

April 2020

The American Guild of Organists San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

Dean's Message

by Susanne Rommel

While drafting this article, I am reflecting on how tremendously the world has changed since I wrote the last newsletter article only a few weeks ago. The coronavirus is changing our lives in ways unheard of before. Our idea of normality, public life, social gatherings — all this is being challenged as never before. So many of us cannot go to work and our children cannot go to day-care or school; churches, concert halls, theaters and stores are all closed, and maybe the worst: All of us are missing the many face-to-face encounters that are otherwise taken for granted. And all of us are wondering how long this will continue.

As in many unprecedented situations, it helps me to focus on the positive side of things. First of all, I feel very blessed that my work is especially meaningful to me during this time. My company is working on a treatment against COVID-19 and my teams are involved in getting this medication to patients around the world. All our business meetings are now held virtually, and the majority of folks are using video capabilities. Today, I had a zoom meeting with 181 participants. A few presenters, including myself, were switching roles seamlessly as the technology automatically puts the video of the speaker into the focus. With all the advances in technology it is amazing how little impact this tremendous change of our working environment has on the continuation of some critical businesses.

Secondly and fortunately, our chapter did not need to cancel any concerts so far. We had a spectacular performance of organ and piano on March 8th. This concert was co-sponsored with Mission Dolores Basilica, and its highlight was the



Jerome Lenk, Robert Tall and Angela Kraft Cross

► **Dean's Message**, page 5

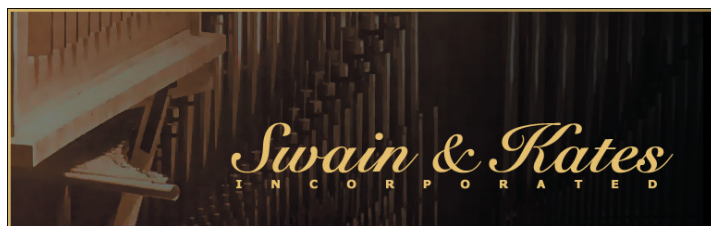
Notice to Concert-Goers

from Brian Swager & George Morten, Editors

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak and local government actions to control its spread, it is possible, even likely, that some events will be cancelled or rescheduled.

Please contact the venue ahead of time to find out whether the scheduled event will take place.

As of March 24th, all event listings shown in the newsletter calendar are current.



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Submission deadline for the **May** issue is **April 20**

Symphonic Schoenstein to Charleston

from Jack Bethards

Schoenstein & Co. is building a new three-manual, 14-voice, 16-rank organ for Bishop Gadsden Episcopal Retirement Community in Charleston, South Carolina.

It is in the symphonic style with Great and Swell enclosed and high pressure stops doubly enclosed within the Swell. The third manual borrows solo and ensemble stops from the Great and Swell. The beautiful and resonant chapel is in the traditional Southern Colonial style. The instrument will be free standing in a case elevated at the west end. Installation is scheduled for September 2020.



Musical advisor and organ consultant for the project is Nigel Potts, Canon Organist and Master of the Music, Grace Church Cathedral in Charleston. Cummings & McCrady, Inc. are architects of the Chapel and provided this rendering. ▼

Thank You to Proofreaders

by George Morten, Editor

People who work behind the scenes do so because they believe in the endeavor for which they are volunteering, not for public recognition.

One such volunteer is Justin Kielty. He has been a valued contributor to the quality of our newsletter for roughly two decades. But at some point, all things come to an end. Thus it is that Justin has decided it is time to retire from this monthly task.

I wish to personally thank Justin for the valued contribution of his expertise and his time over the years to the betterment of the SFAGO monthly newsletter.

Proofreading a document is a tedious task. It requires both fresh mind and eyes. The mind will often fill in words one expects to see even if those words are not present in the document one is reading. It is therefore important to read slowly, and to re-read some passages several times. Long sentences are occasionally poorly worded, leaving the reader to question whether he understands the content. In some cases, rewording is necessary; in others, breaking a very long sentence into two or more shorter sentences is the solution.

Two other members who proofread the newsletter before it is distributed—Larry Marietta and Brian Swager—also deserve a word of thanks. Every month they take time from their busy lives to help produce a better newsletter. ▼

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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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.*

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2019-2020
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San Francisco AGO Chapter Donors

The SFAGO wishes to thank the following people for their financial support to the Chapter Donation category.

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Terry M. O'Connor
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The SFAGO wishes to thank the following people for their financial support to the Special Projects category.

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	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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Robert Tall & Associates, Inc.

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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

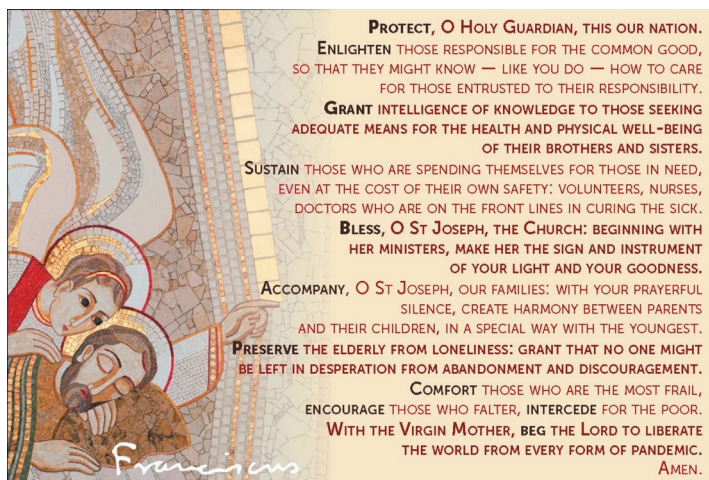
* Start times might change and will be announced closer to the events

Dean's Message, from front page

Piano Concerto in A minor by Robert Schumann, with Angela Kraft Cross at the piano and Jerome Lenk at the organ. Robert Schumann would have been very glad, “as the soloist, at the keyboard ... [unfolded] the wealth of his instrument and his art, while the ... [organ], ... [interwoven] its manifold facets into the scene”. The concert ended with 100% well-deserved standing ovations. Thank you so very much, Angela and Jerome, for such a beautiful highlight!

Our next event is our Annual Dinner and Choral Concert on May 18th at St Dominic's Catholic Church in San Francisco, directed by Simon Berry and Eric Choate. Hopefully, after such a long stretch of sheltering in place, all of you will join what is expected to be a great performance of two excellent choirs, and after this time of abstinence — for the sake of social gathering — our annual dinner. I am already looking forward to it!

And lastly, while we cannot gather anymore, there are still so many opportunities to stay in touch and replace the face-to-face encounters. We can text, email, zoom, facetime ... I am positive that the longer the shelter-in-place continues, the more creative we will become within our social networks. Our March board meeting for example will be held as a Zoom meeting. Everyone will be calling in from their home. We will finalize our program for the 2020–2021 season, and it will feel great to plan a season in the future, when life will be back to normal. Until then, I wish you the Peace of Christ during this time of crisis and uncertainty, sharing a beautiful prayer that was forwarded to me by a very dear friend.



Wishing you all the best, and most important - stay safe and healthy! ▼

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: dhowitt@sjbalameda.org. **Submission deadline for the May issue is April 20.** Online listings available at: www.sfago.org/job-board

EAST BAY - BAYSIDE

First Presbyterian Church, 2407 Dana St., Berkeley 94704. Phone, 510-848-6242, seeks a classically trained **ORGANIST** for 9 am Sunday services and to accompany adult choir in weekly rehearsals during the academic year. Special services throughout the year include Christmas Eve, Holy Week, choir concerts, etc. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Sanctuary instruments are a Fratelli Ruffatti III/37 (1975) with updated solid state combination action (32 memory levels) and a Grotrian 7'4" Model 225 Concert in excellent condition, purchased 2005. The Sanctuary Renewal Project (2019) provided improved resonance for singing and for the organ by replacing carpet with polished concrete throughout the room (runners on aisles), reupholstering pews and complete painting of walls and canopy. Please visit www.fpckerkeley.org/careers for complete job description and application.

Steve's Organ Lit Corner

by Steve Repasky

Some Easter organ music suggestions

Arne Organ Solos from the Concertos Edition Peters, Hinrichsen no. 1544

This delightful collection contains 4 movements from Arne's organ concertos arranged for organ solo. Thomas Arne, 1710–1778, was a contemporary of G.F. Handel. Like Handel's organ concertos, these pieces quickly found their way into keyboard arrangements. This collection was first published posthumously in the last 18th century. My favorites are no. 1 Allegro in C major from Concerto No. 1 and no. 3 Con Spirito in E major from Concerto No. 3, nicknamed "The Maggot". Arne's brisk and mostly 2-part writing is similar in style to Scarlatti's keyboard sonatas.

Voluntary No. 1 in D major by William Boyce

IMSLP. This popular Trumpet Voluntary opens with a slow Diapason movement followed by a Vivace that features the Trumpet and echos. The writing is in three parts without pedal. ▼

Bay Area Concert Calendar

Collected by Brian Swager

2020 April

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 May issue is April 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"

Recurring Venues

Churches and institutions offering programs on a regular basis have been assigned abbreviations which 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
- LHM:** Legion of Honor Museum
- MDB:** Mission Dolores Basilica
- SD:** St Dominic's Catholic Church
- SME-B:** St Mark's Episcopal Ch, Berkeley
- SPE-BU:** St Paul's Episcopal Ch, Burlingame

From Calendar Editor and General Editor:

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak and local government actions to control its spread, it is possible, even likely, that some events will be cancelled or rescheduled.

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As of March 24th, all event listings shown are current.

APRIL

6 Monday

6pm. Meditations in Music & Poetry. Ben Bachmann, Organist. May be livestreamed. See gracecathedral.org GC

11 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. LHM

18 Saturday

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. LHM

25 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. LHM

Looking Ahead

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

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

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

16 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

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

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

JUNE

6 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. LHM

7 Sunday

4pm. Ben Bachmann, Organ. \$10 suggested donation. GC

13 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. LHM

14 Sunday

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

20 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. LHM

25 Thursday

8pm. Mahler: *Symphony No 8*. SF Symphony Orchestra; Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. Tickets \$135-\$375. DSH

26 Friday

8pm. Mahler: *Symphony No 8*. See 25 June

27 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. LHM

6:30pm. The Battle of Trenton. Simon Berry presents the organ in a 30-minute multi-media presentation in James Hewitt's *Sonata* dedicated to George Washington. SD

