

January 2019

The American Guild of Organists

San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

Dean's Column

by William Vaughan

Happy New Year! I hope we are all able to take a big breath now that all the holiday services are behind us.

As I've said in the past, my job at Assumption is two-fold: teaching in the school during the week, and playing the organ for five Masses each weekend plus organizing repertoire for both school and church. On Tuesday, December 11, we had our school Christmas concert. This year we performed in the gym and not the church for one reason only: so we could have hospitality. With that being said, we had to transform the cavernous gym into an inviting Christmas wonderland. We borrowed risers from a local high school, we took the 'Advent' trees, wreaths and banners from the church, set up seating for 300 people, and had families each bring a dessert to share. The day after the concert, we had to return everything to its proper place. It was like when WE were children, we would secretly open our gifts under the Christmas tree, only to rewrap them back up perfectly so our parents would not know what we did! Transforming the gym was a lot of extra work, but it was well worth the effort. As the principal said at the end of the concert, "Mr Vaughan has these ideas in his mind, and we saw them play out magically this evening."

In the past, I have accompanied each grade's piece on the electric piano. This year, because the orchestral accompaniments were so fantastic, we purchased the performance accompaniments for the 15 pieces we sang. These were not cheap to buy, but well worth the cost. We do all secular music for the Christmas and Spring concerts because the children need to experience other types of music besides sacred. There is so much great secular Christmas music for choirs out there. This is not kiddie music, by the way.

My goal with every grade is for them to know the music so well that they wouldn't need me to conduct. Well, I told 3rd Grade that before their piece, and indeed I walked away, amazing all the parents. I stood in the back to listen. The principal, when I passed him in the back of the gym, asked if I was on auto-pilot. The 3rd Grade aced the piece called Candy-Covered Gingerbread House.

The 8th Grade sang a piece called Mrs Claus. It is a real cute piece with a lot of text to memorize. Anyway, when I had the class listen to the piece that they were going to learn in

January Chapter Event

January 13, 2019 — 4:00 pm
Bruce Neswick at Grace Cathedral

Reception will follow in the Parish House
across the plaza.

February Event: Presidents' Day

Our February event will be an organ crawl on Presidents' Day, Monday, February 18.

This is the schedule:

- 10:00 - Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church
- 12:00 - Lunch at the home of Rick Walling in Walnut Creek
- 2:00 - Tour and dessert at Schoenstein & Co. in Benicia

The cost is \$15 for lunch, which will be a hot buffet: rotisserie turkey breast, garlic dill new potatoes, and fresh steamed vegetables all catered by Boston Market.

Because Rick's house has a limited capacity, I estimate that we could accommodate 25 or so people. Please reserve your spot and pay for lunch by clicking the following: [Eventbrite](#).

Parking is very limited at Rick's house, so I hope we can all carpool from Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church. 

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Tournemire at Trinity

from William Vaughan

Thank you to all who came to hear Rich Spotts at Trinity on November 17. He elegantly played Tournemire on the luscious Skinner organ. Two weeks after that concert, I heard the SF Girls Chorus there. I am very glad Trinity is open again. My sincere thanks goes to Robert Gurney and the staff of Trinity and Steve Repasky. Rich practiced at St Luke's while Chanticleer was rehearsing at Trinity. What a room to have to yourself to practice in daily.



For those who ask why Rich Spotts and Tournemire at Trinity? Our Special Projects Committee, under the leadership of Helen Periera, past chair of the committee and pictured here with Rich Spotts, gave Rich a grant to do more research on Tournemire in Paris this past year. As a thank you, Rich wanted to share the fruit of his labor with us. What better venue than Trinity for Tournemire.

Dean's Column, from front page

early November, some of the students were missing. The next class session was a real eye-opener for me! Those students who were not in class had heard through the grape vine that the piece degraded women. I listened to their concerns, even though they had never heard the text yet. One girl said she would not sing it, and would not show up at the concert if we were to perform it. Because their scores hadn't arrived from the publisher, I read the class the text from my score. After I read the text, the girls who objected to singing the piece raised their hands and apologized to me, saying that it was a great text, and that we should do it. As I said, that was a real learning experience for not only them, but also me. How many times are we set in our ways even before we know the facts?

CD of Purvis at Grace Cathedral in 1955

from Lorenz Maycher

I am the founding director of the East Texas Pipe Organ Festival in Kilgore, Texas. We host an annual week-long organ festival featuring the area's Aeolian-Skinner pipe organs. We also have our own recording label, and are re-issuing the existing master tapes of Aeolian-Skinner's "King of Instruments" series. We have recently issued Richard Purvis' recording from the series, which was recorded at Grace Cathedral in 1955.



Taken from the original Aeolian-Skinner master tapes, this historic recording features Richard Purvis playing his own music on the organ of Grace Cathedral. Included in the recording are Partita on Christ ist Erstanden, Pastorale on Forest Green, Adoration, Divinum Mysterium, Capriccio on the Notes of the Cuckoo, Introit and Elevation, and two additional tracks of previously unreleased material. The CD booklet includes Purvis' bio, description and stoplist of the organ, notes on the repertoire and registration, and vintage photos courtesy of the Grace Cathedral Archives. Recording is in MONO.

This disc is available for purchase on our website at www.easttexaspipeorganfestival.com

Announcements

Board Meeting

Our next board meeting is Monday, January 7th, 7pm at St Mary's Cathedral.

Website

Our webmaster, Frank Torrano, has reimagined our website. Please check it out at www.sfago.org

A Story about the Rieger organ at The Pacific Union College SDA Church

by Barbara Rose-Tonsberg

Our poor Rieger Organ is half dead and not available for recitals just now. It is a tragic mess. Working with John Hupalo, I've been able to work out a good plan to restore this magnificent organ to its former glory. You might get a chuckle from "My Story" below:

Many years ago there were some beautiful trees that were chosen to be part of an adventure that would delight and please many in days to come. These trees and their metal companions met in a beautiful Austrian village. Kind artists who cared about the future of these trees and their metal companions lovingly made them into many different shapes.

After many months of careful attention, all of these new creations were carefully placed in boxes, covered with great care and placed in huge cargo containers to be sent to people who promised to love and care for these creations of the Austrian workers. It was a very happy and joyous day when the containers holding all of these boxes arrived at their destination. People greeted this arrival and lovingly carried each new piece into a very large building. Home at last after such a journey!

Yes, the Pacific Union College SDA Church had welcomed its newest member, the lovely Rieger Pipe Organ. After the Austrian crew arrived to put each pipe where it belonged, and erect the beautiful structure to hold them, there was great anticipation of hearing what they would sound like. These creations from loving hands, both metal and wood, never disappointed anyone when they were first allowed to send their beauty into the church for all to hear: church services, great hymn singing, alumni weekends, graduations, guest artists, weddings and memorials plus so much more.

Today the nearly 40-year-old grand lady is not sounding as she once did. She has many pipes who have aged and shrunk, with their toes being bent out of shape. She has been walked on, pounded on and has been the recipient of earthquake damage, humidity and heat problems — and like everyone else, there is wear and tear everywhere you look. Only half of the pipes play while the others sit and wonder when their turn will be.

"Miss Rieger" would like to be able to continue to use her trumpets for graduations and other services. She would also like to accompany hymn singing once again. The many recitals have had to stop but we know they can start again with your help. Would you consider helping to put this grand lady back into service? With the help of many, we can have a new beginning. We hope to have Phase One (\$60,000) completed by the end of January and with your help we can begin Phase Two (\$240,000) as well. No frills, no "dreams" just plain old-fashioned maintenance that has been deferred for far too

Program Year 2018–2019

September 16

4:00 pm Evensong and Opening Dinner
St. Paul's, Oakland

October – No Event

November 17

4:30 pm Rich Spotts – Tournemire
Trinity, San Francisco

January 13, 2019

4:00 pm Bruce Neswick
Grace Cathedral

February 18, 2019

10:00 am East Bay Organ crawl
LOPC; Eric Walling's residence;
Schoenstein & Co factory, Benecia

March 16, 2019

10:30 am Choral Reading session – Cliff Hill
Assumption Church, San Leandro


April 2019 – No Event

May 20, 2019

Closing Banquet and Recital
Christ the Light Cathedral, Oakland

long. I am looking forward to a positive response so that "Miss Rieger" can sound beautiful again.

Your tax-deductible gift in the form of check or cash can be placed in the offering at church or mail your check to the PUC Church, P.O. Box 297, Angwin, CA 94508. Make checks out to "PUC Church" and write "Rieger Organ Fund" on the offering envelope or on the check memo line. You can also donate on-line: Click here - <https://adventistgiving.org/> - and select "Rieger Organ Fund."

For your donation of \$500 or more, you are invited to a special reception following the recital on February 16, 2019 by the great organist, Hans Uwe Hielscher of Wiesbaden, Germany. 

San Francisco AGO Chapter Donations

The SFAGO wishes to thank the following people for their financial support to the Chapter Donation category.

John M. Agraz	Terry M. O'Connor
Alan C. Black	Marian E. Ott
Charles Corum	Don Pearson
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Reiko Oda Lane	Antonia VandeKemp
Lilyane M. Moulton	Vlada Volkova-Moran
Natsuko Murayama	Arthur West

SFAGO International Mailing Donations

The SFAGO thanks the following person for her financial support to the International Mailing category.

Terry M. O'Connor
Vlada Volkova-Moran

SFAGO Special Projects Donations

The SFAGO wishes to thank the following people for their financial support to the Special Projects category.

John M. Agraz	Joseph A. Hansen
George E. Becker	David R. Howitt
Josephine Bennington	Natsuko Murayama
Jeanette Cool	Helen Pereira
Patricia H. During	Christoph Tietze
Madelyne Ewer	Gary C. Toops
Douglas H. Franks	Vlada Volkova-Moran

San Francisco AGO Chapter Recital Series Donors

The SFAGO wishes to thank the following people for their support of the Recital Series.

Bombarde (\$1000+)

Tuba Mirabilis (\$500-\$999)

Robert Tall & Associates, Inc.

Trompette en Chamade (\$250-\$499)

John Agraz
Patricia During
Thomas Flesher
Father Robert Rien
Susanne Rommel
Jason Surles
Jon Townsend
John Walko
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Helen Pereira
W. Wayne Ritchie
Eric R. Stevens
Gary C. Toops
Matthew Walsh

Krummhorn (\$25-\$49)

Jeanette Cool
Robert H. Douglass
Steven C. Gray
Joseph A. Hansen
Christopher Keady
Martin A. Lilley
Terry M. O'Connor
Marian E. Ott
Jan Robitscher
Michael W. Secour

Vox Humana (\$1-\$24)

Patricia L. Harre
Hunter X. Harville-Moxley
Joe E. McClain
Antonia VandeKemp
Vlada Volkova-Moran

Thank you very much for your donations! There is still plenty of time to send in a tax-deductible gift.

These lists were compiled from AGO National remit forms from November 2017 – October 2018.

You and your Chapter

from William Vaughan

In the December TAO, Michael Bedford, President of the AGO, wrote a wonderful article that I would like us to take to heart in this New Year. Please take a moment and read it on page 5 of the December 2018 issue.

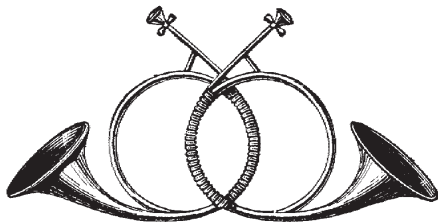
In this New Year, would **YOU** consider:

- coming to an AGO event
- hosting an AGO event
- running for a position on the board
- helping out for the 2024 Convention

My term as dean ends June 30, 2019. It has been 2-1/2 years already! They have been wonderful years by the way. For a fact, that position will become vacant. Perhaps there might be other positions that become available.

Michael Bedford quotes Mother Teresa in his article, "Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love."

A very Happy and Healthy New Year! ~



Steve's Corner

by Steve Repasky

Some music for CHRISTMAS

One of my favorite pieces to play on Christmas Eve or Day is Thomas Geischen's *Pastorale on Silent Night*. The composition has two versions, one as an organ solo [Concordia 97-5154] and the other for strings & oboe or flute [Concordia 97-5170] available as a downloadable pdf. The piece was composed in 1973, and utilizes gentle rocking figures in 12/8 meter.

A must-have collection of useful pieces for the Christmas season is *The Oxford Book of Christmas Organ Music*, Oxford Univ. Press, 1995. The selections range from Buxtehude to contemporary English and American composers. The book contains 37 Christmas organ selections on over 100 pages. ~

Announcements

AGO 2024

from William Vaughan

Good news and great joy, National has accepted our offer to host the 2024 Convention here in San Francisco! This past September, they secured a reasonable hotel rate in SF at this early stage. When I hear more, I will share it with you.

Directory News

from William Vaughan

I have sent the directory out digitally. I will make a printed version for those without email. I just need a few extra hours in the day..

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.

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2018-2019
Last updated 08/22/2018

Bay Area Concert Calendar

Collected by Brian Swager

2019 January

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 **February** issue is **January 10**. Send event listings to sfagocal@gmail.com. For the most up-to-date calendar, visit 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.

CCL-O: Cath. of Christ the Light, Oakland
CSMA: Cath. of St Mary of the Assumption
GC: Grace Cathedral
SME-B: St Mark's Episcopal Ch, Berkeley
SPE-BU: St Paul's Episcopal Ch, Burlingame

January 2019

6 Sunday

5:30pm. Epiphany Lessons & Carols. Cathedral Camerata; Rudy de Vos, Director. CCL-O

13 Sunday

4pm. Bruce Neswick, Organ. \$10 suggested donation. GC

4pm. Cavatina Music Society. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

6:05pm. Ethan Haman, Organ. Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. Freewill offering. Reception follows. SME-B

20 Sunday

4pm. Agnieszka Kosmecka (Poland), Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

26 Saturday

5pm. Choral Evensong for St Paul. Kimble: *Preces & Responses* (premiere); Aston: *Magnificat & Nunc dimittis* in F; Wood: *Hail, gladdening light*; Rütli: *St Peter and St Paul*. Freewill donation. Reception follows. SPE-BU

Looking Ahead

February

3 Sunday

4pm. Wyatt Smith, Organ. \$10 suggested donation. GC

4pm. Rafael Quinones, Tenor; Grace Renaud, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

10 Sunday

4pm. Young People's Symphony Orchestra Showcase. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

6:05pm. Gail Archer, Organ. Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. Freewill offering. Reception follows. SME-B

16 Saturday

4pm. Hans Uwe Hielscher, Organ. Free admission/freewill offering. Pacific Union College Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 10 Angwin Ave, Angwin

5pm. Susan Jane Matthews, Piano & Organ. Fanny Hensel: *Das Jahr* for piano. SPE-BU

17 Sunday

4pm. Hans Uwe Hielscher, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

24 Sunday

4pm. Mark Bruce, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

March

2 Saturday

4pm. Choir School Concert. Freewill donation. Reception follows. SPE-BU

3 Sunday

4pm. Ben Bachman & Christopher Keady, Organ Duo. \$10 suggested donation. GC

10 Sunday

6:05pm. Brett Patterson, Organ. Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. Freewill offering. Reception follows. SME-B

17 Sunday

4pm. Evensong & Organ Recital. Katherine McKee, Director; Paulette Grunden, Organ. St Bede's Episcopal Church, Menlo Park

23 Saturday

5pm. Choral Evensong for Annunciation. Choirs of St Paul's, Burlingame, and St Mary the Virgin, San Francisco. Ešenvalds: *Magnificat & Nunc dimittis*; Judith Bingham: *The Darkenss is no Darkness*; Wesley: *Thou wilt keep him*; Lindley: *Ave Maria*. Freewill donation. Reception follows. SPE-BU

April

7 Sunday

4pm. Hyunju Hwang, Organ. \$10 suggested donation. GC

14 Sunday

6:05pm. Oliver Brett, Organ. Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. Freewill offering. Reception follows. SME-B

May

5 Sunday

4pm. Gary Desmond, Organ. \$10 suggested donation. GC

12 Sunday

6:05pm. Jonathan Schakel, Organ. Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. Freewill offering. Reception follows. SME-B

18 Saturday

5pm. Choral Evensong. Choirs of St Paul's, Burlingame, Trinity Cathedral, Portland, and Grace Cathedral SF Choir of Men & Boys. Howells: *Magnificat & Nunc dimittis* (St Paul's); Goodenough: *I will sing with the spirit*; Wesley: *Blessed be the God and Father*. Followed by choir celebration dinner (tickets). SPE-BU

19 Sunday

4pm. Gail Archer, Organ. \$15. St Bede's Episcopal Church, Menlo Park



Wishing you a Happy New Year