



Peninsula Pipings

The Newsletter of the Palo Alto/Peninsula Chapter of
The American Guild of Organists

April 2019

Greetings!

If you are reading this, it means you have received the very first issue of “Peninsula Pipings,” the newly dubbed monthly newsletter of the Palo Alto/Peninsula Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. My name is Katherine, and I have recently been made editor of this newsletter.

I have not lived in the Bay Area for very long, but I’ve been pleasantly surprised by the vibrant, active organ and church music environment here. One way that we can continue to foster this thriving music and arts scene is to share information about our chapter with our parishioners, clergy, young students and their families, and anyone else who ever asks, “What is the AGO?” I hope this publication will be useful in keeping members of our AGO chapter informed about recent and upcoming events in our corner of the organ world; but moreover, it is my hope that this newsletter will help facilitate communication between our chapter and the broader community.

It has been a pleasure getting acquainted with several of our members over the past few weeks, and I am honored to be trusted with the chapter newsletter after only a short time here. If you would like to submit information about any of your recent musical experiences or upcoming events, please feel free to email me at kvloudermilk@gmail.com

Sincerely,

-Katherine Ou, Editor

In This Issue

- Members Recital Showcases Local Talent
- New Dean Appointed for PA/Pen AGO
- Another Successful Quimby Competition In the Books
- Upcoming Events

Members Recital Showcases

Local, Diverse Talent

On Saturday, February 23, at 3:00 in the afternoon, members from the PA/Pen AGO performed in recital at Christ Church Portola Valley & Woodside.

Ten performers, all from a diverse range of ages and backgrounds, performed on Christ Church's organ, a mechanical-action instrument built by Visser-Rowland in 1992



Members' Recital Performers, Left to Right: Lauren Wittine, Angela Kraft Cross, Chase Olsen, Peter Bassford, Rani Fischer, Isaiah Rassbach, Colin Chan, Jeff Kabel, Katherine Ou, Bill Jansen

PA/Pen AGO Appoints New Dean

At the members' recital held on February 23, it was announced that Don Mulliken will finish out the 2018-2019 year as chapter

with additions made in 2001. Chapter members played an engaging program of repertoire, all of which was accommodated nicely by the organ's colorful sound palette. The program featured some well-known favorites, including several Bach preludes and fugues, Boellmann's Suite Gothique, and the Organ Sonata No. 2 by Mendelssohn. The audience was also treated to some lesser-known works, including a chorale partita by baroque composer Georg Dietrich Leyding and contemporary works by Robert Buckley Farlee and T. Paul Rosas. One of the performers, Angela Kraft Cross, played one of her very own compositions, "Gloria," which was written just last year. After the recital there was a reception in the church's parish hall, where performers and audience members mingled over refreshments.

The PA/Pen AGO is grateful to Lauren Wittine and Christ Church Portola Valley & Woodside for hosting this recital and the reception that followed. It was a truly memorable afternoon of music-making.

dean. Don, who is filling this role while former dean Duane Soubrouse continues his studies, has contributed to music and the arts in various capacities throughout the Peninsula. A member of the Palo Alto Peninsula chapter's Executive Committee since 2009, Don helped the chapter

coordinate and host its first Quimby/RCYO competition in 2011. That same year he served on the Gifts and Grants Committee for the AGO Region IX convention held that summer, helping to raise money for convention events. In 2012 Don began serving on the San Francisco AGO's Executive Committee, and later joined the chapter's Special Projects Committee in 2014. The Special Projects Committee funds a variety of organ related projects across the country and performs three cycles of funding every year.

While fundraising and organizing events for two AGO chapters would be enough to keep anyone busy, Don still makes time for performing and other activities. He is currently a regular organ substitute at St. Elizabeth and Andrew Episcopal Church, a parish with campuses in South San Francisco and San Bruno. When he is not subbing he enjoys singing in the chancel choir at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Burlingame. Don is also a visual artist, and has served as past president of the Burlingame Art Society and is a former member of the San Mateo County Arts Commission. Currently, he serves as president of the Peninsula Arts Council, a not-for-profit organization that advocates for the arts in San Mateo County.



Don Mulliken, Chapter Dean

Discussion on Organ Restoration Draws Audience from PAPen, San Jose Chapters



Roger Inkpen demonstrates how wind travels to a pipe in a tubular pneumatic action organ.

On March 2, members of the Palo Alto/Peninsula and the San Jose chapters of the AGO gathered at Five Wounds Portuguese National Catholic Church in San Jose to hear a discussion on the restoration of the church's Kimball pipe organ. At the joint event, which was sponsored by both chapters, Roger Inkpen of Newton Pipe Organ Services recounted some of the history of the instrument, which was first constructed around 1906 and purchased by the church circa 1930 with funds acquired through a cattle auction. Mr. Inkpen began restoring the organ, a two manual, 11 rank tubular pneumatic action instrument, in 2002 and has continued his work in phases stretched over the better part of the last two decades.

Mr. Inkpen's diligent work, along with the significant financial investment that Five Wounds has contributed towards this project, seems to be reaping its rewards. After the discussion, attendees were invited to play the organ and view the restored interior. Despite its modest size, the organ fills the sanctuary quite nicely with a flute- and principal-heavy sound typical of organs of its era, and it is one of only a few tubular pneumatic action instruments located in the United States. It was a pleasure to learn more about unique instruments like this organ, and to see how Five Wounds is preserving this musical treasure for decades to come.

2019 Quimby/RCYO Competition Brings Young, Talented Organists to the Peninsula

On Saturday, March 16 at First Congregational Church Palo Alto, the PA/Pen AGO hosted a chapter-level competition as part of the Quimby/Regional Competition for Young Organists. The Quimby/RCYO is held every two years, with AGO chapters across the United States hosting the preliminary levels of the competition at the chapter level.

This year, two young organists competed at the event hosted by our chapter. Both performed challenging repertoire for a panel of three judges: Margaret Kvamme, Valerie Sterk, and John Karl Hirten. First place winner Ryan Qi performed the Fantasia and Fugue in g minor, BWV 542 by J.S. Bach, the Finale from Louis Vierne's Symphony no. 1, and the Grand Lothbury

Voluntary by his teacher, Angela Kraft Cross. Second place winner Gloy Lyatuu performed Bach's Prelude and Fugue in a minor, BWV 543, the Sonata no. 2 by Felix Mendelssohn, and "Variations on Noel Nouvelet" by Rober Lau. In addition to their solo organ repertoire, the contestants were required to prepare a hymn for congregational singing, and both led and accompanied an impromptu "congregation" of audience members as they sang "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name."

At the conclusion of the competition, competitors were given written and verbal comments by the judges. In addition, both Ryan and Glory will be awarded cash prizes. As the first place winner, Ryan will be advancing to the regional level of the competition, to be held as part of the West Regional AGO convention in Irvine, CA. He will compete against other chapter level winners in our region, and the winner of this summer's regional competition will be showcased in a Rising Starts recital at the 2020 Atlanta national AGO convention. Congratulations, Ryan!

The PA/Pen AGO wishes to thank First Congregational Church for allowing us to hold the competition at their campus; all of the judges for their diligent listening and constructive feedback to the contestants; and last but not least, the contestants themselves for their months of hard work, as well as their families for supporting their musical endeavors. The future of the AGO is looking bright!

Upcoming Events

- Sunday, April 7, 2-5 PM:
Schoenstein Open House, 4001
Industrial Way, Benicia, CA

If you would like to have your upcoming event listed in next month's newsletter, send an email with all relevant details to kvloudermilk@gmail.com.