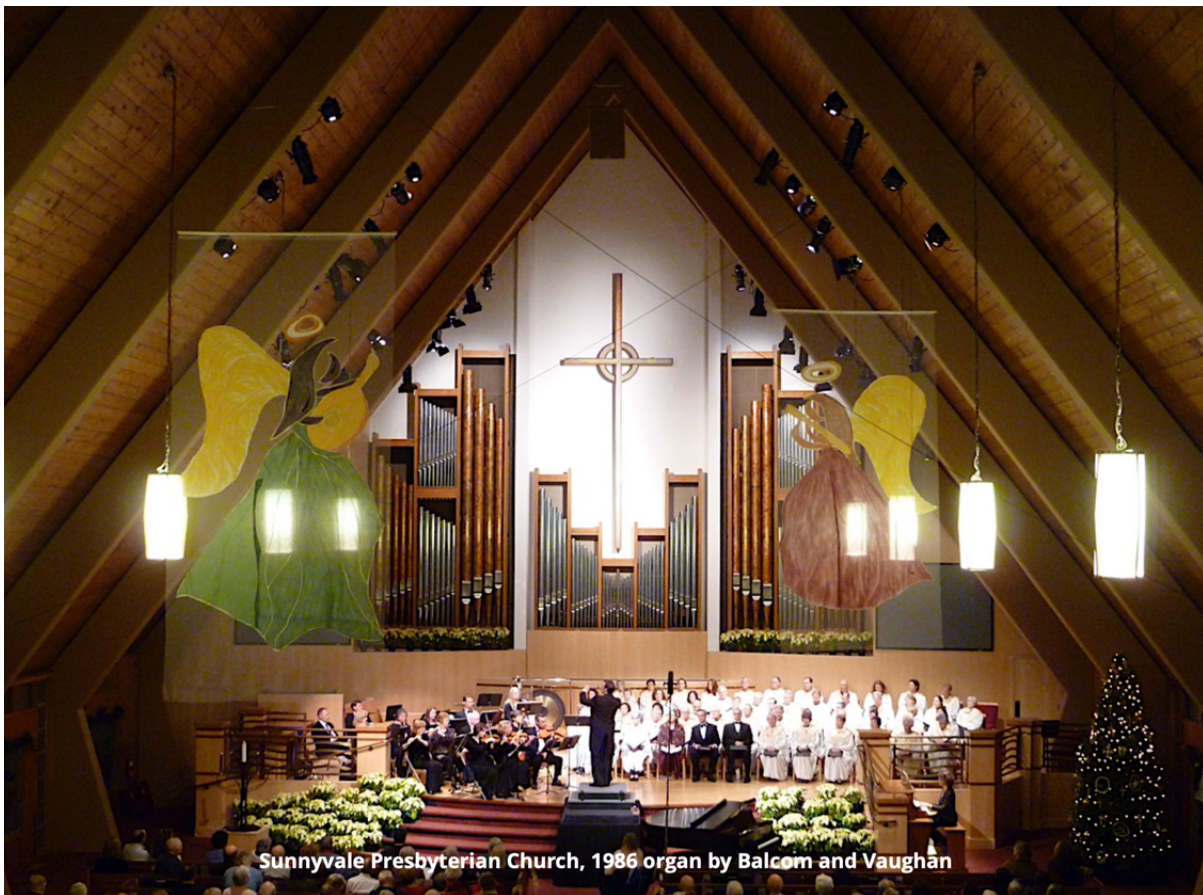


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Winter Newsletter '23



Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church, 1986 organ by Balcom and Vaughan

Dean's Letter

Happy New Year, everyone!

Now that we are 4 weeks into 2023, have you set a few goals or are you continuing work on previous ones, or perhaps you are needing a re-start? As promised a few months back, I will update you that my

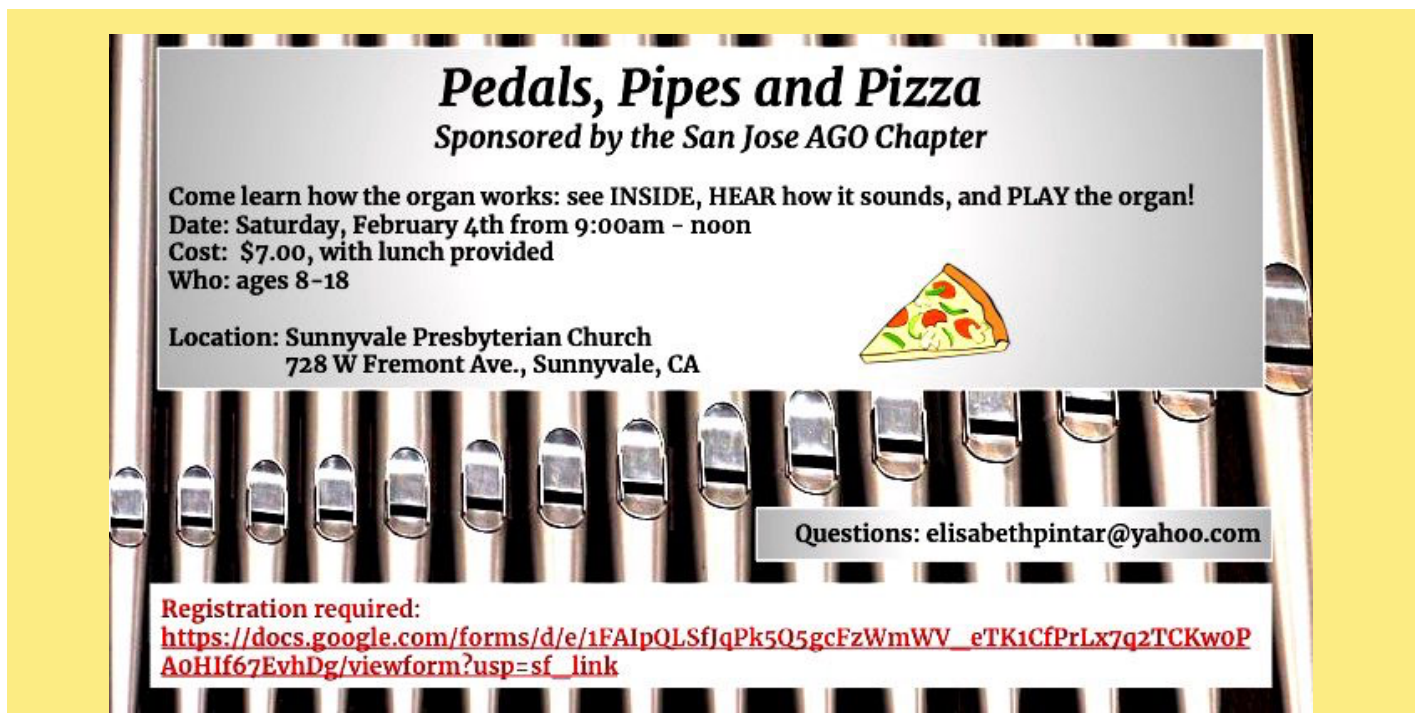
AGO certification work is coming along nicely. Just recently I was notified that someone has begun the Service Playing certification, increasing their organ skills. Knowing another person is working alongside me prevents me from talking myself out of the process; in fact, I've added two more goals! Perhaps you've always wondered about auditioning for the Frasier scholarship; what a fantastic goal to pursue; you'll find information about that below.

Speaking of goals and receiving a score, my husband is coaching my daughter's 6th grade basketball team this season. He is committed to helping them learn how to inbound the ball, dribble, shoot towards the basket, look first before passing the ball, and cheer each other on. He has even promised if they win ONE game he will shave his head bald! They have yet to score more than 7 points in a game but there has been great improvement. At the last game, I was brought to tears by what I saw. The score was 14 - 0 at the end of the first quarter but at the last second, one of the girls scored 2 points. By the sound of the cheers for this player and hugs from the team you would have thought they had just won a tournament. Celebrating one person's achievement made the whole team respond with better playing. By lifting one person up it had a positive domino effect. We still lost 31-7, but they knew they were doing their best. Seeing improvement, they were unified and encouraged.

We all have busy schedules and may feel worn out. Do you need a recharge? As musicians, I believe hearing/feeling music recharges us. Participation in live events is at great way to make this to happen; music is our universal language that we love. I hope you will attend several of events listed below. Come be recharged! We have PPP coming up on Saturday, Feb. 4th at Sunnyvale Presbyterian church: Spread the word! Reach out to me or Valerie Sterk if you want to help out and cheer the students on (remember when you were introduced to the organ?) And be sure to mark your calendar for our very special guest in April: Thomas Sheehan from the National Cathedral.

Have a wonderful February and please stay healthy, dry, positive, and reach for your goal(s).


~ Elisabeth Pintar, Dean

A flyer for an event titled "Pedals, Pipes and Pizza" sponsored by the San Jose AGO Chapter. The flyer features a background image of organ pedals and a slice of pizza. The text provides details about the event, including the date, time, cost, and location. It also includes contact information for questions and a registration link.

Pedals, Pipes and Pizza
Sponsored by the San Jose AGO Chapter

Come learn how the organ works: see **INSIDE**, **HEAR** how it sounds, and **PLAY** the organ!
Date: Saturday, February 4th from 9:00am - noon
Cost: \$7.00, with lunch provided
Who: ages 8-18

Location: Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church
728 W Fremont Ave., Sunnyvale, CA



Questions: elisabethpintar@yahoo.com

Registration required:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfJqPk5Q5gcFzWmWV_eTK1CfPrLx7q2TCKwoPAoHIf67EvhDg/viewform?usp=sf_link

Slots are filling for **Pedals, Pipes and Pizza**; please encourage any piano students you know (and send the info to teachers and parents) for this 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 simple piano piece on the 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. PPP is on **Saturday, February 4, 2023, at 9:00 am at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church. It will last until 12:00.** Faculty include Diane Keller, Margaret Kvamme, Elisabeth Pintar, Paula Seo, and Valerie Sterk, **Registration is required**, and space is limited, so please send the link below (or forward this newsletter) to any who might be interested. There is a \$7 donation requested for the pizza lunch. We are targeting piano students aged 8 – 18. Cut and paste this link, or simply click the grey box below to register.

<https://forms.gle/57ngBqFsJbhs1Kzd7>

Register Here for PPP

Announcing our Post-Pandemic Celebration

April 22 - 23

Organ Concert (with reception following)

and Workshop the preceding day

featuring

Thomas Sheehan

Associate Director of Music,

The National Cathedral, Washington, DC



Both events will be held in the sanctuary of
Campbell United Methodist Church, 1675 Winchester Blvd:

...

Saturday, April 22, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Workshop

“Saying the Same Thing in a Different Way: contemporary organ music made practical” led by Thomas Sheehan – Free to all AGO members

...

Sunday, April 23, 4:00 pm

Recital program by Thomas Sheehan

Praeludium in G major – Nicolaus Bruhns; Sasurai – Takashi Sakai; Partita on “Christ ist erstanden” – Brenda Portman; Overture to Much Ado about Nothing – Richard Wayne Dirksen; Variations on “When in Our Music God Is Glorified” – Mark A. Miller

Admission: \$25 General, \$10 Seniors and AGO Members, 17 and under free

Artist's Bio:

Thomas Sheehan is the Organist and Associate Director of Music at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, where he is responsible for the organ program at the Cathedral, covering both liturgical and concert expressions of organ music. In this position, he has played for several high-profile civic events, including the funerals of Colin Powell, Bob Dole, and Madeleine Albright, the American memorial service for Queen Elizabeth II, and the virtual service celebrating the inauguration of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. In addition to these extremely visible services, he is responsible for at least six services each week involving choral and organ music, he is the primary liaison between the music and worship departments at the Cathedral, and he oversees the care of all of the Cathedral's music instruments. In this very visible position, he has attempted to particularly highlight living American composers, exposing more people to the wealth of wonderful music being composed today in our nation.

Tom has, since 2009, been involved with the King's College Training Course of the Royal School of Church Music in America in Wilkes-Barre, PA as one of two primary organists. In 2020, he took over the management of the music planning and execution of the course, though unfortunately the course was canceled for the following two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. He is hopeful that this year it will make a strong return.

Prior to his position in DC, he served on the music staffs of the Memorial Church, Harvard University; Saint Mark's Church in Philadelphia, PA; and Trinity Episcopal Church in Princeton, NJ. Tom is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, where he received diplomas in organ and harpsichord, studying with Alan Morrison and Leon Schelhase. Tom is also an accomplished improviser, having studied this craft with Matthew Glandorf, Ford Lallerstedt, Bruce Neswick, and Justin Bischof.

He received both the Master of Music and Bachelor of Music degrees from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ, as a student of Ken Cowan. He is currently a doctoral candidate in organ at Boston University as a student of Peter Sykes, writing his dissertation on the organ music of Richard Wayne Dirksen. He has performed as an organist throughout the United States, in Canada, and in Europe, including international recital appearances in Reykjavík, Toulouse, and Montréal.

About some of the **composers** we'll hear at Mr. Sheehan's recital on April 23:

Japanese composer and organist **Takashi Sakai** (1948–2019) was educated at Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music, and was active in Japan as a composer, organist, harpsichordist, and teacher. He was a professor for many years at Tokyo Junshin Women's University. Sakai's compositional style blends influences from Japanese folk music with the classical Western organ tradition. He wrote numerous works, primarily involving organ, but also many pieces for organ in chamber and vocal combinations.

Brenda Portman is a concert organist and composer, educated at Wheaton College Northwestern University, and the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music. She now teaches at Xavier University in Cincinnati. Her compositions *Elegy* and *Monument* have won prestigious composition prizes, and her 5 volumes of hymn settings as well as individual compositions (choral and organ) are published by the Lorenz Co. Her compositions bring fresh, exciting perspectives to mostly well-known melodies, with influences from the giants of traditional organ repertoire.

Mark Miller is a Lecturer in Sacred Music at Yale's Institute of Sacred Music and Divinity School. Mark is also Professor of Church Music, Director of Chapel, and Composer In Residence at Drew University in Madison, NJ, and is the Minister of Music of Christ Church (UCC & Am Baptist) in Summit, NJ. His compositions are marked by an effortless blending of classical musical styles with modern vernacular.

Frasier Scholarship Application

a great opportunity for organists pursuing further study

The scholarship is open to current San Jose AGO chapter members and to organ students studying with, or sponsored by current members (previous winners are not eligible). The Frasier Organ Scholarship will be awarded on the basis of demonstrated talent and potential, and must be used for specified continuing education in organ. The scholarship amount is \$1000.

Might you consider improving your organ skills and resume, or continuing your organ studies this year? If you're a member of our San Jose AGO chapter and haven't won the Frasier scholarship before, you are eligible to apply. Remember our mission statement: "The purpose of the American Guild of Organists is to promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles, to encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music, and to provide a forum for mutual support, inspiration, education, and certification of Guild members."

You can find the 2023 scholarship qualifications/requirements, application and hymn list on our website www.agosanjose.org. Under "What's New," look for "Frasier Organ Scholarship". If you have questions, please contact Valerie Sterk valeriesterk@gmail.com. The deadline for sending the application (application form and two recommendations) is **April 10, 2023**. We're hoping to have the Frasier auditions (in person) in May. The scholarship winner will be notified soon after the auditions. Please encourage any potential scholarship applicants soon!

Jobs Available

The Episcopal Church in Almaden, San Jose: **Music Director/Organist/Pianist**. Part-

time position (10 - 15 hours per week) with competitive salary (\$20,000 – \$25,000) and negotiable benefits. Essential prerequisites include familiarity with Episcopal/liturgical worship, ability to work collaboratively, experience with choral conducting and ability to recruit and nurture choir members, and a range of experience with musical styles and genres. The organ is a 3-manual Phoenix from England (2001). One Sunday morning service at 10:45 am. preceded by the once-per-week Adult Choir rehearsal. The yearly schedule for the Music Director is relieved 6 - 7 times per year by the Folk Choir/Band which leads the service those weeks (Music Director not required to attend). See the detailed job listing at <https://www.churchinalmaden.org/news/churchinalmaden/job-details/music-director-search>. Apply by March 1, 2023. Contact: Contact: Todd Axtell, Music Search Committee: 650-856-2020; 408- 693-4089; toddger@aol.com

The Villages Community Chapel (in The Villages Golf and Country Club, a 55+ gated community), San Jose: **Music Director**. This is a part time position, 11 months per year; Salary \$2000 per month, 4 weeks paid vacation. Duties: work with a paid accompanist and volunteer choir to provide music for the Sunday 10:00 am service. Rehearse the choir Thursdays, 3 – 5 pm. Plan for and direct Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunday, a Christmas program, and two evening hymn sings per year. Attend monthly music committee meetings. Please provide a resume and two letters of recommendation. For a complete job description contact Gary Hill, Chairman of Music committee: 408-274-8086; carngar@gmail.com.

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, Carmel: **Director of Music**. This is a part time position of approx. 20 hours per week. Salary \$32–36K, benefits negotiable. 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 services on Sunday morning; Participate in weekly staff meetings; Participate in Music at St. Dunstan's committee, and explore opportunities to grow and expand the music program. To receive a full job description or to inquire, please send cover letter and resume to The Rev. Laurel Coote: Revlaurelc@gmail.com

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: office@campbellunited.org

Concerts and Special Events for organists

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

First Congregational Church of San Jose, 1980 Hamilton Ave, San Jose

Sunday, February 26, 3:00 pm: Music for strings and organ, celebrating the newly refurbished sanctuary. Harmonium California performs works by Gerald Finzi, John Ireland, and the beloved Adagio in g minor by Remo Giazatto based on a fragment by Albinoni and featuring **Susan Snook-Luther**, organist. Free and open to the public.

Campbell United Methodist Church, 1675 Winchester Blvd, Campbell

*Saturday, April 22, 10:00 am: Workshop by **Thomas Sheehan**; details above

*Sunday, April 23, 4:00 pm: Recital by **Thomas Sheehan**, Organist and Associate Director of Music, Washington National Cathedral; details above

Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos, 16575 Shannon Rd, Los Gatos

Friday, February 3, 7:00 pm: **Ruth Kamas and Elizabeth Kamas**, organ, organ duets, and a piano-organ duet. Works by Bach and Female composers of the romantic era. Donations to the Möller-Schoenstein organ maintenance fund welcomes.

Mission San Jose, 43300 Mission Blvd, Fremont

Saturday, April 15 - demonstration of the unique 1989 renaissance style Rosales organ by resident organist, Ron McKean, and a chance to play it. Bring Spanish renaissance scores. Sponsored by the Palo Alto/Peninsula chapter AGO. All organists are welcome.

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. Admission: \$20 General, \$10 seniors and AGO members, children free. Music by: Fanny Mendelssohn, Rachel Laurin, Clara Schumann, Florence Price, Emma Lou Diemer, Caterina Assandra, Brenda Portman, Marilyn Biery and Pamela Decker

First United Methodist Church, Palo Alto, 625 Hamilton Ave.

Tuesday, March 28, 7:00 pm. British organist and Youtube/TikTok sensation **Anna Lapwood** in concert. A sparkling and eclectic programme of music for the organ including favorites by J. S. Bach & C. Debussy, new gems commissioned by Ms. Lapwood to shine a light on contemporary female composers, and her new transcriptions of some of the best-loved film soundtracks of our time.

Learn more about Anna Lapwood here: <https://www.annalapwood.co.uk>

Tickets (\$25) available at: <https://www.cityboxoffice.com/eventperformances.asp?evt=2886>

San Francisco AGO Chapter's Presidents' Day Organ Crawl

Monday, February 20, 9:00 am. **All are welcome**, Online registration requested: [click here: https://forms.gle/7XmutVXbbETjSbD4A](https://forms.gle/7XmutVXbbETjSbD4A) (deadline to sign up for lunch is Feb. 14).

Tour schedule: 9:00 St. John Presbyterian (Schoenstein organ); 10:15 - St Ignatius RC Church (Visscher and Assoc. organ, with new Hupalo-Rapasky organ under construction); 11:30am - St Agnes RC Church (Schoenstein/hybrid organ); 12:30 lunch provided with registration); 1:00 All Sts Episcopal Church (Bigelow organ)

St. John The Evangelist Episcopal Church, San Francisco, 15th St @ Julian Tuesday, February 8 , 7:30pm: Shelby Yamin (violin) and Caitlyn Koester (harpsichord). "Music we love" Artists-in-residence present a Valentine's Day themed recital. Wine and cheese to follow

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, 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.

(no recital February 26)

Sunday, March 5, 4:00 pm: **Friedrich Edelmann**, Bassoon; **Rebekah Rust**, Cello; and **Dimitriy Cogan**, Piano.

Sunday, March 12, 4:00 pm: **Katya Kolesnikova**, Organ.

Sunday, March 19, 4:00 pm: **Christoph Tietze**, Organ.

Sunday, March 26, 4:00 pm: **Corina Santos**, Violin, with **Chia-lin Yang**, Piano.

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/>

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

Sunday, March 19, 4:00 pm: **Jung-A Lee**, organ

Sunday, May 7, 4:00 pm: **Maurice Clerc**, organ

Sunday, June 4, 4:00 pm: **Margaret Martin Kvamme**, organ (music of women composers)

Your SJ AGO Board 2022 - 2023

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The next newsletter will be published in early April. The deadline for submitting concert listings, articles, photos, job listings and notices of instruments for sale, etc. is **March 24**. 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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