

March 2020

The American Guild of Organists San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

Dean's Message

by Susanne Rommel

This past President's Day has a good chance to become one of my favorite days in 2020: I was fully blown away to see so many wonderful people 'crawl' into the choir room at the Cathedral of St Mary of the Assumption in San Francisco, enjoying each other's company and the four great organs we were about to visit!

President's Day greeted us as a perfect Monday morning: the weather was beautiful and there was no traffic driving over the Bay Bridge into the city. We started our organ crawl socializing in Christoph Tietze's choir room with Peet's coffee and tea, muffins and croissants. As more and more people showed up in the choir room we realized that not only the expected approximately 40 AGO members from both chapters (our San Francisco and the Palo Alto / Peninsula) had decided to join our event, but additionally, there were many people — not affiliated with the AGO — who had signed up online through Eventbrite.

They all had done so for different reasons: One person mentioned he had joined last year's organ crawl on President's Day 2019 'by accident' and enjoyed the time at Rick's house and the visit to Schoenstein & Co. organ factory in Benicia so much that he will now always put aside the time on President's Day to join our SFAGO organ crawls.

For those of you who had not joined last year's organ crawl, Rick has a complete pipe organ in one of his rooms and we had enjoyed not just playing his organ, but also the very special treat of having lunch sitting in between the console and the pipes.

One couple who lives close to the Cathedral mentioned that they had checked online for things to do in San Francisco that very morning. They decided to sign up for the organ crawl and came walking over just half an hour later. When I took a count of how many were attending our crawl, I counted more than 65 people!

Below, I have selected one picture at each of the four churches we visited on our organ crawl.


The first picture shows Christoph Tietze giving us a demo of the Ruffatti organ at St Mary of the Assumption. For more

Mostly Modern Festival

from Austin Philemon

I hope this message finds you well! I am contacting you about a wonderful new summer organ improvisation intensive I am starting in connection with the Mostly Modern Festival in Saratoga Springs, NY.

The program will be taught by Jeffrey Brillhart, professor of organ improvisation at Yale and author of the celebrated improvisation book "Breaking Free". From June 7th to 13th, students will work both in groups and one-on-one with Mr. Brillhart, having daily masterclasses and lessons in improvisation on the Ferris tracker organ at Roundlake Auditorium, the oldest fully-functioning three-manual instrument in the country. The program will conclude with a public recital that will be professionally recorded with multi-camera video.

This is a great opportunity for anyone aged 18 and up who is looking to spend a week developing their improvisation skills. 

The application can be found at <https://app.getacceptd.com/mostlymodernfestival>. For full information, here is a link to the program's webpage: <https://mostlymodernfestival.org/apply-organ-program>.

Please don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions! Contact author at: communications@mostlymodernprojects.org ▼



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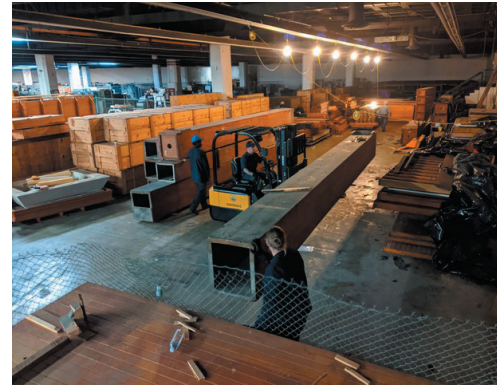
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Austin Opus 500

from Vic Ferrer

Due to our long-standing relationship with the city, Friends of the Exposition Organ—Vic Ferrer, Justin Kielty and Michael Evje—met with Brooks Hall staff on January 15, 2020, to supervise the moving of wooden Pedal division pipes away from the west wall in Brooks where maintenance workers need access.

Moving the larger pipes required the help of a battery-operated forklift. The pipes were moved adjacent to the rest of the organ and all will be covered with brand new visqueen. Friends make regular visits to check on the organ in its 12,000 cu. ft. storage. ▼



Michael Evje and Justin Kielty



Justin Kielty, Michael Evje, and Vic Ferrer

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2019-2020
Last updated 01/26/2020

First Sundays at Trinity Evensong and Organ Recital Series

Spring 2020

February 2, 5:00 pm - Organ Recital

Steve Repasky, Organist, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, San Francisco

March 1, 5:00 pm - Choral Evensong

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

Organ Recital at 5:30 pm

Jin Lyung Kim, Music Associate, Saint Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco

April 5, 5:00 pm - Organ Recital

Angela Kraft-Cross, First Congregational Church, San Mateo

May 3, 5:00 pm - Choral Evensong

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

Organ Recital at 5:30 pm

Christoph Tietze, Organist, Saint Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco

Trinity+St. Peter's Episcopal Church

1620 Gough Street (at Bush), San Francisco

The Rev. Lindy Bunch, Priest-in-Charge; Robert Gurney, Director of Music

Graduate Organ Studies at Georgia State University – Full Tuition Assistant Ships Available

from Jens Korndorfer

Greetings,

At the moment we are recruiting students for our two-year Master of Music degree in Organ Performance at Georgia State University.

We are extremely excited about what is going on here. Lessons are taking place on the outstanding tracker and electro-pneumatic action organs at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church (Mander, IV/135) and First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta (Klais/Schlueter, IV/112, and Klop, II/14). Students have regular access to those instruments and other fine organs in one of the many churches in Atlanta.

The curriculum prepares students for a career in church and concert and includes classes in organ performance (Jens Korndorfer), service playing and improvisation (Oliver Brett), choral conducting (Deanna Joseph) and harpsichord.

Graduate assistant ships in collaboration with local churches provide free tuition, a generous stipend, and first-rate immersion into the day-to-day work of large music ministries.

More information on the program (including audition requirements and dates) can be found at <https://music.gsu.edu/program/organ-mmu/>

If you know of anyone who might be interested in applying, I am happy to hear from you. Please feel free to give the prospective student my email address and/or phone number.

Many thanks for your help, and all the best,

Jens Korndorfer, D.Mus.

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Dean's Message, from page 1

information about the organ, you can check the following link: <http://smcsf.org/cathedral/ruffatti-organ/>



At Trinity + St Peter's Episcopal Church, we were introduced by Robert Gurney to the magnificent Skinner organ. For more information about the organ visit <http://trinity-stpeters.org/music>.



When we arrived at our next stop, St Luke's Episcopal Church, we enjoyed an all-inclusive Mexican lunch. Afterward, Steve Repasky showed us his special Aeolian-Skinner organ (<http://www.stlukessf.org/>).



The final stop of our cathedral hill organ tour was First Church of Christ, Scientist, where Larry Sullender hosted us while our youngest SFAGO member demoed the fine Kimball organ (<https://firstchurchsf.com/history/>).

At each stop of our organ crawl, there was ample time for open console and it was wonderful to listen to so many members playing. This extraordinary organ crawl would not have been possible without the special support from Christoph Tietze, Robert Gurney, Steve Repasky, Brian Bauman, and Larry Sullender: Thank you all for opening your organs to us! ▼



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

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	Gary W. Jennings
Josephine Bennington	Natsuko Murayama
Jeanette Cool	Terry M. O'Connor
Patricia H. During	Helen Pereira
David R. Howitt	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
Patricia H. During
Thomas Flesher
Father Robert K. Rien
Susanne Rommel
Jason M. Surles
Christoph Tietze
John Walko
Art West
Timothy Zerlang

Clarion (\$100-\$249)

Charles Corum
Elizabeth H. Forsyth
Jud Hammon
Larry H. Marietta
James Martin
Lilyane M. Moulton
Natsuko Murayama
Chris C. Nichols
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William L. Vaughan
William A. Visscher
John Walko

Hautbois (\$50-\$99)

Josephine Bennington
Gail M. Burnett
Leilani Camara
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Reiko Oda Lane
Stephen Luzmoor
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Krummhorn (\$25-\$49)

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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

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

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 Organ Lit Corner

by Steve Repasky

Organ Selections for Lent

O Sacred Head Now Wounded, from Cantata 161, for Flute and SATB Choir by J. S. Bach

Concordia 98-2053. String quartet parts available.

This chorale for choir has a flute obbligato part that may be performed in a number of manners: for choir & flute; choir and solo instrument -- violin, viola, or cello; organ & and solo instrument.

Prélude by Samuel Ducommun in *Zeitgenösche Orgelmusik Im Gottesdienst* = Contemporary Organ Music for Liturgical Use, vol. IV.

Hinrichsen no. 2006d

Schönster Herr Jesu (Ah, holy Jesus) by Hermann Schoerder in *6 Orgelchoräle über altdeutscher geistliche Volkslieder* = 6 Organ Chorals based on old German Religious Folksongs, opus 11. Schott, ED 2265

Herzliebster Jesu, was hast du verbrochen no. 10 in *Choralvorspiele* = Choral Preludes, I by Helmut Walcha. Edition Peters Nr. 4850

Variations on a Shape-note Hymn [Wondrous Love] by Samuel Barber. G. Schirmer

Sonate no. 1, opus 13: über dem Choral Befiehl du deine Wege (O Sacred Head Now Wounded) by Johann Schneider in *The Mendelssohn School*, compiled and edited by Wayne Leupold, p. 72-75. Romantic Organ Literature Series - 8 ▼

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

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

EAST BAY

Lake Merritt United Methodist Church, 1330 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland 94606. Phone, 510-465-4793 is seeking an **ORGANIST** to play a prelude, postlude and hymns (with piano) on Easter Sunday. Please contact Joan Miller, Music Director at JoanDooDah@aol.com.

First Presbyterian Church, 2407 Dana St., Berkeley 94704. Phone, 510-848-6242 is seeking a classically trained **ORGANIST** to play for Sunday morning services and to accompany the adult choir in weekly rehearsals during the academic year. FPC features a 3-manual, 37 stop, Fratelli Ruffatti pipe organ, 1975, with an updated console and a Grotian, 7'4" grand piano. Other duties will include special services throughout the year including Christmas Eve, Holy Week and choir concerts. The recent Sanctuary Renewal Project has provided much improved resonance for both singing and for the organ by replacing the carpet with polished concrete throughout the Sanctuary along with reupholstering the pews. Salary is commensurate with education and experience. Please visit www.fpcberkeley.org/careers for a complete job description and application.

POSITION WANTED, EAST BAY - Natalie Ning, a member of the SFAGO chapter is looking for an organist position at a church that has Saturday or Sunday afternoon services. Natalie would appreciate any leads or direction on how she can go about searching for opportunities. Contact Natalie's at nataliecnig@gmail.com.



Calendar, from page 8

22 Friday

8pm. Brahms: *A German Requiem*. and works by Ruggles. SF Symphony Orchestra; Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. Tickets \$35-\$160. DSH

23 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. LHM

8pm. Brahms: *A German Requiem*. See 22 May

24 Sunday

2pm. Brahms: *A German Requiem*. See 22 May

30 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. LHM



Bay Area Concert Calendar

Collected by Brian Swager

2020 March

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 April issue is March 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**, then **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
- DSH:** Davies Symphony Hall
- GC:** Grace Cathedral
- IEC:** Incarnation Episcopal Ch
- LHM:** Legion of Honor Museum
- MDB:** Mission Dolores Basilica
- PU-ANG:** Pacific Union College Ch, Angwin
- SD:** St Dominic's Catholic Church
- SME-B:** St Mark's Episcopal Ch, Berkeley
- SPE-BU:** St Paul's Episcopal Ch, Burlingame
- TESPE:** Trinity & St Peter's Episcopal Ch

MARCH

1 Sunday

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

5pm. Evensong. Organ recital by Jin Lyung Kim follows at 5:40pm. Freewill offering. TESPE

3 Tuesday

7:30 pm. David Higgs, Organ. Freewill offering. First Lutheran Church, 850 Cooper Ave, Yuba City

7 Saturday

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

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. LHM

4pm. Hans Uwe Hielscher, Organ. Freewill offering. PU-ANG

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

13 Friday

7:30pm. Oliver Brett, Organ; Dan Hivley, Horn. Beethoven 202 Project including *Horn Sonata in F*. Tickets \$20; students/seniors \$15. IEC

14 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. LHM

15 Sunday

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

20 Friday

7:30pm. John Stainer: *The Crucifixion* with Stations of the Cross. St Dominic's Schola Cantorum; Jeffrey Howe, Tenor; Harlan Hays, Bass; Harry Whitney, Organ; Simon Berry, Director. SD

21 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. LHM

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

28 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. LHM

29 Sunday

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

Looking Ahead

APRIL

4 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. LHM

5 Sunday

5pm. Angela Kraft-Cross, Organ. Freewill offering. TESPE

6 Monday

6pm. Holy Week Poetry and Music Meditation with Ben Bachmann. GC

11 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. LHM

18 Saturday

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. LHM

23 Thursday

2pm. Elgar: *Enigma Variations* and works by Mozart and R Strauss. SF Symphony Orchestra; Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. Tickets \$20-\$160. DSH

24 Friday

8pm. Elgar: *Enigma Variations*. See 23 April

25 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. LHM

4pm. Malcolm Anderson, Organ. Freewill offering. PU-ANG

8pm. Elgar: *Enigma Variations*. See 23 April

MAY

2 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. LHM

7:30pm. Organ & Brass with Percussion. Collegiate Brass Ensemble of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. SD

3 Sunday

4pm. Jeremy Bruns, Organ. \$10 suggested donation. GC

5pm. Evensong. Organ recital by Christoph Tietze follows at 5:40pm. Freewill offering. TESPE

9 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. LHM

10 Sunday

4pm. George H. Fergus, Organ. Preceded by Evensong at 3pm. Freewill offering. Reception follows. SME-B

4pm. Emil Miland, Cello; Jerome Lenk, Organ. \$10 suggested donation. MDB

16 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. LHM

5pm. Choral Evensong & Choir Celebration Dinner. Choir of St. Paul's; Susan Jame Matthews, Director. William Walton *The Twelve*; Peter Aston *Magnificat & Nunc dimittis in F*. Tickets for dinner. SPE-BU

18 Monday

6:30pm. **SFAGO EVENT** Annual Dinner and Choral Concert. Choirs of St Mary the Virgin Episcopal Church and St Dominic's Catholic Church. SD

► **Calendar**, page 7