

Winter 2020–21

The American Guild of Organists

San Francisco Chapter Quarterly Newsletter

Dean's Message

by Susanne Rommel

I hope you are looking back to a nice Thanksgiving holiday last week, one that might have been different than ever before! With travel restrictions due to the pandemic, I hope that you all were still able to connect virtually with family and friends. During this pandemic, there is still so much to be grateful for. My family is especially grateful that everyone around us stayed healthy and safe. I much hope that all your family members are doing well!

This year's Thanksgiving was very unusual for us as it meant strict quarantining. In all previous years we would invite friends to our cottage in Truckee and spend beautiful days in the mountains enjoying each other's company. This time, we just had returned from Europe a few days before Thanksgiving. We had travelled to Germany at the end of August to support my 86-year old mother, who had by that time spent most of 2020 in isolation at her home in Bad Reichenhall, 10 miles from Salzburg. By the middle of August, she had not seen anyone of her family in person, had lost hope, and could not find anything she would be looking forward to anymore. Normally, our two boys spend their summer in Bad Reichenhall with her, but already in spring Lufthansa had cancelled their flights due to Covid. When we arrived at SFO in August to travel to Germany, the airport felt like a ghost town: All shops were closed except a few coffee shops; on the plane where normally 144 people would find their seats, there were only 15 travelers in that same area; at the baggage claim in Munich's airport there were only a couple of passengers with us awaiting half a dozen suitcases all together.

An international trip of approximately three months duration would have never been possible for us in regular years. Before Covid, my husband and I would be needed daily in our offices in the Bay area. That suddenly changed mid-March when on short notice we were all sent to work from home. 'Home' is a wide term here, as we can really work from any other location outside the office that suits us. We can work from almost anywhere, as long as we accommodate the working hours of 6am to 3pm PST.

SFAGO 2020-21 Program - Updated

- **Opening Liturgy** (including the installation of officers) Third Baptist Church, SF – September 13, 2020, 5pm, virtual
- **Youth Organists' Halloween Concert** – October 30th, 2020, directed by Angela Kraft-Cross, virtual
- **Chase Olson in Concert** – November 8th, 2020, co-sponsored with Mission Dolores Basilica, San Francisco, virtual
- **Scott Brothers** – December 19th 2020, 11am, virtual
- **Robert Huw Morgan** – January 24th, 2021, 4pm, co-sponsored with Grace Cathedral, San Francisco
- **February Event TBA** – February 15th, 2021, 1pm, virtual
- **Amanda Mole in Concert** – March 21st, 2021, 4pm, co-sponsored with St John's Episcopal Church, Mission District, San Francisco
- **All Members Recital** – March 7th, 2021, virtual; see NOTE below
- **Olivier Latry in Concert** – April 25th, 2021, co-sponsored with St Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco
- **Organ Crawl in San Francisco** – May 31st, 2021, 1pm, virtual

NOTE: For our first virtual All Members Recital in March, everyone is invited to register by December 1st, 2020 via email to James Smith (freedomfs93@gmail.com). After registration, please then submit by February 1st, 2021 a short (<10 min) video of your performance, including a short intro of yourself and the organ you are playing. For any questions, please also feel free to reach out to James Smith. ▼



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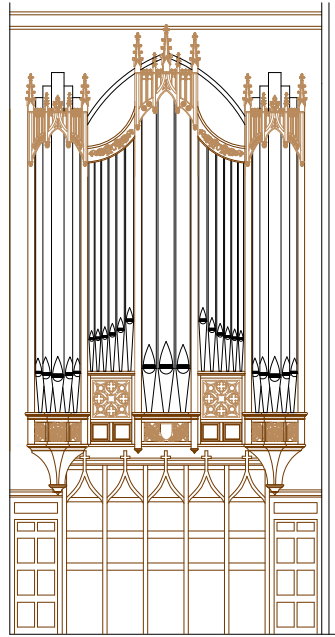
Montgomery Schoenstein

from Jack Bethards

Schoenstein & Co. is building a new three-manual, 34-voice, 42-rank organ for the First United Methodist Church of Montgomery, Alabama.

The main organ is in lofty chambers on either side of the chancel. The Antiphonal division is at the north and south corners of the balcony. The Swell division will include the Schoenstein double expression system for the chorus reeds including the 32' full length Contra Posaune, Mixture and the softest strings.

The director of music is Dr James H. Seay, organist and assistant director of music is Dr Joshua Coble, consultant is Andrew Risinger, associate minister of music and organist at West End United Methodist Church, Nashville, TN. ▼



Case drawing for First United Methodist, Montgomery AL

Ronald Ebrecht: *Durufle's Music Considered*

from Steve Repasky

Ronald Ebrecht received a grant from the SFAGO's Special Projects Committee to publish his book *Durufle's Music Considered*. Here is the link to the book: <https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781498527873/Duruff%C3%Ag's-Music-Considered>

In his email to Steve, he says:

"My book is finally out! Please thank the committee, again. They are of course in the credits. I used the money for translating, editing, Finale, and for a printing subsidy because of all the examples I placed from the manuscripts." ▼



**The Winter issue covers December, January and February.
The next scheduled newsletter is the Spring issue in March.**

See notices throughout for deadline dates – bottom of front page, Calendar heading and Classifieds heading.

San Francisco Chapter 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.

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Sub Dean: James Smith
Sub Dean Elect: Christopher Keady
Secretary: Daniel Gonzalez
Treasurer: William Vaughan
Registrar: Christoph Tietze, 415.924.1377
Chapter Website: www.sfago.org

All members have access to the online directory and can find email addresses there if they wish to contact fellow members.

Newsletter Departments: *Send your entries to the appropriate editor; all submissions are subject to editing, e.g., for length; all submissions are due by the 20th of the month preceding publication. No exceptions allowed.*

Events Calendar Listings: Brian Swager, 415.551.7866 — See Calendar page for email contact
Job Placement & For Sale Listings: David Howitt, 510-437-0254 — See Placements page for email contact
Obituary Listings: William Vaughan
Newsletter Articles & Paid Ads: George Morten, 209.565.6660, george.morten744@gmail.com

Advertising rates for a single issue are based on size of ad placed. Full Page: \$120; Half Page: \$60; Quarter Page: \$30; Business Card: \$15; Third Page (by special arrangement only): \$45. Details on request.

2020-2021
Last updated 08/25/2020

St Ignatius of Antioch Organ Revoiced

by Fr Robert Rien

St Ignatius of Antioch Parish in Antioch, in Far East County, has been blessed with a magnificent Rodgers Hybrid Instrument of 19 ranks of premium pipework and 58 digital stops, three manuals and pedal. The genesis of our organ project began in 2006 when a small, 20 stop Rodgers Instrument was brought to the church to be temporarily installed to see if the parish community liked it and as a result would raise the funds to make its installation permanent. After six months, the parish community raised the necessary funds to make the instrument their own. On Ash Wednesday of 2006, as parishioners gathered for the Liturgies of Ash Wednesday, they heard the sound of what they thought was a pipe organ but asked “Where are the pipes?” That instrument served the parish community well until 2008 when a decision was made to take advantage of a larger instrument of three manuals and pedal, 58 stops of digital voices with pipe compatibility that had become available. The smaller instrument was then replaced by an instrument of a much greater capability to support and grow the parish’s music ministry.



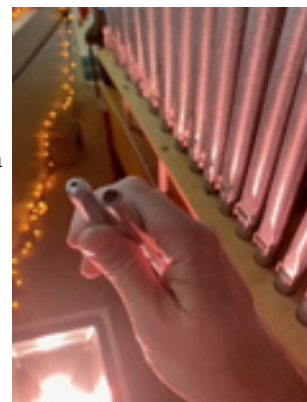
In 2010, it was learned that the Rodgers Organ Builders, with a studio in Pleasanton, was closing and reached out to us, knowing that we had dreamed of interfacing our instrument with pipework. They had three ranks of premium pipework from PMS in England that were coming available. An anonymous donor provided the funds necessary to purchase the three ranks of pipes and the beautiful casework that housed them. The pipes and casework were brought to Antioch and installed in time for Thanksgiving that year by Bob Knight of Knight Organ Builders in Southern California. The interfacing of the pipework was completed and for the first time the congregation heard the blending of wind-blown pipes with digital voices.

In 2012, we were made aware that a Methodist church in a suburb of Boston, MA, was selling their Rodgers Organ with nineteen ranks of pipes. While we had the latest Rodgers Instrument with the updated technology and three ranks of pipes, we didn’t need the console from the Methodist church but began a series of conversations that led to the purchase of their pipework. Had we not been able to purchase their pipes which were created by Organ Supply of Erie, Pennsylvania, they would have ended up being thrown out. The pipework was crated and shipped, along with their

chest, windlines, rectifiers, and blowers to Antioch. What a great day it was when the pipes arrived and were carried into the parish hall to be prepared for installation.

The installation wasn’t as “turn-key” as hoped, and our Maintenance Manager, Rich Confetti, and his assistant, Don Benson, had to completely re-wire all the chests in order for the new pipework to be interfaced with our existing instrument. The Rodgers Organ Builders provided their state-of-the-art PIM (Pipe Interface Module) that made the seamless interface of the pipes and digital voices work. Again, Bob Knight and Dr Robert Tall worked together on the installation to make it successful.

When the instrument from Boston was originally installed, it was done in a sanctuary that seated 1,500 people. The seating capacity of St Ignatius of Antioch is 550. While the pipework was successful, it was voiced for the much larger building rather than the smaller and more intimate space of St Ignatius of Antioch. We knew that at some point, all the pipework would have to be re-voiced and regulated for its new home.



Christian Lentz showing the before (toe totally open) and the after (toe closed down).

That hope and dream was finally made possible the week of November 9 through 13 when Dr Robert Tall and Christian Lentz, Master Voicer, came to Antioch to re-voice our instrument and balance the pipework and digital stops. Each day, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Dr Tall and Christian worked meticulously, professionally, and lovingly to take each pipe in hand and make it speak in a way we never dreamed possible. The 19 ranks of pipes form complete principal choruses on both the Great and Choir divisions. The principal of the Great



Robert Tall at the console listening as Christian Lentz voices the pipes.

Division now sings in the great English Tradition, with the 4’ Octave and 2’ Principal building on that gorgeous, lush 8’ foundation. The principal chorus in the Choir Division is voiced with a slightly brighter edge than the principal chorus on the Great and both divisions are complemented by absolutely beautiful flute choruses speaking at 8’, 4’ and 2’ pitches. The IV rank mixture of the Choir adds a silvery sparkle to the ensemble and the crowning glory of the

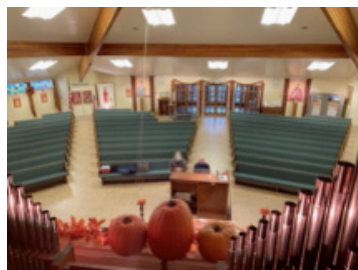
► **St Ignatius, page 4**

St Ignatius, from page 3

Great Division is its towering IV Mixture. All of the digital stops have been adjusted in tonal quality to complement each of the pipe ranks. The string stops of each division have been created in the great tradition of Aeolian-Skinner and one cannot help but be moved as they are played, from the softest shimmer to the building crescendo of all the string stops coupled together. A variety of reed voices are available on each division representing the French, German, English, and American Classic traditions that serve in their role as chorus reeds as well as thrilling solo reeds that soar over full organ.



Christian Lentz and the pipework.



A view from the pipework

We had always hoped and dreamed that our instrument had the potential for greatness once it was “finished” and re-voiced. We experienced that dream come true through the artistry of Dr Tall and Christian Lentz. The time that was taken to make

each pipe sound correctly and in harmony with all the other pipes of each rank, and making each rank play in balance with all the other ranks, and to experience them building, one upon another, was nothing short of magical. The end result is more than we could ever have hoped for. This is an instrument now sounding and playable in the great tradition of Aeolian-Skinner and the result of two outstanding musicians and artists whose love for the organ made all the difference. We also are grateful for yet another anonymous donor without whose generosity the project of finishing the organ would never have happened.

Our instrument will continue to inspire, encourage, comfort, celebrate, and enrich countless lives of those who come for worship for years to come. And, in the end, we will fulfill our goal: *Soli Deo Gloria - To God Alone Be The Glory.* ▼



Robert Tall, Bill Vaughan, Christian Lentz and Fr Robert Rien

Steve's Organ Lit Corner

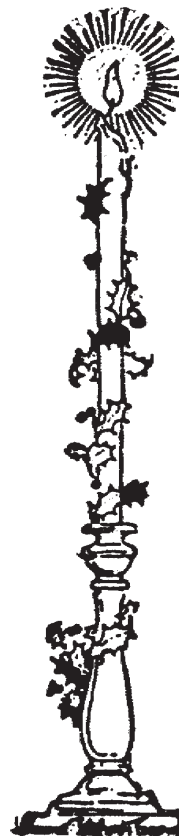
by Steve Repasky

Augsburg Organ Library: Marriage

This collection is found in a series of the Augsburg Organ Library and includes volumes for Reformation, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Summer, etc. This particular 160 page volume contains 40 pieces for worship or recitals especially suited for marriage ceremonies, including processions, trumpet tunes, and settings of hymn tunes commonly sung at weddings. The Augsburg Organ Library is a highly acclaimed multi-volume series that reflects the twentieth century renewal of the organ and its music. This collection is also very useful for general prelude and postlude music.

Composers included in this collection: Vaughan Williams, Searle Wright, David Cherwien, Paul Manz, Gordon Young, Robert Powell, David N. Johnson, Tom Pavlechko (from Youngstown), and C.S. Lang among several others.

Published by Augsburg Fortress (AU.9781451486025). ISBN 9781451486025. ▼



Dean's Message, from front page

This change in the work environment made it possible for us to visit Hamburg and stay there with my mother for almost three months, working there online from the late afternoon hours into the night, due to the nine hours time difference.

When we arrived in Hamburg, our organist Tim (13 years) was very excited to play the different organs in the area. His highlight was playing the organs in St Jakobi, Lübeck. The Große Orgel and the Stellwagen-Orgel with their oldest parts go back to the 15th Century. First documentations of organ music in Lübeck go even back to the 14th Century. From 1931 to 1937 Hugo Distler was organist at St Jakobi, and since 2005 Arvid Gast is titular organist there. On a Saturday afternoon, he showed Tim the precious organs of St Jakobi.



Tim Warncke (13) at the Stellwagen-Orgel in St Jakobi, Lübeck

For daily practice, Tim played at the Grollmann organ in St Joseph Wandsbek, which is closest to our home in Hamburg. We enjoyed Andreas Willscher's beautiful organ music every Sunday during Mass there. Tim took organ lessons with Andreas Fabienke, who is organist at Kreuzkirche Wandsbek. The Halloween Concert recording



Tim Warncke (13) at the Große Orgel in St Jakobi, Lübeck

New Member

from William Vaughan

Please welcome new chapter member James Ward. ▼



was taken from Kreuzkirche Wandsbek as well. His teacher also showed Tim the Beckerath organ at St Petri. And finally, Tim had the opportunity to play the Beckerath organ at St Mary's Cathedral where Eberhard Lauer is music director since 1982. The next opportunity for Tim to experience famous organs in Hamburg and surrounding, would have been in early January to play the organs at St Michael, Hamburg. With continuation of working from home and schools closing again, we might be back in Hamburg by then.

During this pandemic, I am grateful that our engaged board members continued to work through the summer. Where under normal circumstances, we took a summer break between end of May and beginning of September, we now continued with monthly meetings through summer to ensure we would be able to provide quality events for the 2020–2021 season to our precious members. We hope you enjoyed our virtual Opening Baptist Service at Third Baptist Church of San Francisco in September, our virtual Young Organist's Halloween Concert in October and Chase Olsen's concert at Mission Dolores Basilica in November. The links to the recordings are provided on our webpage, in case you missed the opportunity to join any of the events.

Our next and upcoming virtual event are the Scott Brothers in Concert on December 19th. We are much looking forward to their performance and will send out the link via email, as well as publish the link on our website.

I am very grateful for all the many contributions from you, which enable us to provide such a strong program during especially this season. Thanks for everyone's support, which makes us such a valued community of wonderful musicians helping each other, thank you!

I wish you and your families continued health and well-being, Happy Hanukah and Merry Christmas ▼

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	Natsuko Murayama
Alan C. Black	Chris C. Nichols
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SFAGO International Mailing Donors

The SFAGO thanks the following person for his financial support to the International Mailing category.

Father Thomas J. Carroll

SFAGO Special Projects Donors

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

John M. Agraz	David Howitt
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Jeanette Cool	Helen Pereira
Francis M. Cummings	Gary C. Toops
Patricia During	Jon Townsend
Linda Gavenda	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+)

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Tuba Mirabilis (\$500-\$999)

Robert Tall & Associates, Inc.

Trompette en Chamade (\$250-\$499)

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Robert C. Gurney
Martin Lilley
Naoko Maeda
Vlada Volkova-Moran

Vox Humana (\$1-\$24)

Merrill Collins
Patricia Harre

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. January 1 thru November 30, 2020

Bay Area Concert Calendar

Collected by Brian Swager

2020-21
Winter

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 March issue is February 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 "Resources" and select "Calendar"

As of publication time, St Mary's Cathedral and Mission Dolores appear to be the only venues that are holding livestreamed recitals. We recommend that readers consult the church websites for upcoming performances

St Mary's Cathedral, <https://www.youtube.com/archdioceseofsanfrancisco>

Mission Dolores Basilica, www.missiondolores.org and <https://www.facebook.com/missiondoloresf>

Classified Ads

Collected by David Howitt

This information is provided as a service to SFAGO members and the employing institutions. SFAGO is not responsible for errors, although every effort is made to be accurate. 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: **David Howitt**. **Submission deadline for the March issue is February 20th.** Online listings available at: www.sfago.org/job-board

FOR SALE

BOSCH ORGAN. Presently located at St Peter's Lutheran Church in San Leandro.
1962 Bosch electric action organ.
Classical style.
2 manual; 21 stops; and 27 ranks.

It will be available sometime in 2021, new user to remove. Contact Marlene Vogelsang at 510-589-8523, or email to mvogelsang@sbcglobal.net. Specific questions about the organ may be directed to Jack Bethards.

