



PALO ALTO/PENINSULA CHAPTER AGO

NEWSLETTER—JULY/AUGUST 2009

FROM THE DEAN

Dear Chapter:

Congratulations for another fine year. The year of Organ Spectacular has brought many joys and musical epiphanies. Many people are responsible for these. Some of the highlights have been hearing new compositions last weekend at the Composers' Forum; attending Organ Camp and hearing our future organists; discovering new ways to enrich my ecclesiastical doodling; learning the rudiments of church acoustics; talking with organists and prospective organists about the AGO; being dazzled at our members' recital; playing at Stanford, which goes without saying; and most of all, working with all of you this year to build our chapter. I am truly grateful for this experience.

I am delighted to report that Duane Soubirous will be attending Oberlin next fall and studying organ there. He follows in the steps of his teacher, Angela, also from Oberlin. We are graced by the performance of the complete works of Bach this coming year by Robert Huw Morgan, at Stanford, the dates of which we will list in this issue. How lucky we are for all the good organ playing around us.

Our next event will be on the Sunday before Labor Day, September 6, at Christ Church, Portola Valley. On the afternoon of this day we will have a potluck around 2 p.m., induct new members and honor past members who have contributed so much, play the lovely organ at Christ Church, and maybe go on a hike at Windy Hill Park. This will be for our chapter only, no sharing this year with any other chapter, though you are welcome to bring any friends and family. We will also have a short general assembly so that you get a taste of what goes on in a board meeting and be able to participate. Please come and enjoy the companionship of others and the pleasant surroundings.

On the subject of eating, here is a treat that seems especially designed for organists. Sneak one in during the service, if you like, to get you through to the postlude. I call them Turkish Snowballs, though I'm not certain that it snows in Turkey; it must. They are satisfying, tasty, and

very good for you, loaded with fiber, protein, and healthy fat. Enjoy, and see you on Labor Day weekend!

Turkish Snowballs

*Courtesy of the Institute
for Integrative Nutrition*

- 1 cup almonds
- ½ c Medjool dates,
pits removed
- Juice and zest of 1 lemon
- Pinch of sea salt
- 1 tsp of rosewater (optional)
- 1 cup of raw, shredded coconut

In a food processor, blend the almonds until they are a course meal. Add dates, lemon juice and zest, and salt. Blend thoroughly. Taste, then adjust accordingly. Using damp hands, form small bite-sized balls. Place coconut on plate and roll the balls in it to lightly cover them. Serve at room temperature or chilled. May be stored in the freezer.

Yours,

RANI FISCHER

international
year of the
organ
2008-2009

American
Guild of
Organists



PIANO & ELECTRONIC ORGAN FOR SALE

James Warren is offering two musical instruments for sale; (1) A Steinway Grand Piano, Model B (1994), asking price \$50,000; (2) A four-manual Allen Electronic Organ, Renaissance Series, DB-70 Edition, asking price \$100,000. Both instruments are being shipped from Hawaii to the Bay Area, where they will be available for potential buyers to see and play from July 1. For more information, please call James at (415) 982-9900, ext. 111, or email him at <jwarren@jdwa.biz>.

REVIEW OF COMPOSERS' FORUM

On Saturday June 6 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Palo Alto, members of our chapter played their compositions for a small group of us. Douglas Franks, Ethan Haman, T. Paul Rosas, Robert Train Adams (from the San Francisco chapter), Jim Welch, and Angela Kraft Cross all played pieces they had written, or were written for them!

Doug Franks demonstrated the festive intros and special last verse hymn accompaniment arrangements he has written for Augsburg Press's Supporting Resource series, titled "Introductions and Alternate Accompaniments for Organ" (Doug's arrangements appear in volumes 3, 4, 8, 9, and 10). He played and we sang for LANCASHIRE ("Lead on, O King eternal"), HAMBURG ("When I survey the wondrous cross"), SALZBURG ("Let the whole creation cry"). AUSTRIA ("Praise the Lord, O heavens!"), and FINLANDIA ("This is my song"). These were very good and accessible introductions, and the special last verses make the hymns very festive indeed. The FINLANDIA accompaniment had 2 octave pedal scale passages at the last verse, broadening out the ending. We were very impressed that one of our members is published in such a well known series with such wide church use.

Another composer present, Bob Adams, offered piano accompaniments for LANCASHIRE in the piano accompaniment books published by the same publisher.

Ethan Haman, our youngest member, played a Trumpet March he had composed. It had a catchy tune and nice rhythm, and was conceived as a variation on Purcell's pieces by the same name. We went away singing his new tune and marveled again at his abilities!

Paul Rosas said he got on a meditation kick, and played his 2 meditations for us, His second was based on what he learned at our chapter's improvisation workshop led by John Karl Hirten on Saturday May 9. Rani had done some chord patterns of holding notes at that workshop, which he used in this piece. He also played an accompaniment for WONDROUS LOVE designed to be sung by a duet of two amateur singers. It offered good support for singers not too sure of holding their parts with a very nice accompaniment. Then he played an in-progress composition based on patterns from a weaving book, titled "Annabelle Toccata". It was very interesting to hear how he acquired and applied the themes from the weaving patterns. He's now taking composition lessons from John Karl Hirten. Bob Adams commented that this kind of pattern is the "Moment Form" used by Stravinsky, and talked about deriving some of his own composition patterns from knitting patterns (even pulling out a knitted vest in progress!).

Bob Adams played a composition he wrote for Pentecost titled "And They Were Filled with the Holy Spirit." The piece had a lot of fourths, with whole-tone scales in the pedals to give a sense of the event being depicted. "Consistent dissonance" is how he described his piece, "not aiming for comfortable," written in 7/8 to describe the spirit of movement of Pentecost. The piece had a very abrupt ending, to show the Holy Spirit is still at work.

Jim Welch played a piece by Rulon Christiansen whose specialty is French Romantic music. The Scherzo was dedicated to him—they had met at BYU. This piece is romantic in style, with shades of Vierne and Dupré.

Angela Kraft Cross played a piece she wrote last summer titled "Homage to Henri Nouwen; House of Fear, House of Love." Nouwen was a Belgian priest and author who died in 1996. The title of this piece is from a quote of Nouwen: "Out of the House of fear into the House of Love." The first part of the piece, "Fear" is a Prelude-Sonata, with nervous anxious dissonances. The development is not in the expected order, with themes constantly interrupted. The second part of the piece is a fugue on "God's Love," which stabilizes into a quiet lyrical section before heading to a fugal climax. See more of her notes below.

MARY FRANCES JOHNSON

NOTES ON "HOMAGE TO HENRI NOUWEN"

For many years, I have felt motivated to write a piece honoring the great theologian, Henri Nouwen. Henri Nouwen was a Catholic priest from Holland who then completed his doctoral studies at University of Notre Dame in Indiana. He has taught on the divinity faculties of Notre Dame, Harvard and Yale. He never felt completely comfortable in the ivory tower, and took many sabbaticals including mission work to Central America, 6 months of solitude in a Trappist monastery, and eventually the last 10 years of his life as the chaplain to a home for developmentally disabled adults in Canada. He is best known to most of us, however because of his spiritual books, which show profound insight and a brilliant theological mind. One of my favorite books is Lifesigns, and in that book I especially love the preface entitled Out of the House of Fear into the House of Love. Nouwen maintains that human institutions, be it government, work, school, even the human part of church use fear to motivate us where as God is different. God uses Love to motivate us. Jesus is quoted again and again as saying "Be not afraid!"

Homage to Henri Nouwen is a Prelude and Fugue where the prelude is called House of Fear and the fugue, House of Love. The Prelude is built in Sonata form with the main theme having a spooky feel, the secondary theme being a worry wart anxiety theme, and the closing theme, a startling feeling. After the development section, the Recap brings the themes back, but since fear fragments us, the themes interrupt each other continuously for the remainder of the prelude. The fugue, inspired by Durufle's Fugue on the name of Alain, starts quietly in the Aeolian mode, and as God's love buoys up our life and gives us stability, the mode progresses through the piece to more optimistic and uplifting modes, Mixolydian, Ionian (major) and Lydian, as the registration builds to a full organ. The fugue also is written in the Samba dance rhythm to give God's love a playful lilt.

Overall the goal of my piece is to bring attention to Henri Nouwen's wonderful writings. They have changed my life, and they are likely to inspire yours as well!

ANGELA KRAFT CROSS

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Congregational Church of Belmont seeks a Music Director. The church is at 751 Alameda de las Pulgas in Belmont, and has an impressive custom-built pipe organ. This is a music performance-oriented church here on the mid-Peninsula with services at 10:30am on Sundays, a choir, a guest musician program that has included jazz, various instrumentalists and vocalists, and a newly-acquired grand piano. We do love our music! The church seeks either a Music Director who is both lead organist and choir director or a candidate to fill the organist/accompanist role. For more information contact Kristin Speer at (650) 245-3311 or by email at <kspeer@accelsearch.com>.

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Livermore seeks a dedicated and committed musician to begin in Fall 2009. The liberal and welcoming congregation, led by a musical and supportive Rector, is poised for spiritual growth in the tri-valley. A dedicated senior choir of 12 to 16 members has sung excellent and traditional liturgical music, and is excited to experience the best of new repertory. They sing at the 10:30 service. A children's choir, led by a parishioner, sings on special occasions, and there has been interest in forming a handbell choir. The church has excellent natural acoustics, a fine 2-manual pipe organ, a grand piano, and a set of handbells. This position is nine months, from Labor Day until Pentecost. Compensation is \$10,000. For more information call The Rev. Carol L. Cook at 925-447-3289 or 925-373-6201. Church Fax number is 925-447-3290.

First Immanuel Lutheran Church, San Jose is seeking an Organist, offering a part-time salary of \$15,000 (no benefits), with two Sundays' vacation per year. Candidates must be familiar with the Lutheran liturgical service style, able to provide prelude, postlude, and offertory from organ repertoire, and willing to work with pastor(s). Two services Sunday mornings (English & Spanish) plus holidays. All services in modified (updated) liturgical format with hymns and service responses. We also have one of the finest 30-rank Schlicker organs around, a quality instrument appreciated by even our most discriminating guest organists (dedicated by E. Power Biggs). The organ is voiced on 2.5" of wind with cone tuning pipes in the upper ranges of all ranks. Position starts in July 2009. Please contact Pastor Don Schneider at (408) 499-9129 or at <pstrdon2003@yahoo.com>.

THE COMPLETE ORGAN WORKS OF J. S. BACH

Over the course of the 2009-2010 season, Robert Huw Morgan will perform the complete organ works of Bach in Stanford Memorial Church on the following dates. Concerts are at 8:00 p.m. unless otherwise stated, and tickets priced at \$10/\$5/ free for Stanford students.

Friday September 25, 2009
Wednesday October 14, 2009
Friday October 30, 2009
Sunday November 15, 2009, at 1:30 p.m.
Sunday December 6, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. (free)
Friday January 15, 2010
Wednesday January 27, 2010
Friday February 19, 2010
Wednesday March 10, 2010
Wednesday April 7, 2010
Wednesday April 21, 2010
Wednesday May 5, 2010
Wednesday June 11, 2010 (free)

UPCOMING BOOMERIA EXTRAVAGANZA

The Chapel Royal at Boomeria, Bonny Doon, will feature an organ extravaganza on Saturday July 11 from 1 to 5 p.m. The afternoon features hours of organ music in Boomeria's own Chapel Royal, along with snacks, drinks, and wine, surrounded by the Bonny Doon area forest. Vlada Moran, Bruce Sawhill, Hartzell Lemons, Lawrence Manzo, and Preston Boomer will perform throughout the afternoon. This event is a fundraiser and proceeds benefit the Santa Cruz Baroque Festival. Tickets for the afternoon are \$50 and available through Santa Cruz Tickets at (831) 420-5260 or online at <www.santacruztickets.com>.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY JULY 5

3:30 p.m. Kristian Schneider. Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, 1111 Gough St., San Francisco. [Hereafter *CSSM*]

SUNDAY JULY 12

3:30 p.m. Karen Beaumont. *CSSM*

SUNDAY JULY 19

3:30 p.m. Louis Perazza. *CSSM*

SUNDAY AUGUST 2

3:30 p.m. Stephen Lind. *CSSM*

SATURDAY AUGUST 15

6:15 p.m. Susan Jane Matthews. SS. Peter and Paul, 666 Filbert St., San Francisco.

SUNDAY AUGUST 16

3:30 p.m. Emma Lou Diemer. *CSSM*

SUNDAY AUGUST 23

3:30 p.m. Lenore Alford. *CSSM*

SUNDAY AUGUST 30

3:30 p.m. Christoph Tietze. *CSSM*

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 6

2:00 p.m. CHAPTER OPENING EVENT. Christ Church, 815 Portola Rd., Portola Valley. [See *From the Dean* for details]

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