



SAN JOSE PIPINGS
 SAN JOSE CHAPTER OF THE AGO
 February 2015 www.agosanjose.org



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- Sub Dean:** Carolyn Lamcke
- Secretary:** Libby Codd
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Dean's Message

Happy February everyone!

Living in the Bay Area we can rightly say that Spring is just around the corner! Things that were once dormant are slowly beginning to ‘awaken’; new life to earth, new ideas, a renewed resolution to do better, and even an attitude of hope. So I had an idea, why not see what our past Deans have said to us and bring it to the present.

In one column, Matthew Borgatti’s view of the organ was mentioned. He said that the organ has gone the way of the dinosaurs and “that the biggest shame of the pipe organ’s demise is that only a group of select musicians get to play them.” (San Jose AGO Dean’s column, Feb., 2012) Yes, one could say that the organ is slowly being replaced with other more popular instruments to draw a ‘newer’ audience to the pews or recordings of the organ are being used for shrinking congregations trying to save money but then I started reflecting on two parts to his view. First, the word dinosaur. Second, WHO gets to play the organ?

While we can all agree that we no longer have walking dinosaurs amongst us there is still a great deal of excitement and interest in them. Don’t believe me? Go to a museum where there are dinosaur exhibits and see the crowds. Adults stand in awe. Children get giddy, excited, and can’t wait to get books or trinkets to learn more about them. Some say churches are becoming like museums but unlike many museums, churches are opened on Sunday. We need to draw people to the organ on this day. We, as organists, need to become more accessible, friendlier, and more approachable where people know it is okay to come to the organ and see what is going on at the console.

I read in a past TAO article that the organist started inviting one child at each service to help with the postlude. They would “play” one of the last notes or pull out a stop. It has been met with great success. Pizza Pedal and Pipes helps to dispel this organ-dinosaur myth. WE get to talk and bring life (well, turn on the air for the pipes) to the organ. What always happens is children and many of the parents end up staying a little longer to ask more questions and play more on the instrument. I always leave that Saturday morning asking: How can we tap their newly ‘awakened’ experience and stretch it out so they will want to become future organists?

I hope you will join me in thinking of ways on how we can make the organ become more approachable, current, necessary, and not to be revered from a museum distance!

With you in music,

Elisabeth Pintar, Dean

31 JANUARY CHAPTER EVENT PEDALS, PIPES, AND PIZZA

Attend our San Jose AGO Chapter fourteenth annual Pedals, Pipes & Pizza event at **Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church** on **Saturday, January 31, 9 am-12 noon**. Registration will be at 8:45am. We'll begin with an introduction to the pipe organ and a demonstration of some of its sounds and capabilities. Each student is invited to bring along a piano piece or two they know well and would like to try out on the organ. Experienced organists will be at the organ console with them, to help choose an appropriate registration for their piece. Around 11:30am, we'll enjoy an informal pizza lunch together. 🎵

8 FEBRUARY MIKE CALA CONCERT



Mike Cala will give a concert on **Sunday 8 February 2015 at 4 PM**, at **Mission Dolores Basilica**, 3321 Sixteenth Street, San Francisco, (94145) 621-8203. This concert is part of the Basilica's 2014-2015 Sunday afternoon recital series.

There is complimentary parking in the Mission Dolores parking lot. Enter on the east side of Church Street between 16th and 17th Streets. 🎵

WORKSHOP AND CONCERT 14 AND 15 FEBRUARY 2015

J. Nelson & Company LLC is hosting a workshop and concert on 14 & 15 February at the **Los Altos United Methodist Church**, 655 Magdalena Ave, Los Altos, CA featuring **Aram Basmadjian**.



ARAM BASMADJIAN is one of the most accomplished organ virtuosos in America. Throughout the United States, his performances as an organ recitalist have won acclaim from audiences and critics alike. With an expansive repertoire not limited to traditional organ works, Aram Basmadjian's diverse programs provide a musically rewarding

experience as he conquers the "King of Instruments".

The program, 15 Feb, 2 PM, will feature works of Bach, Handel, Bingham, Dupre and Vierne, as well as arrangements of several non-traditional selections not typically heard in concert.

The organ at Los Altos UMC is a widely acclaimed hybrid instrument consisting of a 2006 4-manual 87-stop Allen Digital Organ combined with 47-ranks of Schantz pipework.

Additionally, Mr. Basmadjian will hold a workshop, 14 Feb, for church organists at the same location at 10:00 am. All interested organists are welcome to attend.

Admission to both the concert and workshop are free. For more information, go to

www.jnelson.com/concert or contact Robert Lindquist at 925 447-8174 or email rlindquist@jnelson.com. 🎵

22 FEBRUARY CHAPTER EVENT DAVID HATT CONCERT

David Hatt will give a concert on **Sunday 22 February 2015 at 3 PM**, at **St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**, 13601 Saratoga Ave, Saratoga.

From David Hatt.



Some of our members may remember the last time I played a concert at St. Andrew's, Saratoga. It was April 18, 1999, and I shared the program with the ebullient and virtuosic Ray Garner. We presented a Widor/Vierne program featuring some of our favorite

movements. In those days Ray had an idea that the Bay Area needed a Festival centered on the music of Max Reger. We managed to produce a small version of the Bay Area Reger Festival in 2000. Then in 2008, I luckily persuaded Isabelle Demers to join us. She played 3 concerts, all awesome; of course, this was before she became one of the most sought-after organists in the world. Unfortunately, Ray died on All Souls' Day in 2006, but his inspiration is still with me.

On Sunday, February 22, I get another chance, this time a solo concert, a good opportunity to present some of Reger's best stuff in a new format. This program will feature Op. 63, the Monologues, but not all twelve of them. I've managed that once, in 2008, and it's brutally difficult for the performer, and not easy for the audience either. But this time the order contains seven pieces, the real meat of the work. The Introduction and Passacaglia in F minor, pieces 5 and 6, are fairly well-known, so those are not part of this. Instead, the order is 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, and 10. The outer works are two pairs: the immense Prelude and Fugue in C minor to start and the Toccata and Fugue in E minor to finish. In the middle, a three-movement diversion: Canzona, Capriccio and Ave Maria. This opus shows Max at the

height of his middle-period creativity. The works are colorful, not overly bombastic, with beautiful flowing melodies. By this time he has clearly mastered the art of writing for the organ and was working up to the pinnacle, Op. 73. If I could choose a set for those who typically don't care for Max, this would be it.

Because one must warm up to playing these, the first half contains the Barie' Toccata and two small Fantasias and Fughettas by Gottfried Kirchoff (pieces that have been published as spurious works of Bach). Those two are mostly just single lines with figured bass, so I have managed to create realizations of the figured bass that doesn't sound too Baroque. Then there's the sublime Divinum Mysterium arrangement by David N. Johnson. So even if you don't care much for Max, there will be plenty of other nice things. It's a great privilege to be asked to do this, and we all know how wonderful the St. Andrew's organ is, and I hope to see many of you there. 🎵

22 FEBRUARY CONDIE RECITAL

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 12770 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga, has recently started the Condie Organ Recital series, named for Michael and Joanne Condie, who made possible the purchase of the Allen organ there. The next recital will be on Sunday, 22 February 22 at 7:00 PM and will feature **Jerome Lenk**, organist at Mission Dolores in San Francisco. The recital is free, although a freewill offering will be taken for a charity of the Condie's choice. 🎵

28 FEBRUARY CHAPTER EVENT STUDENT RECITAL

The San Jose AGO Student Recital will be held on **Saturday, 28 February at 3 PM.** at **Stone Church in Willow Glen**, 1937 Lincoln Avenue, San Jose. The organ is a lovely and versatile 2-manual Schoenstein. We look forward to a wonderful concert. Thank you to Stephen Boniface and the church for hosting. Be sure to invite your friends and family to this free event, which will be followed by a cookies-and-punch reception. Let's show our students support and provide encouragement.

Margaret Kvamme 🎵

CONN ORGAN

I have a **Conn 643 Theatre organ**. I originally paid about \$5,000 for it. It is in almost perfect condition. I will donate to a church or an individual.

Patricia Gardner pgardner951@yahoo.com, 408-559-9390



OPEN POSITIONS

Valley Church, Cupertino, 10885 N. Stelling Rd., Cupertino, is offering a paid internship as **choir director** for the traditional service. Rehearsals Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings at 8:35 for 9 AM service, now through May. Details available from worship pastor **Daniel Kim at 408-739-4642**. 🎵

Dear Colleagues: Check out the article in the Dec. 15 issue of the New Yorker – “Wall of Sound – A resurgence of organ music in the concert hall.” by Alex Ross. It includes a full page picture of the organ at Disney Hall. Shalom from Carolyn Pryor.

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/12/15/wall-sound>

Executive Committee Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday **10th Feb, 2015** at **7:30 PM** at **Valerie Sterk's home, 2164 Talia Ave., Santa Clara**

AGO REGIONAL CONVENTION

The SJ-AGO board is hoping you will register for this AGO West Regional Convention in San Diego. Chinar Merjanian is playing a recital at the convention and we might want to support one of our members. Plus it's the 100 Anniversary of the Spreckels organ in Balboa Park. We'll hear it played. There we be great workshops, concerts, presentations and other AGO members. Think about putting this on your calendar. <http://www.agosandiego2015.org/>. 🎵

SCHOENSTEIN FOR LADUE CHAPEL, ST. LOUIS
Schoenstein & Co. is building a new organ of three-manuals and 46 ranks for Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church of St. Louis, Missouri. The five-division instrument will be in chambers on either side of the chancel with an Echo organ in

the west end gallery. The instrument is designed along symphonic lines with particular emphasis on variety of tonal color and dynamic control for accompaniment and support of the service. Chamber facades will be of classical style in keeping with the colonial architecture of the church, which seats 500. This leading St. Louis church has an extensive music program headed by Music Director David Erwin. The new organ is part of a sanctuary renovation plan that includes acoustical improvements under the direction of Scott R. Riedel and Associates. Completion is planned for the fall of 2015. 🎵

Silent Meidinger blower. Electro-pneumatic main chest; direct electric offsets for Principal 1-12 and Quint. Case is a modular design and can be disassembled for moving Peterson switching relay. 56 note keyboards (main chest has 61 note capacity). Pipe source and voicing by Frans Bosman Organ Co. \$7,500, will consider donation for church use Contact davidjohanson@charter.net or 408-888-8544

ÆOLIAN PIANO FOR SALE



Æolian is the most famous name among player piano manufacturers and is of the highest quality. The vintage Sting II by Æolian, pictured here, is in excellent condition and was rarely used. It can be played by pumping the pedals or by plugging it into a standard household outlet. It can be played as a regular piano or in “player piano” mode, using rolls of music mounted in the area above

the keys. There is an automatic music roll rewind feature. There are ~20 rolls of player piano music included in the sale – a value of ~\$200. New music roles are still being manufactured. Replacement cost for a new player piano of this quality is ~\$4-6,000. Sale price is \$1,575 (negotiable). Contact **D. Larsen, 408-736-3352, Sunnyvale, CA.**

This is a wonderful addition to the. Delivery by specialist piano movers, within ~ 20 miles of Sunnyvale, can be arranged; buyer pays for the move (~ \$300). 🎵



TIPS AND CHALLENGES

Starting in the 2005 December newsletter we ran a number of articles entitled “Tips and Challenges”. They were contributed by some of our members. Here is the first article.

December 2005

Carol Griffin

TIP: Quick modulation trick. To modulate up 1/2 step: Hold the final tonic chord of a hymn, (example C) as you move your pedal down a whole-step to B^b; then move the pedal down another whole-step to A^b and holding the common tone of C, change your chord to A^b7, which is the Dominant of D^b, your new tonic chord. Now you are set to play the hymn in D^b. Practice going from one key and to every key.

CHALLENGE: Give some serious thought to studying for one of the AGO Professional Degrees. You can pursue all the requirements and not even take the test, so there's no obligation if for some reason you are unable to take the test. You will still reap the benefits of your study. You will enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that you have learned a lot and

PIPE ORGAN FOR SALE, MORGAN HILL

Cherry case, freestanding, 9.5' wide x 12.5' tall x 36" deep (60" deep total with pedal board)
(Main windchest is 24" x 96"; pipework and chests can be reconfigured to fit different room size.)

Pipe Configuration:

- 8' Principal, 56 pipes, 4' Octave, 68 pipes
- 8' Salicional, 56 pipes, 16' Bourdon, 93 pipes
- 1 1/3 Quint, 56 pipes

Stop specifications:

- Pedal – 16' Bourdon, 8' Principal, 8' Flute, 8' Salicional, 4' Octave
- Man I – 8' Principal, 8 Bourdon, 4' Octave, 4' Flute, 2' Octave, 1 1/3' Nasat, II Sesquialtera (TC)
- Man II – 8' Salicional, 8' Bourdon, 4' Octave, 4' Flute, 2' Flute

upgraded your skills. Read the article in the September 2005 TAO page 59 “**Why I Chose to Certify**” by **Meg Smith**. The January 2005 issue of TAO has a brief list of requirements for the tests and the July issue has other details.

If there is sufficient interest among our members, the Chapter may provide classes to help a group study the subjects needed. If you have even the slightest inkling that you would like to try this, please talk to any one of the four of us who have earned the Colleague Degree: Libby Codd , Mary Ann Gee, Carol Griffin, or Cecelia Lung, ♪

WANTED: APPLICANTS FOR THE FRASIER ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP

Have you encouraged someone to apply for the Frasier Organ Scholarship this year? If not, there’s still time! Check out the information on our chapter website, and encourage an organ student to apply for the Frasier Organ Scholarship. Or might you consider improving your organ skills, and resuming or continuing your organ studies this year? If you’re a member of our San Jose AGO chapter and haven’t won the Frasier scholarship before, you too are eligible to apply. In fact, if you read over the list of past Frasier Organ Scholarship winners, you may be surprised at how many names of current members you find on that list. Organists of varying ages and experience have been Frasier applicants and winners over the years. Remember our mission statement: “The purpose of the American Guild of Organists is 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.”

The 2015 scholarship qualifications/requirements, application, and hymn list can be found on our website. [www.agosanjose.org – Under “What’s New,” click on “Frasier Organ Scholarship”] If you have questions about the scholarship, please contact Valerie Sterk

(valeriesterk@gmail.com). The **deadline** for sending the application (application form and two recommendations) is **March 20, 2015**; the auditions will be in late April or early May; and the winner will be notified by May 10.

BERTRAM FRANCIS SCHOENSTEIN 1917 – 2015

Bertram Schoenstein, 97 years old, died January 8, 2015, in San Rafael, California. Born September 11, 1917, Bert was



the eldest remaining third-generation member of the pioneer San Francisco organ building family. As a youngster he helped his father, Louis, in the organ business, but coming of age in the depth of the depression when there was little prospect for the organ business, he began a 40 year career as a master painter and decorator. During World War II he served in the Army Air Corps. After retiring

he achieved his dream of a second career in organ building with Schoenstein & Co. from 1978 to 1995. Bert was a natural mechanic and practical problem solver. In addition to running the paint and finish department, he devised many clever fixtures and tools for the other departments and maintained plant equipment. Also a natural musician, as was the family tradition, he played the violin in several orchestras and ensembles including the Deutscher Musik Verein. Among his many mechanical interests was antique car restoration specializing in Model T Fords. Bert is survived by children Karl and Heidi, five grandchildren and three great grandchildren. A memorial mass was celebrated at Nazareth House Chapel on January 17, 2015

PREVIOUS FRASIER SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

1977	Christoph Tietze	1978	Karen Hastings	1979	Suzanne Jill Mueller
1980	Kevin Buttle	1981	Henry Kogler	1982	Emily Young
1983	Melanie Marilyn Mueller	1984	Gladys M. Murray	1985	R. Monty Bennett
1986	<i>no applicants</i>	1987	Elizabeth Codd	1988	Craig Lusk
1989	Cecelia Lung	1990	Aaron Peterson	1991	Siegfried Drinkmann
1992	Brian Chu	1993	Ann Thiermann	1994	<i>no applicants</i>
1995	<i>not offered</i>	1996	Curtis Chu	1997	<i>no applicants</i>
1998	YaChing Pan	1999	Steven Bonniface	1999	Mary Ann Gee
2000	Michael Wright	2001	Berdie Bowsby	2002	<i>no award</i>
2003	Alishan Merjanian	2004	Valentin Barsan	2005	<i>no applicants</i>
2006	<i>no applicants</i>	2007	Chinar Merjanian	2007	Susan Snook-Luther
2008	David Wills	2009	<i>no applicants</i>	2010	Andrew Birling
2011	Elisabeth Pintar	2012	Myrna Emata	2013	Kirim Eom
2014	Kirk Waiblinger				

Music Calendar

Locations

CSMA: Cathedral of St Mary of the Assumption, 1111 Gough St., San Francisco

GC: Grace Cathedral, 1100 California St. San Francisco

☉ Chapter Event * Chapter Member

Every Saturday & Sunday

Organ, 4 PM, Calif. Palace of the Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park, 34th Ave & Clement St., San Francisco.

D. Hegarty: Feb 7/8 - Mar 7/8

R. Gurney: Feb 14/15 - Mar 14/15

John Kark Hirten: Feb 21/22 - Mar 21/22

K Thompson: Feb 28 / Mar 1 - Mar 28 /29

January 2015

☉ 31 January Saturday

Pipes, Pedals, & Pizza,
Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church,
728 W. Fremont Ave, **9AM-Noon.**

February 2015

1 Sunday

James Welch (Organ), **Karen Thielen** (Harp), and **Michael Adduci** (Oboe), **St. Mark's Episcopal Church**, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto, \$10 at the door
3 PM

Christoph Tietze & David Hatt,
works by Buxtehude & Bach,
CSMA, 4 PM

8 Sunday

Xiyan Wang, piano, **CSMA, 4 PM**

Mamiko Iwasaki, organ, **St. Mark's Episcopal Church**, 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, **6:05 PM**

Ben Bachmann, organ, & **Adam Frieberg,** cello **GC, 4 PM**

***Mike Cala,** organ, **Mission Dolores Basilica**, 3321 Sixteenth Street, San Francisco, part of the Basilica's 2014-2015 recital series.

14 Sunday

Aram Basmadjian (workshop), **Los Altos United Methodist Church**, 655 Magdalena Ave, Los Altos, **10 AM**

15 Sunday

Aram Basmadjian (recital), **Los Altos United Methodist Church**, 655 Magdalena Ave, Los Altos, **2 PM**, see page 2

Hans Uwe Hielscher (Germany), organ, **CSMA, 4 PM**

22 Sunday

☉ **David Hatt,** **St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**, 13601 Saratoga Ave, Saratoga, **3 PM**

Robert Gurney, organ, **CSMA, 4 PM**

Jerome Lenk, (organist at Mission Dolores SF), **Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**, 12270 Saratoga Ave, Saratoga, **7 PM**

March 2015

1 Sunday

Sonora piano Trio, CSMA, 4 PM

Stephen Hamilton, organ, **GC, 4 PM**

8 Sunday

James Hicks (NJ), organ, **CSMA, 4 PM**

Michael Bawtree, organ, **St. Mark's Episcopal Church**, 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, **6:05 PM**

15 Sunday

Angela Kraft Cross, organ, **CSMA, 4 PM**

22 Sunday

Robert Gurney, organ, **CSMA, 4 PM**

29 Sunday

Steve Denmark, organ, **CSMA, 4 PM**

April 2015

5 Sunday

Alexei Kodash, violin, **Patrick Smith,** guitar, works by Kodash, **CSMA, 4 PM**

12 Sunday

Alexei Kodash, violin, **Patrick Smith,** guitar, works by Kodash, **CSMA, 4 PM**

Angela Kraft Cross, organ, **St. Mark's Episcopal Church**, 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, **6:05 PM**

American Guild of Organists

San Jose Chapter

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FIRST CLASS