

May 2020

The American Guild of Organists San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

Dean's Message

by Susanne Rommel

Since our April newsletter, so much more has changed and some of the daily news we watch and listen to is very concerning. In this time of uncertainty, for some leading to devastation, it is very important that we draw from and are staying connected to our social and spiritual resources like family, friends, faith and hope. Communities such as clubs, parishes, and neighborhoods can support us and we can support other members. Our SFAGO chapter, built of members who care for each other, bound together in our mission of fostering a thriving community of musicians, is there for support as well.

The safety and well-being of our members and their families is most important for us. First, I want to share with you in this article how we care for you, and also want to provide you with additional resources that might be useful for you, and which you might not have tapped into yet. Then I want to share with you a personal story how organ lessons are taking place at my home during these times of shelter-at-home. And finally, I want to end this article with a very positive and exciting outlook of what is in the works and in the books for us regarding our 2020–2021 season.

Since the shelter-in-place order was initiated, we became concerned how our community is doing, how our members are doing, especially those who might be most vulnerable during this COVID-19 crisis. We began calling our members. During May, Bill Vaughan and I are continuing with the goal of calling each of our currently 210 members inquiring how everyone is doing. We care about you; are you safe and well? We want you to know that we are here for you. If you believe that our efforts have not reached you yet, and you are in need of support and it is something that our community can support you with, please feel free to reach out via email (susanne.rommel@sbcglobal.net) or call me (510-531-5594). We are here for you!

I also want to share that our AGO headquarters has set up a very helpful webpage as a response to our members who

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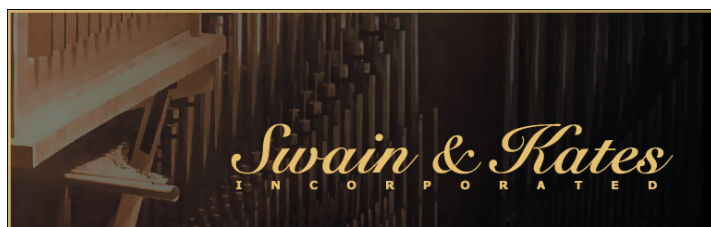
Notice to Concert-Goers

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 April 25th, all event listings shown in the newsletter calendar are current.



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Submission deadline for the **June & July** issue is **May 20**

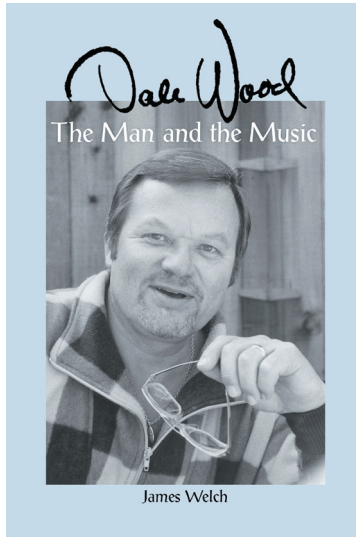
Announcing the Publication of Dale Wood: *The Man and the Music.*

from James Welch

Familiar yet fresh, accessible yet ingenious, the works of California composer Dale Wood have become mainstays of the contemporary repertoire. Wood's deceptively simple arrangements of heart-rending beauty immediately appeal to average listeners, yet reward the most accomplished organists and choral directors.

Who was Dale Wood? And what inspired his incomparable music?

In this first-ever biography, James Welch traces Wood's gifts for improvisation and arrangement to a keen ear and practical experience. Immersed from his youth in southern California's vast array of musical resources, Wood undertook but quickly rejected academic training, becoming essentially self-taught. He composed and performed for school productions and church services; did radio and TV work in Hollywood; played the Wurlitzer at the Orpheum in Los Angeles; directed music for churches in Hollywood, Riverside, and San Francisco; conducted choral workshops



across the country; and ultimately became executive editor of the Sacred Music Press, publishing numerous well-known composers.

Wood's was an intriguing and colorful life, full of personalities and adventures. The reclusive arranger of hymns and folk tunes described himself as a hermit, yet served in the military, drove fast cars, explored wilderness from Death Valley to the High Sierra, entertained aboard cruise lines, served as a volunteer firefighter, performed in bars, sold organs, rescued German shepherds, wrote a music drama for the exclusive Bohemian Club, and experienced an unusual variety of personal relationships.

Welch is uniquely equipped to tell Wood's story. Having performed his music in services and recitals throughout the nation and around the globe, Welch began a friendly correspondence with the composer that blossomed into acquaintance and collaboration. Wood invited Welch to become a regular proofreader of his compositions, rewarding him with several dedications.



Discover the man behind the music through his biography, now available for a reduced price at www.welchorganist.com, and at www.amazon.com.

James Welch wishes to thank the Special Projects Committee of the San Francisco AGO Chapter for their generous research grant in connection with this book. ▼

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.*

Events Calendar Listings: Brian Swager, 415.551.7866, sfagocal@gmail.com
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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.

2019-2020
Last updated 03/11/2020

Dean's Message, from front page

are without work due to the COVID-19 pandemic (<https://www.agohq.org/responding-to-covid-19/>):

The ongoing coronavirus pandemic presents severe and unprecedented challenges for our organists and church musicians. Never in our nation's history have places of worship been faced with indefinite closure and on such a scale. While we are all left to figure out how to navigate this difficult time, the AGO Committee on Career Development and Support would like to offer this page as a resource to members. As the situation evolves, more resources will be added.

These AGO resources provide links that connect you to information regarding unemployment, recovering from job termination, online educational resources, the career hotline and a COVID-19 survey. Additional resources are also provided for artists with links to several relief funds, an unemployment benefits eligibility website, instructions for utilizing *Flipgrid* for classroom teachers and a guide for using *Zoom* for live-streamed lessons. Additionally, the AGO resources include links to some helpful articles and blogs that address what to do regarding cancellation of gigs and choral concerts. I also want to add an additional resource regarding basic protective measures against the new coronavirus and very useful information, which can be found on the WHO website (<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>). If you are aware of additional resources that you would like to share with our community, please reach out as well. We will be very glad to share with our community, and also potentially adding to the national AGO community through the AGO site.



Shelter-in-place is impacting me and my family in many different ways. My husband and I are both working from home all-day, while our two sons (Jan, 15, and Tim, 13) are staying in their rooms, logging into the programs of distant learning provided by their schools. To not be disturbed with background organ music while attending the many work-related *Zoom* meetings during my week day, we moved Tim's organ lessons to Saturday morning: around 10 a.m. on Saturdays, Tim and his teacher, Bill Vaughan, meet via FaceTime. Tim is playing on a Rodgers Inspire Series 233 in his room, while my cell phone is set up on a tripod for Bill to have full overview of keyboards and pedals. The video and audio quality is sufficient to ensure an effective lesson; once in a while I get called in by Tim to hold the cell phone right from the top to the keyboards, allowing Bill to fully evaluate Tim's fingering.

Of course, the decorations on an organ in a teenage boy's room looks much different than what we are used to seeing in churches:



Tim Warncke, enjoying distant learning organ lesson in his room



Before I share the exciting program plan for our 2020–2021 season, I need to make an important announcement which is very sad but not unexpected during these times: We regret to inform you that our annual dinner and choral concert originally scheduled for the evening of May 18th at St Dominic's Church had to be postponed. Together with the directors of this program, Simon Berry and Eric Choate, we are now looking into rescheduling to October 2020. We will announce the new date as we get closer to the event. Normally we would share the next season's program with you during our annual dinner event in May. As I am sharing the preliminary program in this article, let's all pray and hope that we will be able to meet in person as the wonderful community we are, starting in September already — even if social distancing and hygiene measures might then still be in place. Many of our venues are big enough to ensure social distancing while enjoying concerts together:

- On September 3rd, 2020, we want to kick-off the 2020–2021 season with a Baptist Service followed by dinner at the Third Baptist Church in San Francisco under the musical direction of James Smith, our current subdean elect.
- As stated, we are looking into holding the Choral Concert at St Dominic's, originally planned for May 2020, now in early- to mid-October under the direction of Simon Berry and Eric Choate.

► **Dean's Message, next page**

Dean's Message, from previous page

- On October 30th, we will meet at the Congregational Church of San Mateo for the Youth Halloween Concert annually directed by Angela Kraft Cross.



2019 Youth Halloween Concert at Congregational Church of San Mateo

- On November 8th, we are looking into co-hosting both the Second Sunday Series at St Mark's Berkeley (George Emblom) especially for our members located in the East Bay, and at Mission Dolores Basilica (Jerome Lenk), especially for our members closer to San Francisco.
- In December we will have a member's Christmas Party. Elizabeth Forsyth will be opening her home – thanks, Liz! More information, also on the date to come as we get closer.
- On January 24th 2021, we will be co-hosting Weicheng Zhao (<https://allsaints-pas.org/more/contact-us/weicheng-zhao/>) at Grace Cathedral, music director Ben Bachmann and assistant Christopher Keady.
- On February 15th, we will build out on the success of our organ crawl this year in San Francisco: In 2021 we will be visiting four different churches than we visited this year. We are planning to include St Mark's Lutheran Church, First Unitarian Church, Old First Church and Grace Cathedral.
- In March, we are planning on co-hosting an organ concert by Amanda Mole (<http://www.concertorganists.com/artists/amanda-mole/>) at St John's Episcopal Church in San Francisco together with music director Daniel Gonzalez.
- We are also looking into a Member's Recital in March 2021. Both March dates will be announced as we get closer.

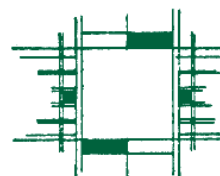
- On April 25th, Olivier Latry (<http://www.concertorganists.com/artists/olivier-latry/>) will perform at St Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco, hosted by music director Christopher Tietze.
- Our 2020–2021 program will conclude with a choir concert and annual dinner on May 24th 2021 at St Stephen's Episcopal Church, Belvedere. The board members enjoying cooking and baking will be your chefs on that evening, utilizing the high-tech kitchen at St Stephen's. Thanks to music director John Hirten!

During the Annual Dinner on May 18th, 2020, and under normal circumstances, we would have announced the program for the 2020–2021 season as well as any personnel changes to our board as a result of the elections we would have held if the coronavirus crisis had not hit us. AGO headquarters is fully aware, and we encountered difficulties — similar to other chapters — in recruiting for those positions that will need to be filled for the 2020–2021 season. I want to give full transparency on the changes we are encountering:

- Our Secretary position will become vacant. We are grateful for Elizabeth Forsyth's service in this role for three years – thank you, Liz! What a great pleasure to have worked with you on the board, you will be missed!
- Our Treasurer position will become vacant, as Michael Page has now completed his three years in this role – thanks so much, Michael – you made a difference on the many board meetings!
- With these changes, Bill Vaughan will take on the role as Treasurer, leaving the Subdean position to James Smith, our current Subdean Elect.
- I will continue to serve in the role of Dean, until we are ready to nominate the new Subdean Elect for the 2020–2021 season. At that time we will hold the board elections – stay tuned!

Wishing you the Peace of Easter, stay safe and healthy!

Susanne Rommel ▼



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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San Francisco AGO Chapter Recital Series Donors

The SFAGO wishes to thank the following people for their support of the Recital Series.

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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

RESCHEDULED
See Dean’s Message

Steve's Organ Lit Corner

by Steve Repasky

Organ Music for Healing

There is a Spirit that Delights to do no Evil no. 3 from **A Quaker Reader: Eleven pieces for Organ** by Ned Rorem. Published by Boosey & Hawkes, 1977, HL.48002325

Adagio for Strings by Samuel Barber, arr. for the organ by William Strickland. G. Schirmer, 1949, plate no: 1760

Solemn Melody by Walford Davies, West arrangement. Novello, 1910, plate no: 13138
On IMSLP with another the original version by Davies for cello and piano.

Sheep May Safely Graze by J. S. Bach, arr. by Daniel Pinkham. E.C. Schirmer Publishing, 1989, plate no 4453.

Andante from the solo Violin Sonata, BWV 1003, by J. S. Bach. Arranged for keyboard. On Imslp.

Larghetto from Concerto in D major after Vivaldi, BWV 972. by J. S. Bach
Keyboard arrangements on IMSLP.
Organ arrangement by Gerald Near in his **Four Slow Pieces For Organ by Antonio Vivaldi**. Aureole Editions #AE116. ▼

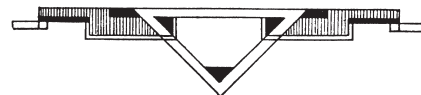
Classified Ads

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 June & July issue is May 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.fpcberkeley.org/careers for complete job description and application.



Calendar, from last page

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

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

28 Sunday

2pm. Mahler: *Symphony No 8*. See 25 June

4pm. David Hatt, Organ. Cathedral Vierge/Tournemire Festival. Vierge: *Pièces de fantaisie, Suite I*. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

JULY

5 Sunday

4pm. Karen Beaumont, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

12 Sunday

4pm. Michael Bower, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

14 Tuesday

7:30pm. Ana Belen Garcia, Organ. SD

19 Sunday

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

26 Sunday

4pm. Jordan Prescott, Organ. Cathedral Vierge/Tournemire Festival. Vierge: *Fifth Symphony*. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

27 Monday

7:30pm. Scott Macomber, Trumpet; Simon Berry, Organ. SD

AUGUST

11 Tuesday

7:30pm. Daniel Chang, Organ. SD



Bay Area Concert Calendar

Collected by Brian Swager

2020 May

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 June & July issue is May 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 that some events will be cancelled or rescheduled.

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

As of April 25, all event listings shown are current.

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. Music of Hahn, Godefroid, Debussy, Zabel, Ibert, Glinka, and

Pierné. 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

17 Sunday

4pm. Kevin Navarro, Piano. Music of Debussy, Bach, Beethoven, and Chopin. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

18 Monday

6:30pm. **SFAGO EVENT** Annual Dinner **RESCHEDULED**

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

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

30 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. LHM

31 Sunday

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

Looking Ahead

JUNE

6 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. LHM

7 Sunday

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

4pm. David Brock, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

13 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. LHM

14 Sunday

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

4pm. John Karl Hirten, Organ. Cathedral Vierne/Tournemire Festival. Tournemire: "Pentecost" and "Epiphany" from *L'Orgue mystique*. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

20 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. LHM

7pm. Rob Gardner's *Lamb of God*. Temple Hill Choir & Orchestra; Alan Chipman, Director. CSMA

21 Sunday

4pm. Michal Kopycinski, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

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

➤ **Calendar, page 7**