



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



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Dean's Message

Greetings everyone! Fall is FINALLY here, I can now say that as I woke up this morning to first smells of Autumn I instantly started smiling. Various decorations are already in stores and with Halloween approaching many may not realize how often the organ is featured during this month. We ought to thank two very well-known composers and their pieces of music, even though some may say over used pieces, for spotlighting the organ: Bach's Toccata in d minor (as my students call it, "The Haunted Mansion Theme") and Andrew Weber's organ theme solo from "Phantom of the Opera". Both pieces are instantly recognizable and bring the non-organ lover to a stop to listen. Now while one may be technically and musically more advanced than the other, the fact is they both make us pause and associate it to, something I find quite positive. I think those two pieces can be a gateway introducing a new audience and hopefully new players as well to classical music. People have asked if I can play them and I am thankful for those requests because it makes me dust them off and explain the joy I find in playing and more importantly practicing the organ.

We have all heard comments as 'if only I could play like that!'. I have found the best response is, "but you can, you just need to practice!" We have all heard the story of "The Little Engine That Could" and after reading it this past month the message has stuck with me and helped to keep me chugging along with my practice. Remember how simple the moral is, you just have to keep pushing, telling yourself 'I think I can, I think I can'. Eventually you will reach the other side of the mountain, your goals. Measure by measure, beat by beat, I'm inching my way to my goals. Music I thought I would never learn I'm learning and even though I have moments of self-doubt I have to keep doing as the Little Engine so I too can say, "I Thought I Could, I Thought I Could!" I hope as we listen and attend our upcoming chapter concerts we will all cheer on the musicians for bringing us "good things to hear!"

Don't forget if you choose to answer the door on Halloween night to the little spooks and goblins to have some great organ music in the background and begin the conversation slyly "yes, this Toccata is fabulous but have you heard the really amazing part of the piece...the Fugue!?!"

Happy Halloween!!

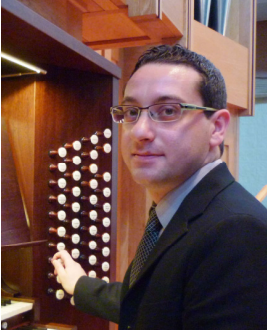
Elisabeth Pintar, Dean

Executive Committee Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th Oct, 2015 at 7:30 PM at Elisabeth Pintar's home, 4505 Faraone Ct, San Jose

Check out the "Area Organs Page" of our web page. Since August of this year we have added six new articles to the Area Organs link in our web page.

UGO SFORZA IN RECITAL OCT. 9



Ugo Sforza, a young Italian organist and composer/lecturer, will be presenting an organ recital at **Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church**, 728 West Fremont Ave, Sunnyvale on **9 October at 7:30 PM**. His program will include Franck's *Pièce Héroïque*, Widor's sixth organ symphony, and a first

performance of an original composition. There is no admission charge; a free-will offering will be received at the door. For more information on Ugo Sforza and his compositions, visit website: ugosforza.jimdo.com. There will be a reception after.

Ugo Sforza was born in Bari on 1 April 1982. He graduated with summa cum laude in Organ (2003), Organ Composition (2003) and Piano (2010) from the Academy of Music "N. Piccinni" in Bari, under the guidance of the teachers G. Salvatori and F. Balducci. In 2011 he graduated in Science of Cultural Heritage from the University "Aldo Moro" in Bari. In June 2013 he graduated from the Anton Bruckner Privatuniversität (Austria), under the guidance of Prof. Brett Leighton: here he obtained the prestigious Master of Arts in Organ with an honorable mention and with a thesis on the preservation and protection of old keyboard instruments in the most important musical museums of Europe. He attended seminars and major courses about Italian and German music by F. Friedrich, M. Radulescu and L. F. Tagliavini, about French Organ Literature by Marie-Claire Alain, Roberto Antonello and L. Robilliard, about English Organ Literature by Michael Harris, about Organ Improvisation by T. Flury, about great Piano Literature by I. Longato.

Since he was very young, he has had success as organ player, gaining prizes in several organ competitions. He was awarded prizes by the President of the Italian Republic as the winner of the 6th Edition of the organ prize "Goffredo Giarda" (Rome, 2004). On the same occasion he also received a special prize from the public as the best organ performer. He has recorded sacred music of the Italian composer Ottavio de Lillo (Foundation "San Nicola e Santi Medici" – Bari, 2005) and organ favorite works by J. S. Bach, F. Schubert, C. Franck, M. E. Bossi for the Weinberg Records (CD Orgelmusik aus der Elisabethinenkirche - Linz, 2013).

He currently performs Recitals at important International Concert Series, Organ Festivals and Organ touneé in Europe and U.S.A. Since 2003, he often performs in Concert-Duo with the great Italian soprano

Annalisa Carbonara (1973*). He also composes orchestral and vocal scores for her voice. Above all, very important is his work as a composer since many years. Among the various titles of his works for symphonic organ solo and chamber music, stands out *Organum Vox Dei* Op.3 (Papageno Edition, Bari - 2004) and *Fantasy on Veni Creator Spiritus* Op. 7 (Armelin Edition, Padova - 2007).

He actively performer and is church organist and conductor in Italy and Austria, he also alternates his work as lecturer in music at some Italian public schools in Vicenza, Rome and Como area and he is a member of Licon – Pescara for Departments of Organ and Management of the Music. For further information: ugosforza.jimdo.com. 🎵

An Email Interview with Ugo Sforza

NL: What first started your interest in the pipe organ?

Sforza: When I was 10 years old, in Mai 1992, just I entered a big Church near Bari, hand in hand together with my mother. In few seconds I saw a "big" (actually it is quite small!) musical instrument with two keyboards and strange pedals under the keyboards, very similar to giant keys. It was the first pipe organ I have ever seen. I didn't know pipe organs at that time. Bari is not real the city of pipe organs. Three days later I had my first private piano's lesson.

NL: How old were you when you first started studying the organ seriously?

Sforza: After 3 months getting piano's lessons, I tried both examinations at the Academy of Music in Bari. I was quite unable to play good, but I raised the interest of the Committee on the innate musical abilities, including a perfect pitch; So, they offered my the possibility to choose only one course of studies: organ or piano. I suddenly answered "Please, I want to study the organ!", against the will of my private piano's teacher, that was totally angry with me for this "stupid decision", as he said. So I started with my first organ lesson, directly at the Academy of Music in Bari, in September 1992, when I was 10. I started studying again piano seriously until the age of 22.

NL: Who are some of the most influential teachers with whom you studied?

Sforza: All these 4 teachers, in different ways, they have straightened out my bones one by one:

- Roberto Antonello, organ teacher and performer; deputy general director at the Academy of Music in Vicenza, Italy
- Michael Harris, organ teacher and performer; conductor of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Master of the Music in St. Gile's Edinburgh
- Filippo Balducci, piano teacher and performer, Academy of the Music in Bari
- Brett Leighton, organ teacher and performer, University of Linz, Austria

NL: What are some of the more interesting venues in which you have played?

Sincerely, the smallest villages across Europe and U.S.A. These small realities also welcome beautiful organs, as well as the big cathedrals; additionally, there, you meet and feel the beauty and the love of people too! In few words, small places. and great hearts! It is not a mathematical equation, of course. but it often happens, and in Sunnyvale it happened too! I am so very proud and happy to meet again the people in Sunnyvale. Lovely, interested and deep people there.

NL: I know that you have composed quite a bit of music; do you also improvise in a concert?

Sforza: Yes, I often improvise during my concerts. In the last years I was not so happy to do it, because I did not regularly attended official improvisation courses in my student's career. However, all my teachers prayed me to do it the same, so I began and did it... and, nowadays, it seems to make people happy... sometimes!

NL: Can you describe your compositional process?

Sforza: My compositional process is very similar to the improvisation's one. I have just studied 2 months composition at the Academy of Music in Bari. I have always trusted of my teachers. Anyway, I had some troubles with my teacher of composition: she was a well known teacher from Milan and she refused, at the first day of lessons, "to decipher my very old style", as she told me (I had already published some organ works at that time). "Your is not real new music, because it is already written", she said too. So I refused to continue and study composition. After that, I stop my "useless" compositional process for ten years circa. Then, my organ teacher Roberto Antonello, casually discovered a draft of my "Fantasy on Veni Creator Spiritus" and he convinced me to take and publish it. Thank to him I began again to write music...

Next year, in Austria, will be played and represented my first Lyric Opera.

NL: Who are some of your favorite modern composers?

Sforza: According the style of my music, my favourite modern composers should be all already died at the beginning of 20th century. Actually, sometimes I can also close my eyes and dream, sitted in the Cinema, for some well written motion picture sound tracks... as Brother Sun Sister Moon, Titanic, the Gladiator, The Passion of Christ... A part from digital effects, of course... Could I do it?

NL: What pieces will you be playing for us?

Sforza: I will play a various program, with music by C. Franck, U. Sforza, J. Clarke, R. Giazzotto and Ch. M. Widor till the moment someone in the audience will stand up to throw something against the organist and make it stop. Could it be a concrete gesture of love that too, perhaps!

Hope that you will find this funny, but so real, interview helpfull for your needs.

Very happy to meet you next October in Sunnyvale! Grateful,

Ugo Sforza ugosforza.jimdo.com

Halloween Concert

Our chapter's **Halloween Concert** will be held on **30 October** at **Campbell United Methodist Church**, 1675 Winchester Boulevard, Campbell, CA at **7:30 PM** featuring **Margaret Kvamme** and **Michael Wright**. There will be a consume contest with a paper vote. Come and enjoy the fun. 🎵



NICHOLAS WELCH FRASIER SCHOLARSHIP RECITAL

Nicholas Welch will give his **Frasier Recital** on **Sunday 15 Nov. 2015 at 7 PM** at **St. Mark's Episcopal**, 600 Colorado, Ave., Palo Alto, Free.

KEN COWAN MASTER CLASS AND CONCERT

Ken Cowan will give a **Master Class** on **Saturday 21 Nov. 2015 at 10 AM** in **All Saints Episcopal**, 2076 Sutterville Rd., Sacramento CA 95822.

On **22 Nov. 2015** Cowan will give a **Concert** at **4 PM** **Fremont Presbyterian Church**, 5770 Carlson Dr., Sacramento, CA 95819 at **4 p.m.** The 3901 pipe 67 rank organ Reuter Organ was installed in 2010.

Please mark your calendars and also be thinking about some repertoire for the class if you wish to play. I cannot provide any other information about such things as admission fees, so this will have to wait for a later date. 🎵

William Becker, Sacramento AGO

Dates to Remember

🕒 **Ugo Sforza Recital: 9 October, Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church**, 728 W. Fremont Ave. Sunnyvale at **7:30 PM**. His program will include Franck's *Pièce Héroïque*, Widor's sixth organ symphony, and a first performance of an original composition. Admission is free; a free-will offering will be received at the door. For more information on Ugo Sforza and his compositions, visit website: ugosforza.jimdo.com.

🕒 **Halloween Concert, 30 October, Campbell United Methodist Church**, 1675 Winchester Boulevard, Campbell, CA at **7:30 PM**, **Margaret Kvamme** and **Michael Wright**.

☛ **Nicholas Welch, 15 November**, organ and piano, **St. Mark's Episcopal Church**, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto, 7 PM, free.

☛ **January Jubilee 16 January**, A day of workshops for the church musician, **Los Altos United Methodist Church**, 655 Magdalena Ave, Los Altos, Sponsored by the San Jose and PA/Pen AGO Chapters. Cost of \$25 includes lunch.

☛ **Annual PPP, 6 February Immanuel Lutheran Saratoga**, 14103 Saratoga Ave, Saratoga, in the morning.

☛ **Alzheimer's Benefit Concert 20 February at Advent Lutheran**, 16870 Murphy Ave, Morgan Hill, 3 PM, Sponsored by the San Jose and PA/Pen AGO Chapters. 🎵

YOUR AGO MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IS NOW DUE

☛☛☛ Now is the time to renew your 2015-2016 AGO membership! To renew, login to ONCARD at the following link: <https://www.agohq.org/oncard-login/> Log in and update your information. On the payment screen, you can pay by credit card or print out an invoice to send in with your check. Your prompt reply to this request is necessary to help with programming for the coming year. As of 24 September only 3 or 4 have not renewed membership.

OPEN POSITIONS

Redeemer Lutheran Church, 468 Grand St., Redwood City, is seeking an **organist/choir accompanist** for the tradition service Organist prepares preludes, offertories and recessionals as well as leads the hymns, which are selected by the pastor. There are seasonal services (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week) and about 40 choir rehearsals. The organ is a two-manual Schoenstein organ. Salary follows AGO guidelines. Resumes may be sent to hdraeger@gmail.com. 🎵

Foothill Presbyterian Church, 5301 McKee Road, San Jose. We are looking for an **interim music director** while we search for a permanent director. We also have the Foothill Community Concert Series that puts on concerts once a month at the church, so it is a church interested in music. We are thinking of 15-20 hours a week for \$25 an hour. We are looking to rebuild a choir and we already have an active bell choir. Email me with questions at revInan@yahoo.com or call [408-460-6608](tel:408-460-6608), Nan Swanson. Any help you can give would be most appreciated. 🎵

The **Episcopal Church in Almaden** (ECA), 6581 Camden Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120, www.eca-sj.org, is seeking a **Music Director and Organist/Pianist**.

Ideal candidate qualities and background: Familiarity with Episcopal/liturgical worship; flexibility and willingness to learn and lead new styles; ability to work collaboratively with Rector and other music leaders and musicians; range of experience with musical styles and genres; experience introducing congregations to new musical styles; experience with choral conducting; talented organist and pianist; ability to recruit and nurture choir members

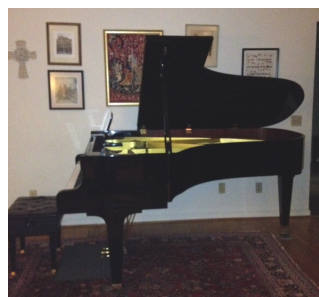
Key points: Experienced adult choir; state-of-the-art 3-manual digital Phoenix organ from England; one Sunday

morning service at 10:30 AM; Thursday night rehearsal 7:30-9:00 (except during summer); help oversee Bell Choir, folk choir, and possible youth music programs; intimate, in-the-round worship space; church facility shared with UCC congregation (which has its own Music Director).

Half-time position (15 hours/wk. average) with competitive salary and negotiable benefits. See more detailed job listing at: eca-sj.org/files/music_search.pdf. Additional organ specifications at: eca-sj.org/files/graphics/Phoenix_specs.pdf Apply by: Oct. 5, 2015. Email resume to: music-search@eca-sj.org 🎵

For Sale, Grand Piano

SCHIMMEL GRAND PIANO FOR SALE



6'9" Grand Piano in excellent condition, regularly tuned and maintained by original owners. Built in 1983 in Braunschweig, Germany, Polished ebony polyester finish with artist bench, Professionally appraised in March 2015 at \$23,000. New Schimmels of

this size list for about \$55,000. Comparable used Schimmels are between \$20,000 and \$25,000. Owners are willing to negotiate a fair price. Located in Grass Valley, CA. Interested parties email joan.tumilty@gmail.com

LOTHAR BANDERMANN MUSIC

Lothar Bandermann, a member of our chapter, has composed many musical pieces. There is a list on his web site.

<http://www.lotharbandermann.com/>

He says: On this website, you will find music that I have composed, arranged and transcribed. I hope you enjoy all the music that I have to offer. To obtain hard copies, please email me at lwbandermann@att.net, 🎵

SCHOENSTEIN DEMONSTRATION VIDEO

An educational video on symphonic organ design is available on YouTube. Open YouTube, search "Schoenstein Tonal" (using the 15 stop, 17 rank Schoenstein organ at Christ and St. Stephen's Church in New York City). Jack Bethards, president of Schoenstein, explains in detail the tonal characteristics of each stop. Nigel Potts, organist and choirmaster of the church, plays short examples from the organ and transcription repertoire. You will see and hear how the stops fit into tonal families and then combine to create a symphonic color palette. The Double Expression system is illustrated along with other organ design principles that can make a small instrument sound like a much larger one. This video will be of value to anyone interested in organ registration, composition, or tonal design.

Jack Bethards, Schoenstein & Co. 🎵

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qhLbcKeVQK8>

A NOTE FROM ANTHONY DOHERTY

I was a member of the SJ chapter back in the 80s, and Pat Milstead, Doug DeForeest, and I were among those involved in starting a local NPM chapter. I was also the choir director at St. Martins, Sunnyvale, with Lothar Bandermann as organist.

Eventually I moved on to St. Raymond's Church in Dublin. While I was there we had an organist search that brought **Siegfried Drinkmann** to us. His was an amazing talent, and I'm convinced he would have become a major concert organist, had he not died way too young while pursuing a master's degree at Indiana U. My late wife and I counted him as a good friend as well as a great colleague.

Siggy played some short pieces of mine in a concert at St. Mary's Cathedral in SF, and of course accompanied some of my choral works. I began a toccata for him, but he never had the chance to play it. The finished word is dedicated to his memory and is now published and available from Swirly Music, along with a couple other organ works and several choral pieces. **I thought perhaps someone in the SJ Chapter might be interested in the toccata** -- Siggy was a member of the chapter and won the Frasier Scholarship in 1991. As far as I know, it still awaits a formal first performance. It can be previewed on the Swirly Music Website (<http://www.swirlymusic.org/music/organ/anthony-doherty-toccata-for-organ/>), 28 pages.

Pat suggested passing all this on to you for the newsletter, and I'd be most grateful if you can do that, or hand it on to whoever else might be appropriate.

Thanks and best wishes,

Anthony Doherty, 925-586-9202

braptormusic@gmail.com

[braptormusic.wix.com/dohertymusic](http://www.swirlymusic.org/music/organ/anthony-doherty-toccata-for-organ/)

<http://www.swirlymusic.org/music/organ/anthony-doherty-toccata-for-organ/>

If anyone in our chapter would be interested in presenting this toccata in behalf of Siegfried, please contact Elisabeth Pintar at elisabethpintar@yahoo.com.

Welcome New Member

Michael Touchi, 684 Concord Pl., Pleasanton, CA 94556
(925) 768-2656, CABASS@aol.com

Welcome to our new Treasurer

Jason Pintar, 4505 Faraone Ct, San Jose, CA 95136
(408) 445-1181, Jason@pintarlaw.com

Welcome to our new Membership Chairman

David Snook-Luther, 12525 Quito Road, Saratoga, CA, 95070, (408) 205-7973, dcs1@sonic.net

CHAPTER COMPENSATION SALARY SURVEY

In early summer of 2015 the San Jose Chapter of the American Guild of Organists surveyed members about various aspects of their compensation. The survey asked about the title of the position held, how often the member was compensated, the status of employment, number of hours

spent weekly, average attendance at services played, the amount of compensation and benefits, and fees for various services and additional duties.

The response of members was sufficient to provide a good statistical sample of these topics. This article is the first in a series to share the results of the survey.

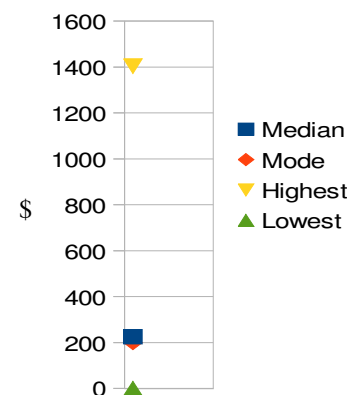
Monetary compensation is probably the item with the most interest. All responses were normalized to a weekly amount, whether members were paid monthly, weekly, per service, annually, bi-weekly, or twice monthly.

The average weekly compensation of respondents was \$283.55. The median was \$225, and the mode was \$200. The highest compensation was for a full-time position of \$1,403.85, and the lowest was \$0.00 for a volunteer position. The results are also presented graphically.

If these same responses are normalized to a monthly average, the monthly compensation would be \$448.96. Normalized to an annual compensation, the average amount would be \$14,744.74.

Future articles will deal with titles of positions, frequency of compensation, status of employment, benefits, fees for additional services, time spent per week, and average attendance at services. 🎵

Compensation (Weekly)



NEW STOPS (FROM JAMES WELCH)



Music Calendar

Locations

CSMA: Cathedral of St Mary of the Assumption, 1111 Gough St., San Francisco
CUMC: Campbell United Methodist Church, 1675 Winchester Blvd. Campbell
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: Oct 3/4 – Nov 7/8

Brendan Conner: Oct 10/11

John Dimmock: Nov 11 – Veterans Day

John Dimmock: Oct 17/18 – Nov 14/15

John Walko: Oct 24/25

Simon Berry: Nov 21/22

Angela Kraft Cross: Oct 31 – Nov 1

Brian Swager: Nov 28/29

October 2015

3 Saturday

☉ **Alzheimer's Benefit Concert,** 3 PM, sponsored by the Palo Alto / Peninsula Chapter, **Los Altos United Methodist Church,** 655 Magdalena Ave, Los Altos; ☉ **Paul Rosas,** organ; **Brian Holmes,** alpenhorn; **Larry and Carla Sue,** 8 bell duets.

4 Sunday

Rex Rallanka (Sacramento), organ, **CSMA, 4 PM**

9 Friday

☉ **Ugo Sforza Recital, Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church,** 728 W. Fremont Ave. Sunnyvale, **7:30 PM.**

11 Sunday

☉ **Rani Fischer,** organ, Variations of Hymns, **St. Bede's Episcopal Church,** 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, **4 PM**

Philip Manwell (Reno), organ, **CSMA, 4 PM**

Evensong, All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto, 4 PM

18 Sunday

Christine Westhoff, soprano, **Timothy,** organ, **Resurrection Parish,** 303 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa, **3:30 PM,** Redwood Empire Chapter

John Cannon, organ, **CSMA, 4 PM**

25 Sunday

Diana Stork & Portia Diwa, Harps, "Music from the Labyrinth", **CSMA, 4 PM**

27 Sunday

James Welch, LDS Convocation, Stanford Memorial Church, 7:30 PM

30 Friday

☉ **Halloween Concert, Campbell United Methodist Church,** 1675 Winchester Boulevard, Campbell, CA, ☉ **Margaret Kvamme** and ☉ **Michael Wright, 7:30 PM.**

31 Saturday

SFJAZZ-Silent Film Classic, Phantom of the Opera, Dorothy Papadakos, organ, **GC, 7 PM & 9:30 PM**

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

November 2015

1 Sunday

Jennifer Cherest, soprano, **CSMA, 4 PM**

8 Sunday

Interfaith Choral Concert, CSMA, 5 PM (note time change)

15 Sunday

Philip Brisson (Louisville, KY), organist, **CSMA, 4 PM**

☉ **Nicholas Welch,** organ and piano, **St. Mark's Episcopal Church,** 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto, **7 PM,** free.

American Guild of Organists

San Jose Chapter

582 Dublin Way, Sunnyvale, CA 94087-3323



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

