



# PALO ALTO/PENINSULA CHAPTER AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

Find us online at <http://www.papenago.org/>

## NEWSLETTER—MAY/JUNE 2012

### FROM THE DEAN

Dear Chapter Colleagues:

I trust that, for those of you who celebrated them, your Holy Week and Easter services were both musically successful and spiritually uplifting. It is easy for us to forget that, apart from weddings and funerals, Christmas and Easter services are the only occasions in the year when many people experience organ and choral music. As a result, I am always buoyed up by the increased attendance at Easter liturgies, and grateful for the opportunity to share my ministry of music with so many. I hope that you feel similarly, and also that you were able to get some well-deserved rest in Easter Week!



One of my favorite verses from the Song of Songs (set so beautifully by Canadian composer Healey Willan in his anthem "Rise Up, My Love") is "For lo! The winter is past, the rain is over and gone, the flowers appear on the earth, the time of the singing of birds is come." As I write this, we are enjoying the first long hot days of spring, and I look forward to much more beautiful weather in the summer ahead. While it may prove troubling to the tuning of many of our organs, I can't help but look forward to our dependable California summer and the opportunities it provides to rest, recover, and explore our beautiful Bay Area.

Of course, as I have mentioned in each of these letters this year, we will also have the chance to explore a very different climate in another part of our nation during our convention this July. I have been delighted to hear from many chapter members that they will be in attendance in Nashville. As a result, I am planning an informal cocktail gathering for PAPenAGO members in celebration of Adam Detzner at some point following his recital. Look for more information by email soon.

Another person who will be performing in Nashville is Christian Lane, which reminds me to comment here on how well his March master class for young organists was received, both by the performers and by the audience. A former board

member who was in attendance wrote me: "Tonight's master class was the best we've ever had; Mr. Lane really is an astounding teacher.... this was the first [master class] we've had where we all, the audience, also learned so much." I heartily concur, and this was due not only to Chris's wonderful pedagogical manner, but also to David Sheetz's structuring of the event to focus on three contrasting larger works. It also was made possible by what must be the ideal organ loft for a master class: one with theatre-style seating! Thank you to Douglas Franks for hosting us at Hope Lutheran Church in San Mateo, our first time there as a chapter in several years.

Programmatically, this has been a spectacular year (and promises to continue to be in our remaining events), not only in our range of offerings but especially in our attendance. I can't thank our board members enough, and I am thrilled that those whose terms of office were concluding have all been willing to stand for reelection. Since no additional candidates were proposed, we will have the same Executive Committee next year to continue this good work. Thank you also to Jeffrey Abbott, who was appointed by the consent of the board at its last meeting to fill Glen Frank's term (class of 2014).

I invite you to continue to support the chapter by your participation, your dues, and your suggestions, which I always appreciate receiving. Have a wonderful summer, and I hope to see you in Nashville!

With my best wishes,  
Matthew

### UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

#### **HYMN IMPROVISATION MASTER CLASS**

**Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.**

Transfiguration Episcopal Church  
3900 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo  
(See next page for details!)

#### **MEMBERS' RECITAL**

**Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4:00 p.m.**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
415 El Camino Real, Burlingame

## LOOKING BACK:



*March master class with Christian Lane. Performers Nahri Ahn, Adam Detzner, and William Rehwinkel with Christian Lane and the Schoenstein organ at Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, San Mateo*



*Rani Fischer shares some favorite organ pieces at our February meeting at Woodside Village Church*

## LOOKING FORWARD:

### **Master Class on Hymn Improvisation, May 7<sup>th</sup>**

*On Monday evening, May 7<sup>th</sup>, at Transfiguration Episcopal Church in San Mateo, we will have a joint chapter potluck dinner plus program with the San Francisco chapter, with Sal Soria leading a program on improvisation.*

*6:00 p.m. social hour*

*6:30 p.m. potluck dinner*

*Please bring a main dish or salad to share.*

*7:30 p.m. Sal Soria master class on improvisation*



*Samuel Soria has been organist of the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels since its dedication in 2002. He came to Los Angeles from the Cathedral of the Holy Name in Chicago. Mr. Soria is a graduate of Valparaiso University and Northwestern University. In addition to academic study with Philip*

*Gehring and Wolfgang Rübsum, he has coached privately with Jean Guillou, Naji Hakim, Paul Manz, and Cherry Rhodes.*

*Soria was a prizewinner in the 1993 J.S. Bach International Competition at the Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C. In 1996 he was a prizewinner in the AGO National Competition in Organ Improvisation at Trinity Church, Wall Street, New York, having been a semifinalist in this same competition in 1992. He has also been awarded the honor of being the first American invited to Knokke-Heist, Belgium as a participant in the European Competition in Organ Improvisation in 1995.*

*Soria has recorded two CDs for the noted classical label Delos International. Both CDs, "Premier Organ Recording" and "Organ Voices," have received national critical acclaim. A third Delos CD featuring organ improvisations is forthcoming.*

*In July of 2004, he was a featured artist for the national convention of the American Guild of Organists at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels. In July of 2011, he was a featured artist for the regional convention of the American Guild of Organists in San Francisco. His work has been broadcast nationally on the Minnesota Public radio program "Pipedreams." Soria continues a rigorous schedule of religious services, festivals, concerts, and recitals at the cathedral in addition to performances and workshops across the U.S.A.*

## ALSO COMING SOON:

Our annual members' recital will take place on Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00 p.m., at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Burlingame. Susan Jane Matthews will be our host and she is very eager to show the church's recently refurbished Skinner organ. A no-host dinner option will follow.

If you wish to perform in the recital, please contact David Sheetz ([dasheetz@comcast.net](mailto:dasheetz@comcast.net)). Performances will be limited to chapter members, and we would like a great variety of repertory in order to show off the newly restored instrument's versatility. We will try to accommodate as many performers as possible, primarily based on repertory.

## CHAPTER TO HOST POE IN 2013!

We have just learned that the Palo Alto/Peninsula chapter has been chosen to host a Pipe Organ Encounter in 2013. This is a wonderful weeklong program for students aged 13-18, sponsored by the AGO and organized by local chapters. It is an outstanding introduction for young people to the world of the pipe organ. Rani Fischer will serve as our local director, and Angela Kraft Cross will be Faculty Coordinator. A board must be assembled, to include:

- a Facilities Coordinator
- a Funding Coordinator
- a Publicity Coordinator
- a Secretary/Registrar
- a Services Coordinator
- and a Treasurer.

Please be in touch with Rani ([ranifisc@gmail.com](mailto:ranifisc@gmail.com)) if you are interested in serving. Many more volunteers will also be needed for the week of the event, which is tentatively scheduled for July 21<sup>st</sup> -27<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Watch your newsletters in the coming months for exciting updates!

### OFFICERS

#### **Palo Alto/Peninsula Chapter AGO July 2011-June 2012**

Matthew Burt, Dean  
David Sheetz, Subdean  
Douglas Franks, Secretary  
Jill Mueller, Treasurer and Registrar  
The Rev. P. Kempton Segerhammar, Chaplain

Members-at-Large:  
Donald Mulliken & Sarah Wannamaker  
(Class of 2012)  
Jay Martin, Webmaster & Keith Wannamaker  
(Class of 2013)  
Jeffrey Abbott & Tim Getz, Newsletter Editor  
(Class of 2014)

## CONCERT/EVENT LISTINGS

**Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.**

30<sup>th</sup> Annual Lutheran/Episcopal Ascension Day Eucharist, Stanford Memorial Church

The Rev. Martha Stortz (ELCA), preaching  
The Rt. Rev. Marc Andrus (Episcopal), presiding

A combined choir of local ELCA and Episcopal Church congregations will sing, directed by chapter members David Sheetz, Matthew Burt, and Tim Getz. Chapter member Rodney Gehrke will serve as organist. All are welcome!

**Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 p.m.**

Choral Evensong  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Burlingame

**Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m.**

(two identical performances)

The Acts of the Apostles: An Oratorio by Carson Cooman (with libretto by Matthew Burt) scored for baritone, chorus, audience, piano, organ, and strings. John Bischoff, baritone; Adam Detzner, organ; Matthew Burt, conducting  
Christ Church, 815 Portola Road, Portola Valley  
\$20 general/\$10 students and seniors

**Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3:00 p.m.**

James Welch, organ  
St. Joseph Church, 582 Hope St., Mountain View  
\$10 general/\$5 students and seniors

The organ is a 25 rank, three manual Murray M. Harris that was originally built for St. Ignatius Church in San Francisco in 1906, acquired by St. Joseph's in 1926, and refurbished in the late 1970s and again in 2005.

FOR ADDITIONAL CALENDAR LISTINGS please see the San Francisco Chapter's Bay Area Concert Calendar at:  
<http://tinyurl.com/vzcfdf>

## POSITION AVAILABLE

Organist/Choir Accompanist  
Redeemer Lutheran Church (LCMS), Redwood City  
[www.redeemerministries.org](http://www.redeemerministries.org)

Redeemer has an organ-led service at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. The Celebration Choir sings about twice a month and for special mid-week services (Lent/Holy Week/Advent/Christmas). Choir rehearsals (about 75 minutes and about 40 in number) are currently on Mondays but have also been on Thursdays. The organ is a 10 rank,  
(continued next page)

two manual Schoenstein. The piano is a grand piano. Ability to improvise is desirable. Salary will be in the \$18,000 range. Send applications to the Rev. Harold Draeger, [hdraeger@gmail.com](mailto:hdraeger@gmail.com). Position is available after May 20<sup>th</sup>.

**ELECTRONICS AT STUDENT CONTESTS AND CONCERTS**  
**Lea Schmidt-Rogers**  
**Councillor for Professional Development**  
**AGO Region IX**

Cell phone videos, video cameras, iPad videos. Next, probably taking videos with a special pair of glasses. It's gone way beyond banning flash cameras.

Many music organizations are pondering the intrusion of electronics on the scene. In our National Federation of Music Clubs, there is a new notice in the syllabus for Junior Festival (ages 0-18) that no electronics period (this includes but is not limited to cell phones, video cameras, and iPads), may be used in the festival performance rooms. Our Music Teachers' Association of California is presently deliberating its policy, receiving pressure from parents to continue to allow videos in festivals and contests.

Up front, I have to admit that I'm extremely biased against cameras in contests, recitals, and concerts. Being a church organist, I've seen the worst: cameramen filming directly in front of the bride and groom, flash cameras going off so much that you can hardly hear the pronouncement of marriage, videographers demanding to be front and center blocking everyone's view, cell phones going off during prayers, baptisms, and sermons. Even at a recent AGO convention, I was behind a camera phone raised so that I couldn't see the performer. Also at a recent workshop, one AGO member was texting the entire time (maybe he was taking notes?).

Here are some thoughts on the banning of electronics:

**Professionalism:** We are training our students to play and act in a professional manner. Photography and videotaping are not allowed in symphony halls or during any kind of solo or ensemble concerts.

**Privacy:** Many parents or teachers are filming others besides their own children or students. That's just not polite, and could be illegal. In many states, depending upon several factors, taking photographs or videotaping of a minor

requires the permission of the minor's parent or guardian.

**In the moment:** If a student is thinking about how many notes he/she will miss and have to see on the video, she is less likely to be as spontaneous and exciting. While taping is an excellent learning tool, it is more meaningful to use it, as such, before a contest or concert. Also, by constantly photographing our students, are we teaching them good values? We should be instructing them that focusing on the music is more important than focusing on the performer.

**Courtesy:** Raising a phone camera in an audience or setting up a video camera in the middle of an aisle is disturbing someone else's listening experience.

All of these gadgets are so much fun, but let's learn how to use them responsibly in the right place and at the right time.

The PAPenAGO newsletter is published bimonthly in September, November, January, March, May, and July. Submissions (concert listings, job announcements, articles, etc.) are welcome and are due the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication. They may be sent to editor Tim Getz at [tim@gracepa.org](mailto:tim@gracepa.org).

