



Summer 2020

The American Guild of Organists San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

Dean's Message

by Susanne Rommel

During the last several weeks, Bill Vaughan and I were able to reach many of our 214 chapter members via phone. We had wonderful and enriching conversations with you – thank you! Overall it was a very rewarding experience for both of us. We are grateful for all our members who care for each other, and are bound together in our mission of fostering a thriving community of musicians. It was also great to talk to members who had moved out of the area and are keeping their membership active with our chapter to stay connected – thank you!

During these last several weeks, I also learned about the ups and downs of being at home for such an extended time. By now, I feel well adjusted to the new normal, and it was great to hear from many of you who have reached a similar new equilibrium. For me, it was difficult at first to ensure that I would get enough exercise every morning. Where before shelter-in-place I had started my weekday mornings getting my son to school before 7am, taking the commuter bus and walking ten minutes to my office. Now I try to mimic this early morning activity by taking a one mile walk outside in the morning before sitting in six to twelve Zoom meetings during my workdays. During lunchtime, we are now trying many new recipes together and are enjoying the family time at lunch and dinner. And on the downside, similar to what we heard from some of you as well, we miss socializing with friends, family, neighbors, and our precious SFAGO community.

And while getting better and better adjusted each day, it remains most important that we are staying safe and healthy. I am grateful that most members we were able to talk to seem to be doing well. If you feel you did not receive a call or an email from us, please check your contact information in the member directory on our website www.sfago.org/members. We have currently several phone numbers on file which are no longer in service or have been discontinued. If that could have happened

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.

No events are listed in this Summer issue due to the fluid nature of the pandemic. Please use the chapter's website to access the most up-to-date listing of events scheduled throughout our area. A direct link to the website appears in the blue heading on the calendar page.



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Dean's Message, from front page

to the number you had previously provided to the AGO, then please contact us www.sfago.org/contact with your corrected contact information.

Besides talking to many members on the phone, we were additionally glad to connect with members during our chapter chat on Memorial Day. While the link to the Zoom meeting invitation did not work (apologies to everyone who might have tried to connect and was not able to),

many members were able to successfully join the meeting using the meeting information provided.

We spent 40 minutes filled with fun and great ideas. The time limit set by Zoom felt just right to check in, and even share a historic moment when a 1000-piece puzzle was completed half way through our call and we witnessed the last piece finding its spot. Thanks everyone on the picture below for a great chat!



Memorial Day SFAGO Chapter Chat via Zoom, 5/26/2020

Sadly, most concerts and events have already been cancelled or are expected to be cancelled during this summer due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Every cancellation also means a cancelled opportunity for socializing. To provide further opportunities of staying connected during the summer we decided to continue with our chapter chats. Look out for an invitation via email.

I wish you and your families continued health and well-being throughout summer. Stay safe and reach out if there is anything we can support you with. We are in this together. ▼

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.

Dean: Susanne Rommel
Sub Dean: William Vaughan
Sub Dean Elect: James Smith
Secretary: Elizabeth Forsyth
Treasurer: Michael Page
Registrar: Christoph Tietze, 415.924.1377
Chapter Website: www.sfago.org

Effective May 2020: All members have access to the online directory and can find email addresses there if they wish to contact Board 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.

2019-2020
Last updated 06/28/2020

Oldest California-Built Organ Saved

from Jack Bethards

The sole remaining unaltered work of John Bergstrom & Sons, Opus 66, built in 1897 for the First Congregational Church of Sonoma, California, has been renovated and installed at The Jacuzzi Family Vineyards in Sonoma by Schoenstein & Co.



When the music program of the church changed, Fred and Nancy Cline, owners of the winery, stepped forward to save the organ. Nancy Cline has a special interest in the preservation of California history. For example, the property includes an educational museum with models of all 21 California missions originally made for the 1939 World's Fair. The extensive and opulent visitors' center is in the style of an Italian villa. Its main feature is the Barrel Room, a space in Roman Basilica-style complete with apse and accommodating 250 guests, an ideal setting for banquets, weddings or concerts.

The two-manual, eight stop mechanical action, hand pumped organ fit the apse of the Barrel Room as though built for it. Even the color scheme of the decorated pipes matches. The case sides were incomplete due to the original position of the instrument, thus visitors can view the interior of the organ, which has become a fascinating

educational exhibit. Although a modern blower has been added, all else is original including its A-435 pitch. The metal pipework was of special interest. Cleaning revealed meticulously made and voiced pipes of the highest caliber. Obviously, they were made in the Bergstrom San Francisco shop as they were signed in the flat "John Bergstrom & Sons". Comparing this instrument with the remnants of other Bergstroms in the area, it appears everything with possible exception of zinc pipes, keyboards, and small hardware, was made in the shop as well.

The organ was dedicated in a June 2019 ceremony with recital by John Karl Hirten. Bergstrom opus 66 has become an important cultural addition to the Northern California Wine Country. ▼

Stoplist

John Bergstrom & Sons
San Francisco, California
Opus 66, 1897
Mechanical Action

GREAT

8' Open Diapason 58 Pipes
8' Dulciana 46 Pipest
8' Melodia 58 Pipes

SWELL (Expressive)

8' Violin Diapason 58 Pipes
8' Salicional 46 Pipest
8' Stopped Diapason 58 Pipes
4' Flute Harmonic 58 Pipes
Tremulant

PEDAL

16' Bourdon 27 Pipes

COUPLERS

Swell to Pedal
Great to Pedal
Swell to Great
Swell to Great Octave
Two Combination Pedals
† Common Bass

This "Summer" issue covers June, July and August.

The next scheduled newsletter is for September.

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

From the "Small World" Department

by James Welch

I love skiing and have enjoyed numerous trips to Tahoe, Utah, and Colorado over the years. For me there's nothing better than being in the mountains, taking in the scenery and bombing down steep hills. It has also worked well in my schedule: while most people who work during the week have to brave traffic and large crowds at ski resorts on weekends, I can ski on weekdays when they are much less crowded. Sometimes I almost have the place to myself. I also don't mind skiing alone—it's a great way to unwind after a busy weekend.



James Welch and David Brock overlooking Heavenly Valley ski resort.

I always enjoy talking with the people I'm riding with on the chairlift. I meet interesting people from all over the world and from many walks of life.

In January of this year, while skiing at Heavenly Valley (Tahoe area), I struck up a conversation with the person sitting next to me. I asked him, randomly, why he was skiing on a weekday rather than working. His answer: "I'm



David Brock at the console of his 3-manual Casavant organ

a church organist. I work weekends and ski the rest of the week!" This has to be the first time I had ever encountered a church organist on a chairlift. When I told him I was also an organist, we starting swapping stories and ended up skiing together for several more runs, continuing the conversation on each lift ride.

It turns out that his name is David Brock, and he lives near Lake Tahoe.

An organist at a Presbyterian church in Reno, he started his professional career as a treble chorister at National Cathedral, and he has since concertized around the country, with recitals at Princeton, St Thomas Church (NYC), the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels (LA), just to name a few.

He really got my attention when he casually told me about his home organ. It was clear that this was no small home organ, either—it's a three-manual Casavant organ. When I told him that I would like to see this in person, he invited me to swing by. Later that day I made a visit to his home and got the grand tour and had a chance to play the organ myself.



Additional pipes (mounted above the kitchen!)

So it's a small world after all. In this case, it was a colleague and a fine musician. On subsequent trips to Tahoe, I have occasionally texted David from the top of the mountain, and he has jumped in his car and headed over for a few more ski runs together. Check out his website, davidbrockmusic.com.

And remember, you never know who you're going to meet on a chairlift. ▼

About Printed Email Addresses

from George Morten, Editor

In an effort to thwart the harvesting by automated bots of email addresses shown in our newsletter, the printed email addresses are altered in such a way as to make them unusable when copying them. To generate an email message, click on the blue-colored email link. ▼

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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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

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 September issue is August 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"

This is a special Summer newsletter, covering June, July and August. No events are listed here because of the possibility that concerts will be cancelled within a short time following publication.

For the most up-to-date listings, we recommend that members use the online calendar. To view the calendar, click the [blue link](#) in the last sentence in the blue box immediately above, and follow the directions.

Only the presenters of events know if and when their programs will take place. The SFAGO provides free listings to event presenters. **It is incumbent on the individual presenters to submit up-to-date listings to the SFAGO Calendar Editor.**

See page 4 about email addresses shown in the newsletter.

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](mailto:David.Howitt@sfago.org). **Submission deadline for the September issue is August 20th.** Online listings available at: www.sfago.org/job-board

FREE

FELIX SCHOENSTEIN PIPE ORGAN, opus 12, 1923. This two manual and pedal, 4 rank instrument was originally installed in the N. Gray Mortuary, San Francisco and was acquired in 1985 by John R. Zweers and installed in his home where it was played daily until 2017. The organ is in good condition. If interested please contact John S. Zweers at [FFSS at gmail dot com](mailto:FFSS@gmail.com).

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Gregorian Chant – Gregorian Missal (hardback)

Steve's Organ Lit Corner

by Steve Repasky

Three Organ Preludes by T. Frederick H. Candlyn
Carl Fischer, Inc, 1957. Also on IMSLP. Three simple but poetic pieces on two staves with pedal indications here and there.

Candlyn was the organist and choirmaster at St Thomas Episcopal Church, New York. Candlyn worked at St Thomas Church until his retirement in 1954. After his retirement from STC, Candlyn was the organist and choirmaster at Trinity Church, Roslyn, (Long Island) New York. ▼

Interpretation of Early Music – Donington (hardback)

Lutheran Service Music and Hymns - Accompaniment Edition (hardback)

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