



January 2020

The American Guild of Organists

San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

Dean's Message

by Susanne Rommel

I want to begin this January newsletter wishing you all who support AGO and our Chapter with energy, intellect, time, and treasure, a peaceful start to 2020 – Happy New Year! I hope that you will find some relaxing moments at the beginning of this year, now that one of the peak seasons is behind us.

One of my highlights during this past holiday season was our chapter's December event, the "Lessons and Carols" we attended at St Ignatius of Antioch on the First Sunday of Advent. It was a wet and windy evening on December 1, but a warm and wonderful atmosphere inside St Ignatius, with a heartwarming program, and great socializing during the reception that followed. I was very glad to see several of us attend this beautiful event, which had been carefully prepared by St Ignatius' Director of Music, Donald Pearson, as well as by our Chaplain, Father Robert Rien. Thank you both for a prayerful musical boost into Advent!



This event was the first "Lessons and Carols" I had attended. "Lessons and Carols" is not part of the German Advent or Christmas tradition, but started in 1880 at Truro Cathedral in Cornwall, while it was later made famous by King's College in Cambridge. These services consisting of Christmas music interspersed with Bible readings at church were a way of bringing people to church. Before this time, carols were not sung in church but in homes, and the choir members would go from home to home.

As for the German Advent and Christmas tradition, carols are sung during special services like Adventsingen, Quempas

➤ **Dean's Message**, page 3

January Chapter Events — yes, TWO!

January 7th program
at **Cathedral of Christ the Light** in Oakland
features **David Briggs**
and celebrates the 10th anniversary
of the Conroy Memorial Organ.
The program starts at 7:30 p.m.

January 26th program
at **Grace Cathedral**
features **Robert McCormick**,
and is co-sponsored with Grace Cathedral.
There is a \$10 suggested donation.
This program begins at 4:00 p.m.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Advertisement	2
February Chapter Event	2
New Developments	2
Steve's Organ Lit Corner	2
New Features in the Newsletter	3
Chapter Donors — Updated Aug 2019	4
Program Year 2019–2020 Season	5
Placement & Classifieds	6
Information Box — Last updated 08/01/2019	6
Events Calendar & Looking Ahead	7

Submission deadline for the **February** issue is **January 20**

February Event: Presidents' Day

from Susanne Rommel

Our February event will be an organ crawl on Presidents' Day, Monday, February 17.

The schedule for the Cathedral Hill organ crawl is:

9:30 a.m. - Cathedral of St Mary of the Assumption, 1111 Gough St, San Francisco, CA. We will start at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and pastries, the organ crawl will start at 10 a.m.

11:00 a.m. - Trinity + St Peters Episcopal Church, 1620 Gough St, San Francisco, CA

12:00 p.m. - St Luke's Episcopal Church, 1755 Clay St, San Francisco, CA. We will have lunch at St Luke's.

1:30 p.m. - First Church of Christ, Scientist, 1700 Franklin St, San Francisco, CA

An eventbrite invitation will be sent out shortly for you to reserve your spot (\$15 per member, including light breakfast and lunch). ▼



Steve's Organ Lit Corner

by Steve Repasky

Three Ave Maria settings suitable for the 4th Sunday of Advent:

Ave Maria op. 104, no. 2 / Marco Enrico Bossi

no. II Ave Maria (Sequenza) from Byzantine Sketches / Henri Mulet

Ave Maria / Eugene Thayer

My favorite is the Bossi Ave Maria. Just under 5 minutes, it is a combination of Romantic-style grace and sophistication. Somewhat similar to the ever popular Schubert setting, the Thayer Ave Maria utilizes a harp-like accompaniment underlining a prayerful melody. All three selections may be found on IMSLP. ▼

New Developments

by Susanne Rommel, Dean

AGO Executive Director, James Thomashower, updates us in the December TAO (pages 6 and 7) that 2019 has been a transformational year. He then continues to list several items of key developments that took place in 2019. Many of these items are related to digitalization, better utilization of the internet and social media, like the go-live of the new Association Management System (Impexium) to add additional functionality for chapter management and fundraising, the new online job board, (WebScribble) which integrates with Impexium, the 322 blog posts on the AGO website and 429 pages of material documenting and promoting AGO activities, continued growth of the AGO social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube) providing avenues for learning, discussion and debate, and also the new electronic toolkits that is available on the website for chapter leadership.

In our San Francisco chapter, we also have been working since the start of this season towards improving our website and social media presence. The next steps for January 2020 are

- a) moving toward an electronic newsletter via email distribution, as previously announced, and
- b) a new website owned within our chapter, while we will discontinue the outsourced service for updates and maintenance.

I have been working on the website myself and will finalize it by early January. This move also includes significant cost savings, as I will not be charging the chapter for implementing and updating the new website. Instead I am very glad to see these cost savings being utilized towards our continued efforts in fulfilling our mission. We plan to go live with the new website in January 2020 – Stay tuned! ▼



New Features in the All-Digital Newsletter

from George Morten, SFAGO Newsletter Editor

Most folks are probably aware of navigation aids that are available in newsletters such as ours. In case you are not familiar with them, I hope that this brief guide may help you to get the most from reading this newsletter on your computer or tablet.

Hovering your cursor/pointer over text will allow you to discover which elements are clickable. If you use Adobe Reader, the cursor for all such items will change from an arrow to a hand.

Active Links

One of the more common features in PDF newsletters is the use of links for accessing web sites and for creating email responses. These features have been available in this newsletter for a while. Typically any text that is colored blue is “clickable”: it may be the actual email address to which you may create a response (in the email application on your computer), or a web site address which provides additional information about an event. These features usually appear in the Jobs/For Sale listings and in the Events Calendar of our newsletter. Articles sometimes feature the same types of links.

Navigation aids are new to our newsletter. They take two forms: next/previous page arrows; and jump-to-page. Each is described below.

Next/previous page arrows

These are green, and are located along the left and right sides of each page. The clickable area surrounding the arrow is about one inch high and a little wider than the arrow. Click on one of these arrows to take you to the next page (right side) or to the previous page (left side).

Jump-to-page

There are two variations of this feature: “Table of Contents” and “Continued on/from page”

Table of Contents In the “Inside this issue” box on the front page, every item is clickable, and will take you directly to the page on which the item appears.

Continued on/from page Any time an article is continued to another page, that “continued on” line is clickable. Example, if the Dean’s Message is continued to an inside page, clicking on the “continued” line will jump directly to the page where it is found, say page 5.

In similar manner, the heading line on the continuation page is clickable, and will return you to the page from which the article was continued. As per the preceding example: if you are reading the Dean’s Message and click to continue, when

Dean’s Column, from page 1

and the Rorate Mass. What these three gatherings have in common is that they are mostly celebrated starting in the dark church with attendees and/or choir members bringing lightened candles in as they enter — after sunset for Adventsingen and

Quempas and before sunrise for Rorate. The intention is to symbolize us entering out of the dark into the light, from early Advent towards Christ’s birth on Christmas. I remember that as a young organist, Rorate was not my favorite duty, because these Masses were celebrated in our parish very early, at 6 a.m. in the morning on all Thursdays during Advent, which meant I had to rush to the University and then later to work right afterwards.



Playing the organ for a 6 a.m. Mass in a dark and cold church on a workday might seem a little tiring. However, it was just last week that I learned about what I imagine being an even more intensive way of incorporating caroling into an Advent tradition. This tradition seems to link back to the time before “Lessons and Carols” in England, when carols were sung not in church but in homes, and the choir members would go from home to home, as described above. During a business dinner last week, I learned from one of my colleagues from Puerto Rico about the tradition of his country: Parranda. For a Parranda, a group of friends surprise another friend, who already went to sleep, with their caroling late at night in front of his house. The caroling group is then invited into the house, and after more carols, eating and drinking, the now even bigger group moves on to another friend’s house, waking the homeowners up with their caroling and so on. This moving and growing party would generally continue until around dawn.

With this tradition in mind, I especially wish you 365 nights of uninterrupted sleep in 2020! ▼

HAPPY NEW YEAR

you are finished reading the article, you can return to the original page by clicking on the heading line which tells which page it is continued from.

We hope that these features will make reading the newsletter a more enjoyable experience. ▼

San Francisco AGO Chapter Donors

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 Donors

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 Donors

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

Robert McCormick in Concert – Co-sponsored with Grace Cathedral

Sunday, January 26, 2020, 4pm

Grace Cathedral, 1100 California Street, San Francisco, CA 94108

NOTE:
Performer and date change

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

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 February issue is January 20.** Online listings available at: <https://www.sfago.org/classifieds>

FOR SALE

ROLAND ORGAN. Two-manual, 30-note pedalboard. In mint condition. Contact Robert Tall at 818-497-3100

FREE

BALDWIN ELECTRIC ORGAN. Old Baldwin organ that "needs to be gone!" In good condition. Please follow this link - [sfbay.craigslist.org/pen/zip/d/san-mateo-electric-organ/7024467069.html](https://www.sfbay.craigslist.org/pen/zip/d/san-mateo-electric-organ/7024467069.html)

ORGAN MUSIC. Composer volumes and collections. *The Hymnal 1982*, Service Music and Hymns, accompaniment edition in two volumes. Hymn descant/varied accompaniment collections. Also one box of piano music - see below. Prefer interested party take all the organ music, currently in two large boxes. Located in Stockton, easy access from I-5 and CA-99. Detailed list available. Contact: George Morten, georgemorten.744@gmail.com for list and directions.

PIANO MUSIC. Titles not catalogued. Includes piano solos of popular tunes from the 50s - 60s, collections, some classical collections, etudes, etc. One box. Located in Stockton, easy access from I-5 and CA-99. Contact: George Morten, georgemorten.744@gmail.com for directions.

GORGEOUS PUMP ORGAN. It is in very good condition, works beautifully and is missing one candle-holder. I believe the wood is walnut. The dimensions are: 7' tall, 44" wide, 23" deep. I hope that it can find a good "home" where it will be valued as a fine, historical† instrument. As it was a gift to me, I would prefer to give it to someone who would value and care for it. I want to relocate this as soon as possible and I'm happy to rent a vehicle with a lift gate for transport. Contact Audrey Nelson dc-ac-nelson@sbcglobal.net

† A member of a family brought it to Oregon via the Oregon Trail. Prior to coming to me, it had been in that one family, in Benton County, Oregon. Unfortunately there is no written documentation.



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.**

- Dean:** Susanne Rommel, susanne.rommel@sbcglobal.net
- Sub Dean:** William Vaughan, billyv32@gmail.com
- Sub Dean Elect:** James Smith, freedomfs93@gmail.com
- Secretary:** Elizabeth Forsyth, e_forsyth@yahoo.com
- Treasurer:** Michael Page, michael.erwin.page@gmail.com
- Registrar:** Christoph Tietze, 415.924.1377, orgelchris@yahoo.com
- Webmaster:** Frank Torrano, ftorrano@gmail.com
- Chapter Website:** www.sfago.org

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

2019-2020
Last updated 11/18/2019

Bay Area Concert Calendar

Collected by Brian Swager

2020 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 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.

CCL-O: Cath. of Christ the Light, Oakland
CSMA: Cath. of St Mary of the Assumption
DSH: Davies Symphony Hall
GC: Grace Cathedral
MDB: Mission Dolores Basilica
SME-B: St Mark's Episcopal Ch, Berkeley
SPE-BU: St Paul's Episcopal Ch, Burlingame

JANUARY 2020

5 Sunday

3pm. Jens Korndörfer, Organ. Music of Reger, Bach, Thalben-Ball, Foote, Decker, Dupré, Aubertin, and Guilmant. Tickets: sfsymphony.org DSH

4pm. Epiphany Lessons & Carols. St Brigid School Honor Choir and Golden Gate Boyschoir and Bellsingers. 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" 21st-century 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

Looking Ahead

FEBRUARY

2 Sunday

4pm. Gerald Beckett, Flute. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

9 Sunday

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

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

4pm. Tactus a cappella choir. Jonathon Hampton, Director. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

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. DSH

15 Saturday

5pm. Fanny Hensel Concert. Chamber music with Susan Jane Matthews, Piano. Piano Trio; Piano Quartet; Piano Solos. SPE-BU

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

16 Sunday

2pm. Saint-Saëns: "Organ Symphony" No 3 and works by Dukas and Zigman. Tickets \$20-\$165. DSH

4pm. Luis Sanchez, Piano; Clare Ghigo, Soprano. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

17 Monday

10am. **SFAGO EVENT** Cathedral Hill Organ Crawl

23 Sunday

4pm. Iris Lan, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

MARCH

1 Sunday

4pm. David Simon, Organ. \$10 suggested donation. GC

7 Saturday

4pm. Choir School Concert. Choir in Film: Harry Potter to Moonrise Kingdom to Frozen. SPE-BU

8 Sunday

4pm. **SFAGO EVENT** Angela Kraft-Cross & Jerome Lenk, Piano & Organ. Schumann Piano Concerto. \$10 suggested donation/free to SFAGO members. MDB

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

4pm. Gail Archer, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

15 Sunday

4pm. Matthew Fish & David Gonzalez, Guitar Duo. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

21 Saturday

5pm. Choral Evensong for Women's History Month. Choir of St. Paul's & Chamber Orchestra. Fanny Hensel *Lobgesang*; Sarah MacDonald *Magnificat & Nunc dimittis in A-flat Major*. SPE-BU

22 Sunday

3pm. Cameron Carpenter, Organ. Buster Keaton's 1926 silent comedy *The General*. Tickets: sfsymphony.org DSH

4pm. Jin Kyung Lim, Organ. Music of JS Bach. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

29 Sunday

4pm. Brian Swager, Concert Grand Pedal Harp. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

