



SAN JOSE PIPINGS
 SAN JOSE CHAPTER OF THE AGO
 July 2020 www.agosanjose.org



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Dean’s Column

It seems I find myself at the helm of the AGOSJ as we venture further into uncharted waters. So, anchors aweigh!

While some may feel cast adrift and buffeted by the waves of the Covid19 pandemic and the storms of civil unrest, our National AGO jumped in quickly to serve as a ruder, steering furloughed organists to possible financial aid, and guiding teachers to resources needed to switch from traditional to online teaching, etc. You might want to look on the national website: www.Agohq.org.

Meanwhile it is up to us to decide the “set of the sails” which will determine “the way we go” as a local chapter. The abundance of live organ concerts traditionally listed in our Newsletter has become a mere trickle, with a few being streamed live. To some of us it seems we have been thrust into deep water — and find ourselves over our heads trying to learn electronic alternatives to the in-person activities we knew and on which we thrived.

At our next (Zoom) meeting the AGOSJ Board will be discussing how and when to resume our musical events, including the recital of Frazier Winner, Ruth Kamas, which (along with the Annual Meeting/Potluck) had to be postponed from June 13. Also we will be considering how we can help each other through these rough seas. Your thoughts and ideas are welcome.

Hopefully, in the not too distant future, we will arrive at a safe harbor, although most likely it will not be exactly the one we left when we embarked on this unwanted voyage. Meanwhile, let’s stay the best course we can! Wishing safe sailing to all!

Susan Snook-Luther, Dean

As you may know, **Chrisinine Merjanian** has just started Chemotherapy which will last for quite a number of weeks. We ask our members to please keep her in their prayers that this procedure will work and that the Lord will bless her with His rich blessings.

Christine – get better soon and be healthy!

Jean Drahmann

24 May 1924 – 2 Nov 2019



The long and much-loved life of Jean Drahmann has come to an end. A native of Taylor Pennsylvania, Jean passed away peacefully on November 2nd in her long-time Los Gatos home, surrounded by her family.

A lifelong lover of learning, Jean's curiosity was surpassed only by her capacity for kindness. She enjoyed classical artwork & music, reading while listening to the radio, working in her garden, and a good puzzle. An operating room nurse and Albert Schweitzer Humanitarian honoree, Jean volunteered her time at her local hospital after retirement, doing what she could to help the staff and patients. As an accomplished member of the American Guild of Organists, Jean leant her musical skills to her religious community for many years and was an active member of the Santa Clara University community for more than fifty years.

Jean is survived by her children (Lori, David, Carl, Maria, & Anne), her grandchildren (Christopher, Benjamin, Catherine, Matthew, & Spencer), and the friends and strangers whose lives she enriched every day. Jean was inurned on November 23 at the Santa Clara Mission Cemetery (490 Lincoln St, Santa Clara, 95050). Friends, family, and well-wishers were invited to join the Drahmann family for a brief ceremony and celebration of Jean's life at the St. Joseph's Mausoleum.

Jean will always be remembered as someone who knew how to use her considerable talents to help better the lives of those around her and an example of a life lived to its fullest. She will be missed by everyone who knew her and the memories her loved ones made with her will always be held sacred.

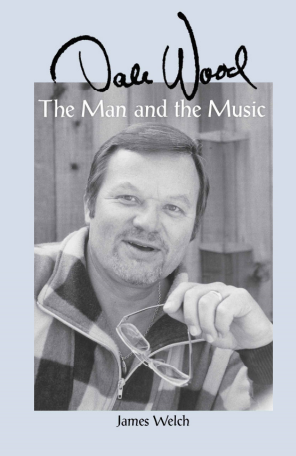
For those who would like more information please contact Anne Drahmann at ponytale321@gmail.com. 🎵

Dale Wood: The Man and the Music.

A New Book By Dr. James Welch

I am pleased to announce the publication of my biography of Dale Wood, one of America's favorite composers of organ music. *Dale Wood: The Man and the Music* chronicles the colorful life of this prolific composer and arranger. Essentially self-taught, Dale

Wood did radio and TV work in Hollywood, played the Wurlitzer at the Orpheum in Los Angeles, was director of music for churches in Hollywood, Riverside, and San



Francisco, conducted choral workshops across the country, and finally settled at The Sea Ranch on the rugged northern California coast. There he created incomparable organ and choral music, nearly all of which remains in print, widely used, and beloved.

Wood's was an intriguing life, full of personalities and adventures. The reclusive arranger of hymns and folk tunes described himself as a hermit, yet served in the military, drove fast cars, explored wilderness from Death Valley to the High Sierra, entertained aboard cruise lines, served as a volunteer firefighter, performed in bars, sold organs, rescued German shepherds, wrote a music drama for the exclusive Bohemian Club, and experienced an unusual variety of personal relationships.

Discover the man behind the music through his biography, now available at a reduced price on my website, www.welchorganist.com; also at www.amazon.com. 🎵

OPEN POSITIONS

AGO Members: If you know of any Open Positions at any Church please let me know so that I can pass that information on to any members who call me. I know of one of our members who needs a position. Kenneth Talbot

Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos, 16575 Shannon Rd, Los Gatos, CA, is looking for a **Part-Time Organist/Pianist** to play one to two Sundays a month, a choir rehearsal the Thursday evening proceeding the Sunday playing, and for various church holy days. The salary is very competitive and available upon request.

Abilities: The applicant must have experience playing the organ and piano in church services and accompanying choirs and instrumentalists. Sight reading skills and a background in musical liturgy are required.

PCLG has an average attendance of 300 per Sunday. The organ is a three manual Möller from 1958, expanded twice by Schoenstein & Co. and totaling 39

ranks. It has been fastidiously maintained by Schoenstein & Co. The sanctuary has a Baldwin grand piano, which has had recent voicing and action work, and a Kohler & Campbell grand in the choir room.

The adult Chancel Choir has approximately 30 voices and sings at most Sunday services from early September to the second week in June, as well as for several services in the summer. The congregation is enthusiastic about all kinds of music, with a special appreciation for the pipe organ.

The church currently needs a third organist, who would join a rotating roster with two other organists. Each organist plays one or two times a month throughout the year, depending on the number of Sundays in a month. When the choir is in session, the organist playing a Sunday service usually rehearses with the choir the previous Thursday. The organist uses a piano during the choir rehearsal, which is held in the choir room and led by the music director. The rotating organists decide their schedule, based on their availability and in collaboration with the music director.

Send resume, **references and letter of intention** to: michael.taylor@pclg.org 🎵

From the “Small World” Department. Jim Welch

I love skiing and have enjoyed numerous trips to Tahoe, Utah, and Colorado over the years. For me there’s nothing better than being in the mountains, taking in the scenery and bombing down steep hills. It has also worked well in my schedule: while most people who work during the week have to brave traffic and large crowds at ski resorts on weekends, I can ski on weekdays when they are much less crowded. Sometimes I almost have the place to myself. I also don’t mind skiing alone—it’s a great way to unwind after a busy weekend.

I always I always enjoy talking with the people I’m riding with on the chairlift. I meet interesting people from all over the world and from many walks of life.

In January of this year, while skiing at Heavenly Valley (Tahoe area), I struck up a conversation with the person sitting next to me. I asked him, randomly, why he was skiing on a weekday rather than working. His answer: “I’m a church organist. I work weekends and ski the rest of the week!” This has to be the first time I had ever encountered a church organist on a chairlift. When I told him I was also an organist, we started swapping stories and ended up skiing together for several more runs, continuing the conversation on each lift ride.

It turns out that his name is **David Brock**, and he lives near Lake Tahoe. An organist at a Presbyterian church

in Reno, he started his professional career as a treble chorister at National Cathedral, and he has since concertized around the country, with recitals at Princeton, St. Thomas Church (NYC), the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels (LA), just to name a few.

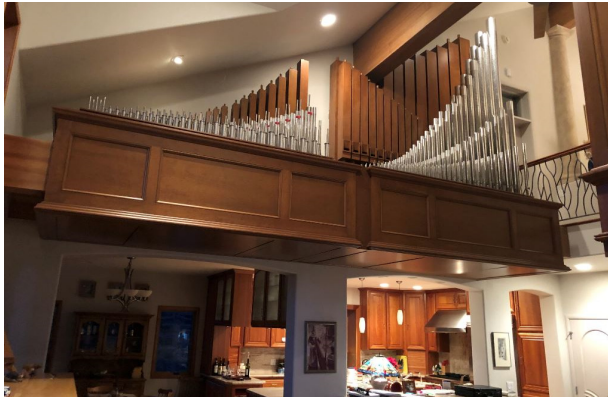
He really got my attention when he casually told me about his home organ. It was clear that this was no small home organ, either—it’s a three-manual Casavant organ. When I told him that I would like to see this in person, he invited me to swing by. Later that day I made a visit to his home and got the grand tour and had a chance to play the organ myself.

So it’s a small world after all. In this case, it was a colleague and a fine musician. On subsequent trips to Tahoe, I have occasionally texted David from the top of the mountain, and he has jumped in his car and headed over for a few more ski runs together. Check out his website, davidbrockmusician.com.

And remember, you never know who you’re going to meet on a chair lift.



David Brock at the console of his 3-manual Casavant organ



Additional pipes (mounted above the kitchen!)



David Brock at the console of his 3-manual Casavant organ



James Welch and David Brock overlooking Heavenly Valley ski resort



Date to Remember

🗓️ **11 Sep Friday, Ugo Sforza, organ, Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church, 728 W. Fremont Ave. Sunnyvale, 7:30 PM**

Next Executive Committee Meeting

The next meeting Tuesday 11th August 2020 at 7:30 PM
Valerie Sterk's Home: 2164 Talia Ave., Santa Clara, CA

Theater Organ For Sale



For sale-Three manual Allen theater organ model 4600 with alternate classic voicing and 4 Allen HC15 speakers.

Organ and speakers in excellent condition. **\$4500.**

Contact **Mike Cala** if interested and to schedule an appointment to see and play it. **510-516-9867** or e-mail michaelcala232@gmail.com 🎵

Frasier Organ Scholarship Update

The auditions for our 2020 Frasier Organ Scholarship are on hold.

The AGO Nation Convention has been CANCELED.

Streamed Tabernacle Organ Recitals

The [Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square](#) begin a livestream organ recital series from the Salt Lake Tabernacle on Temple Square which start on the 22nd of June. The current COVID-19 pandemic temporarily halted the organ recitals in the historic Tabernacle, which have been a tradition for more than a century. Noon recitals have now resumed via the internet, without an audience, three days a week. This means organ enthusiasts and fans of the choir and its weekly broadcast, "Music and the Spoken Word," can enjoy the music of the famous organs at Temple Square wherever they are in the world.

A new feature is the recitals have a host, **Dr. Luke Howard** who is an Associate Professor of music history at BYU and a member of the Choir. He introduces the pieces that are to be performed and tells about the composers as well. He also provides comments in the running Chat column with the YouTube video.

The web addresses are as follows:

YouTube Channel:

(The link I use)

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiAkukrUIRCwaLaFx_MJq7Q

Choir's web address:

<https://www.thetabernaclechoir.org/>

Church's live watch page:

https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/broadcasts?lang=eng&cid=rdb_v_broadcasts_eng


The opening event, "Piping Up: Tabernacle Organists in Concert," was aired June 17, 2020, at 7 p.m. The 45-minute concert included a wide variety of music from classical to traditional hymns and spirituals. The concert featured the five Tabernacle and Temple Square organists: **Richard Elliott, Andrew Unsworth, Brian Mathias, Linda Margetts, and Joseph Peeples.** All five organists were involved with the final piece. This concert can be heard at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5Ei6CaZZnY>

Kenneth Talbot 

Organ Recitals Using ZOOM

Susan Snook-Luther sent me a newsletter she received from Promotionsmusic.org. They are producing recitals using Zoom. They sent Susan a newsletter in which they describe the process they use to produce a successful recital using Zoom. **If any of you are interested in the newsletter, send me an email and I will send it to you.**

David Jordan (a skilled pianist with a Master of Music degree in composition and a media artist) and Dr. Jeannine Jordan (a professional organist) are directors of the company. 

AGO OrganFest 2020

Beauty in the midst of chaos

20-14 July, 8PM Eastern

AGO OrganFest 2020 is just three weeks away! We are very excited about the festival and hope you are getting excited, too. These nightly musical offerings and the accompanying **festival website** are a gift to you and available to all at no charge; no registration or membership is needed. Each evening's program will be archived on the festival website so you can return and enjoy this beautiful music as often as you'd like.

The highlight of each day will be the world-premiere of a new organ work that had been commissioned for the AGO National Convention in Atlanta. Each performance will be preceded by a conversation between **Chelsea Chen** and the featured composer.

The commissioned works are:

Monday: June Nixon: Intrada – St. Anne

Jens Korndörfer, organ

Stuart Stephenson and Michael Tiscoine, trumpet
First Presbyterian Church, Atlanta

Tuesday: Brenda Portman: Prelude and Tarantelle

Amanda Mole, organ

St. Malachy's (The Actor's Chapel), New York City

Wednesday: David Briggs: Passacaglia Chromatique

Thomas Ospital, organ

Église Saint-Eustache, Paris

Thursday: Joel Peters: Eine Wolke Nahm Ihn Weg


Catherine Rodland, organ

Boe Memorial Chapel, St. Olaf College, Northfield

Friday: Rachel Laurin Mr. Mistoffelees Overture

Alan Morrison, organ

2020 St. Cecilia Recitalist, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Philadelphia

Generous support for **AGO OrganFest 2020** is provided by Karen McFarlane Artists. Support for the individual nightly programs is provided by Emery Brothers, Foley-Baker, and Orgues Létourneau. 

AGO San Jose Music Calendar

Venue Locations

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

CUMC: Campbell United Methodist Church, 1675 Winchester Blvd. Campbell

GC: Grace Cathedral, 1100 California St. San Francisco

📍 Chapter Event ➤ Chapter Member

Every Saturday at 4 PM

Organ, Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park, 34th Ave & Clement St., San Francisco.
Jonathan Dimmock, organist

July 2020

5 Sunday

Karen Beaumont, organ, (Milwaukee, WI), **CSMA, 4 PM \$10**

12 Sunday

Michael Bower, organ, (Rockville Centre, NY), **CSMA, 4 PM \$10**

19 Sunday

➤ **Jin Kyung Lim**, organ, **CSMA, 4 PM \$10**

26 Sunday

Jordan Prescott, organ, Cathedral Vierne/Tournemire Festival: Symphony No. 5, **CSMA, 4 PM \$10**

Membership Renewal

You can renew by going to www.agohq.org and select "Membership" and then "Membership/Update" you can renew anytime by calling the national office (212-870-2310) with a credit card. Be sure to renew now so that you will not miss any ATO issues. 🎵

American Guild of Organists

San Jose Chapter

582 Dublin Way, Sunnyvale, CA 94087-3323



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FIRST CLASS