

September 2014

The American Guild of Organists

# San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

## Dean's Column

by Simon Berry

Dear Colleagues:

Our opening event of the program year is an evening service of vespers at the Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland, on Saturday, September 20th at 7:30 pm.

The theme of the service is 'Our Souls Inspire...' and will include:

- Music for brass and organ by Conte, Guilmant and Gigout
- Hymns for all to sing with organ and brass accompaniment
- Motets by Victoria, Helvey, Tallis and Stanford
- Psalmody for all to sing
- An address given by Dean Alan Jones
- A festive reception

Entrance is free and we hope to see a large group of members coming together to gain spiritual renewal and support from this opening event.

The Cathedral of Christ the Light is located at 2121 Harrison Street, Oakland, between 21st Street and Grand Avenue, across from Lake Merritt.

Please also reserve the dates of our October programs, both at St Mary's College, Moraga, on Saturday the 18th and Sunday the 19th. We will have an opportunity to learn about the performance of French Classical organ music from Jean-Baptiste Robin and to hear him give a solo recital of (mostly) French repertoire.

Organ debates. I listen to and play a great number of organs each year. A few I really like and get some artistic stimulation from, some I find insipid, and a very few make me feel like I don't want to even play them or hear them. These are normal human reactions and everyone will react slightly differently to each organ they play and hear.

When I was a mid-teenager I attended a seminal master-class and recital in my home town of Bristol, given by Peter Hurford on the then new Rieger organ in Clifton cathedral. I had not heard such clarity and pipe speech before! I was used to organs that were built along Edwardian lines

► **Dean's Column**, page 4

## Program Date Change

The date of the opening meeting of the program year is Saturday September 20, 2014, not 13th as initially advertised.

Our opening event of the program year is an evening service of vespers at the Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland, on Saturday, September 20th at 7:30 pm.

## 2011 Region IX Convention Program Books Available FREE!

from Pat During

A limited number of extra program books from the 2011 Region IX AGO Convention have been found in the process of moving the SFAGO Archives to their new location. The Convention highlighted over 20 major organs and venues throughout the Bay Area, featured recitals and workshops by over 50 musicians (many internationally-known), and brought together lovers of organ music from the far corners of the earth (Australia, Taiwan, etc.) and 33 States. The program book is 122 spiral-bound pages, packed with information and gorgeous photographs, all beautifully designed and assembled by Matthew Burt and his committee.

► **Free Program Books**, page 2

## Deadline Notice for October Newsletter

The newsletter editor will be on vacation during September. Both the September and October newsletters are being prepared back-to-back in mid-August. Therefore, the deadline for all items for the October newsletter will have passed by the time the current newsletter is distributed.

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Submission deadline for the **November** issue is **October 10**

## **SFAGO Program for 2014–2015**

**Saturday, September 20, 2014, 7:30 p.m.**

“Our Souls Inspire...”

An Act of Worship for AGO members and friends  
with music for Organ, Brass and Choir  
Inspirational Address from Dean Alan Jones & Installation of Officers  
Followed by a reception  
Christ the Light Cathedral, Oakland

**Saturday, October 18, 2014, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

Masterclass Workshop on movements from a Couperin Mass  
Jean-Baptiste Robin  
St Mary’s College Chapel, Moraga

**Sunday, October 19, 2014, 4:30 p.m.**

Celebrity Recital  
Jean-Baptiste Robin  
Followed by a reception  
St Mary’s College Chapel, Moraga

**Saturday, November 22, 2014, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

St. Cecilia’s Day Hone Your Skills Workshops  
New Music for Organ • New Music for Voices • Wedding and Funeral Music  
Transposition for AGO exams • Improvisation Masterclass  
With refreshments and lunch  
St John’s Episcopal Church, Ross

**Monday, January 12, 2015, 7:30 p.m.**

Dean’s Roundtable Discussion of Professional Issues  
Followed by a reception  
St Dominic’s Church, San Francisco

**Saturday, February 7, 2015, 7:00 p.m.**

Choral Evensong and Presentation on RSCM Voices for Life scheme  
Susan Jane Matthew, The St Paul’s Choir,  
including Choir School boys and girls  
St Paul’s Episcopal Church, Burlingame

**Saturday, March 15, 2015, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

Workshop with San Francisco Girls’ Chorus & Short Concert  
Chorissima Hall, Hayes Street, San Francisco

**Sunday, April 26, 2015, 4:00 p.m.**

Celebrity Recital  
Nigel Potts, organ & Sarah Taylor, mezzo soprano  
Elgar’s Sea Pictures  
Followed by a reception  
Grace Cathedral, San Francisco

**Tuesday, May 26, 2015, 6:15 p.m.**

Dinner, Annual Meeting and Members’ Recital  
First Congregational Church, Berkeley

## **Schoenstein Open House**

*from Jack Bethards*

Please join us on Sunday, September 7, 2014, from 2:00–5:00 p.m. for an Open House at our Benicia plant. On display will be the 3-manual, 46-rank Æolian-Skinner organ from Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church in Omaha, Nebraska. This organ, built in 1950, has been totally renovated and reconfigured, ready for installation in its expanded organ chamber in September.

You can tour the entire facility and see other exciting work in process.

Schoenstein & Co. is located at 4001 Industrial Way, Benicia, CA 94510. Telephone (707) 747-5858. Plenty of parking is available.

Directions: **From I-80:** At Vallejo, take I-780 east towards Benicia. After East Fifth St exit, get into right lane and exit onto I-680 North (Exit 7A).

**From I-680:** At Benicia, take the Lake Herman Road exit (Exit 61). Go east (toward the water) on Lake Herman Road and cross the railroad overpass. Take the first right onto Industrial Way and go 1.3 miles. The plant is on the right just past a curve – look for the 42’ tall erecting room!


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## **Free Program Book**, *from front page*

Have you lost your copy? Know of anyone who would love to have a copy? An organ aficionado, family member or friend who was unable to attend?

These extra copies will be available on a **first-come, first-served basis, FREE of charge**. Please email Pat During, ps7drng@aol.com, to get your name on the list. Since there will be no charge for the books, they may be obtained in one of three ways:

- 1) see Pat at the SFAGO event on Saturday, September 20, 7:30 pm, at Christ the Light Cathedral, Oakland, during the reception which follows the service;
- 2) make other arrangements to pick up the book at a mutually convenient time and location;
- 3) pay for postage to have your book delivered by the USPS.

**Please include your preferred method to pick up/receive your copy when emailing Pat to add your name to the list.** 

## Letter to the Editor

Dear George,

While researching information about the Panama-Pacific International Exposition's 1915 Austin organ at the Bancroft Library, I came upon a letter written by Mr John G. Vogel to Mr Charles C. Moore, President of the P.P.I.E. Mr Vogel's concern echoes concerns we still hear today about poor attendance at concerts. His solution, however, is unusual.

I am retyping his letter exactly as he writes it, errors and all. Perhaps we could have a contest next month and award a certificate to the individual who finds the greatest number of spelling and grammar errors.

Following Mr Vogel's letter are two interoffice memorandums: the first from President Moore's Executive Secretary to Music Director George W. Stewart, and the second is Stewart's response back to the Executive Secretary.

Sincerely,  
Justin Kielty

**Editor's note:** *It was difficult to leave intact the various errors throughout the letter – I struggled to not correct punctuation and spelling. Following are the letter and memorandums.*



San Francisco, August 20th, 1915  
3975 24th Street

Mr. Chas. C. Moore,  
San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Sir:

One of the big features at the P. P. I. E for the musically inclined visitors is the pipe organ in the Festival Hall. The organ is the largest on the Pacific Coast and its mechanic control represents the highest development of pipe organ construction.

Nearly every day, experts from all parts of the country give recitals on this instrument, but the appreciation of the public has been comparatively scant even during the first few months of the Exposition, when the admission to the Festival Hall was twenty-five cents, interest was lacking. On Marin Day Mr. Uda Waldrup, a celebrated local organist, gave a recital. The public was admitted free yet so little were the visitors interested, that the Hall remained half empty during the entire program.

If the public interest could in some way be aroused if the public could in some way be made to appreciate the

superb instrument which the Exposition Company at great expense furnished for their benefit, the Festival Hall would be "packed" at every recital, regardless of the price of admission. If any one of the celebrated automobile racers were to go seventy-five miles per hour in the latest model car at the Stadium, there would probably be a few hundred people interested enough to pay ten cents admission to see the driver speed. But that is about as far as it would go; it would be practically impossible to create a public interest. On the "Zone" there was a concession in which a motor cycle and an automobile each went at ninety miles an hour on the vertical walls of a huge bowl. I believe they called it "The race for life". The admission was only ten cents, yet this concession was forced to close.

Now, the instant that number of these fast drivers compete with each other in a race, the public interest is immediately aroused; a little "fanning" by the press, and a flame of enthusiasm breaks forth, an enthusiasm that cannot be dampened by fancy prices for box seats.

If a pipe organ tournament or contest were arranged, whereby the various organists could compete for prizes, (cash or a piece of paper bearing the Exposition Companies seal), there is no question but that the Festival Hall would be filled to overflowing, regardless of the price of admission.

I suggest that the organists of one religious denomination at a time, compete with each other, one or two nights being devoted to a denomination, according to the number of entries. The winners from each denomination will then compete in a grand final tournament.

In order to secure the greatest possible public interest, I think this contest should be confined to the bay cities, or to most of the coast.

Such a contest would in no way further any existing or imaginary religious antagonism among the various denominations, because none of the dogmas or teachings are at issue. It is a notorious fact, that in many churches the organists are of a different religious belief, (or none at all), there being Protestant organists in Catholic churches and in Synagogues, and vice-versa. Furthermore, organ music is something all creeds have in common, and meeting thus on common ground, a contest would be more apt to have a tendency toward unity, a goal we are all striving for. All chance of favoritism is eliminated if the contest is held in alphabetical order of the religious denomination.

Such a contest would create a wide spread interest in organ music, an interest now lacking; it would raise the

► 1915 PPIE, page 4

## 1915 PPIE, from page 3

standard of the public's appreciation of music, of art. On such a contest, the music loving public would get the "Cream" of organ music, because each contestant would naturally play his one best piece. Also, it would give the public an exceptional opportunity of getting acquainted with the local talent, and conversely, it would give the local talent an exceptional opportunity to play before the public.

I want to ask you to endorse and refer this proposition to the Committee in charge.

I have been the organist for the St. John's German M. E. Church of this City for twelve years, and I herewith present my name as a contestant for the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Very respectfully yours,  
(SGD) John G. Vogel



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM: AUGUST 31, 1915  
From Executive Secretary to Music Director

President Moore has directed me to refer the attached copy of letter from Mr. John G. Vogel to you for your report of the practicability of his suggestion. The President also desires you to take this up with Mr. Theodore Hardee, to determine as to its value from a "Special Day" standpoint.



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM: SEPTEMBER 27, 1915  
From Musical Director to Executive Secretary

Please pardon the delay in replying to your interoffice communication of August 31st relative to the letter from Mr. John G. Vogel in which he suggests organ contests in Festival Hall.

I have seen in my musical experience various contests, some of which were similar in character to what is outlined in Mr. Vogel's letter and I am very strong in the belief that such contests would add little in dignity or in financial results to the Exposition.



## Dean's Column, from front page

– full-bodied tone and ultra-refined voicing. Think of the 1912 Harrison and Harrison at St Mary Redcliffe or the 1911 J.W. Walker at Bristol Cathedral.

What I came away with from the masterclass was a new love for the organ music of Bach and Couperin and a renewed interest in the sound of the organ. But I was also confused as it was unclear if I was 'allowed' to like both the Edwardian opulence I was used to and then new-to-me neo-baroque clarity of tone and inverted pyramid of chorus.

I had attended the masterclass with my father and my godfather and I was hesitant to join in the organ debate from the back seat of the car on the way home as I couldn't decide if I really preferred one style over the other or whether it was artistically valid to be able to enjoy both!

Very frequently the organ is a form of ministry tool when it's used to lead people to prayer or inspire them during processions, or to accompany some kind of sacred song. The sound of the organ for the listener is of paramount importance in this case; the visual aspect is also important. But the validity of any organ only comes when – and if – it fulfills its ministerial role. For instance, can it lead hymn singing with both minimal and full congregations? Can it accompany the choir sufficiently without overwhelming them? Can it play a variety of solo organ repertoire convincingly?

The organ exists in theatres and concert halls for different reasons. In a movie theatre it needs to have a sound that pervades the room above the noise of the patrons chattering before the films start. In a concert hall it needs to be able to balance a symphony orchestra (amongst other qualities).

The organ exists to a lesser extent for private practice and enjoyment in a private home or studio. The sound and feel to the player is paramount in these cases.

In our Bay Area we have a huge variety of instruments and the debates still rage about the Skinners and Ruffattis that we have. But let's step back a moment from the polemics and ask a simple question: Is this instrument fulfilling its ministerial function? Using 'I' statements is also a great way of including people in a debate and actually hearing a different viewpoint! Don't be surprised to find that more than one point of view can be validated.

Simon C Berry, Dean.



# Classified Ads

Collected by Robert J Kerman

This information is provided as a service to SFAGO members and the employing institutions. Inclusion of information in this column does not imply endorsement by the SFAGO. Send **Job Referrals** items, **Substitutes Available** notices, and **For Sale** items to: Robert J Kerman; sfago.classifieds@gmail.com. Deadline for the **November** issue is **October 10**.

**SFAGO JOBS & CLASSIFIED ADS BLOG:** The jobs listed here are updated throughout the month as ads are received. Visit our blog at <http://sfagojobs.blogspot.com/> often to see the latest listings.

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

### East Bay

**INTERIM MINISTER OF MUSIC, SAN LEANDRO: Epiphany Lutheran Church in San Leandro** (16248 Carolyn Street, San Leandro, CA 94578; [eastbayepiphany.org](http://eastbayepiphany.org)) seeks part-time Minister of Music to play piano and direct the choir and other musicians (band) for Sunday worship and seasonal services during the pastoral interim, and to work closely with the pastor and worship committee in choosing music for worship. Position has the possibility of becoming permanent when the permanent pastor is called. One weekly rehearsal with musicians, time/day to be arranged. Ten hours @ \$300 per week; compensation for additional services, (e.g. Ash Wednesday) \$175. Send cover letter and résumé to Pastor Sandra Dager at [eastbayepiphanypastor@gmail.com](mailto:eastbayepiphanypastor@gmail.com) or call (510) 278-5411.

### Peninsula

**PART-TIME ORGANIST, PALO ALTO: First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto** (625 Hamilton, Palo Alto, CA, [www.firstpaloalto.com](http://www.firstpaloalto.com)) seeks part-time organist to work under the Director of Music to play services, rehearsals, and other presentations, accompany choirs, assist in selecting music. Most rehearsals are on Sunday mornings. 48 Sundays and weekly rehearsals per year. Cathedral pipe organ <http://www.firstpaloalto.com/music.shtml>). Salary range: \$18,000–\$22,000 per year for 8–15 hrs/week. Could be combined with Children's Music Director position for additional compensation. Contact Mark Shaull [markshaull@gmail.com](mailto:markshaull@gmail.com) or (408) 605-0941.

### FOR SALE, etc.

**Electronic organ to loan or donate:** Rodgers 500 series electronic organ for loan. Two manuals and full pedal. Can fit comfortably in a living room. Owner will loan with written agreement and will pay one-third of moving costs. If taken as donation, owner may contribute to moving costs. Contact Quentin Hancock, 831.421.9052 or [qhancock@cruzio.com](mailto:qhancock@cruzio.com)

## AGO Elects John C. Walker

The American Guild of Organists has elected John C. Walker as its president. Dr Walker was installed at the AGO Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 24, 2014, held in conjunction with the AGO National Convention in Boston. He will serve for a term of two years, July 1, 2014–June 30, 2016.

### BIOGRAPHY

During his distinguished career John Walker has held positions as Minister of Music at Brown Memorial Park Avenue Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, Shadyside

Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, and The Riverside Church in New York City. He is a member of the organ faculty at Peabody Conservatory of Music, following previous teaching positions at Duquesne University, Manhattan School of Music, and San Jose State University.

A Fellow of the American Guild of Organists, John Walker was elected AGO President in 2014, having previously served the Guild in numerous other capacities including several terms as vice president and treasurer; AGO chapter dean in New York City and San Jose, Calif.; and director of the task force that envisioned today's highly successful Pipe Organ Encounters.

**SFAGO Newsletter** is published monthly, August thru May, with a Summer issue for June/July, by the San Francisco Chapter, American Guild of Organists. Opinions stated herein are those of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect official policies of this Chapter. The deadline for receipt of all newsletter items is the 10th of the month preceding publication.

**Dean:** Simon Berry, 415.674.0430, [simoncberry@gmail.com](mailto:simoncberry@gmail.com)  
**Sub Dean:** Jim Armstrong, 510.350.7801, [jfaworking@gmail.com](mailto:jfaworking@gmail.com)  
**Sub Dean Elect:** Elizabeth Forsyth, [e\\_forsyth@yahoo.com](mailto:e_forsyth@yahoo.com)  
**Secretary:** Arthur West, [arthurwest@gmail.com](mailto:arthurwest@gmail.com)  
**Treasurer:** William Visscher, [bvissch@fastmail.fm](mailto:bvissch@fastmail.fm)  
**Registrar:** Christoph Tietze, 415.924.1377, [orgelchris@yahoo.com](mailto:orgelchris@yahoo.com)  
**Webmaster:** Robert J Kerman, [rjkerman@gmail.com](mailto:rjkerman@gmail.com)  
**Chapter Website:** [www.sfago.org](http://www.sfago.org)

**Newsletter Departments:** *Send your entries to the appropriate editor; all submissions due by 10th of the month preceding publication*  
**Events Calendar Listings:** Brian Swager, 415.551.7866, [sfagocal@gmail.com](mailto:sfagocal@gmail.com)  
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**Newsletter Articles:** George Morten, 209.565.6660, [sfago-editor@att.net](mailto:sfago-editor@att.net)

2014–2015  
Last updated 07/14/2014

# Bay Area Concert Calendar

Collected by Brian Swager

# 2014 September

Events, dates, times, and locations are subject to change without notice. Compiled from flyers, press releases, and listings submitted by members and organizations. SFAGO is not responsible for errors, although every effort is made to be accurate. Submission deadline for the **November** issue is **October 10**. Send event listings to sfagocal@gmail.com. For the most up-to-date calendar, visit [www.sfago.org](http://www.sfago.org), click on **SFAGO Bay Area Concert Calendar**.

## Recurring Venues

Churches and institutions offering programs on a regular basis have been assigned abbreviations so as to save space in our listings. Abbreviations are listed below with the full name of the venue. When no city is stated, San Francisco is assumed.

**CPLH:** Calif. Palace of the Legion of Honor

**CSMA:** Cath. of St Mary of the Assumption

**RLC-O:** Resurrection Lutheran Ch, Oakland

**SME-B:** St Mark's Episcopal Ch, Berkeley

## Current

### September

#### 6 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

#### 7 Sunday

4pm. Chiu Yu Chen, Piano. CSMA

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

#### 13 Saturday

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. CPLH

#### 14 Sunday

4pm. Ugo Sforza, Organ. CSMA

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. CPLH

4pm. Robert Train Adams, Organ. Free admission/\$10 suggested donation. Mission Dolores Basilica

6:05pm. Nicholas Bideler, Organ. Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. Reception follows. SME-B

#### 18 Thursday

2pm. Cameron Carpenter, Organ; SF Symphony Orchestra. Brant: *Ice Field*. Tickets: sfsymphony.org. Davies Symphony Hall

#### 19 Friday

8pm. Cameron Carpenter, Organ. See Sept 18.

#### 20 Saturday

4pm. John Karl Hirten, Organ. CPLH

**7:30pm. SFAGO Event.** An Act of Worship for AGO members and friends. Address from Dean Alan Jones & Installation of Officers, followed by a reception. Christ the Light Cathedral, Oakland

8pm. Cameron Carpenter, Organ. See Sept 18.

#### 21 Sunday

2pm. Cameron Carpenter, Organ. See Sept 18.

3:30pm. Hymn Festival with David Cherwien. \$20. St Mark's Lutheran Church

4pm. John Karl Hirten, Organ. CPLH

#### 27 Saturday

7:30pm. Julia Brown, Organ. All Scheidemann. Lovalo meantone organ. Donation requested. St Andrew's Episcopal Church, Antelope

#### 28 Sunday

4pm. Alexei Kodash, Violin. CSMA

## Looking Ahead

### October

#### 4–5 Saturday & Sunday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

#### 11 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

#### 12 Sunday

4pm. Jerome Lenk, Organ. Free admission/\$10 suggested donation. Mission Dolores Basilica

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

5:30pm. Choral Evensong. St Francis Choir; Robert Kerman, Director; Dan Levitan, Harp; Rodney Gehrke, Organ. Music of Dyson, Fauré, Phillips, and Grandjany. Freewill offering. Reception follows. St Francis Episcopal Church

6:05pm. Malcolm Matthews, Organ. Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. Reception follows. SME-B

#### 18 Saturday

**9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. SFAGO Event.**

Masterclass Workshop on movements from a Couperin Mass with Jean-Baptiste Robin. St Mary's College Chapel, Moraga

4pm. John Karl Hirten, Organ. CPLH

#### 19 Sunday

3pm. Teed Rockwell, Veena; Peter van Gelder, Sitar; Samrat Kakkeri, Tabla. Traditional and new Indian Music. RLC-O

4pm. John Karl Hirten, Organ. CPLH

**4:30 p.m. SFAGO Event.** Celebrity Recital by Jean-Baptiste Robin, followed by a reception. St Mary's College Chapel, Moraga

## November

#### 1–2 Saturday & Sunday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

#### 8 Saturday

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. CPLH

#### 9 Sunday

4pm. Stephen Boniface, Organ. Free admission/\$10 suggested donation. Mission Dolores Basilica

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. CPLH

6:05pm. Rodney Gehrke, Organ. Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. Reception follows. SME-B

#### 11 Tuesday

4pm. John Karl Hirten, Organ. CPLH

#### 15 Saturday

4pm. John Karl Hirten, Organ. CPLH

#### 16 Sunday

3pm. Ken Cowan, Organ. Tickets: sfsymphony.org. Davies Symphony Hall

4pm. John Karl Hirten, Organ. CPLH

#### 22 Saturday

**9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. SFAGO Event.** St. Cecilia's Day Hone Your Skills Workshops, with refreshments and lunch. St John's Episcopal Church, Ross

4pm. Keith Thompson, Organ. CPLH

#### 23 Sunday

4pm. Keith Thompson, Organ. CPLH

#### 26 Wednesday

5:30pm. Choral Evensong. St Francis Choir; Robert Kerman, Director; Kathy Conner, Oboe; Rodney Gehrke, Organ. Music of Shephard, Moore, Powell, Phillips. Freewill offering. Reception follows. St Francis Episcopal Church

#### 29–30 Saturday & Sunday

4pm. Brian Swager, Organ. CPLH

## December

#### 6–7 Saturday & Sunday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

