



PALO ALTO/PENINSULA CHAPTER AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

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NEWSLETTER—JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2013

FROM THE DEAN

Dear Chapter Colleagues:

“Now greet the swiftly changing year with joy and penitence sincere; rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace another year of grace.”



So begins Jaroslav Vajda’s translation of a seventeenth century Slovak hymn heralding the New Year. Once again, we are about to emerge from what is for many organists our busiest month of work into a calendar of new opportunities, new experiences, and new challenges. That may be exciting to some, even as it is daunting to others. Yet it is the work we are called to do, and I pray that you will relish it—in Vajda’s words—with sincere joy (and only where necessary with penitence)!

I am delighted that we have an exciting range of programs scheduled for the spring, thanks once again to our Subdean David Sheetz. We have no fewer than two master classes (including one by acclaimed recitalist Christopher Houlihan) and two members’ recitals to look forward to. I do hope that you will participate in as many of these as possible, whether as a performer or as a member of the audience; as David often reminds us (correctly), the primary beneficiary in both formats is the audience!

We have two very special additional programs scheduled. On Saturday, March 23, we will host a Quimby/AGO Regional Competition for Young Organists. The venue and time can’t be confirmed until applications for the competition close (postmark deadline is January 18), but we will let everybody know as soon as possible thereafter. This is a wonderful occasion at which to support our youngest members in their studies, and a great opportunity to hear a variety of repertoire performed.

We are able to offer the second program thanks in part to our chapter’s successful application to the San Francisco Chapter Special Project Fund. It’s a presentation on Jewish liturgical music on

Sunday, April 28, led by our own Rodney Gehrke and guest singers. I do hope you will join us at First Lutheran Church, Palo Alto, to learn more about this historic and evolving musical tradition for organ and choir.

And of course, this summer we have two extraordinary events to enjoy! Bakersfield will host our Region IX Convention June 24-26; registration is now open at <http://www.bakersfieldAGO2013.org/>. Then, July 21-27, we will host the Pipe Organ Encounter that Rani Fischer and her committee are so diligently planning. Once again, let me say that this wonderful program for young organists is only made possible by your volunteer time and your donations—thank you in advance for your generosity!

I wrote above of new opportunities, new experiences, and new challenges for the New Year. Our operating procedures specify no term limits for any chapter office; yet I feel we are at our strongest when we raise up new leaders capable of serving the range of positions within our organization, and are able to share the various roles on our executive committee among them. There are many on our current board who have such gifts and are generous in offering them; therefore, I have informed this year’s Nominating Committee—comprised of Sarah Wannamaker (Chair), Rodney Gehrke, and Margaret Kvamme—that I do not wish to be nominated to serve a third year as Dean. I trust that this will enable others to occupy our various leadership roles; I look forward to continuing to enjoy our chapter programs in another capacity from this July. (If you or somebody you know would be interested in serving on the executive committee or in another office, please contact Sarah.)

I pray that you will “embrace another year of grace” in 2013. Thank you for all that you do for the organ and its music, and for the AGO.

Matthew

NEXT CHAPTER EVENTS

MEMBERS' RECITAL NORTH GERMAN AND FRENCH BAROQUE REPERTOIRE

Saturday, January 19, 3:00 p.m.

St. Bede's Episcopal Church
2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park

CHRISTOPHER HOULIHAN MASTER CLASS

Monday, February 11, 7:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church
625 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto

Meet Christopher Houlihan

The young American musician Christopher Houlihan is widely acknowledged as one of the brightest stars in the new generation of American organists, and was booked to perform from coast to coast during his debut season under professional representation.



During his senior year of college he made his orchestral debut (with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, sharing the soloist spotlight with violinist Joshua Bell) and recorded his second commercial CD (his debut CD having been recorded after his sophomore year). He spent his junior year studying in France where he earned the "Prix de Perfectionnement" (equivalent to a university artist's diploma in the US) from the French National Regional Conservatory in Versailles, performed widely, and served as assistant musician at the American Cathedral in Paris where he had the honor of performing for president George W. Bush and first lady Laura

Bush. He is a graduate with honors from Trinity College in Connecticut where he studied with John Rose, his organ teacher from the age of twelve. Late in his freshman year a group of friends formed the "Houli Fans," a club aimed mostly at gathering fellow students to attend Christopher's organ recitals. When he performed with the Hartford Symphony during his senior year they chartered buses to take throngs of students to the orchestra hall where they rained down loud cheers from the balcony. Christopher did his graduate degree work at the Juilliard School in New York where he studied with the Grammy Award-winning organist Paul Jacobs. He is Artist-in-Residence at St. Ignatius of Antioch (Episcopal) in New York. During concert season 2010-2011 he was a featured performer at two regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists, made another European tour, and inaugurated the newly installed pipe organ at the Sondheim Performing Arts Center in Iowa.

Christopher Houlihan will be the presenter for our February meeting, Monday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church in Palo Alto. He will also perform a recital at Christ Church, Portola Valley on Friday, February 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Position Available

Organist
St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Sunnyvale
One midweek choir rehearsal and one Sunday liturgy. More information at www.stthomas-svale.us. Send resume to the Rev. Wendy Smith: revwendy@stthomas-svale.us

New DMA Program

The University of Notre Dame is launching a new Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) program with majors in organ and choral conducting, beginning in fall 2013; applications will be received until Feb. 1, 2013, with auditions in March. For a press release with contact information, see:

<http://al.nd.edu/news/36307-notre-dame-launches-new-doctor-of-musical-arts-program/>

**POE Update
by Rani Fischer**

The Pipe Organ Encounter at Stanford University is on schedule for July 21-27, 2013 in Palo Alto. We have our housing, teachers, guests, and schedule in place. Come January we will be accepting applications for twenty students on a first-come, first-served basis, which has been the precedent at all past POEs. The students and a few staff will stay at the Vallombrosa Conference Center in Menlo Park, since the dorms at Stanford are being renovated. We have ten teachers for our twenty students, all incredible both musically and pedagogically, including Stanford's own Robert Huw Morgan. Our three young guests who will also teach are Weston Jennings, Nicole Marane, and Adam Detzner. The first two are current students at the Eastman School of Music, while Adam is currently studying at Stanford.

Our schedule is packed, but not too packed as to be oppressive. We have three trips planned. John Karl Hirten has kindly offered to lead a tour of San Francisco on Monday. We hope to visit the Legion of Honor and St. Mary's Cathedral while we are there, as well as do some sightseeing, such as the cable car hub. On Wednesday we hope to drive to Benicia to meet Jack Bethards at the storied Schoenstein firm. For Thursday, we are planning a fun day in Santa Cruz. Not only will we hear the organ at the spectacular Holy Cross Church, but also visit a crazy place called Boomeria

which is sure to appeal to teenagers and adults alike: <http://home.comcast.net/~pqboom/tour/pipeorgan.html>. Finally, we end our trip on the boardwalk with its carnival atmosphere, full of games, amusement and surf.

Each night at 8:00 p.m. we will offer a public recital either at Stanford Memorial Church or at a neighboring church. We are making arrangements for an introduction to the theater organ at Stanford Theatre with the Mighty Wurlitzer. In addition, we hope to climb up to the carillon in Stanford's Hoover Tower for an acoustic and visual treat. There is so much to do and so much to be gained from a POE. The experiences and friendships last a lifetime. I hope you will be a part of it, either as a volunteer, or as a financial supporter. The amount doesn't matter.

As you can imagine, new expenses creep up, though I hope most of the creeping is over. Our big items are housing, security background checks, airfare for guests, and van transportation. At this point we need a total of \$5,000 to meet all our needs. After that, we expect to be done with fundraising. Our other big needs are for airline miles, chaperones, drivers, and snack arrangers. Please feel free to ask me any questions. Below is a form for your convenience with my contact info.

Thanks for all your contributions so far and yet to come!

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.



On November 13, Nathan Laube presented a lecture/demonstration titled *The Art of the Transcription: Historical Perspective and Performance Practice*. Mr. Laube discussed examples of transcriptions over the last five centuries, motivated the renaissance of this art, and played excerpts of his own organ transcriptions of piano and orchestral works. He paired his selections with extensive discourse about registration, execution, and thematic development. —Keith Wannamaker

***in memoriam William Montgomery
December 21, 1948-December 1, 2012***

William Montgomery, a quiet member of the San Francisco chapter, died on December 1, 2012 at the age of 63. Bill was a hard worker on many projects for SFAGO, a man of great and varied talents, willing to help wherever he could, fun-loving and jovial, sensitive and devoted. A celebration of Bill's life will be held on January 12, 2013, from 3:00-7:00 p.m. at the home of close friends. All AGO members who knew Bill are invited to attend. For details, please email Pat During, ps7drng@aol.com.

Richard Kravitz, Bill's life partner writes: I know that he was happy to have been a part of the AGO. He was particularly pleased with the (2011 Region IX) convention, as exhausting as it was. He did miss playing and had even talked about starting to practice again in September, but we both knew that wasn't going to happen.

Bill was born in Cincinnati on December 21, 1948. He graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1971 with a Bachelor of Music degree. He taught music in Vermont for a year. He was a traveling teacher; I think he had three different elementary schools he taught at. He then worked for Howard Johnson's restaurants in New England

for a number of years, starting as a dishwasher and working his way up to manager.

In 1978 he moved to San Francisco and after a few jobs was once again working for Howard Johnson's. We met in 1979 and he was transferred to Anaheim in 1981, where he eventually moved from restaurant management into hotel management. We moved back to the Bay Area in 1985 and have been here ever since. He was still working for Howard Johnson's when we moved back. He finally had enough and wanted to be his own boss, so we started *Clean as a Whistle*, a cleaning service (his mother's idea), which he ran and I worked a regular 9 to 5. We also started a bulletin board service about the same time, which we expanded upon and sold the cleaning service. We continued with the online services and developed billing software for the Internet, which led to the creation of the reservation system. Although we started the reservation system in 2003, *For Your Event* was not officially created until 2009.

Bill was diagnosed with a carcinoid tumor in his lung in 2000, and also had a heart attack and a quadruple bypass. We called it his "lucky heart attack," for if he had not had it, he most likely would have died on the table when they removed the tumor and two thirds of his right lung. He had many operations and procedures prior to his passing. Most carcinoid patients live about 5 to 7 years after diagnosis; Bill lived 12. He was a fighter.

Concert/Event Listings

**Saturday, December 29, 4:00 p.m. and
Sunday, December 30, 4:00 p.m.**
Angela Kraft Cross
California Palace of the Legion of Honor

Monday, December 31, 8:00 p.m.
Jessie Jewitt
New Year's Eve organ concert
works by Bach, Buxtehude, Franck, Langlais,
Vierne, Duruflé, and Messaien.
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Palo Alto

Wednesday, January 9, 8:00 p.m.
Stephen Tharpe
works by Rübsum, Franck, Baker, Martin,
Falcinelli, Vierne, and Reger
Stanford Memorial Church

Saturday, January 12, 4:00 p.m.
Margaret Kvamme
"Curious Creatures, Outrageous Organists, and
other Winter Awakenings"
A family-friendly program
First Lutheran Church, Palo Alto

Friday, January 18, 8:00 p.m.
SAN JOSE CHAPTER EVENT
Gail Archer
works by Buxtehude, Bach, Mendelssohn,
Libby Larsen, and Liszt
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Palo Alto

Saturday, January 19, 3:00 p.m.
PALO ALTO/PENINSULA CHAPTER EVENT
Members' Recital
St. Bede's Episcopal Church, Menlo Park

Monday, January 21, 10:00 a.m.
SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER EVENT
Organ crawl of Alameda churches
followed by a used music sale at
Hupalo and Repasky organ shop, San Leandro
meet at Christ Episcopal Church, Alameda

Friday, February 1, 8:00 p.m.
Robert Huw Morgan
Stanford Memorial Church

Friday, February 8, 7:30 p.m.
Christopher Houlihan
Christ Church, Portola Valley

Monday, February 11, 7:00 p.m.
PALO ALTO/PENINSULA CHAPTER EVENT
Master Class with Christopher Houlihan

First United Methodist Church, Palo Alto

Sunday, February 17, 2:00 p.m.
SAN JOSE CHAPTER EVENT
James Welch
Mission Church, Santa Clara University

Future PAPenAGO events:
Saturday, March 23
Time and venue TBD
AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for
Young Organists

Sunday, April 28, 4:00 p.m.
First Lutheran Church, Palo Alto
Jewish Liturgical Music,
Rodney Gehrke with singers
(made possible, in part, by a grant from the San
Francisco AGO Special Projects Fund)

Monday, May 13, 7:00 p.m.
Stanford Memorial Church
Master Class with Robert Huw Morgan

Saturday, June 8, 3:00 p.m.
Messiah Lutheran Church, Redwood City
Members' Recital

For additional calendar listings please see the San Francisco
Chapter's Bay Area Concert Calendar at:
<http://tinyurl.com/yzcqfdf>

OFFICERS

**Palo Alto/Peninsula Chapter AGO
July 2012-June 2013**

Matthew Burt, Dean
David Sheetz, Subdean
Douglas Franks, Secretary
Jill Mueller, Treasurer and Registrar

Members-at-Large:
Jay Martin, Webmaster & Keith Wannamaker
(Class of 2013)
Jeffrey Abbott & Tim Getz, Newsletter Editor
(Class of 2014)
Donald Mulliken & Sarah Wannamaker
(Class of 2015)

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 10th of the month
preceding publication. They may be sent to editor Tim Getz
at tim@gracepa.org.