



PALO ALTO/PENINSULA CHAPTER AGO

NEWSLETTER—MARCH/APRIL 2009

FROM THE DEAN

Dear Chapter:

I hope you survived the monsoon rains. As I write it is dry outside, but I hear there is more rain coming. They say humidity is good for organs, so take heart.

It was thrilling to see so many at the Stanford masterclass with Dr. Robert Huw Morgan. Please do join us for our next event: a symposium on church acoustics, Sunday, March 15 at 4:00 p.m., at St. Paul's, Burlingame. This should be extremely informative, something near and dear to organists, but so often overlooked. Thank you to Dr. Robert Stewart for single-handedly conceiving, planning, and organizing this event. We are very grateful, indeed. We plan to have dinner together afterwards at a local restaurant.

On May 9 John Karl Hirten will offer an improvisation workshop from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Congregational Church of San Mateo. He says that he prefers beginners because he has more to show them. That sounds inviting. I hope you will come despite your comfort level with

improvisation, which for me, is not very high at all. Then June 6 will be our annual local composers' forum, to be held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Palo Alto from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Please consider attending the Regional Festival, Phoenix Rising, in Arizona from June 22 to 25—for details go to www.agoinphoenix.com. It's hot there, but it's a dry heat, and there are lots of swimming pools. I plan to be there; I hope you will join me.

Finally, I wish to share an inspirational piece which I heard from Joyce E. Rhodes, our AGO North Coast District Convener, as she opened our regional leadership meeting. It's about geese, written by Milton Olson.

1. As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an "uplift" for the bird following. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71% more flying range than if each bird flew alone.

Lesson: People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

2. When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the birds immediately in front.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as a goose, we will join in formations with those who are headed where we want to go.

3. When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies at the point position.

Lesson: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership—with people, as with geese—interdependent with one another.

4. The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

Lesson: We need to make sure our honking from behind is encouraging—not something less than helpful.

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FROM THE DEAN CONTINUED ...

5. When a goose gets sick or wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow their fellow member down to help provide protection. They stay with this member of the flock until he or she is able to fly again or dies. Then they launch out on their own, with another formation or to catch up with their own flock.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as the geese, we'll stand by one another like they do.

Yours,

RANI FISCHER

WORKSHOP ON ACOUSTICS

A chapter workshop presenting the various factors affecting good acoustics within a worship space will be held Sunday March 15 at 4:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 415 El Camino Real, Burlingame. The speakers will be Jack Bethards, the renowned President of the Schonstein Organ Company, Ewart (Red) Wetherill, a longtime expert consultant in acoustics, and John Prohs, a specialist in computer oriented design and analysis of structures and churches. The requirements of hearing the pastor, choir, organ, and congregational singing with proper volume and sound quality is strongly determined by wall and ceiling structure and surface orientations, placement of the components, ventilation system, outside traffic and noises, seat cushions, carpets, windows, sound reinforcement systems, congregation attendance, and of course the design of the organ itself.

Jack Bethards has several times written in *The American Organist* about the procedures he followed in installing his organs in various churches. His installation at the Conference Center of the Church of Latter Day Saints in Salt Lake City is terrific. Red Wetherill has dealt with the methods of improving an existing church and organ by modifications in wall or ceiling reflections, such as with suspended panels, and surprisingly sealing of tongue and groove ceiling joints. Come and learn the state of the art in this seemingly black magic field. The event is free. Afterward we'll go (Dutch) to dinner at a nearby restaurant, likely Il Fornaio, an Italian restaurant at 327 Lorton Avenue. We hope to see you all there.

BOB STEWART

SERVICES FOR JACQUES LITTLEFIELD

Many readers will have appreciated David Sheetz's remembrances of Jacques Littlefield, printed in the February edition of the Newsletter. There will be two liturgical opportunities to commemorate Jacques' life—all are welcome to both events:

Monday March 2, at 4:00 p.m.

Memorial Service at Memorial Church, Stanford University

Friday March 20, at 7:30 p.m.

Requiem Eucharist (*Gabriel Fauré*) at Christ Church, 815 Portola Road, Portola Valley

ABOUT THE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

At its recent meeting, the Executive Committee discussed the role and content of our Newsletter. From now on, we plan to publish the Newsletter bimonthly, at the beginning of odd-numbered months (January, March, etc.) It is sent electronically to all members with an email address on file, and additionally in paper copy to those who request it.

The Committee and I would warmly welcome brief articles or letters from chapter members to appear in the Newsletter (subject to editorial review). Our deadline for submissions is the 10th of each preceding (hence even-numbered) month. They may be emailed to me at <mburt@post.harvard.edu>.

We consider the two most important components of the Newsletter to be the information about upcoming chapter events and the general calendar listings. For the latter, the practice of the editor has been to list concerts or services featuring members of the chapter and/or located in San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties. Other events may be included based on the space available.

Members of the chapter are particularly encouraged to send in notices of concerts or services in which they will participate, or which are sponsored by their congregations. Listings may be sent to me at <mburt@post.harvard.edu>. Please include the following information: date and time; name of artist(s), instrument(s) performed, and/or liturgy; location and address. Please note that due to space constraints we are unable to print biographies of performers.

If you have further suggestions for the Newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact me or another Chapter Officer.

MATTHEW BURT

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY MARCH 1

3:00 p.m. A Lenten Procession. Grace Cathedral, 1100 California Ave., San Francisco.

MONDAY MARCH 2

4:00 p.m. Memorial Service for Jacques Littlefield. Memorial Church, Stanford University.

SATURDAY MARCH 7

2:00 p.m. Katherine Phillips and David Phillips (organ), Ilya Demutsky (bass). Church of the Advent, 261 Fell St., San Francisco.

SUNDAY MARCH 8

3:30 p.m. Christoph Tietze (organ). Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, 1111 Gough St., San Francisco.

4:00 p.m. Jeremy Filsell (organ). Grace Cathedral, 1100 California Ave., San Francisco.

SATURDAY MARCH 14

2:00 p.m. Christoph Tietze (organ). Church of the Advent, 261 Fell St., San Francisco.

5:00 p.m. Soli Deo Gloria with Orchestra Gloria, Allen Simon (dir.). First Lutheran, 600 Homer Ave., Palo Alto.

SUNDAY MARCH 15

3:30 p.m. Christoph Tietze (organ). Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, 1111 Gough St., San Francisco.

4:00 p.m. Christopher Herrick (organ). Grace Cathedral, 1100 California Ave., San Francisco.

4:00 p.m. CHAPTER WORKSHOP ON ACOUSTICS. St. Paul's Episcopal, 415 El Camino Real, Burlingame.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 18

8:00 p.m. Maxine Thevenot (organ). Memorial Church, Stanford University.

FRIDAY MARCH 20

7:30 p.m. Fauré Requiem for Jacques Littlefield, Matthew Burt (dir.), Robert Huw Morgan (organ). Christ Church, 815 Portola Road, Portola Valley.

SATURDAY MARCH 21

5:00 p.m. Lenten Meditation on Passion of Christ. St. Paul's Episcopal, 415 El Camino Real, Burlingame.

SUNDAY MARCH 22

3:30 p.m. David Phillips (organ). Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, 1111 Gough St., San Francisco.

4:00 p.m. Millennia Too, Susan Barrett (oboe), Alison Luedecke (organ). St. Bede's Episcopal, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park.

4:00 p.m. SF Chapter AGO Member Recital. Grace Cathedral, 1100 California Ave., San Francisco.

SUNDAY MARCH 29

3:00 p.m. Jeffrey Smith (organ). Grace Cathedral, 1100 California Ave., San Francisco.

3:30 p.m. Garret Collins (organ). Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, 1111 Gough St., San Francisco.

5:30 p.m. Choral Evensong. St. Francis Episcopal, 339 San Fernando Way, San Francisco.

SATURDAY APRIL 4

7:30 p.m. San Francisco City Chorus, Larry Marietta (conductor), John Walko (organ). Trinity Episcopal, 1668 Bush St., San Francisco.

SUNDAY APRIL 5

3:00 p.m. A Palm Sunday Meditation. Grace Cathedral, 1100 California Ave., San Francisco.

SUNDAY APRIL 12

3:30 p.m. Angela Kraft Cross (organ). Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, 1111 Gough St., San Francisco.

SUNDAY APRIL 19

3:00 p.m. A Festival of Lessons and Carols for Eastertide. Grace Cathedral, 1100 California Ave., San Francisco.

3:30 p.m. David Pickering (organ). Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, 1111 Gough St., San Francisco.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS CONTINUED ...

SUNDAY APRIL 26

3:00 p.m. James Welch (organ). St. Mark's Episcopal,
600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto.

3:30 p.m. Louis Perazza. Cathedral of St. Mary of the
Assumption, 1111 Gough St., San Francisco.

SATURDAY MAY 9

1:00 p.m. CHAPTER IMPROVISATION WORKSHOP.
First Congregational, 225 Tilton Ave., San Mateo.

SATURDAY JUNE 6

2:00 p.m. CHAPTER COMPOSERS' FORUM.
St. Mark's Episcopal, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto.

JUNE 22—JUNE 25

Phoenix Rising: AGO Regional Convention in Phoenix,
Arizona. Details at <www.agoinphoenix.com>.



CHRIST CHURCH

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