May 2019

The American Guild of Organists

San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

Dean's Column

by William Vaughan

Please come to our annual dinner at Christ the Light Cathedral on Monday, May 20. We have lowered the cost of the dinner so that more members will come. Details are in the column to the right.

Thank you to Cliff Hill (far right) for leading our choral reading session this past March 16 at Church of the Assumption in San Leandro. We gathered at noon on one of our first sun-filled Saturdays in 2019 for lunch right outside the church in



a gathering space. We enjoyed salad, lasagna and brownies, all home-made by Mary Schirmer, a staff member here at Church of the Assumption. From lunch, we went into the church for our choral reading session. Cliff had prepared a wonderful packet filled with many anthems accessible for most choirs. It was delightful also to hear Cliff's many stories about composers, conductors, churches, etc., that he has been associated with throughout his years as a distributor of all types of sheet music. Many thanks to Cliff, and all of you who came and sang! The singers were incredible sight-readers.

I recently had the great pleasure of getting involved with the Junior Bach Festival. My organ student, Tim Warncke, sent in a recording for a panel of judges to rate to see if he could play

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May Brainstorming Sessions for the 2024 San Francisco Convention

from Matthew Burt

The AGO National Convention is coming to the Bay Area in 🗘 2024! Although five years may seem far away, now is the time to begin thinking together about what exciting opportunities we can offer our colleagues from across the Guild. Michael Velting, our National Councillor for Conventions, will be in town to help us begin the process of developing our vision and strategy as the hosts of this unique event.

➤ Brainstorming, page 2

May Event from William Vaughan

Annual Dinner and Concert Monday, May 20, 2019 Christ the Light Cathedral in Oakland.

5:45 p.m. - Gathering and Appetizers

6:30 p.m. - Dinner

7:30 p.m. - Concert by Daniel Chang

Please click on this **Eventbrite** link to purchase your dinner ticket. Dinner will be \$25 (actual value is \$40) and will be catered by Van Noy Catering (The caterers at the Cathedral). If you do not have a computer, please call Bill Vaughan at 707-373-0643 to reserve your spot.



A native of San Francisco, California, Daniel Chang is a Doctorate of Musical Arts candidate in the studio of David Higgs. He began his music studies at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music's Preparatory

Department where he studied composition with Michael Kaulkin and piano with June Choi Oh. He continued his education at the San Francisco Conservatory for a B.M.A. in composition studying composition with David Conte and piano with Alla Gladysheva. While at the conservatory, he

➤ May Event, page 4

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Events Calendar & Looking Ahead

Submission deadline for the June / July issue is May 10

Jean Fisk to Retire

from William Vaughan

Jean Fisk, Music Director/Organist at Pinole United Methodist Church for 50 years, is retiring July 1st. She oversees 6 vocal choirs: Chancel, Silangan Christian Ensemble, Men's Chorale, Susanna Singers, Youth and Children's Choirs, also Handbell choirs, Youth and Adult Praise Bands, and an Organ Scholars' Program. One of her Organ Scholars returned as the Assistant Director of Music after graduating from UC Berkeley with a degree in music.

Her Shalom Ringers have toured several Western States and Hawai'i. They were the featured bell choir at "Fellowship of United Methodists and Worship Arts" Convocation in Seattle several years ago.

Jean was the Co-convener of the California/Nevada Chapter of the Fellowship for several years. She was also Western Jurisdiction Rep for the National Fellowship for one term. She has done several workshops and written articles about her Organ Scholars' Program. One of her Graduate Organ Scholars' has started his own program.

Jean is a member of the San Francisco Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. All 15 of her Organ Scholars have attended various Pipe Organ Encounters.

Jean was selected as one of six Americans to study at the Royal College of Music in London one summer. She also went with a group of organists who toured English Organs, and was one of several chosen to play in a concert at Bristol Cathedral.



Brainstorming, from front page

We want to include as many voices as possible, and so are holding two brainstorming sessions, one in San Francisco and another in Palo Alto:

- Monday May 6 at 7:00 p.m. St. Mary's Cathedral (Choir Room), 1111 Gough St., San Francisco
- Tuesday May 7 at 7:00 p.m. All Saints Church (Multi-Purpose Room), 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto

At both locations wine and beverages will be served.

Please join us if you are able—we need your experiences, skills, and ideas to make this an unforgettable Convention both for our local chapters and for the entire AGO. Please contact Matthew Burt, Convention Coordinator, with any questions at matthewburt@gmail.com or 650-283-7512.

San Francisco Peninsula Organ Academy 2019 Winter Trip

from Angela Kraft Cross

he San Francisco Peninsula Organ Academy thanks the SFAGO Special Projects committee for its generous support of our winter trip!

The SFPOA was founded in 2014 as a non-profit organization to offer generous scholarships to young organists and lead them on short-term intensive study trips to France.



Louis Robilliard, Chase Olson, Dominic Pang and Angela Kraft Cross

This year's study trip was a thirteen day adventure, December 26—January 8, featuring fifteen-year-old organists Dominic Pang from San Jose and Chase Olson from San Rafael. Our trip started in Lyon, France, where the two young organists took a cumulative nine hours of lessons with Louis Robilliard on the historic 1880

Cavaillé-Coll organ at St François de Sales. Repertoire covered

included Dubois Toccata, Gigout Toccata, Franck Pastorale and Choral 3 (Chase) and Vierne Naïades and Carillon de Westminster and Liszt Fantasie and Fugue in B*A*C*H (Dominic). Louis Robilliard is a world-respected Liszt scholar in addition to his expertise in French Romantic repertoire.

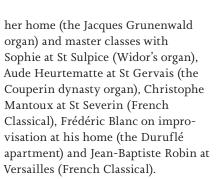


Louis Robilliard and Chase



Chase Olson, Sophie-Véronique Cauchefer-Choplin, Dominic Pang and Angela Kraft Cross

On January 1, we took the TGV train to Paris and settled into more learning adventures including an elementary improvisation course in three sessions with Sophie-Véronique Cauchefer-Choplin at





Chase Olson, Aude Heurtematte and Dominic Pang

➤ Winter Trip, page 3

Evensong & Organ Recital

Sunday June 2nd at 5:00pm

followed by an

Organ Recital by Benjamin Bachmann

Canon Director of Music, Grace Cathedral

at 5:30pm

Trinity+St. Peter's Episcopal Church 1620 Gough Street (at Bush), San Francisco

The Rev. Kyle Oliver, Presider; Robert Gurney, Director of Music & The Choir of Trinity+St. Peter's

Winter Trip, from page 2



Dominic Pang, Angela Kraft Cross, Chase Olson and Frédéric Blanc

In addition, Chase, Dominic and I performed a joint "audition" or recital after the Sunday morning mass January 6 at Frédéric Blanc's church, Notre Dame d'Auteuil, on his newly refurbished Cavaillé-Coll organ. Chase performed Daquin Noël X and Dubois Toccata, and Dominic performed Vierne's Naïades and Carillon de Westminster from the Pièces de Fantasie, both to rave acclaim!

On this trip,
Chase and Dominic received a cumulative 26.5 hours of private and semiprivate lessons from France's leading
organ scholars on key historic instruments from both the French classical
and symphonic traditions. Experiences
such as these add an enormous depth
of understanding in organ performance.
Thank you so very much to the Special
Projects committee in supporting the
scholarship fund of the SFPOA!



Louis Robilliard and Dominic Pang



May Event, from page 1

participated in masterclasses by leading composers, including John Adams, and also attended the European American Musical Alliance in Paris, France, where he studied with composer Narcis Bonet. After graduating from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Daniel began studying organ under the direction of Simon Berry and served as organ scholar at St Dominic's Catholic Church in San Francisco. At Eastman, Daniel was awarded the Gerald Barnes Prize for excellence in pipe organ and was recently awarded Third Prize in the National Young Artist Competition in Organ Performance at the 2018 National Convention for the American Guild of Organists. Daniel is currently director of music at St John's Episcopal Church in Canandaigua, New York.

The Menu:

AT THE BAR

Self-Serve Varietal Wine, Beer, Soft Drinks, Sparkling & Still Water

APPETIZERS

Imported & Domestic Cheese Display
Including warm Brie with Apricot
Skewered Caprese with Pesto Sauce
Fresh mozzarella, tomato and basil leaves
Olive & Sun-Dried Tomato Tapenade
with house made crostini

BUFFET DINNER

Caesar Salad
Cabernet Braised Short Rib
Seared Salmon
Oven-Roasted Potatoes
Grilled Vegetables
Assorted Breads

Assorted Fruit Tarts Coffee

Dean's Column, from page 1

in one of the many Festival concerts around the Bay Area. Just going through that process with a 12-year old was enlightening. He made an amazing recording, in my opinion. The Prelude, S.531, took a few takes, but the Fugue took only one take! I was stunned because he did this recording from memory.

When the time came to pick a venue from three choices, I had him choose St Mark's Lutheran Church in San Francisco. I wanted him to experience a 'Bach' organ. He took to that organ instantly, even with the flat pedal board. Because of my early organ training with Sandra Soderlund, who taught me to play Bach with 'all toes' pedaling, I am teaching my student the same. You do get instant phrasing.



The Prelude begins with a long pedal solo, and there was one note in that solo that I had Tim play with his heel, which was possible on the Rodgers at Assumption, but not possible at St Mark's. I asked him to change the pedaling on that note, and not only was there no 'tweak,' but there was instant phrasing. He was able to make that change at the last minute. Oh, the brain of a young child!

On the evening of the performance, I looked at the performance booklet, and to my surprise, there were about 25 young musicians playing in just this concert. Come to find out, this was the last of twelve concerts. This year Junior Bach set a record having 468 auditions representing the entire Bay Area. At the twelve concerts, there were 184 performances from students ranging in age from 5 to 21. Long live Johann Sebastian Bach.

Special thanks to SFAGO member and Junior Bach President Angela Kraft Cross and Robert, her husband, who were the stage hands moving instruments and stands constantly during the performance.



AGO 2019 West Region Convention
Orange County, California June 30-July 3, 2019

The following links will take you directly to individual areas of interest:

Schedule
Artists
Venues
Workshops
Registration
Hotel & Travel

SFAGO Program Year 2018-2019

September 16

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

October - No Event

November 17

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

January 13, 2019

Grace Cathedral 4:00 pm Bruce Neswick

February 18, 2019

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

March 16, 2019

Assumption Church, San Leandro 12:00 noon Lunch
Lunch cost \$10 1:00 pm Choral Reading session – Cliff Hill

April 2019 – No Event

May 20, 2019

Closing Banquet and Recital 5:45 pm - Gathering & Appetizers

Christ the Light Cathedral, Oakland 6:30 pm - Dinner

7:30 pm - Concert: Daniel Chang

San Francisco AGO Chapter Donations

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

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

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Martin A. Lilley
Carolyn Mar
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.

Steve's Corner

by Steve Repasky

Four pieces by Myron J. Roberts, 1912-2004

Litany. New York: H.W. Gray Co., 1958. Saint Cecilia Series no. 848.

Accessible piece features ostinato quarter note chords supporting a soaring soprano part reaching into the 5th octave on the organ's keyboard. The piece is an A-B-A form with the middle growing in sound and harmonic complexity.

Prelude and Trumpetings for organ. Belwin Mills Pub. Corp., 1961.

This is Mr. Roberts' most popular piece. The prelude beings mysteriously on dark reeds, strings, solo flute and low-pitched ranks. A climax then heralds the blazing solo trumpet in a Rumba dance style. A great selection for Eastertide.

Homage to Perotin. New York: H.W. Gray Co., 1956. Saint Cecilia Series no. 832.

Magister Perontius Magnus directed the music at Notre-Dame Cathedral from 1183 to 1236. This organ solo homage to Perotin exhibits driving rhythms and parallel 5ths in the Ars Antiqua style.

Pastorale and Aviary. New York: H.W. Gray Co., 1956. Saint Cecilia Series no. 954.

This rhythmical piece may be played as a prelude for the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi as it features bird calls most notably the call of the Cuckoo.

Unfortunately, all four pieces are currently out of print. One may request the scores via Inter Library Loan or purchase them through Amazon or Abe Books.

Classified Ads

Collected by David Howitt

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: dhowitt@ sjbalameda.org. Deadline for the **June / July** issue is **May 10.** Online listings available at: https://www.sfago.org/classifieds

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

ELECTRIC ORGANIST FOR CIRCUS SHOW – [location to be determined] The lights dim and the show begins. My name is Samson Y. Hiss, circus composer. I've written a new circus music show and I'm looking for an electric organist to join the band. The story and all the music has been written. And now recruiting top talent is in full force. Rehearsals will start in September. The show will be staged in October. I'm planning a two-weekend run. Exact dates and location are still TBD. Come, tickle us with some tonewheel. For more info email or call: hiss@samsonyhiss.com, 510-927-4477



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all submissions are due by 10th of the month preceding publication

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Obituary Listings: William Vaughan, billyv32@gmail.com

Newsletter Articles & Paid Ads: George Morten, 209.565.6660, georgemorten.744@gmail.com

2018-2019

Bay Area Concert Calendar

Collected by Brian Swager

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 June / July issue is May 10. Send event listings to sfagocal@gmail.com. For the most up-to-date calendar, visit www.sfago.org, click on 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.

CSMA: Cath. of St Mary of the Assumption

GC: Grace Cathedral LOH: Legion of Honor Museum MDB: Mission Dolores Basilica

SME-B: St Mark's Episcopal Ch, Berkeley SPE-BU: St Paul's Episcopal Ch, Burlingame TESPE: Trinity & St Peter's Episcopal Ch

May

4 Saturday

3pm. San Francisco City Chorus; Larry Marietta, Conductor; John Walko, Organ & Piano. Music of Schubert, Mendelssohn, Gretchaninov. Tickets \$20, senior/student \$15, high school students & SFAGO members free. Old First Presbyterian Church

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. Museum admission varies. LOH

5 Sunday

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

4pm. Jin Kyung Lim, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

11 Saturday 2:30pm. Daniel Gonzalez, Organ. St John the Evangelist Episcopal Church

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. Museum admission varies. LOH

12 Sunday

4pm. Festival of Marian Hymns; Rebekah Wu conducting the Benedict Sixteen. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Calvary Presbyterian Church Choir & Orchestra; Michael Conley, Conductor; John Walko & Eric Choate, Organ. Music of Vierne, Rutter. Tickets \$20

4pm. Jerome Lenk, Organ; Emil Miland, Cello. \$10 suggested donation. MDB

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

18 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. Museum admission varies. LOH

5pm. Choral Evensong. Choirs of St Paul's, Burlingame, Trinity Cathedral, Portland, and Grace Cathedral SF Choir of Men & Boys. Music of Howells, Goodenough, Wesley. Followed by choir celebration dinner (tickets). SPE-BU

19 Sunday

4pm. Spring Concert of the St Brigid School Honor Choir. Free parking. Freewill offering.

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

24 Friday

7pm. Hans Uwe Hielscher, Organ. Free will offering. Grace Episcopal Church, St Helena

25 Saturday

4pm. John Walko, Organ. Museum admission varies. LOH

26 Sunday

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

Looking Ahead

June

1 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. Museum admission varies. LOH

2 Sunday

4pm. Tom Winpenny, Organ. \$10 suggested donation. GC

4pm. Yuhan Niu, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

5pm. Evensong. Followed by organ recital by Ben Bachmann at 5:35pm. TESPE

8 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. Museum admission varies. LOH

9 Sunday

4pm. David Hatt & Christoph Tietze, Organ. Celebrating the 175th anniversary of Eugène Gigout. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

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

14 Friday

7pm. David Jaronowski, Organ. Tickets \$20; seniors/students \$15. Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

15 Saturday

4pm. John Walko, Organ. Museum admission varies. LOH

16 Sunday

4pm. Justan Foster, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

22 Saturday

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. Museum admission varies. LOH

23 Sunday

4pm. Cathedral Widor Festival. David Hatt, Organ. Symphony No. 1. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

29 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. Museum admission varies. LOH

30 Sunday

4pm. Jin Kyung Lim, Organ. Works for keyboard duet. Free parking. Freewill offering. **CSMA**

July

6 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. Museum admission varies. LOH

7 Sunday

4pm. Janet Yieh, Organ. \$10 suggested donation. GC

4pm. Cathedral Widor Festival. David Hatt, Organ. Symphony No. 7. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

13 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. Museum admission varies. LOH

14 Sunday

4pm. Pierre Zevort, Organ; with Augustin Zevort, Trumpet. French music for Bastille Day. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

20 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. Museum admission varies. LOH

21 Sunday

4pm. Cathedral Widor Festival. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. Symphony No. 8. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

27 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. Museum admission varies. LOH

28 Sunday

4pm. Mateusz Rzewuski, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

