



PALO ALTO/PENINSULA CHAPTER AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

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NEWSLETTER—SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2012

FROM THE DEAN

Dear Chapter Colleagues:

I hope that you have enjoyed a relaxing and enjoyable summer. For several of us, it began with the national convention in Nashville. While the weather was indisputably unpleasant, and the convention as a whole arguably less polished than most, we still enjoyed a number of excellent performances, including one by our own Adam Detzner, who played Bach's partita on "Sei gegrüßet, Jesu gütig" spectacularly, to great acclaim. Adam was honored at a PAPenAGO reception that night attended by seven chapter members, Adam's parents, and several other guests. Of course, the convention was also a time to reconnect with colleagues and friends from across the country and beyond, and it left me grateful for the opportunities the AGO provides for us to support and encourage one another in our chosen field, and already looking forward to Boston in 2014.



Closer to home, I look forward to seeing many of you for our opening program, the barbecue at Christ Church, Portola Valley on Sunday, September 2. This is not only an opportunity to welcome new and returning members, but also to celebrate our achievements as a chapter, including Ethan Haman's successful completion of the Service Playing Certificate this past year. We hope that several chapter members will follow Ethan's lead in seeking certification in the 2012-2013 program year, not least since our own Angela Kraft Cross is currently serving as Regional Coordinator for Education. Please contact Angela or me for more information about the certification options available through the AGO.

Another big project on our horizon is of course the Pipe Organ Encounter (POE) planned for July 2013. I am indebted to Rani Fischer for

chairing this intensive effort, and to all her committee members. (The POE committee is a distinct group from the chapter board.) Please consider how you might help support this exciting initiative, whether by volunteering, offering financial support, recruiting participants or venues, or in other ways. It is no exaggeration to say that the future of the organ depends on it!

Once again, David Sheetz has assembled a wonderful collection of programs for us this year, and I strongly encourage your participation. Especially for a chapter of our size, we are able to offer a remarkable range of presentations thanks both to David's ingenuity and the opportunity to piggyback onto wonderful programs offered by local churches. Come on September 2 to learn more about our plans for the year!

With all good wishes for your musical endeavors,
Matthew

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

4TH ANNUAL CHAPTER BARBECUE

Sunday, September 2, 12:30 p.m.

(Please come when you can after morning commitments!)

Christ Church Episcopal
815 Portola Road, Portola Valley

WORKSHOP WITH SANDRA SODERLUND:

TOUCH AND TECHNIQUE FOR THE ORGAN

Saturday, October 13, 9:30 a.m.

Grace Lutheran Church
3149 Waverley Street, Palo Alto

**POE News and Needs
by Rani Fischer and Catha Hall**

Things are progressing well regarding our Pipe Organ Encounter (POE) plans. Since Stanford will be renovating dorms, we are not assured housing there. Instead we are looking elsewhere, and we have found a choice venue to house our twenty students for July 21-27, 2013 at the Vallombrosa Conference Center in Menlo Park. This is a peaceful, verdant ten-acre site with a historic mansion. Another plus is that all meals are included. However, in order to reserve the rooms we need a 25% deposit. That means that we must raise \$2,000, ideally by November of this year.

Catha Hall has kindly offered us a fundraising challenge. She will match every gift up to the first \$1,000. In order to make a gift to the POE, please make out checks to "PaPenAGO POE 2013" and mail to Rani Fischer, Director of POE at

Stanford, 665 Endicott Dr., Sunnyvale, CA 94087. We appreciate all your help, large and small. We invite your contribution by the end of September. Below is a return form for your convenience.

In addition to the superb faculty and rising stars available here on the west coast, we are planning to arrange for two or three guest artists. These artists will be young organists aged 20-30, whom we hope our teenage students will appreciate. We may have to pay for airfare, but you can help us out by donating your extra airline miles. Many people earn extra miles from flying so much and can't possibly use all of them. Let us know if you would like to help us that way.

Any information on groups, individuals, or grants, etc., for fund-raising purposes and in-kind donations, such as food, photocopying, or mailing, would be greatly appreciated. Contact Rani (ranifisc@gmail.com) to learn more!

Donation to POE at Stanford 2013

Your Name _____

Your Address _____

In memory/honor of _____

Amount _____

Please make checks out to "PAPenAGO POE 2013" and mail to Rani Fischer, 665 Endicott Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Organ Open House Continues at St. Bede's

Come meet and watch two organ builders from Hamburg renovate the 1969 Beckerath organ every Wednesday and Thursday, 2:00-4:00 p.m., now until September 27, at St. Bede's Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. Hans-Ulrich Erbslöh and his colleague will be here for seven weeks during which time they will dismantle, clean, re-pitch, replace swimmers, and do lots of other things to this organ. Mr. Erbslöh worked for Beckerath for 27 years as head voicer before starting his own company. The St. Bede's organ is one that he voiced himself and he is eager to restore it to its original state.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Old First Presbyterian Church, San Francisco
music director/organist (part time)
volunteer choir with section leaders
III/65 Hutchings (1910)/Visscher organ, 1995

Contact:

George Becker, MD
Old First Presbyterian Church
1751 Sacramento Street
San Francisco, CA 94109
sfbonedoc@aya.yale.edu

Trinity Presbyterian Church, San Carlos
organist/accompanist

III/37 Schantz organ, 1988
accompany weekly choir rehearsals
play 3 to 4 services per month
(normally not the last Sunday of the month)

Contact:

Bill O'Neill
Trinity Presbyterian Church
1106 Alameda de las Pulgas
San Carlos, CA 94070
boneill@trinity-pres.org

**A report from
AGO National Convention 2012
by Brian Larsen**

“All venues air-conditioned!” As I heard those words, said with a warm, Southern accent from a smiling representative of the Nashville AGO 2012 convention, I thought, “How bad could it be to be in Tennessee in July?” As I landed at the airport and boarded a bus to the hotel, I saw the error in my assessment: it was 109°F! That 100+ degree temperature was, pretty much, the daily forecast.

The Renaissance Hotel was my home and convention headquarters for the next week. The hotel check-in and the AGO registration process couldn't have been easier, nor the people more pleasant and welcoming. That held true for every person-to-person encounter for the week. The people of Nashville couldn't have been nicer.

I went to Christ Church Cathedral on Sunday

morning. It was nearby, cool, and promised wonderful music. Nothing disappointed. Thanks to the presence of many AGO members, they had a full house (not bad for a hot, summer service) and roof-raising singing.

As a non-organist, I had a much easier time choosing workshops. I didn't have to concern myself with pedagogy, energizing a junior bell choir, nor hymn improvisation. I did attend five choral reading sessions (8:00 a.m. is NOT a great time for four-part sightreading, even with 16 oz. of coffee), an interesting workshop on acoustics and all of the concerts and recitals. It was a thrill to hear Adam Detzner play in the Rising Stars recital on Monday morning. It was held in an awesome new concert venue at Belmont University— the debut for the hall and the newly installed Aeolian-Skinner Op. 1504, III/54. That evening, the Palo Alto/Peninsula Chapter held a reception at Union Station, a great repurposing of the former train station, as a chapter gathering and to honor Adam. Thank you, David and Matthew, for finding an iconic venue!



Chapter reception honoring Adam Detzner at the Union Station Hotel. The chapter honored Adam Detzner the evening of his Rising Star recital at the AGO national convention in Nashville July 2. Chapter members in attendance were Adam, Matthew Burt (Dean), David Sheetz (Subdean), Tim Getz (Executive Committee & Newsletter Editor), Bruce Nickerson, David Parsons, and Brian Larsen. Special guests included George Emblom (Dean of San Francisco chapter), Zeljko Marasovich (Dean of Los Angeles chapter), Ed Jones (University Organist, Harvard University), Carson Cooman (Composer in Residence, Harvard), and Nathan Laube (Artist in Residence, American Cathedral, Paris). Also attending the reception were Adam's parents and other friends and supporters.

Our Tuesday evening event was a cocktail reception and banquet, followed by a concert at the historic Ryman Auditorium, former home of the Grand Ole Opry. The ten-member, male a cappella group “Straight No Chaser” was a very entertaining, melodic, high-energy end to a full day. How great, too, to see that famous stage where so many country music stars got a start and performed for so many decades.

Wednesday morning brought us together for the Region IX meeting with a taste of the 2013 Bakersfield Region IX convention, via video and a bag of pistachios for all. The AGO annual meeting followed with numerous greetings, presentations and reports. The national election results were announced and the new national council was installed. That evening, I joined thousands of others at the Nashville riverfront for a spectacular 4th of July fireworks presentation, choreographed to the Nashville Symphony. WOW!!

Yes, I did walk down Broadway—Music Mile—to experience all of the individuals and groups hoping to “make it big-time” in the country music world. Every doorway and building brought another song, as well as an offer for a different cocktail or \$1 ice-cold beer. I had some great BBQ on that street, too. What an experience for the senses.

Our closing night concert, at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center, featured organists Todd Wilson and Nathan Laube, along with the Nashville Symphony Orchestra. A wonderfully varied program, including an organ concerto by Roberto Sierra, commissioned for the convention, was the perfect ending to a week of great music, entertaining and informative concerts, recitals, and workshops. It was also a time to meet new and interesting colleagues, and spend time with old friends. Bravo Nashville!



Adam Detzner’s Rising Star recital in the Belmont University Concert Hall, Nashville



Several of Nashville’s recital venues where the organ console was not visible featured a split-screen presentation of the performer. This is David Baskeyfield at Christ Church Cathedral.

Touch and Technique for the Organ: A Workshop with Sandra Soderlund by David Sheetz

Saturday, October 13, 2012, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Grace Lutheran Church,
3149 Waverley Street, Palo Alto

Drawing on her knowledge of historic technique and guided by years of teaching beginning and advanced students, Sandra Soderlund has developed a new approach to organ playing based on three types of touch. She also demonstrates how to acquire efficient and accurate pedal technique. Soderlund here takes a practical approach to organ playing, presented in a clear and concise way, showing how to play all periods of organ literature in a lively and expressive way.

We need three players for this workshop. Since this is a technique workshop, playing does not affect one's eligibility to play for future performance master classes. 1) a piece from the late 19th century, such as Vierne, Dupré, etc. 2) something from the early 19th century, such as Mendelssohn, or Rheinberger. 3) something baroque—it can be Bach or before. If you would like to play for this workshop please contact David Sheetz, dasheetz@comcast.net.

Sandra Soderlund is the author of two books on keyboard technique: *How Did They Play? How Did They Teach? A History of Keyboard Technique*, and *Touch and Technique for the Organ*. Dr. Soderlund has edited several scholarly editions of keyboard works and written guides to the pipe organ for children and adults. She has also written articles for *The American Organist*, *Diapason*, and *Clavier*. Soderlund's workshops on various aspects of keyboard performance have been well received on college and university campuses as well as at meetings and conventions of the American Guild of Organists and the Music Teachers National Association. Dr. Soderlund has taught at several colleges in the San Francisco area and was a visiting professor at Stanford University and the University of Colorado. She is presently on the faculty at Mills College in Oakland. She has also served as organist and music director in several churches in the San Francisco area. She holds degrees from Stanford University, the University of Southern California, and Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas.

Soderlund's concert career has led to performances all over the United States and in Holland, Germany, France, and Korea. She was the first American to play on the New Podium for Contemporary Music at the Haarlem Organ Festival in The Netherlands. She has performed on many historic instruments and is known for her imaginative and eclectic programming.

She plays harpsichord, clavichord, and both modern and early piano in addition to the organ. She has recorded for Arkay and Albany Records.



Preview of the Upcoming Program Year

All events have not been finalized quite yet, but here are highlights of what to expect. We begin the year with what has become our "annual" chapter barbecue, Sunday, September 2, 12:30 p.m. at Christ Church, Portola Valley. Please join us whenever your Sunday obligations are finished! Please see the above article describing our technique workshop event, Saturday, October 13 at Grace Lutheran Church, Palo Alto. We will also have two members' recitals. The first will be at St. Bede's Episcopal Church, Menlo Park. This recital will feature works of north German baroque composers to showcase the newly restored Beckerath organ (work currently in progress). The second members' recital will close our program year with more general repertory at Messiah Lutheran Church, Redwood City. We will also have two (possibly three) master classes. Robert Huw Morgan will lead one at Stanford Memorial Church and Christopher Houlihan will lead another at First United Methodist Church, Palo Alto. We are also working on a composers' showcase, which will give us an opportunity to hear works from local composers. There are a number of additional events planned that have not yet been finalized. The November/December newsletter will contain all programs, dates, times, and venues.

A note on playing in master classes:

Based on our positive experience this past year in making changes to master classes, the chapter Executive Committee has set out the following criteria for being selected to play in master classes. A master class is not a performance or recital. At its best, it is a forum for everyone present to learn from the instructor. Therefore, we have limited the number of performing students per master class to three or four. The criteria/priority for selection are: 1) membership in the chapter, 2) not having played in a previous master class (until all those who have expressed interest have had a chance to play), 3) have in their repertory pieces requested by the instructor, and 4) depending on the focus of the class, age appropriateness (e.g. a master class for young organists).

CONCERT/EVENT LISTINGS

Sunday, September 9, 3:30 p.m.
Angela Kraft Cross
St. Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco

Monday, September 17
San Francisco chapter event
5:30 social hour
6:30 dinner
7:15 speaker: the Rev. Jim Fish
8:00 Anthony Newman in recital
St. Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco

Friday, September 28, 8:00 p.m.
Robert Huw Morgan
Stanford Memorial Church

Saturday, September 29, 4:00 p.m. and
Sunday, September 30, 4:00 p.m.
Angela Kraft Cross
Legion of Honor, San Francisco

Friday, October 26, 8:00 p.m.
Margaret Martin Kvamme
Stanford Memorial Church

Saturday, October 27, 10:00 a.m.
San Francisco chapter event
master class: Sophie-Véronique Cauchefer-Choplin
Titular Assistant Organist, St. Sulpice, Paris
St. John's Presbyterian Church, San Francisco

Sunday, October 28, 4:00 p.m.
San Francisco chapter event
Sophie-Véronique Cauchefer-Choplin in recital
Grace Cathedral, San Francisco

Wednesday, October 31, 8:00 p.m.
James Welch
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Palo Alto
Halloween concert

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

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james@welch.net, 650-856-9700



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September, November, January, March, May, and July.
Submissions (concert listings, job announcements,
articles, etc.) are welcome and are due the 10th of the
month preceding publication. They may be sent to editor
Tim Getz at tim@gracepa.org.