



PALO ALTO/PENINSULA CHAPTER AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

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NEWSLETTER—SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2013

FROM THE DEAN

Dear Chapter
Colleagues:

I trust you have had a relaxing and enjoyable summer. For several of us, it began with the Regional Convention in Bakersfield. Mother Nature was very cooperative in that temperatures were not at the extreme highs which are usual at that time of year. The Kern County chapter, with a few “supplementals” from neighboring chapters, did an incredible job in putting the convention together and executing the logistics. Concerts, recitals, and workshops were of the highest quality.



I think I can safely say that the highlight of the summer, for many of us, was the Pipe Organ Encounter at Stanford 2013. The POE planning committee (Rani Fischer, chair, Matthew Burt, Angela Kraft Cross, Tim Getz, Catha Hall, Margaret Kvamme, Brian Larsen, Robert Huw Morgan, Jill Mueller, Rachel Phillips, Leslie Wolf Robb, Paul Sahlin, David Sheetz) did an amazing job of first following the dauntingly large rule book, second assembling a very talented and generous group of teachers, third planning activities that literally lasted from 7:30 am to 10:00 pm each day, fourth arranging venues, transportation, and activities that were educational and fun!, and fifth assembling a total of thirty-one volunteers who helped make the POE a great success.

POE students ranged in age from twelve to just turned eighteen—that is a huge range. As you are aware, teenagers are not known for

their ability to get along with each other let alone with adults. But a number of them were surprised and commented about how quickly they all “bonded.” The thing that impressed me the most about this group of teenagers was that they truly encouraged and respected each other and each other’s organ playing, regardless of the individual level of accomplishment. Thanks to the planning committee and all the volunteers who contributed to this event. There truly is a future for young organists!

I hope to see as many of you as possible at our next chapter event: the 5th Annual Chapter Barbecue, Sunday, August 25, 12:30 pm at Christ Church, Portola Valley. Please invite, or better yet bring, colleagues to be our guests at the barbecue.

David Sheetz

OUR NEXT CHAPTER EVENT

5TH ANNUAL CHAPTER BARBECUE
Sunday, August 25, 12:30 pm
Christ Church, Episcopal
815 Portola Road, Portola Valley

Congratulations to Our Chapter Members!

Chinar Merjanian, winner of the Region IX AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists.

Ethan Haman, for his successful completion of the CAGO examination.

Sarah Wannamaker, for her successful completion of the AAGO examination.

We are very fortunate to have so many fine musicians in the Palo Alto/Peninsula Chapter. Congratulations to all!

Final Report of POE at Stanford 2013 **by Rani Fischer**

Our Pipe Organ Encounter took place July 21-27. Those of you who heard the twenty-one teenagers at Memorial Church, Stanford University, on the last night can testify to its success. They captured the hearts of the audience who marveled at their finesse and gifted interpretations. Apart from the student recital, the highlights for me were the master class with Robert Huw Morgan, the catacomb at Boomeria in Bonny Doon, Jack Bethards at Schoenstein & Co., and watching the students play all together with a beach ball on the lawn of Vallombrosa Center, the idyllic grounds with floppy-eared bunnies hiding under bushes. Three students who had hardly touched an organ before all performed in the final recital, two on the Fisk. Overall, we couldn't have asked for more good-natured students, skilled staff, dazzling artists, wondrous venues, or balmy weather. The students, in particular, showed great courage, time and again, by playing in front of others. Their patience and camaraderie, always including everyone and singing together on the vans, will never be taken for granted.



POE student Ethan Williams at the console of the mighty Wurlitzer in Stanford Theatre. Ed Stout and Jerry Nagano give encouragement.

Here is a mere sketch of the week. Sunday evening was an eloquent beginning with an introduction to Memorial Church and recital by Robert Huw Morgan. On Monday, John Karl Hirten not only guided us gently through the wilderness of improvisation, but after teaching daily lessons, guided us through the splendors of San Francisco, with open console at St. Mary's Cathedral, St. Mark's Lutheran, and Grace Cathedral. Angela Kraft Cross offered us the recital that evening at Memorial Church. On Tuesday, Margaret Kvamme gave us a meat-and-potatoes workshop on hymn

playing. We were unexpectedly allowed to play on the mighty Wurlitzer at Stanford Theatre, and then heard a recital on the Flentrop at All Saints', Palo Alto, by Nahri Ahn, our own Quimby finalist, and Anthony Rispo, our guest from New York City. The evening recital was given by Adam Detzner at Christ Church, Portola Valley, which served doubly as an indoctrination in the tradition of the German chorale prelude. Wednesday we met Robert Huw Morgan for a master class, then later drove to Benicia to tour the Schoenstein shop. The evening recital was given at Memorial Church by Nicole Marane, our guest from Atlanta, GA. On Thursday we were treated to several centuries of organ history in an hour by Angela Kraft Cross, and later scrambled into the vans with boxed lunches in hand to Santa Cruz where we visited the charming Kingdom of Boomeria, visited Holy Cross Church with the graceful Felgemaker organ from 1889, and then rode the wooden roller coaster on the boardwalk. We raced to make the evening recital at Memorial Church played by Weston Jennings, our guest from Interlochen and Eastman. Friday was slower, thank goodness. Students had fifteen minutes each to register and get used to the organs at Stanford where they would perform that night. We are grateful to the Stanford Office of Religious Life for granting us this unforgettable experience. On Friday we were versed in the components of a Catholic mass, then traveled to Hoover Tower to play the carillon. Saturday was our graduation ceremony and reception, after which all the families went home.



Jack Bethards gives a tour of the Schoenstein & Co. plant in Benicia.

This POE fostered the next generation of organists and generations to come by exposing them to new sights, sounds, and most of all, inspiring people. Our students are stronger from being around amazing role models and from sharing a love of organs with peers, something which they cannot easily do elsewhere. They will never forget the thrill and grandeur of the

acoustics and instruments at Memorial Church. The successful experience of performing there will give them confidence, skill, and joy for the rest of their lives.



Fun at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk!

I must confess, I was somewhat depressed after it all ended, once the party had stopped. We all felt like one big family, and some of us had worked together for over a year in preparations. I can't acknowledge everyone or remember all their contributions, but I would like to attempt to thank some of them here. Angela Kraft Cross enriched our understanding of organ history and literature, and taught lessons, while her husband, Robert Cross, helped with photography and helped host a guest artist. Brian Larsen hosted many meetings in his house, contacted churches, drove a van, and created our stationery. Catha Hall slaved to find donors, drove our adult guests, hosted a guest artist, and shopped and planned our parties. Dan Gonzalez helped create the demonstration worship service where he presented and played; in addition, Dan taught lessons, prepared the online post-POE evaluation for staff and students, and proved to be an efficient problem-solver in a pinch. David Sheetz served as van captain and practice chaperone, but most impressively as official photographer, taking more than 2000 pictures, and creating a personal CD for each student. Jill Mueller acted as treasurer, performed all the background checks, and helped us tremendously with the initial deposit on the dormitories. Leslie Wolf Robb, our Region IX Councillor, was present from the embryonic stage, offering sound advice and

essential details, not to mention steady support through rough-and-tumble times. Margaret Kvamme convinced us of going to Santa Cruz, arranged every sublime detail, organized the loan of two electronic practice organs for the dorms, taught the hymn-playing workshop and daily lessons, and procured the T-shirts. Matthew Burt served as treasurer also, driver/chaperone, designed and printed all the gorgeous programs, and more than once stepped in with brain power and sensitivity which I couldn't muster. Paul Sahlin organized the van rental, van schedule, drove a van, hosted the staff and students in his house for dinner, hosted a guest artist, and gained us access to Stanford Theatre (which took months of pleading). Rachel Phillips organized the applications and mailings, and helped to create the inimitable demonstration worship service. Robert Huw Morgan allowed us the organs at Stanford at no cost, taught daily lessons, and a master class. His inspirational presence led the week in a crescendo. Tim Getz is guaranteed sainthood not only by finding us Vallombrosa for lodging, but by serving as both dorm chaperone and driver. And, I would be remiss without mentioning our other dorm chaperone, Holly Lindsay, who traveled from Hawaii. She filled our week with games, laughter, and motherly nudging.

I cannot neglect our guest faculty. In addition to those mentioned above, our students would be at a loss without these mentors: Nicole Marane, who is now our national director of the Committee on the New Organist (CONO), Paul Rosas, Adam Deztner, Weston Jennings, and Anthony Rispo. The relationships they created with their students are the essence of the POE. There are so many other people and institutions to whom we are indebted, and I hope we have conveyed our thanks to them individually.

Finally, I am tremendously grateful for the chance to work on this project with our chapter. It was so worthwhile in cause, and has been so rewarding to work with such caring, sophisticated, and generous people. I have received a gift certificate to a spa for \$200 from the executive board. You are all extremely thoughtful! I shall enjoy this immensely, I promise.

Rani Fischer



Final POE recital at Stanford Memorial Church. All dressed up and ready to play!

Positions Available

Westminster Presbyterian Church 1100 Shasta Avenue, San Jose

Immediate opening for Church Accompanist. Fine musicianship and sight-reading, excellent piano skill in various styles, accompanist and ensemble skills and good people skills are important; organ or additional instruments a real plus. Instruments include a first-rate Seiler piano and a 17 rank historic pipe organ. Duties include blended Sunday service 10:30 am, year-round; choir accompanist Thursdays 7:00-9:00 pm September through June; two to three special services during the year; accompany soloists as needed. Teaching is permitted, and Church Accompanist has first refusal on weddings and funerals. We need someone creative and flexible who will zealously strive to participate with other staff in providing a worship experience of high quality and variety. Interview and references required. Contact the Rev. Franzen at rev.dr.bryan@gmail.com or 408-294-7447 to submit resume or request full job description.

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church 678 Enos Way, Livermore

Quarter time (10 hours per week) keyboard player (piano and some organ) to lead and grow our intergenerational choir and play for Sunday morning choral Eucharist. We are a welcoming Episcopal church in Livermore, home of vineyards and wide open spaces; our rector is a musician, and very supportive of creativity in music and liturgy. Ideal candidate has advanced degree in music, accompanying and/or organ and can begin in October, 2013. Please contact the Rev. Joyce Parry Moore at rector@saintbartsLivermore.com.

First Presbyterian Church 1667 Miramonte Avenue, Mountain View

Searching for an experienced Accompanist as we look ahead to the fall ministry season. Requirements of the position include: Experience in accompanying on both piano and organ. Participate in weekly choir rehearsals, normally Thursday evenings. Participate in 10:30 am Sunday worship service. Accompany choir, and occasionally special music, during worship. Participate with praise team in worship, on an occasional basis. The church has an Allen organ

and a grand piano. Report to Pastor, as Head of Staff, and to the Personnel Committee. The Accompanist works directly with Director of Music. The selection committee is comprised of the Pastor, Director of Music and the Elder of the Worship Committee. Compensation will be competitive and will be based on experience. Interested candidates should submit their resume to organist@fpcmv.org.

Music in the Schools Foundation East Palo Alto

Children's Chorus director wanted for elementary after school program in East Palo Alto. Must have experience and training in directing children's choirs. Teach multi-cultural music, theory and note reading skills. One hour, twice per week, after school, with possibility of program expansion. At least two performances per year for school functions. \$60 per hour. This job is posted by Music in the Schools Foundation, a non-profit organization providing music to the Ravenswood City School District students. www.musicintheshools.org

Palo Alto Unified School District

Piano Accompanist needed for PAUSD middle school choral programs, grades 6, 7, & 8. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: ten hours per week. \$31.60 per hour. Benefits not included. To apply contact Nancy Coffey: music@pausd.org

OFFICERS

Palo Alto/Peninsula Chapter AGO July 2013-June 2014

David Sheetz, Dean

Sarah Wannamaker, Subdean

Tim Getz, Secretary and Newsletter Editor

Jill Mueller, Treasurer and Co-Registrar

Members at large:

Donald Mulliken

(Class of 2015)

Jin Kyung Lim and Dan Gonzalez

(Class of 2016)

Concert/Event Listings

Friday, September 13, 7:30 pm

Andrew Chislett, organ
works by Bach, Buxtehude, Sweelinck, and Vierne
First Presbyterian Church
1140 Cowper Street, Palo Alto

Monday, September 16, 7:30 pm

SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER EVENT
Carol Williams, organ
Chapel of St. Mary's College, Moraga

Saturday, October 12, 7:00 pm

James Welch, organ
Immanuel Lutheran Church
1715 Grant Road, Los Altos

Sunday, October 20, 5:00 pm

SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER EVENT
Ahreum Han, organ
Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland

Thursday, October 31, 8:00 pm

James Welch, organ
Annual Halloween Concert
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
600 Colorado Avenue, Palo Alto

Our concert calendar features performances by our chapter members, events occurring in our immediate area, and chapter-sponsored events of the Palo Alto/Peninsula, San Jose, and San Francisco chapters. For additional calendar listings please see the San Francisco Chapter's Bay Area concert calendar at <http://tinyurl.com/yzcqfdf>, as well as the Stanford University concert calendar at <http://music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html>.

The PAPenAGO Substitute Organist List is maintained by Donald Mulliken. To have your name added to the list (Sunday morning availability only) or to get help in finding a Sunday morning substitute, contact Don at dammulliken@aol.com.

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.