

SAN JOSE PIPINGS

SAN JOSE CHAPTER OF THE AGO

May 2007

www.agosanjose.org



Chapter Officers

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Newsletter: Kenneth Talbot (408) 732-6094 kitalbot@pacbell.net

Issue Deadline: 15th of month

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Region IX N Coast Convener:

Joyce Rhodes Joyce.Rhodes@comcast.net

Dean's Message

 \mathcal{H} ave you noticed what an ecumenical group we are? Just look at the lineup of churches that hosted our events this year:

Pat Eldred

St. Patrick's Seminary-Menlo Park Fr. James McKearney Mary Ann Gee and Andrew Birling

Campbell United Methodist

St. Mary's Catholic Church-Los Gatos Pat Milstead Immanuel Lutheran-San Jose Darryl Parker

St. Joseph Catholic Church - Mt View

Los Gatos Presbyterian-Los Gatos Margaret Kvamme Los Altos United Methodist Paul Rosas

Lutheran Church of Our Savior (Cupt) Theresa Oatman Stone Church of Willow Glen Joyce Rhodes

The Chapter wishes to especially thank these churches for their hospitality. And of course we are grateful to John and Sophie Chang for hosting the Soderlund workshop in Cupertino. Notice that these sites are also in different cities. This should not be a deterrent to our going. The furthest one from my house was only 20 miles. If you are willing to host (either at church or at home) next year, let Andrew Birling, incoming sub-dean, know.

The other aspect of our ecumenism this year has been the fact that we joined with other Northern California chapters for two of our programs. The September BBQ, Welsh concert and workshop on attracting audiences at St. Patrick's was a hit. The concert yesterday was an outstandingly successful example of what we can do jointly with other Chapters. Interesting virtuoso Jeremy Filsell (hosted by SF and Peninsula) demonstrated all the nuances of the excellent hybrid organ at Los Altos Methodist, followed by an elegant reception hosted by Peninsula Chapter and ourselves. These programs showcase the high quality events we can host jointly: a boon to all both fiscally and audience-wise.

WHAT MEMBER did research and development on the microwave with Litton?

WHAT MEMBER was on a debate team with Ross Perot?

WHAT MEMBER played clarinet in a high school band that played 'Finlandia' by Jean Sibelius at the New York World's Fair?

WHAT MEMBER is an expert at using the weighted hula hoop and has an extensive collection of cookbooks?

WHAT MEMBER, on a dare, streaked across the gym on the final play of a basketball game in high school? On getting outside, the member was appalled to find that the promised car waiting with clothes had failed to show up and never came. Traipsing home through the lemon groves naked in the middle of the night was not fun.

WHAT MEMBER was part of an international competition and won a summer of lessons with Flor Peeters? This member also has a number of golf trophies.

WHAT MEMBER enjoys watching classic Looney Tunes cartoons while ironing?

Patricia Milstead, Dean &

Future Events

May 19 – Saturday, Pedals, Pipes and Pizza: Contact Theresa Oatman or Melanie Cervi. TIME CHANGE, 9 AM, Lutheran Church of Our Savior, 5825 Bollinger Rd, Cupertino June 3 – Installation Ceremony and Dinner – Mark your calendars, Stone Church RSVP TO Melanie Cervi, (408) 358-6568 as the side dish you will be bringing.

Melanie Cervi, Sub Dean

FEBRUARY'S CHAPTER EVENT Professional Concerns

Members of our chapter gathered Sunday, Feb. 18, in the afternoon for a round table discussion on Professional Concerns issues. After a few words of welcome, we listened as the **Rev. Lynn Bailey** spoke of his experiences as both an organist and a pastor. Several attendees participated in discussions of best practices for worship music and the use of the organ in worship. The educational opportunities for clergy interested in high quality, historically based music for worship was discussed. After a sharing of local opportunities to explore worship traditions such as traditional choir and Taize chant, it was proposed that our chapter help facilitate a conference on liturgical music intended for both clergy and musicians.

As we mingled over treats and coffee, we also enjoyed a Music Exchange that raised money for our scholarship fund. This is an excellent way to thin and rejuvenate music collections. We hope to continue this table at future events. – Melanie Cervi

APRIL'S CHAPTER EVENT Jeremy Filsell Concert

An afternoon on glorious shimmers.

Sunday April 22, 2007 was a brilliant day. The weather sparkled, the colors in the windows sparkled, and the organ music sparkled. The program I'm thinking of was at Los Altos United Methodist Church on Magdalena in Los Altos. The afternoon began with a very blue sky with white puffy clouds to watch. If you were lucky enough to walk inside the bright airy church, you were treated to a wonderful concert by Jeremy Filsell. After playing the fun Fantasia K 608 of Mozart's, Mr. Filsell gave a brief program note talk explaining the connection he saw in the rest of the program. He then proceeded to showcase the organ using the delicious music of Bach, Viern, Cochereau, Durufle and Eschaich. Even a technical glitch with a power cord didn't prevent the energy from bounding around the room. His transcription of the Scherzo Symphonique was filled with his good humor and flawless technique. It was definitely a treat to hear the rebuilt organ now enhanced with digital samples. Thank you to all three chapters, San Francisco, Palo Alto/Peninsula, and San Jose, for working on the details to pull together this wonderful afternoon! Melanie Cervi &

MAY CHAPTER EVENT Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza Saturday19 May 2007, 9 AM

Calling all organ lovers! Calling all curious kids! Calling all curious Moms and Dads! Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza is coming on Saturday, May 19, 2007 at 9 AM!

This year, Lutheran Church of Our Savior, 5825 Bollinger Road, Cupertino is hosting our annual discovery day. Thank you to Theresa Oatman for sharing her bench.

Please consider coming to help demonstrate and explain the organ to area piano/organ students. The invitations are ready to go to piano teachers, so if you know of a group of curious elementary and secondary age kids (parents welcome too), please get their names to **Melanie Cervi (358-6568)** as soon as possible so we can invite them to come try out the organ. See you there!

CHAPTER ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND INSTALLATION

3 JUNE, 2007, 3 PM Stone Church of Willow Glen 1937 Lincoln Avenue, San Jose

It's time for our Chapter Annual Meeting. If you cannot name anyone serving on the Executive Committee, name any project your dues have funded (local or across the country), name any program you would like to see repeated; be at the Stone Church of Willow Glen, 1937 Lincoln Avenue, San Jose on Sunday June 3, 2006 at 3 PM. We will be conducting the only General Membership Business meeting of the year that afternoon. We will install next year's Executive Board. So come enjoy good food, lovely music, and fun fellowship.

As you know, **Pat Milstead** our Dean has been asking us questions about what our Chapter members are doing when not playing the organ. All will be reveled at our Installation Meeting. Therefore, come to learn the answers. The Frasier Organ Scholarship Awards will also be given to their receipients.

The Chapter will provide the main dish for the Potluck Dinner and the Chapter Members are ask to bring side dishes. Please RSVP to 358-6568

before 30th May to let us know what dish you would like to bring and to reserve your napkin and place setting Either phone or Email melaniecervi@verizon.net).

TWO WINNERS OF THE FRASIER ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP! Susan Snook-Luther Chinar Merjanian

ongratulations! The **2007 Frasier Organ**

Scholarship has been awarded to two winners, Susan Snook-Luther and Chinar Merjanian. They will each be awarded \$1000, to be presented at our annual Installation on June 3. The judges for the Frasier auditions recommended that Susan and Chinar share a recital, hopefully as a chapter program in the fall.

Susan Snook-Luther is a student of **Berdie Bowlsby**, and **Chinar Merjanian** is a student of **Christine Merjanian**. More details about the winners and their plans for using the scholarship money will appear in a future newsletter.

Many thanks to the three judges for the Frasier auditions: Joyce Rhodes, Carolyn Pryor, and Dick Coulter. We appreciate the use of Immanuel Lutheran Church, San Jose, for the competition on April 14. We also thank Darryl Parker, organist at Immanuel Lutheran, for his gracious assistance in arranging and preparing for the Frasier auditions. &

MAY EVENT Choir Fest Sunday 6 May 2007, 4 PM

Come join us for a wonderful afternoon Spring Music Festival concert at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 3151 Union Avenue, San Jose, CA. This concert will feature 8 local choirs under the direction of **Eric Knapp**, guest conductor, festival organists **Mark Thallander** and **Berdie Bowlsby**, **Jeff Bowlsby** on trombone, and **Carol Griffin** on piano/organ. The festival will be held on **May** 6th at **4:00 PM**. This concert is open to the public and a free offering will be taken.

Eric Dale Knapp, is the Conductor-in-Residence for MidAmerica Productions at Carnegie Hall. He is a dynamic conductor whose commitment and energy empower the musicians he leads to give performances that stir the souls of the audiences. Mr. Knapp founded and currently serves as music director for Orchestra de Camerata and the Chamber Music Series at Salisbury House in Des Moines, Iowa. For more information, see his biography on the Mark Thallander Foundation website.

For more information about Mr. Thallander, see his! biography on the Mark Thallander Foundation website. Also be sure to read Mark's Story on MarkThallander.com.

Please check out the church's website for more information at www.trinitypresbyteriansj.org.

Board Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 8th, 2006 at 7:30 PM in the home of Pat Milstead, 1258 Oak Knoll Dr., San Jose. All meetings are open. &

THANKS TO NEWTON PIPE ORGAN SERVICES
We wish to thank Mr. Roger Inkpen for allowing us to photograph a
number of pipes for the first page.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS ABOUT DUES

Thank you for your prompt attention to paying your dues as early as possible, but definitely by **June 30**th. Included in your newsletter is the dues form. Please fill it



out and enclose with a check and mail it to **Anita Graves, 70 Palomar Real, Campbell, CA 95008.**

If you like, we can collect your dues at the General Membership meeting on the 3rd of June at the Stone Church. Professional dues are tax deductible.

The rates have increased slightly compared to last year.

If you miss your payment deadline, you must pay a \$6 late fee. Please include your salutation (Dr., Mrs., Mr., etc.) on you application. National office requests Zip+4 number with your address. &

Carol Griffin, Membership Chair

Final Slate of Officers for Next Year 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008.

Dean: Melanie Cervi Sub-Dean: Andrew Birling

Auditors: Darryl Parker & Rebecca Harrison

Budget: Darryl Parker

Education/Resources: Valerie Sterk

Handbook: Kay Lee Historian: Valerie Sterk Membership: Carol Griffin Members at Large: Mike Calla

Members at Large: William Ferguson Members at Large: Diane Keller Newsletter Editor: Kenneth Talbot Professional Concerns: Darryl Parker

Secretary: Theresa Oatman Substitutes: Richard Coulter Treasurer/Registrar: Anita Graves

TO JOIN THE SAN JOSE AGO YAHOO GROUP Send an Email to Mary Ann Gee mary_ann_gee@yahoo.com

Position Opportunities

Epiphany Episcopal Church, San Carlos is searching for an enthusiastic, people-oriented, as Organist/Colleague with Minister of Music, 11-month contract per year. 1 weekly rehearsal on Thursdays from 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM, all services of worship including Christmas, Christmas Eve, including Lessons and Carols, Lent, Holy Week and Easter services. Weddings and funerals are extra. Sundays: 1 service at 10:00 AM plus 9:00 AM service rehearsal, 2 Children's Choir rehearsals on Thursdays for 1 1/2 hours (8 months).

Desired traits: Knowledge of Episcopal service (desired, not required); ability to sightread, modulate and transpose. Interest in wide range of repertoire from Renaissance to Contemporary. Ability to lead congregational singing through hymn and service playing. Ability to relate to people of all ages. Sense of humor. Instrument: Galanti Preludiuum III - 3-manual Electronic, refurbished and expandable. Contact: Cortlandt S. Bender, Minister of Music - :650.281.4938, cscbconsult@comcast.net. Availability: January 1, 2007. To be filled ASAP. &

Westhope Presbyterian Church, seeks part-time Accompanist/Organist to work with creative, vibrant worship team in small church environment. Our Sunday worship blends contemplative, traditional, and contemporary styles in an effort to create and hold sacred space for the congregation.

Responsibilities: Sunday morning choir practice at 8:30am followed by worship at 9:45am, music prep, music team meetings every other week for planning and community- time TBD. Salary: \$100-130 per week. Contact: **Rev. Erik Swanson** at (408) 255-0955, esfishrev@juno.com. &

St. James' Episcopal Church in Fremont, CA, is looking for an enthusiastic, people-oriented Organist/Kevboardist committed to working with the music leadership of the parish. This person should be open to various musical styles and settings. Familiarity with the Episcopal liturgy and seasons of the Christian year is a plus but not required. The candidate should have the ability to communicate and work well with a volunteer adult choir, with children and youth, clergy, and staff members

The church is also looking for a resourceful, quarter-time <u>Music Director</u> with an enthusiasm for working with and developing a broad and eclectic repertoire that may include Classical, Taize, Gospel, Jazz, and other contemporary musical settings. We appreciate the ability to communicate well with volunteer adult and youth choirs, a worship band, as well as with clergy, the organist, and the congregation. For either position see a **complete position information at www.saintj.com, or call St. James' at 510-797-1492.** &

Ragazzi, a 150-voice multi-level boys chorus on the Peninsula, has an opening for a **conductor** on Wednesdays 5:30-7:20 p.m. in Redwood City for one of its training groups. Kodaly experience is preferred. Keyboard skills are helpful, but there is a part-time accompanist available. A separate theory teacher supervises written theory work. Family recitals are held in December and June. Salary depending on experience (up to \$5K). Contact: **Julia Simon**, Ragazzi Boys Chorus 650.424.1242. &

Sandra Soderlund Workshop Sunday 6 May 2007, 4:30 PM

"Historic Teaching Styles - Exploring the Techniques of the Past" presented by Sandra Soderlund Sunday, May 6, 2007, 1 - 4:30pm, Music Sources, 1000 The Alameda, Berkeley

This workshop presented by WEKA (Western Early Keyboard Association), in cooperation with Music Sources, is being offered to WEKA members and the general public.

Distinguished musicologist and WEKA member, Sandra Soderlund devoted years of research to historic teaching styles, culminating in the publication of her book, "How Did They Play and How Did They Teach; A History of Keyboard Technique". WEKA has invited her to share her knowledge in the workshop through both discussion and working with players to demonstrate historic teaching practices. She will be demonstrating different teaching techniques with the following repertoire:

- 1. English Virginal Music (short piece from the Fitzwilliam Virginal Book) virginal
- 2. Sweelinck a couple of variations from a variation set virginal or harpsichord
- 3. Francois Couperin a prelude from "L'Art de Toucher le Clavecin"- harpsichord
- 4. J.S. Bach invention or other short piece clavichord or harpsichord
- 5. C.P.E. Bach short piece from Versuch or other work clavichord or fortepiano

The cost for the workshop is \$25 non-members, \$15 WEKA members. There is no additional cost to participate in the student/teaching aspect of the workshop. Refreshments will be served during the 30 minute break. Copies of her book will be available at a discount at the workshop.

>Please contact Elaine Thornburgh at 415/387-6890 if you have questions about the workshop. Please pre-register for the workshop by sending your check payable to Music Sources/WEKA Account, 1000 The Alameda, Berkeley, CA 94707.

WEB LINK LIST

We could start list of your favorite Web Links to Organ pages that you think that other organists would find interesting. For example, Organlive, is know is being visited by one of our members. This list could include places were organ music can be heard or music could be purchased. Sort of a classified section. **LET ME KNOW.** Here are some examples.

Live Organ Music

Organlive - www.organlive.com

Organ Sheet Music and Books

www.jwpepper.com/sheet-music/chkey.jsp
Organ Historical Society's catalog www.ohscatalog.com/

NOTE TO THANK JOHN JARVIS FOR HIS SUPPORT

<u>Supported reception of Student Recital and the free</u> Hector Oliva concert.



Peninsula Symphony Presents **Keyboard Extravaganza**

Fox Theater, Redwood City, 18 May, 8 PM Flint Center, De Anza College, 19 May, 8 PM

The Peninsula Symphony welcomes pianist and radio show host **Christopher O'Riley** to its stage on May 18 and 19 as he presents **Schumann's** *Piano Concerto in A minor, Op.* 54 as part of the Symphony's exciting *Keyboard Extravaganza*. Friday night's concert will be at the Fox Theatre in Redwood City and Saturday night will be at DeAnza College's Flint Center. Both concerts begin at 8:00pm.

Christopher O'Riley is one of the most important and versatile pianists performing before the public today. He enjoys a thriving concert career and is also the host of the very popular nationally distributed radio program for Public Radio International, "From the Top." O'Riley will be playing Beethoven's Piano Concerto in E-flat major, No. 5, Op.73 (Emperor).

Also featured at this concert will be organist **Alison Luedecke**, who will join the **Maestro Mitchell Sardou Klein** and the Peninsula Symphony in the thrilling **Saint-Saëns Organ Symphony**. Saint-Saëns' final symphony, this work was premiered in 1886 at a London concert by the Royal Philharmonic, who had commissioned the work. Ultimately, it was dedicated to Saint-Saëns' great friend, Franz Liszt, who died two months after the premiere.

Rounding out this amazing program will be **Variations and Fugue for Orchestra** by **Lee Actor**, a work commissioned by the Palo Alto Philharmonic in 2001.

Tickets for the concert are \$33 for general admission and \$28 for seniors and students. They may be purchased by calling the Peninsula Symphony office at 650-941-5291 or by going to www.peninsulasymphony.org

For Sale

GREAT PROJECT FOR ENTHUSIAST:

Small Wurlitzer Theatre pipe organ, 2 manuals, 6 ranks/ windchests with a variety of traps and tuned percussions and blower. From an unknown Hollywood Theatre, it is believed. Some components are not Wurlitzer. Needs much work, will be willing to help or consult with buyer on restoration and setup.

Farrand of Detroit, Michigan, 1920's Cicilian model Player Piano, dark mahogany, and matching rolls cabinet. Also needs restoration, roll player non functional at present, \$300.00.

Call for details. Roger Inkpen Home: 408-720-0412.

ROBERTA BITGOOD (1908 - 2007)

Organist, choir director, composer, and teacher Dr. Roberta Bitgood died after a brief illness on Sunday, April 15, 2007 at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital, New London. She was 99. She was also known locally as Roberta Wiersma, her married name.

During a long career in sacred music, Dr. Bitgood served as minister of music and organist in churches and synagogues throughout the United States. She worked in Bloomfield, NJ, later in Riverside, CA, Mystic and Waterford, CO, Buffalo, NY, Detroit, Bay City, and Battle Creek, MI. She published more than 70 choral and organ compositions. Her enthusiasm for making music accessible to all and the broad scope of her musical activities made her name one of the most familiar among 20th-century American music educators.

Roberta Bitgood was born in New London on January 15, 1908, the only child of Grace Robinson Prentis and Robert A.T. Bitgood. She began study of the violin at age 5. She was a student at the Williams Memorial Institute and graduated with honors from Connecticut College for Women, she received postgraduate and conservatory training in New York, and was awarded the William C. Carl Medal the Guilmant Organ School, became a Fellow of the AGO, earned a master degrees from Teacher's College at Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary, and a doctoral degree in 1945 from Union.

Dr. Bitgood was honored for her achievements and service to her profession, and maintained an active relationship with her alma mater through fundraising efforts and performances at annual college reunions. In 1974 she was awarded the Connecticut College Medal, and in 1975 was elected president of the AGO. In 1976, upon retirement, Dr. Bitgood returned to her family home in Connecticut, continuing as national AGO president until 1981 and serving for another eighteen years in her professional capacities in local churches and synagogues.

In 1993, the New London chapter of the AGO established an annual scholarship competition for new organists in Dr. Bitgood's honor.

She is survived by her daughter, Grace Wiersma, and son-in-law, Stuart Kiang, of Arlington, Massachusetts.

Graveside rites will be followed by a public memorial service at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 21, at St. James Church, Huntington and Federal streets, New London. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the New London AGO--Bitgood Scholarship (PO Box 423, Quaker Hill 06375), or to the VNA of Southeastern Connecticut (Waterford).

Nicholas F. Russotto, News & Events Coordinator, Organs and Organists Online http://www.organsandorganistsonline.com.

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

* Chapter Member

May

5/6 Saturday/Sunday Organ, 4 PM, CPLH

6 Sunday

Matthew Walsh, organ, 3:30 PM CSMA

Camerata California Early Music Ensemble, 3 PM, St. Lukes's Episcopal Church, 20 University Ave, Los Gatos, \$10

Organ, 4 PM, CPLH

Anna Myeong (Korea), organ, 4 PM GC

Choir Fest, Eric Knapp, conductor, *Berdie Bowlsby, organ, Mark Thallander, organ, Jeff Bowlsby, trombone, *Carol Griffin, piano/organ, 4 PM, Trinity Presbyterian Church, 3151 Union Avenue, San Jose, free offering.

12/13 Saturday/Sunday Organ, 4 PM, CPLH

13 Sunday

Uppsala Cathedral Choir, Uppsala, Sweden, 3:30 PM CSMA

John Morabito, organ, works by Bach, Jongen, Daveluy, Widor, Franck, & Demessieux, **4 PM GC**

18 Friday

Peninsula Symphony, Keyboard Extravaganza featuring Alison Luedecke, Fox Theatre, 2215 Broadway, Redwood City, 8 PM Tickets \$28, \$33

19 Saturday

Peninsula Symphony, Keyboard Extravaganza featuring Alison Luedecke, Flint Center, De Anza College, 8 PM, Tickets \$28, \$33.

Organ, 4 PM, CPLH

20 Sunday

Organ, 4 PM, CPLH

Gerre &Judith Hancock (University of Texas) organ, 4 PM GC

23 Wednesday

Simon Preston (Former Westminster Abbey organist) organ, plays Bach, Duruflé, Mendelssohn, & Schumann, Stanford Memorial Church, 8 PM GC, \$10/\$5 650-725-2787

26/27 Saturday/Sunday Organ, 4 PM, CPLH

27 Sunday

Christoph Tietze, organ, 3:30 PM CSMA

Gary Desmond (City Parish Church of St. Stephen, Bristol), organ, works by Andriessen, Peeters, Bach, Alcock, Vierne, & Cochereau, **4 PM GC**

Letters To The Editor?

Would you like to see a Letters to the Editor section? We can run short entries. Let me know. Ken Talbot <u>kitalbot@pacbell.net</u>

American Guild of Organists

San Jose Chapter

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