September 2019

The American Guild of Organists

San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

Dean's Message

by Susanne Rommel

oilà: As your new dean, I owe you an introduction and I will introduce myself to you momentarily. Just hold on for a little bit, as I want to start with acknowledging many people I had the pleasure of working with during the last season. First of all, I want to thank everyone who served with me on the board during 2018-2019 (Bill, Eric, Liz, Michael, Pat, Chris and John) for their great leadership and collaboration. As a new member, I felt immediately welcome and enjoyed each of our meetings and encounters. Also, I want to thank Eric Choate for serving as the sub dean last season. Eric brought excellent perspectives into our discussions, and it was fun prepping for our SFAGO social gatherings together. For this season, Eric decided to step down and I wish him best of success in his future endeavors. Much of my gratitude goes to Bill Vaughan, who served as dean for the last three years. His dedication and excellence are truly exceptional. There is a lot I am looking forward to learning from Bill. Thankfully, he will continue to serve on the board as sub dean, giving me plenty of opportunity to learn from him. And last but not least, I want to extend a warm welcome to James Smith who will serve as sub dean elect: What a great addition to the board. Welcome, James!

Next, I want to introduce myself. The easiest way would be to use the Bio I had just submitted for a 'Women in Leadership' event in August, where I served as one of the few women leader panelists. Such an introduction would read similar to: I am currently Executive Director, Quality at Gilead for Commercial Products and Quality Systems leading a team of approx. 40 quality professionals overseeing global operations. My career started as an Artificial Intelligence data scientist at Bayer in Germany after I earned my Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics and my Master degree in Biology from the University of Hamburg, Germany. After moving to the U.S. I extended my studies and also received an MBA from Santa Clara University.

I am especially fond of my family: I met my husband Michael



when studying at the University of Hamburg in the late 90s. We have been married for 20 years and have two boys, Jan 14 and Tim 12 years old. For more than 14 years, we have lived in the Oakland Hills, enjoy-

➤ Dean's Message, page 6

September Event

from Susanne Rommel and George Emblom

Bálint Karosi in Concert

Co-Sponsored with St Mark's Episcopal Church

Sunday, September 8, 2019 4 pm — after 3 pm Evensong

5 pm — Festive Reception and Used Music available for free!

St Mark's Episcopal Church 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94704

Concert Program:

Praeludium in A Major BuxWV 151

Dieterich Buxtehude, 1637-1707

Vintage (2019, US Premier) Gianluca Verlingieri, b. 1976

Prelude and Fugue in G Major BWV 550

Von Gott will ich nicht lassen BWV 658 J. S. Bach, 1685–1750

Prelude and Fugue in G

Chorale prelude on "Amazing Grace" Bálint Karosi, b. 1979

Salamanca Guy Bovet, b. 1942

Improvisation on a submitted hymn tune Bálint Karosi

Toccata, Adagio and Fugue in E Major BWV 564 J. S. Bach

➤ September Event, page 6

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Submission deadline for the October issue is September 10

Report from the SFAGO Special Projects Committee

by John Karl Hirten, Chair (2018-2019)

The financial success of the 1984 National Convention of the American Guild of Organists hosted and organized by the San Francisco Chapter led to the establishment of a special fund administered by an independent committee. The purpose of this Committee was and continues to be to award grants to worthwhile individuals and organizations for special projects which further the cause of the organ and its music. The Committee typically meets three times a year to consider grant applications and funding.

This past fiscal year, the Special Projects Committee received several grant applications, and was able to grant full or partial requests to the following individuals and organizations:

- \$2,000.00 to the Orange County Chapter AGO towards the costs associated with their Regional Convention this past July.
- \$1,000.00 to the San Francisco Peninsula Organ Academy. The Academy, directed by Angela Kraft-Cross, seeks to offer scholarships to young organ students to offset costs for study in France. This particular grant helped two local teenaged organists to do just that.
- \$1,000.00 to Wyatt Smith towards the commissioning of a new song cycle for organ and mezzo-soprano buy Craig Phillips.
- \$1,000.00 to Christopher Holman towards a project to make the first commercial recording of Swiss Renaissance keyboard music on the historic 1435 organ in Sion, Switzerland.
- * \$1,000.00 to Rhonda Sider Edgington towards a series of concerts of new music for organ, marimba, and Taiko drums, including a commissioned work by Carson Cooman for organ and percussion.
- \$1,000.00 to the Cape Cod Chapter AGO towards the costs associated with their Pipe Organ Encounter this past June.
- \$3,000.00 to the Organ Historical Society towards the costs associated with their upcoming symposium, The Symphonic Organ at Stoneleigh: An Aeolian-Skinner Celebration.

There are more than a few individuals who have contributed funds to the SPC via the Chapter this past year, who hopefully have all been acknowledged, but I want to reserve special thanks and acknowledgement to Oscar Burdick, a long-time chapter member, who contributed \$6,500.00 last October as part of a bequest to the fund by his late wife, Dora (also a long-time and valued member). We truly could not have even come close to the awards we made this year without that help!

The Committee members are Natsuko Murayama and Stephan Repasky (serving from 2018 through Spring 2020), Jason Jia and Larry Marietta (serving from 2019 to Spring 2021) and Terry O'Connor, who takes my place as I cycle off the Committee. His tenure continues through Spring 2022. It has been my pleasure to serve on the Committee these past three years.

An Invitation from the PUC Church

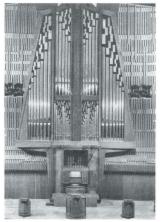
for you to join us:

An afternoon Hymn Sing Festival

with special musical numbers featuring our Rieger Organ

September 21, 2019 4:00 pm

Reception following in the Fireside Room.



Few people fail to find beauty in the world of music, whether it be in the lilting song of the flute, the majestic roar of the timpani, or the mellow tones of the guitar. Music soothes and relieves us, and the Rieger organ at Pacific Union College is an instrument dedicated to the promotion of peace, beauty, and praise within the walls of the Pacific Union College sanctuary.

Constructed in Schwarzach, Austria, the Rieger is made of African mahogany, Austrian

spruce, ivory and ebony, and uses steel I beams for internal support. As well as being a visual masterpiece, the Rieger is an audial showcase making use of fifty-eight stops, eight couplers, and eight combination stops.

The most magnificent feature of the Rieger organ at the Pacific Union College Church, however, is not its case, nor its stops, but its unique contribution to the worship and praise of God in His sanctuary.

Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord in His sanctuary;
Praise Him with trumpet sound;
Praise Him with lute and harp!
Praise Him with strings and pipes!
Praise the Lord!

Psalm 150:1,3,4



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
Alan C. Black
Jeanette Cool
Charles Corum
Francis M. Cummings
Steven C. Gray
Jud Hammon
Joe E. McClain
Natsuko Murayama

Terry M. O'Connor Marian E. Ott Steven R. Rausch Father Robert K. Rien W. Wayne Ritchie Gary C. Toops Jon Townsend Vlada Volkova-Moran

SFAGO International Mailing Donations

The SFAGO thanks the following people for their 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 Josephine Bennington Jeanette Cool Joseph A. Hansen Natsuko Murayama Helen Pereira Gary C. Toops 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 M. Agraz Thomas Flesher Father Robert K. Rien Susanne Rommel Christoph Tietze John Walko Timothy Zerlang

Clarion (\$100-\$249)

Clara J. Co
Charles Corum
Gregory S. DeSantis
Elizabeth H. Forsyth
Jud Hammon
Angela Kraft Cross
Larry H. Marietta
James Martin
Natsuko Murayama
W. Wayne Ritchie
Allen G. Schell
Jon Townsend
William L. Vaughan
William A. Visscher

Hautbois (\$50-\$99)

Josephine Bennington Gary W. Jennings Reiko Oda Lane Stephen Luzmoor Helen Pereira Gary C. Toops

Krummhorn (\$25-\$49)

Alan C. Black
Gail M. Burnett
Leilani Camara
Jeanette Cool
Robert H. Douglass
Joseph A. Hansen
Christopher Keady
Martin A. Lilley
Terry M. O'Connor
Marian E. Ott
Vlada Volkova-Moran

Vox Humana (\$1-\$24)

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. September 2018 – August 2019

San Francisco Chapter American Guild of Organists

2019 - 2020 Season*

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

Sunday, 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, 4pm 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

First Sundays at Trinity Evensong and Organ Recital Series Fall 2019

September 1, 5:00 pm - Robert Gurney

Labor Day Pops Concert: Music of Copland and Gershwin

October 6, 5:00 pm - Robert Gurney

Music of Cesar Franck and Louis Vierne

November 3, 5:00 pm - Choral Evensong

The Choir of Trinity+St. Peter's followed by

Organ Recital by Chase Olson at 5:30 pm

student of Angela Kraft-Cross

December 1, 5:00 pm - Organ Recital

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

The Rev. Kyle Oliver, Presider; Robert Gurney, Director of Music

R.I.P. Douglas Franks

from Michael Page

Douglas Franks passed away on July 3rd.

A memorial service will be held sometime in September.

No other details are known at this time.

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

September Event, from front page

About Our Performer

Dr Bálint Karosi is the recipient of the Charles Ives Scholarship for composition by the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the first prize of the 16th International Bach Competition in Leipzig, Germany. His compositions have been performed by the Budapest Philharmonic Orchestra, the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, Spectrum Symphony of New York, the New Hungarian Music Society (UMZE), Musiciens Libres, the Miskolc Symphony Orchestra, Anima Musica Chamber Orchestra, Antico Moderno, the Norfolk Festival Chorus, the Yale Philharmonia Orchestra. Canto Armonico and the Boston Choral Ensemble. He composed three concertos for organ, concertos for harpsichord, clarinet, baroque violins, a triple concerto for harp, cimbalom and guitar, works for solo organ, choir, three cantatas and works ranging from full symphony orchestra to solo and chamber music.

As an organist, Dr Karosi has performed at Saint Sulpice in Paris, the Saint Thomas Church and Gewandhaus in Leipzig, the St Petri Dom in Bremen, at Izumi Hall in Osaka and Minato Mirai Hall in Yokohama. He is noted for his organ improvisations; he has given masterclasses in improvisation and performance practice in South Korea, Italy, Hungary and across the United States. He has five CDs, including his own orchestral compositions, J.S. Bach's Art of Fugue and Clavier-übung III, released by Hungaroton.

Bálint currently serves as Cantor at Saint Peter's Lutheran Church in midtown Manhattan, where he directs the classical music program with frequent performances of cantatas on period instruments, including a yearly performance of one of J. S. Bach's passions on Good Friday. Previously, Bálint served as Minister of Music at the First Lutheran Church of Boston, where he established a Bach Cantata Vespers series and cofounded the annual Boston Bach Birthday.

Bálint studied at the Liszt Academy in Budapest, the Conservatoire de Genève, the Oberlin Conservatory, and earned his Doctor of Musical Arts in Composition at Yale University. His composition teachers were Martin Bresnick, Christopher Theofanidis and Aaron Jay Kernis.

https://www.youtube.com/user/vizipokor www.karosi.org

Organ Music Available

Organ music that has been donated to the Chapter will be available for the taking at this event.

Dean's Message, from front page

ing especially the Redwood Regional Park as our 'extended backyard'. We hold strong bonds to Germany, regularly visiting our family members there. We just got back from an extended stay at my mom's place in Bad Reichenhall, which is only ten miles away from Salzburg, Austria, where Mozart was born.

Music has always played an important role in our family. I was organist in Hamburg, Germany (St Paulus in Billstedt and St Joseph in Wandsbek) between 1989 and 2001 and earned an organist C-Schein during that time. Both of our children started playing piano and singing in the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir at a young age.

Lastly, I want to share an additional motivation to serve as dean. From the corporate world in the pharmaceutical industry, I learned the benefits of aligned core values. In my company, three of these core values are Teamwork, Excellence and Inclusion. What motivates me about serving as dean relates to these core values: Our chapter is based on teamwork, as we are all in this together providing a forum for mutual support, inspiration, and education. We are a center of excellence and our purpose is to encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music. And we are a diverse group of members, with the expected benefits of enhanced creativity and increased idea generation. Working in such an environment makes me excited for the season to start.

And the start of our season is just around the corner: I hope to meet you all at our opening concert on Sunday, September 8, 4:00pm (after 3:00 pm Evensong) at St Mark's Episcopal Church in Berkeley. A big thank you



goes to George Emblom for co-sponsoring this event: Bálint Karosi, Composer, Organist and Cantor at St Peter's Lutheran Church in New York City has created an exciting program for us, with works of Buxtehude, Verlingieri, Bach, Bovet and Karosi. I am much looking forward to this concert; see you there and at the reception that will follow it!

Richard Purvis, Organist of Grace

from James Welch

Tames Welch is pleased to announce that his biography Richard Purvis, Organist of Grace, is now available both as a print book and a Kindle eBook. For details, please visit https://www.amazon.com/dp/Bo7VY5F2XW.

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 **October** issue is **September 10.** Online listings available at: https://www.sfago.org/classifieds

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

SAN FRANCISCO

VOLUNTEER ORGANIST – *St Luke Chapel, California Pacific Medical Center* is wanted to play the organ on a regular basis. For more information and to request photos of the organ please contact Susuan Leeds, Program Coordinator CPMC Department of Spiritual Care. Please email at **leedss@sutterhealth.org**

EAST BAY - INLAND

ORGANIST AND CHOIR ACCOMPANIST – Faith Lutheran Church, 50 Woodsworth Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 is seeking an organist/pianist to play a prelude, offertory, postlude, hymns and service music for the Sunday, 9:00 am worship service. Also the organist/pianist will accompany the choir and/or soloists during the service followed by a 10:30 am choir rehearsal. The candidate shall demonstrate proficiency on a fine Bosch two-manual tracker action organ and the salary will be based on said proficiency and experience. Please contact Pastor Tim Roggow at pastor@welcome2faith.com or contact the church office at 925.685.7353.

EAST BAY - SOUTH

MUSIC DIRECTOR AND ORGANIST - Faith Lutheran Church, 20080 Redwood Road, Castro Valley 94546. seeks a qualified person to provide musical leadership and creative vision to Faith's dynamic music and worship ministries. Experience in choral directing, bell choir, organ, and piano performance and accompaniment is desired. II/34 Balcom & Vaughan pipe organ (stop list available www. flccv.org), Yamaha C7 grand piano, four octave set of Malmark handbells. Full-time or part-time negotiable with compensation commensurate with applicant's experience and skill set. The Music Director is a paid staff person under the direct supervision of the Pastor. Faith has a diverse and blended worship style rooted in Lutheran heritage and based on Lutheran theology following the liturgical calendar. For a more detailed job description please contact the Parish Administrator, Angelina Trujillo at parishadministrator@ flccv.org or the SFAGO Job Placement coordinator, David Howitt at dhowitt@sjbalameda.org.

Steve's Organ Lit Corner by Steve Repasky 80 Chorale Preludes: German Masters of the 17th

AND 18TH CENTURIES,

edited by Hermann Keller, Edition Peters no. 4448.

This is a very essential book for the church organist's repertoire. It includes 80 German hymn-based preludes by various composers: Walther, Zachau, Vetter, Pachelbel, J.C. Bach, Krebs, Scheidt and more. They are written for both manuals only, many with pedals. It was gathered to supplement **45 CHORALE PRELUDES OF THE OLD MASTERS**, edited by Karl Straube, Edition Peters no. 3048. Order both now.



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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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

Bay Area Concert Calendar

Collected by Brian Swager

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 **October** issue is **September 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.

CACK: Ch. of the Advent of Christ the King **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 TESPE: Trinity & St Peter's Episcopal Ch

September

1 Sunday

4pm. Christoph Tietze, Organ. Cathedral Widor Festival. *Third Symphony*. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

5pm. Robert Gurney, Organ. Labor Day Pops Concert. Music of Copland & Gershwin. Freewill offering. TESPE

7 Saturday

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

8 Sunday

4pm. *SFAGO EVENT* Bálint Karosi, Organ. Preceded by Evensong at 3pm. Freewill offering. Reception follows. SME-B

4pm. John Karl Hirten, Organ. Cathedral Widor Festival. *Symphonie gothique*. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Chase Olson, Organ. \$10 suggested donation. MDB

14 Saturday

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

15 Sunday

4pm. Ugo Sfórza, Organ. Cathedral Widor Festival. *Sixth Symphony*. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

21 Saturday

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

22 Sunday

4pm. Domenico Severin, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

28 Saturday

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

29 Sunday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. Cathedral Widor Festival. *Fifth Symphony*. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

Looking Ahead

October

5 Saturday

8pm. Ars Minerva: operatic vignettes celebrating women of the Mediterranean. Tickets (\$25-\$45) and info at eventbrite.com World Cultural Center, 906 Broadway

6 Sunday

4pm. Nicholas Capozzoli, Organ. \$10 suggested donation. GC

5pm. Robert Gurney, Organ. Music of Franck & Vierne. Freewill offering. TESPE

9 Wednesday

7:30pm. James Welch, Organ. \$10. Stanford Memorial Church, Stanford

13 Sunday

4pm. Marek Kudlicki, Organ. Preceded by Evensong at 3pm. Freewill offering. Reception follows. SME-B

4pm. Jerome Lenk, Organ. Music of JS Bach. 30th anniversary as Basilica organist. \$10 suggested donation. MDB

20 Sunday

3pm. Paul Jacobs, Organ. Music of Bach, Mozart, Ives, and Vierne. Tickets: sfsymphony. org Davies Symphony Hall

4pm. Solemn Evensong & Benediction for Pentecost XIX. Schola Adventus; Paul M Ellison, Director. Music of Howells, Smith, Stanford, and Vale. Reception follows. CACK

25 Friday

8pm. SFAGO EVENT Youth Organists' Halloween Concert. Congregational Church of San Mateo

26 Saturday

7pm. James Welch, Organ. Halloween Concert. \$10. St Mark's Episcopal Church, Palo Alto

November

1 Friday

6:30pm. Procession & High Mass for the Feast of All Saints. Schola Adventus; Paul M Ellison, Director. Music of Bach, Harris, Victoria, and Willan. Reception follows. CACK

2 Saturday

6:30pm. High Latin Mass of Requiem for the Solemnity of All Souls. Schola Adventus; Paul M Ellison, Director. Gregorian chants including Dies irae. Reception follows. CACK

3 Sunday

4pm. Benjamin Sheen, Organ. \$10 suggested donation. GC

5pm. Evensong. Organ recital by Chase Olson follows at 5:30. Freewill offering. TESPE

10 Sunday

4pm. Amanda Mole, Organ. Preceded by Evensong at 3pm. Freewill offering. Reception follows. SME-B

4pm. Eric Choate, Organ. \$10 suggested donation. MDB

December

1 Sunday

8pm. *SFAGO EVENT* Advent Lessons & Carols. Don Pearson, Director. St Ignatius of Antioch Catholic Church, Antioch

8 Sunday

4pm. Emma Whitten, Organ. Preceded by Evensong at 3pm. Freewill offering. Reception follows. SME-B

