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Holiday Newsletter '22 – '23

Warm Greetings to you and yours this festive season!



AGO Achievement Awards recipient Elizabeth Kamas with Dean Elisabeth Pintar at the October 16 Hymn Sing at Los Gatos Methodist Church.

Dean's Letter

Dear Friends,

After recovering from the flu and walking pneumonia, I am anticipating a wonderful December and ending 2022 with a happy celebration! I hope that you may slow down for a moment to listen to music, recharge, find inspiration, look around to those who need an extra boost, and see the good in others and in yourself.

Your San Jose AGO Board has been working hard to make the next events worth the wait, post-COVID. This coming late winter/spring we are bringing back Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza, in-person Frasier Scholarship auditions, gatherings, and a SPECTACULAR workshop and concert by Tom Sheehan from the Washington National Cathedral. Mark your calendar for Mr. Sheehan's April 22nd (morning) workshop and April 23rd (late afternoon) recital. Details will follow soon.

If you recall our last issue, I wrote about working towards AGO certification and reminded everyone there is still plenty of time to learn the pieces and take the exam before the application windows close in the new year. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

May you all have joyous holidays and in advance I toast "cheers" to a wonderful New Year in 2023. We hope to see you at various events on the calendar below, between now and February!

I am affectionately yours in music,

~Elisabeth V. Pintar

Update to new directory:

Derek Silbermann's new address:

3449 Mauricia Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95051

Please add this update to your directory booklet, which arrived in your snail mail mailbox recently, thanks to board member Kay Lee: kay_lee02@hotmail.com



Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza!

Our chapter is proud to again present **Pedals, Pipes and Pizza**, a half-day program developed by the AGO to introduce young people to the pipe organ. Especially emphasized is the hands-on element: students are given the opportunity to play a pipe organ, see pipes close-up, and to ask questions. Over a pizza lunch, they are encouraged to attend future concerts and to find an organ teacher. This event will be happening on **Saturday, February 4, 2023, at 9:00 am at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church. It will last until 12:00.** Please help us spread the word to area piano teachers, parents, children's choir directors, and to anyone who knows musical young people. Registration is required, and is first-come, first-served (we have a limit), so please send this link to any who might be interested. We are targeting ages 8 - 18. Click the button below fill out the form, or forward this URL to others:
<https://forms.gle/JP14bDsVCx1qvxyz7>

Register Here for PPP

Report from Seattle, Installment 3

Here is a final impression from the AGO National convention last July, from one of our

young adult members:

I'd never been to an Episcopal worship/celebration of any kind before, let alone the *O Antiphons: An Advent Procession with Lessons and Carols* (celebrated at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral). Maybe you haven't either, so let me set the scene:

I entered with the Senior Choristers of Saint Mark's Choir School; one line in red cassocks and white surplices, a second line in blue cassocks and also in white surplices. They were led by a choir leader in purple and white. There were two other choirs who were also singing: the Saint Mark's Cathedral Choir and the Compline Choir. The associate organist of St. Mark's, John Stuntebeck, played the organ, and all were directed by The Cathedral Choir Canon Michael Kleinschmidt, with the Choristers led by their director, Rebekah Gilmore, and the Compline Choir directed by Dr. Jason Anderson. After passing through the entry foyer, I and some 600 colleagues found ourselves in this immense, almost square, space, easily three or four stories tall. We had some time to talk among ourselves as we waited for everyone to finish gathering, listening to the beautifully resonant room as we did so, but when the beginning announcement started everyone quieted down.

After some opening prayers, during which the incense was put into an open bowl, and the opening processional which wound through the banks of pews, the rest of the service followed the same pattern seven times: an *O Antiphon* was sung in Latin by the men, then repeated in English by the whole choir, there was a related reading, followed by an anthem sung by the choir or a hymn. During this anthem/hymn a banner, with a symbol of the *O Antiphon*, and a candle were processed to be displayed near the altar. The pattern ended with a prayer and the incense being refreshed.

The sung portions ranged from hymns (divided between the choir alone and the congregation), to anthems, to the premier of "O Clavis David" by William C. Whitechoir, to a carol ("The Linden Tree Carol"). It was truly wonderful to hear the combined choirs and congregation of about 500 all singing full voice.

The worship ended with singing *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (moving from choir to congregation and back again), while the banners, incense, and clergy/officials processed a winding path through the church building.

Isabelle Demers began the concert which followed the service on the Flentrop Orgelbouw (1965) IV/75) with "Te Deum" by Jeanne Demmessieux. I loved the driving beat that moved under the first and last sections of this piece. As well as bringing us

delightfully into the contrasting second section of the piece, this undergirding pulse also helped us to move forward from the slower-paced O Antiphons and into an exciting concert.

The second piece was a world premier: "Ascension, Organ Suite" by Sharon Willis. The first movement, "JUBA: SonRise" had a melody that reminded me of Southern Baptist music. It is sprightly and fun, but ends suddenly somber. If I had to put a picture to the second movement, "ELEGY: Lamentation," it would be of drops of water falling onto a still lake. The third movement, "INTERLUDE: Prayer, Guide My Feet," fits its peaceful name, giving us a break from the more somber JUBA and ELEGY. This movement might be good for use as a meditative filler music in services. The fourth and final movement is "MARCH TRIUMPHANT: The Bridge." It is cheerful, yet we felt the composer's driving inspiration of peaceful protester's tensions; they fear violent retaliation in unresolved ostinatos. In this movement's hymn-like interludes emerges the melody for New Britain ("Amazing Grace"). This final movement builds in tension, before dropping suddenly into unsettled quiet in the final, soft chords.

The next piece in the program was a wonderful contrast to the quiet somberness of the last piece: "Impromptu sur le Choral de Luther" by Charles-Valentin Alkan (op. 69), based on *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott* ("A Mighty Fortress is Our God"). This piece used so many of the different sound colors available on the organ; my favorite registration was a light and sparkling melody and where it sounded like Ms. Demers was using her hands to create the effect of a zimbelstern! One of the notes that I wrote in my program was: "We regret to inform you that Demers has accidentally played the endless version of the Alkan, which is just amazing and wonderfully varied, totally making up for the fact that it will never end." - apologies, I'm tired. "p.s. It just ended ... twice!"

"Sonata for Organ No. 1" by Rachel Laurin (op. 91) was a delightful game of 'eye spy' in some of the movements. I spotted Lourdes Hymn ("Immaculate Mary") and the "Salve Regina" chant. Quite a few people, myself included, thought that the piece ended after a big, crashing cadence - and applauded - but when we trailed off, Demers continued on to a beautiful, almost mysterious, movement. Overall, it was a wonderful and exciting concert!

~ submitted by Ruth Kamas

Editor's note: Due to the limited number of seats available in St. Mark's Cathedral, (which is a somewhat unfinished space), the above evening service/ Demers recital, and the St. James Vespers/ Engels recital that was reviewed in the last issue were presented two nights in a row by many artists and worship leaders including

organists, directors, choir members, clergy and laity, likely numbering a total of 125 participants. It was an impressive undertaking and commitment from all involved, particularly in the middle of the summer holiday week. Pulling off a national convention takes several villages!

Did you know, the next National convention will be held in San Francisco, Palo Alto, Oakland, Berkeley et al, June 30 – July 4, 2024? Planning is well underway, and the success of the convention depends largely on our local AGO members' support, both with their volunteering and their donations. You received several emails with embedded videos, and a "Giving Tuesday" link with more information, including steering committee members to contact if you have questions. Here it is again:

SF Convention Donation info

Calling All Substitutes!

Our Church Substitute List coordinator, Pat Milstead, lists her "Top 7 Reasons" to join our sub list:

1. It's rewarding, both monetarily and artistically (and sometimes spiritually)!
2. You get to play on lots of different organs.
3. You get to meet many welcoming and appreciative people: pastors, staff, congregations. (After all, there is a dire shortage of organists).
4. You pick out the organ music YOU enjoy playing and feel comfortable with (not to mention repeating the same pieces in multiple locations!)
5. You can participate in many different kinds of services, compare denominations, and appreciate the variety!
6. You will keep up your skills.
7. You can choose which dates to work, and often there is no required evening choir rehearsal.

If you don't have a regular Sunday morning commitment, or are interested in playing weekday memorial services or Saturday weddings, please give some serious consideration to joining our list. You will be glad you made this decision.

Call or email Pat ASAP to be put on the list.

(408)253-8630, palm53@earthlink.net

Jobs Available

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, Carmel: **Director of Music**. This is a part time position of approx. 20 hours per week with benefits. Duties: Plan and execute the liturgical music under the direction of the Rector; Direct the choir in rehearsal and services; Play the Dobson Op. 94 organ for the weekly service on Sunday morning; Participate in weekly staff meetings, coordinating with the Montessori school; Participate in Music at St. Dunstan's committee. Please send cover letter and resume to The Rev. Laurel Coote Revlaurelc@gmail.com

Los Gatos United Methodist Church: **Director of Choral and Contemporary Music Worship**. Services are once a week at 10 a.m. on Sundays, and alternate weekly between traditional and contemporary style. Lead Chancel Choir in bi-weekly Sunday services and weekly 1½ hour rehearsals. Lead contemporary praise band in alternate Sunday contemporary worship services and weekly 1½ hour rehearsals. One-half to three-quarter time. Annual salary \$35,000-45,000 commensurate with skills and experience. Contact Tom Waldrop, twaldrop@sbcglobal.net, 408-921-6705, or contact church office. A full job description may be found [here](#).

Campbell United Methodist Church: **Organist/Pianist**. Sunday morning worship services employ a wide variety of musical styles – classical, contemporary, gospel, and world. Instrument specifics: Worship – three-manual Schantz pipe organ and a 9'2" Knabe grand piano; Rehearsal – Yamaha upright piano. Provide leadership, solo work and accompaniment for Sunday worship services (12 months) and other special services, including Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Special Concerts, Weddings and Funerals (first refusal). Choir Rehearsals: weekly evening rehearsals Sept – June; Soloists and other ensembles, children's choir and African choir (occasionally before worship rehearsals). Coordination of additional events (such as Advent Concerts) as assigned. The Organist/Pianist is responsible for verifying copyright coverage by the church's livestreaming licence. 3-5 years experience, preferably in a church with a multi-faceted music program, is a plus. This is a 15 hour, exempt position. Compensation is commensurate with experience. Contact Barbara Wade, Administrator of Church Business: barbara@campbellunited.org

Concert & special services calendar

(Listed by venue, in order of least to greatest drive time from downtown San Jose; note embedded Livestream links for some venues).

Valley Church, Cupertino, 10885 Stelling Rd.

Sunday, December 4, 3:00 pm: Children's Choir and Handbells performing Light of the World by Mark Patterson (Paula Seo, piano)
<https://valleychurch.org/v/events/childrens-choir-concert/>

Los Gatos United Methodist Church, 111 Church St (next to LGHS)

Saturday, December 17, 7:00 pm: Golden Bough Holiday Concert of Celtic Music. Seniors (60+) & Youth \$20; Adults \$25; children under 10 free. Info: (408)354-4730

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Saratoga, 14103 Saratoga Ave.

Sunday, December 18, 6:00 pm: On This Day, Earth Shall Sing! **Elisabeth' Pintar's** 16th Annual Christmas Organ Concert with friends (an interactive concert with organ, bells, mezzo-soprano, and audience.

First Congregational Church, San Jose, 1980 Hamilton Ave.

Friday, December 2, 7:00 pm: Winterdance: A Christmas Celebration, Seasonal Music of the Celtic and Nordic Lands, featuring New World String Project & Champion Irish Dancers. Tickets: \$25 <https://lionharp.com/event/4784919/615923141/winterdance-with-new-world-string-project>

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Palo Alto, 3865 Middlefield Rd.

December 3 - 7, 12:30 – 7:30 pm daily: Christmas Creche Exhibit (free/gift to the community)
<http://www.christmascreche.org>

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Palo Alto, 600 Colorado Ave.

Sunday, February 12, 5:00 pm: **Margaret Martin Kvamme**, organ – Music by Women

Composers. Reception to follow

Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland, 2121 Harrison St.

Tuesday, December 13, 7:30 pm: **Jonathan Dimmock**, organ – Messiaen's La Nativité du Seigneur (complete)

St. John The Evangelist Episcopal Church, San Francisco, 15th St @ Julian

Tuesday, December 20, 7:30 pm: Shelby Yaman (violin) and Caitlyn Koester (harpsichord). Handel's Messiah and other classics, reception following

St. Francis Lutheran, San Francisco, 152 Church St. @ Duboce

Sunday, December 4, 3:00 pm: Advent Lessons and Carols, reception following

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, San Francisco

Saturday, December 24, 4:00 pm: Christmas Lessons and Carols – **Joy Leilani-Garbutt**, director

St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Cathedral, San Francisco, 1111 Gough St. @ Cleary

(Parking under/beside the cathedral). These concerts are live-streamed and available here (simply click on the url): <https://YouTube.com/cathedralofstmaryoftheassumption>

Sunday, December 4, 4:00 pm: Advent Lessons and Carols, sung by St. Mark's Lutheran Church Choir and St. Mary's Cathedral Choir with works by Handel, Biebl, Balbi, and Palestrina.

Sunday, December 11, 4:00 pm: **Christoph Tietze and Karen Hastings Flegel**, organ. Franck: Trois Chorals. This recital is part of the Cathedral Franck Cycle, celebrating the composer's 200th birthday.

Sunday, December 18, 7:00 pm (NOTE TIME): Cookies and Carols. St. Mary's Cathedral Choir and St. Brigid School Honor Choir present seasonal musical delights, followed by cookie reception. \$25 adults, \$15 seniors and students, under 5 free.

Sunday, January 8, 4:00 pm: Epiphany Lessons and Carols, sung by St. Brigid School Honor Choir and Golden Gate Boyschoir and Bellringers.

Sunday, January 15, 4:00 pm: **Justan Foster**, organ.

Sunday, January 22, 4:00 pm: **Gail Archer** (New York), organ.

Sunday, February 5, 4:00 pm: **Shelby Fisher**, organ.

Sunday, February 12, 4:00 pm: **David Troiano**, organ.

Sunday, February 19, 4:00 pm: **Hans-Uwe Hielscher** (Germany), organ.

Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, 110 California St. at Taylor (pay parking underneath the cathedral, entrance is on Taylor Street between California and Sacramento streets. A \$10 donation is requested. These concerts are live-streamed and available here (simply click on the url): <https://gracecathedral.org/watch-grace-cathedral/>

Monday, December 12, 7:30 pm: **Jonathan Dimmock**, organ, with Bay Brass.

Sunday, January 22, 2023, 4:00 pm: **James Parrish Smith**, organ

Sunday, February 5, 4:00 pm: **Michael Ging**, organ

Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco, 100 34th Ave.

Saturday, December 10, 4:00pm: **Jonathan Dimmock**, organ, with Bay Brass

Church in the Forest, Erdman Chapel (Stevenson School), Pebble Beach, 3152 Forest Lake Rd.

Sunday, December 18, 3:00. pm: Carols in the Forest with Jubal Josly, tenor; Janneke Hoogland, cello; **Cathryn Wilkinson**, piano and the Cypressaires singing barbershop. Wine & cheese reception follows with carol sing-along. \$20 through Eventbrite or at the door, students free

St. Mary's By the Sea, Pacific Grove, 146 12th

Saturday, Dec 10, 2:00 pm: Music and Mulled Wine – German organ music performed by **Nicholas Mourlam**, followed by reception with Glühwein, tickets on [Eventbrite](#), also private link Livestream available. Info: (831)373-4441

Your SJ AGO Board 2022 - 2023

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The next newsletter will be published in late January. The deadline for submitting concert listings, articles, photos, job listings and notices of instruments for sale, etc. is **January 23**. 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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contact: margaret.m.kvamme@gmail.com

c/o Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos

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