



PALO ALTO/PENINSULA CHAPTER AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

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

NEWSLETTER—SUMMER 2015

FROM THE DEAN

David Sheetz

Dear Colleagues,

This is my last Dean's Letter. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Dean for the last two years, Subdean for two years before that, and a number of years on the Executive Committee before that. Please see the excellent list of officers and Executive Committee members later in this newsletter.

As many of you have commented, the very well-attended master class presented by Kimberly Marshall was likely the best and most informative master class ever! Thanks go to Tom Lohmuller, Ethan Haman, and Jin Kyung Lim for playing in the master class.

Many of you should have received an email from AGO National about renewing your membership by paying your annual dues online via ONCARD. Traditionally, all dues were based on a fiscal year beginning July 1. Because of the capabilities of ONCARD, dues for new members and late renewers are now based on the month in which the dues are paid. All "old" members remain on the July 1 renewal date.

I look forward to seeing you at future Chapter events.



Upcoming Chapter Event

Saturday, May 30, 5:00 pm
Members' Recital

First Lutheran Church, 600 Homer Avenue, Palo Alto

**From the Subdean
Rani Fischer**

It's been a great year, and we still have one more gathering! The best may be yet to come. This Saturday, May 30, 5:00 pm at First Lutheran Church of Palo Alto, is our members' recital. There still may be space if you are dying to perform. However, the program is fairly full with Mozart, Bach, de Grigny, and Bull, the later one, Christoph, that is, AND a new piece by Angela Kraft Cross. Bring your friends and neighbors. Thanks very much to Jin Kyung Lim for hosting us.

Going backwards in time, we learned much from the masterclass in April given by Kimberly Marshall, a truly erudite, yet accessible, scholar. February was full of dinner and movies. Thank you to the Kraft Crosses for hosting us, as well as the Halls. Here is a photograph from Valentine's Day...please ignore the 4th of July table cloth!



The movies on the history of organ were excellent, and if anyone wishes to borrow them, I am more than happy to loan them.

One event that we had to cancel due to low attendance was the introduction to the hymnal *Voices Found*, liturgical music for and by women. If you would like a copy of the handout that Kathy McKee prepared, please let me know. So far, I've had five requests.

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to attend our events. For next year I'm working on an introduction to street organs, a visit to the new organ at UC Berkeley, and how to deal with churches who insist on the rock band. Please send me your wants and needs: ranifisc@gmail.com.

Two other things I'd like to mention. First, many people (including myself) have yet to renew their membership online. Please help us out and do that. So far we have fifteen renewals, compared to last year's membership of 66. Secondly, we are working out dates for our next Pipe Organ Encounter in 2016. I will inform you of the dates once I know them so that you can arrange your lives around the POE. We will need all hands on deck once again to reprise our spectacular POE in 2013. Thanks in advance.

Chapter Election Results

Tim Getz, Secretary

Chapter elections for the 2015-2016 Executive Committee were held this spring. The Nominating Committee is made up of one current member of the Executive Committee and two or more others. The members of this year's Nominating Committee were Margaret Kvamme, Jay Martin, and Tim Getz. A nominee was identified for each open seat on the Executive Committee and the slate was ratified by the current Executive Committee. All chapter members were notified by email and offered the opportunity to nominate additional candidates by petition. Since no further nominees were identified, the slate stands elected as presented.

Members elected are:

Dean - Tim Getz (one-year term)

Subdean - Rani Fischer (reelected to a 2nd one-year term)

Secretary - Lynda Alexander (one-year term)

Treasurer - Ed Jennings (reelected to a 2nd one-year term)

Members at Large, class of 2018 (three-year term) - Catha Hall and Curtis "Fjord" Hawthorne

(Continuing in the class of 2016 as Members at Large are Daniel Gonzalez, Jin Kyung Lim, and Duane Soubirous. Continuing in the class of 2017 are Peter Bassford and Tysen Dauer.)

Congratulations to all!

Lothar Bander mann writes:

I would like our chapter members know about the availability of Chorale Preludes I have written, some of them they might want to try. I have now a total of 114 which are mostly in the form of hymn arrangements: the tune is heard several times on a solo stop, with different accompanying material on the other manuals or pedal. Some are useful for recitals, some for meditations during or before services. I have recorded all, and they can be listened to on my website (which has all compositions of mine that have been recorded): lotharbandermann.com under the category ORGAN/Chorale Preludes.

Schoenstein Open House

Please join Schoenstein & Co. on Sunday, June 28, from 2:00-5:00pm for an open house at our Benicia plant. Assembled on our erecting room floor is a three manual, 46 rank organ to be installed in Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church, St. Louis, Missouri. The church is completing an extensive renovation of their worship space prior to the installation of the organ this August. Refreshments and a plant tour will be available.

Schoenstein & Co. is located at 4001 Industrial Way, Benicia, CA 94510. Telephone (707) 747-5858. Ample parking is available.

Special Properties of the Organ for Music Therapy

Kenneth J. Dillon

Musical instruments play an important role in music therapy. Sometimes therapists play them to exert a calming effect on certain kinds of patients. Often the therapy consists of patients themselves extemporizing on instruments they choose. Or a patient can undertake to learn how to play an instrument as part of healing. The piano or various wind instruments are popular in these uses, but any instrument can presumably be employed. Curiously, the organ receives little consideration in

music therapy, in part because it is not available in ordinary treatment settings. But in fact, in regard to music therapy, the organ possesses four special properties that no other acoustical instrument can offer.

First, the organ is more closely associated than other instruments in the Western tradition with churches as physical buildings, with religion, and with spirituality, including the spiritual dimension of the predominantly liturgical music written for it. Many instruments can play music that conduces to reverie, but much of organ music is written precisely to lead to a meditative state of mind. Thus the organ can summon up for a psychiatric patient, for instance, the calming or inspiring associations of childhood participation in religious ceremonies.

Second, the organ is the most intricate of instruments. This property does not appeal to everyone, healthy or emotionally disturbed. But there is a particular kind of psychiatric or neurological patient who thrives on investigating the endless detail of registers, the physical layout of the innards of the organ, and the historical development of the organ in its many incarnations. Absorption in this interest can provide a healing experience.

Third, the organ is the most powerful of instruments. When one lets out all the stops, the cascade of sound shows why the organ has been called the king of instruments. The capacity to sound forth on the organ can benefit patients who have trouble communicating in words or who otherwise feel weak and unable to assert themselves.

Fourth, the organ possesses the greatest range and complexity of vibrations of any acoustical instrument. To the extent that the mechanism of action of music therapy actually involves the physical impact of vibrating sound waves on various cells and molecules throughout the body, the organ offers the richest kaleidoscope of such effects. One can play an oboe, flute, and cello trio, then switch to trumpet, violin, and bass, all on one instrument. In the realm of acoustical instruments, only the orchestra can surpass the organ; but the orchestra is not one instrument. So in theory a sensitive therapist or self-treating patient could devise—by intention, by iterative searching, or by serendipity—some combination of vibrations on the organ that would convey a special therapeutic effect. And this effect could include physical healing.

The organ's unique potential in music therapy should be of interest to organists, therapists, and those who seek a path to healing.

Kenneth J. Dillon is an historian who writes on science, medicine, and history.

- See more at: <http://www.scientiapress.com/organ-music-therapy#sthash.FIDteFTI.dpuf>

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 damulliken@aol.com.

Concert/Event Listings

Saturday, May 30, 5:00 pm

*PALO ALTO/PENINSULA CHAPTER EVENT
Members' Recital
First Lutheran Church, Palo Alto*

Wednesday, June 3, 7:30 pm

*Chinar Merjanian, organ
Oshagan Merjanian, cello
Alishan Merjanian, voice and piano
Benefit Concert for Victims of ISIS
Campbell United Methodist Church*

Sunday, June 7, 5:30 pm

*SAN JOSE CHAPTER EVENT
Hymn Sing and Potluck Dinner
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Saratoga*

Friday, June 12, 7:30 pm

*Robert Huw Morgan, organ
Annual Commencement Recital
Stanford Memorial Church*

Saturday, June 20, 4:00 pm

*Susan Jane Matthews, organ
Legion of Honor, San Francisco*

Sunday, June 21, 4:00 pm

*Susan Jane Matthews, organ
Legion of Honor, San Francisco*

Sunday, June 21, 4:00 pm

*Tom Lohmuller, organ
St. Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco*

Saturday, July 11, 4:00 pm

*Angela Kraft Cross, organ
Legion of Honor, San Francisco*

Sunday, July 12, 4:00 pm

*Angela Kraft Cross, organ
Legion of Honor, San Francisco*

Saturday, August 29, 4:00 pm

*Angela Kraft Cross, organ
Legion of Honor, San Francisco*

Sunday, August 30, 4:00 pm

*Angela Kraft Cross, organ
Legion of Honor, San Francisco*

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>.

Chinar Merjanian, organ
Sahagan Merjanian, cello
Alihan Merjanian, voice and piano

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR VICTIMS OF ISIS

Featuring:

Victimae Paschali Laudes by Tournemire

Kol Nidrei by Bruch

Works by Brahms

And more

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

7:30pm

@ Campbell United Methodist Church
1675 Winchester Blvd, Campbell, CA 95008

FREE ADMISSION

Free-will donations will benefit work being done to support those being persecuted
in the Middle East.



AGO West Region Convention in San Diego June 28-July 2, 2015

Register now before prices go up on May 31!

[Registration](#) prices will soon go up for the West Region Convention. Come join the party everyone will be talking about as we celebrate 100 years of the famed [Spreckels Organ](#). You will also be treated to a sampling of phenomenal instruments from all across San Diego County, and enjoy concerts and workshops given by top artists from the West Region. Stay a few extra days and discover why San Diego is "[America's Finest City](#)". Visit www.agosandiego2015.org for all of the details and to register.

If you are registered for the convention, we will have, among many creative workshops, three master classes taught by Christoph Bull, Douglas Cleveland, and Christopher Houlihan. If you would like to play in one of those, please contact the Convention Coordinator, Jack Lasher, at SanDiego2015@agosd.org as soon as possible.

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.