December 2019

Dean's Message

by Susanne Rommel, Dean

On the Friday night before Halloween, the 25th of October at 8pm, we gathered for the Youth Organist's Halloween Concert directed by Angela Kraft Cross at the Congregational Church of San Mateo. It was truly an amazing concert and I am glad that many came!

Upon entering the church from the dark outside, we were pulled into a spooky Halloween scene, with candles in candle stands, a chain of lights and luminous pumpkins.



Seven young organists, ranging from 12 to 17 years in age and covering different levels, played a variety of pieces in minor keys:

Toccata and Fugue in D mine Cornopean Cat	or Johann Sebastian Bach
Prelude in E minor Ghoula Tune w J.S. RassBach	Johann Sebastian Bach /ith sincere apologies to C.S. Lang
Toccata from Suite Gothique Harry Potter	e Léon Boëllmann
Fugue in G minor The Green Reaper	Johann Sebastian Bach
Toccata in B minor Houdini of the Harmonium	Eugene Gigout
Tu es Petra (Thou Art the Ro Phantom of the Casavant	ock) Henri Mulet
Symphonie 1 in D minor: 1. F Count Chasula	Prelude Louis Vierne
Fantasie and Fugue in G mir Detective Diapason	or Johann Sebastian Bach
Symphonie 2 in E minor: Fin Phantom of the Casavant	nal Louis Vierne

It was an absolute pleasure to see these young organists perform with focused energy and enthusiasm. And it was a great testimony that the future is bright for our Bay area chapters. There is great talent in the 'organ pipe-line':

"Cornopean Cat" Nataly Pak (16) is a junior at Leigh High School in San Jose. She has studied piano for six years and has been studying organ with Angela Kraft Cross since this February. Music is her favorite subject.

"JS RassBach" Isaiah Rassbach (12) is a seventh grader at Hillview Middle School in Menlo Park where History and French are his favorite subjects. He has been studying organ with Angela Kraft Cross for a year. He also enjoys skiing, biking and scouts.

"Harry Potter" Tim Warncke (12) is a seventh grader at Assumption School in San Leandro and has been studying organ for three and a half years there with Bill Vaughan. He also enjoys running cross country, soccer and snowboarding.

"The Green Reaper" Edward Lee (14) is a freshman at Summit Denali High School in Sunnyvale where he enjoys writing and all things math and science! He has been studying the organ with Angela Kraft Cross for three months.

"Houdini of the Harmonium" Nathan Chi (15) is a homeschooled sophomore from Cupertino who plays violin, cello and piano, in addition to studying organ for the past three years with Angela Kraft Cross. He recently won first place in the National Junior Horticulture Association as part of the California 4-H state delegation.

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Submission deadline for the January issue is December 20

Newsletter Mailing

by Susanne Rommel, Dean

A fter many, many years of serving the Chapter as Mailing Coordinator (whose duties include sending the monthly newsletter to our members via US mail), Steve Wallace has decided to step down as of January 1, 2020.

With Steve stepping down, the board has looked carefully into the different options how to best manage this change. In the evaluation of the different options the two guiding principles were:

- Access: Every SFAGO member must receive the monthly newsletter, either as hardcopy or attached to email.
- **Our mission**: We are here to promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles, to encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music, and to provide a forum for mutual support, inspiration, education, and certification of guild members.

With these two guiding principles in mind, the board has decided that starting January 1, 2020, we will send a hardcopy of the newsletter to those members who do not have email associated with their membership, while we continue to send an email with the newsletter linked to it to all members who have email associated with their membership. This will ensure that every SFAGO member receives the newsletter either as hardcopy or linked to email.

Secondly, we will discontinue printing the newsletter at the printing company and instead we will print a color version of the newsletter locally at low cost. This hardcopy will be mailed to those members who do not have email associated with their membership. With this change we will be saving significant money currently spent on the printing company's service as well as on envelopes, printing and stamps. This money will be better used supporting our mission, for example in other areas like programing, hospitality and the website.

We are very glad that we found a solution that is best aligned with our two guiding principles for this decision. Please join me in thanking Steve for his strong commitment and service to our chapter throughout all these years and wishing him all the best for his future!



Steve's Organ Lit Corner

by Steve Repasky

Two PSALM BASED organ books.

Laudate Dominum Suite by Peter Hurford, Oxford Univ. Press, 1961

- l. Processional, based on Psalm 93:1-3
- II. Ronda da chiesa, based on Psalm 100:1
- III. Meditation, based on Psalm 42:1
- IV. Scherzo, based on Psalm 149:2–3
- V. French carol, based on Psalm 128:104
- VI. Exurgat Deus, based on Psalm 68:1-3.

These six delightful pieces are short essays based on psalm verses. They range from one-page to four-page compositions. I often use movement 3, which features Flute & Oboe solos in dialogue with a lush bed of string sounds, as a prelude. Movement 1 is a commanding piece as the Brits say, with 'marching crochets" and strict four-bar phrases. This first movement march makes a concise postlude.

Three Liturgical Improvisations by George Oldroyd, on IMSLP.

No. 1, based on psalm verse 84:2; no. 2, based on 91:1 and Conditor Alme Siderum; no. 3, based on Verbum Supernum Prodiens.

Upcoming Chapter Programs

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

Robert McCormick in Concert – Co-sponsored with Grace Cathedral

Sunday, January 26, 2020, 4pm Grace Cathedral, 1100 California Street, San Francisco, CA 94108

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 Larry D. Crummer Francis M. Cummings Jud Hammon Joseph A. Hansen David R. Howitt Joe E. McClain Lilyane M. Moulton Natsuko Murayama Terry M. O'Connor Francis B. Oliveira Marian E. Ott Steven R. Rausch Father Robert K. Rien W. Wayne Ritchie Gary C. Toops Jon Townsend Vlada Volkova-Moran Art West

SFAGO Special Projects Donations

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

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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.

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Alan C. Black Nadia Blank-Koliha Jeanette Cool Robert H. Douglass Bradley Green Robert C. Gurney Christopher Keady Martin A. Lilley Marian E. Ott Vlada Volkova-Moran

Vox Humana (\$1-\$24)

Joseph A. Hansen Patricia L. Harre Terry M. O'Connor

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. November 2018 – November 2019

Dean's Message, from front page

"Count Chasula" Chase Olson (16) is a junior at Terra Linda High School in San Rafael and has studied organ ever since his thirteenth birthday with Angela Kraft Cross and studies piano with Dr. William Wellborn in SF. He is the Organ Scholar at The Congregational Church of San Mateo. He has played concerts in Carmel, Salinas, Reno, as well as St Mary's Cathedral in SF. Last winter he was an SFPOA scholarship recipient and took an intensive organ study trip to Paris and Lyon. He aspires to be a medical doctor as well as a concert organist and pianist.

"Detective Diapason" Ryan Chi (17) is a home-schooled senior in high school in Cupertino. He has studied organ with Angela Kraft Cross ever since the Stanford Pipe Organ Encounter in August 2016. He was the winner of the AGO/Quimby competition in Palo Alto this past spring and placed second in the regional competition at the AGO Orange County Convention, by far the youngest and the only competitor in high school. He also plays piano, cello and violin! He also loves his sciences and recently placed fourth in the National Junior Horticulture Association honors division!

"Phantom of the Casavant" Angela Kraft Cross has served the Congregational Church of San Mateo since 1993 as organist and now is Artist-in-Residence. She enjoys an international performing career as well as teaching promising young organists! She retired as an ophthalmic surgeon from Kaiser Redwood City in 2011 after 22 years and now volunteers in the Samaritan House Eye Clinics! She also loves to compose! She is the Founding Director of the San Francisco Peninsula Organ Academy which sponsors concert-level organists in overseas intensive study trips.



There were very special moments throughout the concert: Everyone in the audience was amazed, when they realized that Nathan Chi, alias Houdini of the Harmonium, had played the Toccata in B minor from Eugene Gigout with a rabbit under his huge hat. He revealed the rabbit during the applause of the audience. Can you image not only performing with this huge hat (see picture), but then also keeping a stuffed animal under it throughout the performance? And Ryan Chi, alias Detective Diapason and second prize winner in the Regional

A Word from the Editor

by George Morten

his is the last print edition of the monthly newsletter. Starting with the January 2020 edition, the newsletter will be produced digitally as a PDF only.

Readers will notice two changes: more color will be used throughout, and the newsletter may consist of an odd number of pages. This latter change means that more information can be included each month without concern for blank pages.

The submission deadline for all material is being extended by ten days to the 20th of each month **on a trial basis**. The deadline for receipt of material is clearly stated at the bottom right on the front page, in the headings for Classified Ads and Concert Calendar, and in the Information Box of every issue.

Happy New Year!

AGO Quimby competition, played Bach's Fantasia and Fugue in G minor with a big pipe in his pocket, which he also revealed during the applause of the audience.

The youngest performer, Isaiah Rassbach, alias J.S. RassBach, (what a name for a young organist!) resembled the oldest character with a white wig and cozy coat.

A big thank you goes to Angela Kraft Cross for directing this remarkable annual Halloween Youth Concert for the 6th time. I will definitely not miss next year's concert and have marked the 30th of October 2020 already in my calendar.



But next up in our program, I hope to see everyone at our two January concerts with renowned concert organists: David Briggs on 7th of January at the Cathedral of Christ the Light, and Robert McCormick on January 26th at Grace Cathedral.

I wish you and your family Happy Hanukkah and Merry Christmas!



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. Submission deadline for the **January** issue is **December 20.** Online listings available at: https://www.sfago.org/classifieds

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

EAST BAY - INLAND

St. Francis of Assisi Anglican Church, 193 Contractors Street, Livermore, CA 94551, is seeking an organist to play hymns, service music and other appropriate music for a Sunday service. Two manual Rodgers digital organ with an additional digital sound module in a lively acoustical space. Salary depends on skills and experience. For further information and/or to apply, please contact Father Benjamin Brown at 925-455-5359.

North Bay

Community Presbyterian Church, 2800 Georgia Street, Vallejo, CA 94951 seeks a part-time collaborative keyboard player. Under the leadership of the Director of Music the keyboard player (piano and organ) will accompany the choir, congregational hymns and play solo pieces. Weekly choir rehearsal on Wednesday evenings, 7:30–9:00 pm and on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am with the service following at 10:00 am. For more information and/or to apply please contact the music director, Michael Reilly at michaelreilly.cpc@gmail.com or the church office at 707-643-3222.

Reno, Nevada

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 200 Island Avenue, Reno, NV 89501 is seeking a full-time Organist/Choirmaster. The position is responsible for two Sunday services: 9:00 am Family Service, and 11:00 am Choral Eucharist Mass; and for services during Advent, Holy Week and other specal services. Three manual, 37 rank Casavant organ with an additional 8 ranks of Walker electronics. In addition, following a renovation to begin in 2020, a 7 rank Cook tracker action organ will be installed in the Bishop Lewis Chapel. Other music programs at the cathedral includes the "Pipes on the River" with two recitals a month and ARTOWN, a comprehensive arts festival.

A complete job description is available on the cathedral website, www.trinityreno.org. Click the music link at the top of the page and then, "Concert Choirs and the Organ" and scroll down the page. Interested applicants are invited to send a resume and cover letter to Trinity Cathedral, attention: Music Search Committee, P.O. Box 2246, Reno, NV 89501 by January 31, 2020. Interviews/auditions are planned for February, 2020. Email address is info@trinityReno.org.

CLASSIFIEDS

FREE to a good home: 1945 era Wurlitzer Orgatron Series 20 organ with tone cabinets. Physically in good condition but will require some internal refurbishment, last operational roughly 20 years ago. Was originally in the Reedley Methodist Church, but stored in a climate controlled home since mid 1960's. Free to a good home or museum, but you will need to provide transportation. Will Belknap, belknapw@ pacbell.net, 408-838-9227 cell

December SFAGO Event

Advent Lessons and Carols directed by Don Pearson Sunday, December 1, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. St Ignatius of Antioch Catholic Church 3351 Contra Loma Blvd., Antioch, CA 94509

- Free shuttle from Antioch Bart station starting at 2:30pm, leaving every 15 minutes to St. Ignatius of Antioch
- A sign stating "SF AGO" will be posted at the Bart station at the location where the shuttle will leave
- Splendid reception following the Advent Lessons and Carols
- Shuttle will continue to run back to Antioch Bart station for at least on hour after the Lessons and Carols

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 20th of the month preceding publication.

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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 **January** issue is **December 20**. Send event listings to sfagocal@gmail.com. **Please include admission charge, as events are free of charge unless otherwise indicated**. 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
- CCL-O: Cath. of Christ the Light, Oakland

CSMA: Cath. of St Mary of the Assumption **GC**: Grace Cathedral

- 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

December

1 Sunday

4pm. *SFAGO EVENT* Advent Lessons & Carols. Don Pearson, Director. St Ignatius of Antioch Catholic Church, Antioch

4pm. An Advent Liturgy: Candlelit Procession with Lessons & Carols for Advent Sunday. Schola Adventus; Paul M Ellison, Director; George Anton Emblom, Organ. Music of Bach, Britten, Joubert, Hands, Messiaen, and Palestrina. Festive reception follows. CACK

4pm. Main Street Singers. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

5pm. Robert Gurney, Organ. Music of JS Bach and Gigout. Freewill offering. TESPE

5:30pm. Advent Procession. Cathedral Camerata; Rudy de Vos, Director. Music of Batten, Palestrina, Distler, Gabriel Jackson, and Malcolm Archer. Freewill offering. CCL-O

7 Saturday

5pm. Advent Lessons & Carols. Choir of St Paul's; Susan Jane Matthews, Director. Melissa Dunphy *O Oriens*; Ēriks Ešenvalds *Magnificat*; Stephen Cleobury *Joys Seven*. Christmas CD Release Party at Reception: *Searching for Stars* SPE-BU

8 Sunday

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

4pm. Advent Lessons & Carols. Choirs of St Mary's Cathedral & St Mark's Lutheran Church. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Lessons & Carols for Advent & Christmas. Choirs of St John the Evangelist Episcopal Church and St Francis Lutheran Church. Reception follows. St Francis Lutheran Church

14 Saturday

3pm. A Cathedral Christmas. Cathedral Choir of Men & Boys. \$15–70. GC

15 Sunday

3pm. A Cathedral Christmas. Cathedral Choir of Men & Boys. \$15–70. GC

4pm. Solemn Evensong & Benediction for Advent III. Schola Adventus; Paul M Ellison, Director. Music of Byrd, Gibbons, Tallis, and Tomkins. Reception follows. CACK

4pm. Vytenis Vasyliunas, Organ. Percy Whitlock: *Sonata*. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Christmas Concert. Choir of St Paul's, Chamber Orchestra & Organ. Chiara Cozzolani *Magnificat;* Antonio Vivaldi *Gloria.* Tickets on sale in November. SPE-BU

17 Tuesday

7:30pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. Messiaen: *La Nativité*. Freewill offering. CCL-O

20 Friday 7pm. A Cathedral Christmas. Cathedral Choir of Men & Boys. \$15–70. GC

21 Saturday

3pm. A Cathedral Christmas. Cathedral Choir of Men & Boys. \$15–70. GC

22 Sunday

3pm. A Cathedral Christmas. Cathedral Choir of Men & Boys. \$15–70. GC

3pm. Christmas Concert. Brentwood Community Chorus; Susan Stuart, Director. Freewill offering. Reception follows. St Ignatius of Antioch Church, Antioch

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

24 Tuesday 4pm. Christmas Lessons & Carols. Cathedral Choir of Men & Boys. GC

29 Sunday

4pm. Raymond Hawkins, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

Looking Ahead

January 2020

5 Sunday 3pm. Jens Korndörfer, Organ. Music of Reger, Bach, Thalben-Ball, Foote, Decker, Dupré, Aubertin, and Guilmant. Tickets: sfsymphony. org Davies Symphony Hall **4pm**. Epiphany Lessons & Carols. St Brigid School Honor Choir and Golden Gate Boyschoir and Bellringers. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

7 Tuesday

7:30pm. SFAGO EVENT David Briggs, Organ. CCL-O

8 Wednesday

7:30pm. "Songs of Trial and Hope" 21stcentury music in a 21st-century cathedral. Cathedral Camerata and Choir of Men & Boys; Rudy de Vos, Director. Music of Frank La Rocca, Arvo Pärt, Philip Stopford, and David Briggs: *Requiem.* \$20 CCL-O

12 Sunday

4pm. Thomas Fielding, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

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

19 Sunday

4pm. Cavatina Chamber Ensemble. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

25 Saturday

5pm. Choral Evensong for the Conversion of St Paul. Choir of St Paul's; Susan Jane Matthews, Director. Herbert Howells *St Paul's Service*; Henry Purcell *Thy word is a lantern*. SPE-BU

26 Sunday

4pm. **SFAGO EVENT** Robert McCormick, Organ. \$10 suggested donation. GC

February

9 Sunday

4pm. Christopher Keady, Organ. \$10 suggested donation. GC

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

4pm. James Smith, Organ. \$10 suggested donation. MDB

14 Friday

8pm. Saint-Saëns: "Organ Symphony" No 3 and works by Dukas and Zigman. Tickets \$20–\$160. Davies Symphony Hall

