

June / July 2019

The American Guild of Organists

San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

Dean's Column

by William Vaughan

My brother recently asked us siblings to come to his house in San Francisco to go through all the photo albums which he had held in storage following our parents' deaths in the 1990s. He and my sister had graciously sorted through the countless albums, so all I had to do was pick up the 30+ albums that were left for me. Mom loved taking pictures and she chronicled our adventures until her death in 1995. I now have albums dating from 1977 to 1994. Mom not only took pictures of family gatherings and friends I had invited over, but also many of the pipe organs I had played. She included concert and liturgical programs I had been a part of. Old memories quickly came alive, and it was humorous to see younger familiar faces, including my own. I had a delightful walk down memory lane while looking through those albums.

Nearing the end of my 3-year term as dean, I look back at the wonderful memories I've had since I started in July of 2016. I clearly recall the words Simon Berry spoke to me at Saints Peter and Paul as his term came to an end. I have enjoyed my time as dean. I managed to make time to squeeze in the many aspects required of running a chapter while also fulfilling my full-time job of executing a school and parish music program. I have tried my best to be creative with our chapter events. I have endeavored to create more hospitality at programs with minimal cost to our membership. I have attempted to get our chapter more into the digital age. The only discouraging part for me is that I could not get more members to attend our chapter events. I know we are all busy, but I learned a huge lesson as dean, and that is I need to make time to go to concerts and events to support our chapter, and to support the many of you who have your own concert series.

At the end of last April, I was invited to dedicate a new Rodgers pipe/digital organ at The Shrine of the Most Holy Redeemer in Las Vegas. It is a large Catholic church with excellent acoustics, so making music was very rewarding. The church is located behind the Luxor hotel — since everything on and off the Strip in Las Vegas is referenced by what famous hotel it is near on the Strip. I will never forget during one practice session, all of a sudden, I heard, "Bill, Bill," so I stopped. The secretary had come into the church to ask, "Are you going to play that piece in the concert?" I said, "Yes,"

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Prayers for Notre Dame Cathedral

by Angela Kraft Cross, AAGO

April 15, 2019. Tears throughout France and the world beyond began to flow as images of the iconic Notre Dame Cathedral ablaze saturated the internet. Adding to the despair were drone images showing aerial views of the cathedral, red with fire, presumably the entire length of the sanctuary. Our



Devastation following the April 15, 2019, fire at Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris

spirits crashed again and again with the repeating video loop of the falling spire. And many pointed out the irony that this amazing 850-year-old cathedral, which had escaped the devastation of many wars —

including the French revolution and both World Wars — would be leveled by a fire, perhaps related to the renovation work, during a mostly peaceful time. Hours later, fire fighters opened up the front doors of the cathedral and an extraordinary sense of relief grew as everyone realized that the bulk of the fire had been in the large attic, and that the main part of the sanctuary had indeed survived! Yes, the falling spire had collapsed through the roof and ceiling over the crossing, but miraculously, all three rose windows (as well as all the sanctuary stained glass windows) appeared to be intact.

► **Notre Dame, page 2**

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Submission deadline for the **August** issue is **July 10**

BOB KATES - R.I.P.

from Dave Schutt

I'm sad to tell you that Bob Kates passed away early this morning, May 5th. He was 94 years old. He died peacefully at home in San Francisco. I'm sure there are many Bay Area organ people who knew Bob. I'm sorry I don't have enough detail about this career to write a good obituary. No services are planned. Although I don't think he was a Nor-Cal ATOS member, he was a fine theater organist and a gifted musician in general.

From a post by Christian Elliott:

"He went to Grant Union High School in Sacramento (where he knew George Wright), was active both as a theatre and church organist, and partner in Swain & Kates who produced pipe organs in the Bay Area and Central Valley beginning in 1955. It was a privilege to enjoy his friendship. I'm going to miss him."



Bob Kates and Chris Elliott

Election Results

Dean – Susanne Rommel
Sub Dean – William Vaughan
Sub Dean Elect – James Smith

Our other board members will remain the same:

Secretary – Elizabeth Forsythe
Treasurer – Michael Page

Notre Dame, *from front page*

And the organists of the world rejoiced to see the beloved Notre Dame "grand orgue" safe in the tribune nestled up to its (western) rose window. (I believe it is inevitable that the choir organ up near the injured crossing did not fare as well, sustaining serious water damage.)

I have been very blessed to be able to perform two "auditions" (recitals) at Notre Dame, one in July 2005 and one last June 23. The organ truly has at its core the symphonic soul of Cavaillé-Coll but over time has been enlarged to have more of a neoclassical personality with many high mixtures and mutations that would have been foreign to Cavaillé-Coll's symphonic perception. The power of the instrument is indescribable, a bit like being surrounded by a wall of sound, which then luxuriates in 8 seconds of reverberation.



Angela Kraft Cross at the console at Notre Dame, June 2018

The "grand orgue" at Notre Dame originally dates back to 1401. It survived the French Revolution which vandalized and decimated so many organ lofts throughout France. Notre Dame's organ survival was credited to Claude Balbastre, who in 1792, wrote variations on The Marseillaise and played other patriotic music. In 1868, genius organ builder, Aristide Cavaillé-Coll, built the symphonic organ, incorporating many of the earlier organ's pipes, enlarging it to 86 ranks over 5 manuals and pedals. This organ had a lot in common with what we consider to be the authentic Cavaillé-Coll organs throughout France (tracker action with Barker lever/pneumatic assist) such as St Ouen, Rouen; St Sernin, Toulouse; St Sulpice, Paris; and St François-de-Sales, Lyon. Notre Dame organists have had the financial ability at their fingertips to modify this instrument through the years, especially Louis Vierne (1900–37) — modifications including electrifying the blower in 1924 — and Pierre Cochereau (1955–1984) — modification and enlargement including electrifying the action in the new console. In 1992 and again in 2011–14, there were complete restorations to rediscover and restore the Cavaillé-Coll symphonic sonorities, to preserve the stops from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and also further develop the neoclassical sounds of the "contemporary world." After the

► **Notre Dame, next page**

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

Notre Dame, *from previous page*

most recent renovations, the organ has 115 stops representing 156 ranks with over 8000 pipes. The most recent consoles have also been computerized, and when you perform there, a curator is your constant companion throughout the rehearsals and concert to work the computer!

Relief is enormous that this beautiful historical sacred space will live for future generations. Now we must be patient as it will be years, easily decades, for those who will stabilize the monumental Gothic building to do a careful analysis and reconstruction. On a visit in late April, we witnessed workmen on top of Notre Dame, on a Sunday afternoon, bolstering support in a perceived weak zone between the two rectangular towers, in the area that would be just above the organ. Also they had tarped the missing roof. An April 24th report states that Pascal Quoirin, who completed the most recent organ restoration, examined the "grand orgue" and outside of some dust, the organ escaped both the heat and water of the fire. Encouraged, we prayerfully await the next era of Notre Dame's ministry to once again be inspired by the sounds of her historic organ. ~

Dean's Column, *from page 1*

and she said, "Good, I love it." I have never had anyone on a church staff be so enthusiastic about a piece of music before. Sometimes they might come in and tell you the organ is too loud, but not this time. The piece was Dmitri Shostakovich's Waltz from his Jazz Suite. I was using the MIDI Soprano Saxophone with all the lush strings at 16', 8' and 4' I could get my hands on.

Before any concert, I like to walk around the church and talk to the people who have come: it puts me at ease to know who is there. The Shrine concert was no different for me. I went up to a group of 10 or so people who were seated close to the organ console. They were chapter members from Las Vegas. I spoke with many of them. I met their dean, and we even took a picture together at the console. I was thrilled to see that the chapter is alive, that many members go to concerts, and that they like each other — for they were all sitting together. There are only 55 members in the Las Vegas chapter. I must say, I long for that camaraderie in the San Francisco chapter, and we have 225+ members. How will we all support each other moving forward? ~

San Francisco Chapter American Guild of Organists
2019 – 2020 Season*

Bálint Karosi in Concert – Co-Sponsored with St. Mark’s Episcopal Church

Saturday, September 8, 2019, 4pm (after 3pm Evensong)
St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94704

Youth Organist’s Halloween Concert

Directed by Angela Kraft-Cross
Friday, October 25, 2019, 8pm
Congregational Church of San Mateo, 225 Tilton Avenue, San Mateo, CA 94401

Advent Lessons and Carols

Directed by Don Pearson
Sunday, December 1, 2019, 8pm
St. Ignatius of Antioch, 3351 Contra Loma Blvd, Antioch, CA 94509

David Briggs in Concert – 10th Anniversary of the Conroy Memorial Organ

Tuesday, January 7, 2020, 7:30pm
Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison Street, Oakland, CA 94612

Weicheng Zhao in Concert – Co-sponsored with Grace Cathedral

Sunday, January 12, 2020, 4pm
Grace Cathedral, 1100 California Street, San Francisco, CA 94108

Cathedral Hill Organ Crawl

(President’s Day) Monday, February 17, 2020, 10am
Organs of the Cathedral Hill, San Francisco

Piano and Organ: Angela Kraft Cross and Jerome Lenk – Co-sponsored with Mission Dolores Basilica

Sunday, March 8, 2020, 4pm
Mission Dolores Basilica, 3321 16th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114

Annual Dinner and Choral Concert – St. Mary the Virgin and St. Dominic’s Choirs

Directed by Simon Berry and Eric Choate
Monday, May 18 2020, 6:30 dinner, 7:30 concert
St. Dominic’s Catholic Church, 2390 Bush Street, San Francisco, CA 94115

* Start times might change and will be announced closer to the events

Steve's Corner

by Steve Repasky

The Gloucester Organ Album, edited by John Sanders.
Publisher: Novello, 1979.

The collection includes six pieces:

Allegretto by C. H. Lloyd

An Air composed for Holsworthy Church Bells by S S Wesley

Cloister-Garth by Herbert Brewer

The Chimes of Gloucester Cathedral by C Lee Williams

Procession from "Air, Berceuse and Procession" by Herbert Sumsion

and John Sanders's own Toccata, representing a procession of organists at Gloucester Cathedral from 1865 to 1994.

My favorite piece in this collection is Brewer's Cloister-Garth. The selections by Lloyd, Wesley, and Brewer are the only ones on IMSLP.



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](#)

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 **August** issue is **July 10**. Online listings available at: <https://www.sfago.org/classifieds>

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

EAST BAY - BAYSIDE

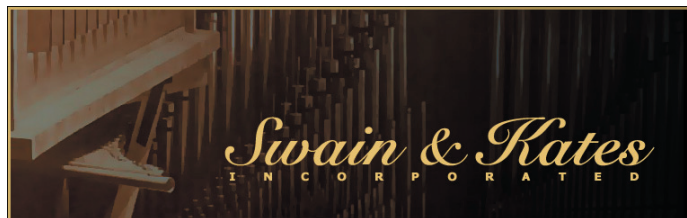
ORGANIST/ACCOMPANIST – First Covenant Church, 4000 Redwood Road, Oakland, CA

Duties include but are not limited to:

- Playing for Sunday services, special musical events and weekly choir rehearsals on both the organ and piano.
- A working knowledge of multi-cultural worship, music theory/education and skill in performance.
- Performance skills in both contemporary church music and classical repertoire on piano and our 3 manual, 30 rank Aeolian-Skinner organ

Part-time hourly position - \$35-45/hour (depending on experience and ability) Maximum of ten paid hours per week, including Sunday services, rehearsals and personal practice time. Two to three Sundays a month (except months that include a fifth Sunday); ten months per year. No benefits.

Contact: Pam Grove, choir@oaklandfcc.org



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Newsletter Departments: *Send your entries to the appropriate editor; all submissions are due by 10th of the month preceding publication*

Events Calendar Listings: Brian Swager, 415.551.7866, sfagocal@gmail.com
Job Placement & For Sale Listings: David Howitt, 510-437-0254, dhowitt@sjbalameda.org
Obituary Listings: William Vaughan, billyv32@gmail.com
Newsletter Articles & Paid Ads: George Morten, 209.565.6660, georgemorten.744@gmail.com

2018-2019
Last updated 04/09/2019

Bay Area Concert Calendar

Collected by Brian Swager

2019 June / July

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 August issue is **July 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

ECI: Episcopal Ch of the Incarnation

GC: Grace Cathedral

LOH: Legion of Honor Museum

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

TESPE: Trinity & St Peter's Episcopal Ch

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. ECI [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

Looking Ahead

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

August

3 Saturday

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

4 Sunday

4pm. Paul Stubbings, Organ. \$10 suggested donation. GC

10 Saturday

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

17 Saturday

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

24 Saturday

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

31 Saturday

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

Have a good and safe summer.

Next newsletter will be the August issue.