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Palo Alto/Peninsula and San Jose Chapters Newsletter Winter 2024

A Message from Leadership

Happy New Year, San Jose and Palo Alto/Peninsula chapter members! May 2024 bring you accomplished goals, better health, musical growth, and found joy. As the busy Advent and Christmas seasons have ended, are you needing a chance to just enjoy live music without having to plan and practice it? In the next few weeks, there are ample opportunities for exactly that. I hope you will look at the upcoming events and see which ones will inspire you or encourage new organists. Please help us spread the word! May you have a wonderful California “winter” and I hope to see you at our next gatherings.

~ Elisabeth Pintar, San Jose Chapter Dean



ORGAN PERFORMANCE

with Walt Strony



Immanuel Lutheran Church
14103 Saratoga Ave, Saratoga, CA

JANUARY 20, 2024 | 7:00 PM


COST: \$20/PERSON

Classically and theatrically trained organist, Walt Strony, has kept this production and tradition of the Phantom of the Opera alive—with a twist. Instead of a live cast on a stage, he plays remnants of the original score from the 1925 classic silent film Phantom of the Opera on the organ.



If you have never seen a production of the Phantom of the Opera—now is your chance to view this film and hear the music. You will not want to miss him!

The film and music will take you
back to a simpler time.
Come and relax, and enjoy the show!



There are multiple ways to help the success of Pedals, Pipes and Pizza which will expose young pianists to the organ:

1. Click on the poster below, copy/paste and send directly to piano teachers and friends who are parents/grandparents/mentors of musical children. Please include a link to registration separately, as Mailchimp doesn't seem to like the one embedded in this newsletter ad. You will find the link at the bottom of the paragraph below.
2. Copy and paste the verbiage, and customize into your own message to school, church and community music leaders and youth choir directors. Again, please include the registration link separately.
3. Contact [Valerie Sterk](#) about volunteering at the event.

The American Guild of Organists' San Jose Chapter is proud to host *Pedals, Pipes and Pizza* at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm on Saturday, February 3. This event introduces youngsters ages 8–18 to the pipe organ, and is a fun morning of hands-on learning. Students will have a chance to try their piano pieces on a giant 3-manual + pedals pipe organ, see pipes close-up, pump air into a homemade organ, view performances on videos made on pipe organs around the world, and much more. A pizza lunch for students and their accompanying parents is included. This event is free to the first qualified 15 students who sign up, but registration is required. Here is the link: <https://forms.gle/dBVhEo3q1kVGNVQGA>

**Sponsored by: San Jose AGO Chapter
(American Guild of Organists)**

FREE MORNING OF EXPLORING THE KING OF
INSTRUMENTS
WITH HANDS-ON ACCESS TO THE PIPES,
MULTIPLE KEYBOARDS AND PEDALS ON A GIANT
PIPE ORGAN

**PEDALS, PIPES,
AND PIZZA**

**AGES:
8-18**



NO COST

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3
SUNNYVALE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
728 W FREMONT AVE.,
SUNNYVALE, CA**

**9 AM
THROUGH
12 PM**

REGISTER TODAY TO SECURE YOUR SPOT. [CLICK HERE.](#)

from Rani Fischer:

Join us for the film "The Genius of Cavallé-Coll" on Saturday, February 3, 2-5 PM. We will gather chez Catha Hall in Woodside and enjoy French wine, French non-alcoholic drinks, and French cheese. Please RSVP to me at ranifisc@gmail.com if you would like to join us. Also, let me know if you would like to bring a bottle of French

wine or some nibbles, or if you would like a ride.



Jörg Reddin, the distinguished Baroque organist, vocalist, and conductor who has held J. S. Bach's old job in Arnstadt, Germany since 2013 and leads Thuringian organ summers and Bach festivals, is also responsible for the Cantor function for all of

the churches of the Ilm District. He is the featured Artist-in-Residence for this winter's Santa Cruz Baroque Festival. He will lead an organ masterclass, sponsored by the San Jose chapter, on the morning of March 2 at St. Luke's church on the tracker Visscher instrument. Additionally, he will be featured in concerts in Santa Cruz on January 21, Feb. 3, Feb. 24 and March 9. If you or your students have interest in playing Baroque pieces for the masterclass, please email Vlada Volkova-Moran, SubDean.



Your New Year's Resolution:

**Register for the
San Francisco AGO National Convention**

Concerts · Workshops · Exhibits · Services



**Save \$100! Register before February 1,
when rates will increase.**

Get full information and register at www.sfago2024.org

Concerts and Special Events

**Chapter events (Palo Alto/Peninsula, San Jose, and San Francisco) are noted in red, marked with an asterisk, and are open to members of all 3 chapters. This newsletter uses San Francisco and Berkeley as northern boundaries for event listings. In the interest of space, events are now listed chronologically. Addresses and parking info can be found online by searching the venue. Ticketed events are noted, all others are free or freewill donation-funded.*

January 14, 4pm - Gail Archer, organ, Cathedral of St Mary, SF

January 15 (MLK Day) 1pm - Angela Kraft Cross, organ, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Saratoga

January 20, 7pm - Walt Strony's Phantom of the Opera live organ with 1925 silent film. \$20 at the door, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Saratoga

January 21, 4pm - Susan Jane Matthews, organ and piano, St. Paul's, Burlingame

* **January 21, 4pm - Weicheng Zhao**, organ, with Fang Gao, violin. Grace Cathedral, SF. [Registration](#) required for free admission.

* **February 3, 9am - 12:00 pm: Pedals, Pipes and Pizza** @ Sunnyvale Presbyterian for ages 8 - 18. Free with required pre-registration, first 15 students. Register [HERE](#)

February 4, 4pm: Christoph Tietze, organ. Cathedral of St Mary, SF

Feb. 11, 4pm: Ruth and Elizabeth Kamas, organ and piano. Mission Dolores, SF
Livestream: www.facebook.com/missiondoloresf

February 11, 4pm: Christoph Tietze, Organ. Cathedral of St Mary, SF

* **February 11, 4pm - Nathaniel Gumbs** in recital at St. Marks, Berkeley

* **February 19, 9am - President's Weekend Organ Crawl** in Berkeley (First Congregational, First Presbyterian, First Church of Christ, Scientist, St. Joseph's Chapel). Details tbd; email Dan Gonzales after February 4.

February 25, 4pm - August Lee, Cello, with Hyunji Park, Piano. Cathedral of St Mary, SF

* **March 2, 10am -12pm followed by a light lunch 12-1pm** - Masterclass at St. Luke's,

Los Gatos with **Jörg Reddin**, cantor/organist of the Bach Church in Arnstadt, Germany. Also note January 21, Feb. 3, Feb. 24 and March 9 concerts at Santa Cruz Baroque Festival <https://scbaroque.org>

* **March 9, 10:30am** Salon (informal gathering of organists to share music, no RSVP needed, Grace Lutheran Church, Palo Alto

March 31, 4 pm: Michal Szostak, Organ. Cathedral of St Mary, SF

* **April 20, 4pm** - Palo Alto/Pen Members' Recital, St. Mark's Palo Alto

* **May 19, 7pm** - **Renee Gastelum**, winner of the San Jose chapter's Frasier scholarship 2023, performs a recital at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church.

* **May 25, all day** - Peninsula organ crawl: hoping to visit First United Methodist, All Saints' Palo Alto, Carmelite Monastery in Santa Clara, and St. Nicholas & St. William Parish in Los Altos

* **June 8, 10am** - **Choral Reading**: anthems for small choirs, St. Bede's Menlo Park. Bring your favorite anthems that are easy & effective.

June 30 - July 4 - **National AGO Convention** in San Francisco, Berkeley/Oakland, and Palo Alto

In memoriam:

Mary Louise Leigh Talbot, wife of longtime San Jose chapter newsletter editor and board member, Kenneth Talbot, died on December 27 in their new retirement community in Utah. Here is a link to the mortuary where her obituary and a video of her funeral may be viewed, as well as a place to leave condolences.

<https://www.lindquistmortuary.com/obituaries/mary-talbot>

We mourn also with Dick Coulter, who lost his wife, Frances M. Coulter, on November 2. Her memorial eucharist includes a eulogy and was held on December 9 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Los Gatos. The service may be viewed here:

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

Jobs Available

The San Jose Chapter is almost ready to launch its beautiful new website. We are seeking a **webmaster** to upkeep our website using SquareSpace. Training is available. Please reach out to [Margaret Kvamme](#) if you are interested in this volunteer position.

Paid church positions described in previous newsletters, as of yet unfilled:

Music Director: Organist/Pianist. The Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), San Jose. [Job Description](#)

Organist/Choir Director. St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, Carmel. [Job Description](#)

The next newsletter will be published in mid-March. The deadline for submitting concert listings, articles, photos, job listings and notices of organs (with standard pedalboards) or harpsichords for sale, is **March 12**. Click on the red button below for a set-up email where you can conveniently type and attach items.

submit newsletter content



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c/o Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos

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