their staff" could use their pianos or organ. Another church in the same area said that they would be willing to have him practice, but there would be a fee—\$25 an hour—which is what they would charge a group wanting to use a room.

You would think that I could arrange to have my church provide rehearsal time, but when this all happened I had just left my position and didn't have a church.

I appeal to all members of the San Jose AGO to start working with their boards and clergy to have them address the problem of "not enough organists" and to see what they, as a church, can do to help solve the problem. Perhaps they could provide rehearsal space or even scholarships to students that they would and could support.

BRAVO to Bill and the First Congregational Church of San Jose!!!

Respectfully,

Richard Coulter, Past Dean. 🎵

Pipe Organ Encounter, 2011
July 22-28, 2012, San Diego, CA

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. 🎵

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.

Music Calendar Continued

December

4 Sunday

The Valparaiso Singers Christmas Creche Exhibit, James Welch, Organist, **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**, 3865 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto, **4:30 PM & 7 PM**, Free www.christmascreche.org

11 Sunday

Robert Huw Morgan, Organist, with the **Stanford Chamber Chorale**, under the direction of **Stephen M. Sano** and members of **Bay Brass, Stanford Memorial Church, 8PM**, Free

6 Tuesday

Rebecca Maggi, Soprano & **James Welch**, organist, **Christmas Creche Exhibit, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**, 3865 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto, **7 PM**, Free www.christmascreche.org

14 Wednesday

James Welch, Organist, Santa Clara Music Teachers Association of CA Branch, **UCMC, 11 AM**, Free

31 Saturday

James Welch, Organist, **New Year's Eve Concert, St. Mark's Episcopal Church** 600 Colorado Ave, Palo Alto CA **8PM**, \$10 at the door

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

30 Sunday

John Cannon Organist, **CSMA**, 3:30 PM

31 Monday – Chapter Event

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

Silicon Valley Symphony, Brahms: Academic Festival Overture, Op. 80: **Saint-Saëns:** Concerto for Violin No. 3 in B Minor, Op. 61 **Stephen Waarts**, Violin: **Brahms:** Symphony No. 4

in E Minor, Op. 98, 7:30PM, **Holy Trinity Episcopal Church**, 330 Ravenswood Avenue, Menlo Park, \$20

20 Sunday

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

Silicon Valley Symphony, Brahms: See description above, **St. Marks Episcopal Church**, 600 Colorado Avenue, Palo Alto, \$20

26 Saturday

Messiah Sing-along, *Diane Keller, Organist, **Sunnyvale Ward of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**, 771 W. Fremont Ave., Sunnyvale, www.sunnyvalesing.org. **6:30PM.**

27 Sunday

David Hatt, Organist, **CSMA**, 3:30 PM

For December, see Page 5

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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FIRST CLASS