



PALO ALTO/PENINSULA CHAPTER AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

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NEWSLETTER—NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2014

FROM THE DEAN

Dear Chapter Colleagues:

It is hard to believe that we are already entering November! The Chapter Executive Committee met recently. This is a wonderfully diverse assemblage of individuals who have come together to form an energetic leadership group for the Chapter.

Our Chapter has a history of encouraging and supporting young organists. We have hosted two Regional Competitions for Young Organists (RCYO) and a Pipe Organ Encounter (POE) in recent years. With just a little immodest boasting, you will also recall that the last two winners of the RCYO were members of our Chapter! In this spirit, our Chapter applied to host the RCYO again in 2015. We have been awarded, along with Eugene, San Diego, Seattle, and Utah Valley/Salt Lake City, the hosting of the competition for the new, much larger, AGO West Region. Our competition will be held Saturday, March 7th at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Palo Alto.



Rani Fischer, Subdean, has been busily working at putting together a very interesting and varied set of programs for the coming year.

I look forward to seeing you at future Chapter events.

David Sheetz

OUR NEXT CHAPTER EVENT

Conducting Workshop

with Amy Stuart Hunn

Saturday, November 8, 10:00 am

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

A repertoire sharing session was held on October 11 at First Lutheran Church in Palo Alto. Members shared some of their favorite pieces and then went to lunch together at LYFE Kitchen in downtown Palo Alto. Works shared were:

Tim Getz:

Sonntagmorgenfrühaufstehblues: 12 Jazz Preludes for Organ by Stefan Ulrich

<http://www.doblinger.at/de/Artikel/Sonntagmorgenfruehaufstehblues.htm>

Lyric Suite by Alfred Fedak, Selah Publications, Inc.

Jin Kyung Lim:

Organ Works by Healey Willan (Preludes)

Six Choral Preludes by Chester Alwes

52 Chorale Preludes by Max Reger

Seven Pieces for Organ by Theodore Dubois, found at www.imslp.org (free)

Rani Fischer:

Native American Offertory by Paul Rosas. tpaulrosas@comcast.net

Acclamation & Variations on a French Folk Tune by June Nixon, *The Organist's Liturgical Year*, Kevin Mayhew Publications, Inc.

Matthew Burt:

St. Columba (Erin) by Kenneth Leighton, Oxford University Press

Tysen Dauer:

O Antiphons by Nico Muhly

From the Subdean

Rani Fischer

You love conducting

You love conducting? Well, I don't. It is the hardest thing that I do, that is, do rarely, and only under duress. However, if I could do it, I would probably earn three times as much. That will probably never happen, but I know that I can get better with a little coaching. If I could get better, then the rare occasions when I have to do it might not be so arduous. Hopefully you are more comfortable with conducting. Still, you might have a couple of places in the music where you're not sure what to do. If you are not a conductor, we can still teach you a couple of tricks to get you started. At some point in your life, you will need them.



Come to our conducting workshop on Saturday, November 8 at 10:00 am, St. Bede's Church in Menlo Park. The teacher is Amy Stuart Hunn, the sweetest, most encouraging and intuitive conducting teacher you can imagine. She conducts Collage Vocal Ensemble and has conducted the Stanford Summer Chorus, and got her doctorate from USC after working with Stephen Sano as an undergraduate at Stanford.

Please tell me right now if you are coming AND exactly what you wish to work on. The more we know, the better we can incorporate your needs into the workshop. And, tell your choir directors at your church and across the street at that other church. Everyone can get better, including me!

Events to Come

These are the coming events for 2014-2015. There are a couple of gaps which we are working on, but thanks to David Sheetz, Matthew Burt, and Jin-Kyung Lim, we have an astounding array of activities to present. I list them here.

- November 8, 10:00 am, Amy Stuart Hunn, Conducting Workshop at St. Bede's Church
- January 10, 10:00 am, Carson Cooman, Composing Workshop* at Christ Church, Portola Valley
- January 23, 7:30 pm, Angela Kraft Cross, Alzheimer's Benefit Recital, St. Bede's Church
- Each Saturday in February at 6:00 pm, dinner and movie at the home of Angela and Robert Kraft Cross, 3672 Highland Ave., Redwood City
- March 7, Regional Competition for Young Organists (Quimby), St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Palo Alto (still needs a director if you feel like taking on a project)
- April 25, 10:00 am, Kimberly Marshall, Presentation on Dance in Baroque Music, St. Bede's Church

*For the composing workshop, start preparing now. If you have something you are working on, this is the perfect opportunity for you. First, let me know that you are coming. Second, bring your composition to the workshop, but don't finish it beforehand. It must be developed enough to have substance, but not so developed that it's not malleable.

Registration

Thank you for a truly successful registration season! We have at least 90% renewal and 30% more from dual membership. The new online system performed admirably, though I apologize to the few of you who were its victims. Hopefully everything is straightened out now.

I wish to shine the spotlight on a couple of new members, Luke Edward and Alexander Bradley. Luke Edward and Alexander moved here a year ago from Ireland. Alexander is around 12 years of age, and Luke Edward is around 11. Alexander spent a year in the Vienna Boys' Choir before his family came here. They both sing wonderfully, and each plays several instruments too! They've been taking organ lessons with Jill Mueller for several months, and attend Nativity School. Hopefully we will get to hear them soon at an AGO event.

I will continue to introduce new members. If I have been remiss, then please do remind me.

Introducing... San Francisco Peninsula Organ Academy!

Angela Kraft Cross and her husband, Robert, have been taking people on private tours of organs in France for years. It is a unique and very personal experience that changes your life, and I can say that first-handedly. They took me to play a Cavallé-Coll in Lyon one January, and I shall never forget the sound which can't quite be reproduced here because of the age of the wood and metal, the metallic composition of the pipes, the stone walls which create the sublime acoustics, and the terroir... oh, maybe that's just for wine.

The new San Francisco Peninsula Organ Academy is a scholarship fund to help people who will join Angela and Robert in France but need a little help getting there. As you know, it ain't cheap, and organists ain't rolling in it. Hence the SFPOA.

Angela and Robert created this organization because traveling across the pond to hear these instruments is an epiphany for any organist. I didn't have any idea how good organs could sound until I went to Europe. I really had no idea! It's like Plato's cave and the light at the entrance. You live in a cave and don't know there's anything much better until you see the light... actually, I can't really remember the details of Plato's cave, but you get the idea.

It's like clotted cream. I had never heard of clotted cream until I was visiting Cornwall, England. I was sitting down to tea with some old ladies with real china in a cute little house. I tasted the home-made clotted cream on scones. I knew THIS was the Platonic ideal of clotted cream, even though I had never heard of the stuff before. It just couldn't get any better, I knew. I thought to myself, HOW did I ever live without this? How, how, HOW did I ever live without this!!! Well, I have lived without clotted cream ever since I came back from Cornwall. I don't think my arteries could afford to have it very often, but I am sure glad that I had it once or twice.

It's just like European organs, you can't afford it very often, but it's the Platonic ideal of something you have never imagined existed. You know it's the BEST from the moment you hear it, even though you've never hear that sound before. It just works with the music so well, it turns the music into a whole new creature, one breathing with life. How, how, HOW did I ever live without this? You stand there in shock and awe, in the best sense of the words. But I can't afford to come back and hear this you think. Let's see, with quick calculations in my head in 25 years I can afford a trip like this again. OK, but it's still worth going.

This is why SFPOA is here, to help get us to Europe, namely France, so that people can have this experience sooner rather than later. The scholarships are roughly \$2000 per person, depending on need, and that is half of the total cost of \$4000, which includes airfare, lodging, and lessons with great masters whom Angela knows personally.

This January 2015, Ethan Haman and Raymond Hawkins will be going to France as students of the newly christened SFPOA. You may remember Raymond who lived here for a while before moving to South Carolina. I highly recommend looking him up on YouTube to see him now that his feet can reach the pedals. He is reuniting with his old buddy Ethan on this trip. To hear Ethan, please come to the benefit recital on Sunday, November 23 at 4:00 pm, at St. Bede's Church, to help raise funds for his voyage in January. You will be SO impressed!

You might ask, what I do I have to do to be a student at the SFPOA? You simply need to be able to play certain pieces at a certain level. There is no age limitation. Please remember that in order to receive adequate attention and mentoring, no more than two or three people are accepted on a trip, a far cry from a tour group.

You might also ask, what I can do to contribute to this fantastic cause? Well, there are always checks you can write and mail to SFPOA, P. O. Box 941, Redwood City, CA 94064. All donations to this 501(c)(3) non-profit organization are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

After that, come to one of our February movie nights at the home of Angela and Robert. Every Saturday night at 6:00 pm in February we will have a lovely dinner and watch a movie on the history of the organ and homemade movies about organs you have visited, in Europe or elsewhere. It's \$10 per person, and all profits will go to SFPOA. For instance, on February 14 we will watch movies about French Romantic organs. The menu is salade d'endive, pommes, and Roquefort; amazingly yummy vegetarian steak tips with real Béarnaise sauce; and crème de coeur for dessert. Please join us!

Our Chapter Yahoo Group

The PAPenAGO Yahoo Group is no longer used for official Chapter communications. However, some people have expressed an interest in maintaining the group to help promote informal interaction between members. If you would like to join this group, please contact Jay Martin (martinjg@flash.net) and he'll send you the "invitation" you need to join.

Meet Our Executive Committee

Tim Getz

Here we introduce several more of our Executive Committee members. Thanks to all for their dedication to our craft and instrument!



Daniel Gonzalez is a junior at Stanford University, studying organ with Robert Huw Morgan, harpsichord with Elaine Thornburgh, and carillon with Timothy Zerlang. He sings with the St. Ann Choir of Palo Alto, directs the music for Episcopal Latin evening prayer at Memorial Church, and is currently working on starting a student run chant schola at Stanford with Ethan Williams. When not involved in musical activities, Dan researches cancer genetics and pathology as an intern at the Lipsick Lab at Stanford Medical School, and volunteers as an Emergency Medical Technician.

Jin-Kyung Lim, an organist and harpsichordist, was born in Seoul, Korea. After earning BAs in organ and piano performance at Yonsei University, South Korea, she came to the United States for further education. While staying for ten years in Illinois, she had two lovely sons and received a DMA degree in performance and literature from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. As an active chamber musician, she enjoyed playing with various ensemble groups, including UI Symphony, UI Chamber Singers, UI Wind Orchestra, Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra, Baroque Artists of Champaign-Urbana, and Women's Glee Club. In June, 2010 she moved to California after her husband was offered a position at a semiconductor company. Having been a church organist since the age of 14, she is now the organist of First Lutheran Church, Palo Alto as well as accompanist for the Los Altos High School Choirs.



Tim Getz is a graduate of the University of Minnesota, where he majored in organ performance and choral music education. He also holds the Master of Sacred Music degree from Luther Seminary, Saint Paul, Minnesota, a unique program that combines the study of theology with advanced training in music through Saint Olaf College. He has studied organ with Dean Billmeyer, Paul Manz, and John Ferguson and conducting with Robert Scholz and Anton Armstrong. Before his arrival in the San Francisco Bay area in March of 2010, Tim served United Methodist, Lutheran, and Episcopal congregations in Minnesota, Illinois, and southern California. He is currently Director of Music Ministry at Grace Lutheran Church in Palo Alto, California, where he is responsible for worship planning, directs adult, children's, and handbell choirs and plays organ and piano. Tim is accompanist for the Bay Choral Guild, a member of the Worship for Baptismal Living Discipling Team of the ELCA's Sierra Pacific Synod and serves on the planning committee for the ELCA Worship

Jubilee to be held in Atlanta, Georgia, July 19-23, 2015. He is a blog contributor to <http://preludemusicplanner.org/prelude-blog>.

Positions Available

Saint Anne's Episcopal Church, Fremont

Long-term substitute Organist/Choir Director, January 1, 2015-early September 2015

The job consists of playing the organ/piano and conducting a small choir during one Sunday service at 10:00 am. The choir practices on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-9:00. There may be other services for special occasions (e.g. Holy Week). Pay is competitive and should be negotiated with the Rector. Contact Dr. Giancarlo Aquilanti (gcarlo@ccrma.stanford.edu) or The Rev. Lauran Pifke (rector@stanneschurch.org)

St. Raymond's Catholic Parish, Menlo Park (A Dominican Parish)

Music Director (part time)

Seeking a person qualified and skilled in both traditional and contemporary music to direct the music for parish masses (Saturday 5:15 pm, Sunday 10:00 am), including proficiency on organ, piano, and in directing a schola and cantors. Some singing ability as well. Additional duties on Solemnities, and at weddings and funerals. Weekly duties currently amount to 20 hours. Salary according to AGO scale. Possibility of growth into a 3/4 or full-time position as the parish liturgical program develops further. The current instruments are a 2 manual and pedal Allen digital organ and a Yamaha grand piano. Apply to Fr. Christopher Fadok, OP at cpfadok@yahoo.com or [650-323-1755](tel:650-323-1755).

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

Concert/Event Listings

Saturday, November 8, 10:00 am

PALO ALTO/PENINSULA CHAPTER EVENT
Conducting Workshop with Amy Stuart Hunn
St. Bede's Church, Menlo Park

Saturday, November 8, 4:00 pm

Angela Kraft Cross, organ
Legion of Honor, San Francisco

Sunday, November 9, 4:00 pm

Angela Kraft Cross, organ
Legion of Honor, San Francisco

Sunday, November 9, 6:00 pm

Rodney Gehrke, organ
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Berkeley

Sunday, November 16, 4:00 pm

Angela Kraft Cross, organ
St. Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco

Friday, November 21, 8:00 pm

Brahms: Ein Deutsches Requiem
Bay Choral Guild, Sanford Dole, director
Tysen Dauer and Tim Getz, 4-hand piano
Campbell United Methodist Church

Saturday, November 22, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER EVENT
St. Cecilia's Day "Hone Your Skills" Workshops

- New music for organ
- New music for voices
- Wedding & funeral music; Transposition for AGO exams Improvisation masterclass
- Refreshments and lunch

St. John's Episcopal Church, Ross

Saturday, November 22, 8:00 pm
Brahms: Ein Deutsches Requiem
Bay Choral Guild, Sanford Dole, director
Tysen Dauer and Tim Getz, 4-hand piano
St. Gregory of Nyssa Church, San Francisco

Sunday, November 23, 4:00 pm
Ethan Haman, organ
St. Bede's Church, Menlo Park

Sunday, November 23, 4:30 pm
Brahms: Ein Deutsches Requiem
Bay Choral Guild, Sanford Dole, director
Tysen Dauer and Tim Getz, 4-hand piano
All Saints' Episcopal Church, Palo Alto

Saturday, December 6, 11:00 am
Immanuel Ringers, handbell program
Lynda Alexander, director
Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Palo Alto

Saturday, December 6, 4:30 pm
James Welch, organ
Annual Crèche Exhibit
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Palo Alto

Saturday, December 6, 5:00 pm
Advent Lessons and Carols
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Burlingame

Sunday, December 7, 4:30 and 7:00 pm
The Valparaiso Singers
James Welch, accompanist
Annual Crèche Exhibit
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Palo Alto

Sunday, December 14, 2:30 pm
Robert Huw Morgan, organ
Annual Holiday Recital
Memorial Church, Stanford

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>.

OFFICERS

**Palo Alto/Peninsula Chapter AGO
July 2014-June 2015**

David Sheetz, Dean
Rani Fischer, Subdean and Registrar
Tim Getz, Secretary and Newsletter Editor
Ed Jennings, Treasurer

Members at Large:
Donald Mulliken
(Class of 2015)
Daniel Gonzalez, Jin Kyung Lim, Duane Soubirous
(Class of 2016)
Lynda Alexander, Peter Bassford, Tysen Dauer
(Class of 2017)

Jay Martin, Webmaster

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.

Postludes

Dr. Peter Kwasniewski

submitted by Lynda Alexander

Postludes are like the footnotes to the service that precede them. What exactly does an organ postlude do?

"It makes creation resound with the divine praises as we get ready to step forth into the world again. A postlude, which follows the communion service, where the Lord finally makes himself present to us and gives himself to us in Holy Communion, our hearts are bursting and ready to cry out, "Alleluia!" with all creation, is a musical expression of the soul's exultation. People don't need to think during it, we simply allow ourselves to be carried off for a few minutes by the harmony. It's a healthy apophatic experience. Therefore, seek your silence in your prayer times, seek blessed silence at the very heart of the Holy Communion, but do not silence the exuberant expression of the glory of the Lord and the beauty of his handiwork, as they reach our minds through music.

So, the next time you are at church and the postlude thunders forth at the end, don't try to keep following the bulletin, don't try to meditate, don't leave for the chattiness of the coffee hour or the seclusion of your car. Just sit and absorb the plenum of sound, the heavenly harmonies, the wordless jubilation. Take up again the thread of thanksgiving when the music fades away."