



# Peninsula Pipings

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

October and November 2019

This issue of *Peninsula Pipings* will cover both October and November, since I will be visiting China at the end of October through the first two weeks of November.

I wish I could tell you it's for an exciting, whirlwind concert tour of East Asia. I wish I could tell you about the exciting musical research I'm planning to do there. But those would be lies. I'm going to China simply to visit my husband's family and see the sights. I've been told he has a large extended family eager to meet me (we organists are apparently quite the catch over there). However, maybe if I'm lucky, and my suitcase large enough, I'll come home with an authentic Chinese *sheng*: a mouth-organ played in traditional Chinese art music. It has always fascinated me how close the Chinese came to developing a pipe organ independently, and one can only speculate about what would have happened if one of China's many capable inventors had made the critical step of making the sheng playable with a mechanical blower, free of the limits set by the player's lungs.

But then again, if that happened I probably wouldn't be able to pack it in my suitcase.

Until next time,  
Katherine Ou, *Editor*

## *In This Issue*

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## All Saints Episcopal Church to Launch New Concert Series



Starting Tuesday, October 1 at 12:15 p.m., music director Rodney Gehrke will offer free half-hour organ recitals every Tuesday at All Saints, Palo Alto, on the two Flentrop mechanical-action organs. The first recital will be all-Bach and feature the Toccata in D Minor. Each recital will include at least one work by J.S. Bach. Rodney played the complete organ works of Bach in 12 recitals in 1985. All Saints' smaller Flentrop is in quarter-comma meantone tuning, perfect for early Bach and his predecessors, such as Dieterich Buxtehude and Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck. The second program, on October 8, will feature "Junior" exclusively, with music by Bach, Sweelinck, and Zachow. Each week, Rodney will post the coming Tuesday's recital program at the church's website: [www.asaints.org](http://www.asaints.org). While the recitals are free, donations large and small are welcome. All Saints is located at 555 Waverley Street at Hamilton Avenue, one block southeast of University Avenue in downtown Palo Alto.

## Letters

*The following are some comments from Linda Collins-von Rothstein regarding a recital played by Balint Karosi as part of an evensong held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Berkeley on September 8. Dr. Karosi's program included works by Buxtehude, Bach, Guy Bovet, the U.S. premier of "Vintage" by living composer Gianluca Verlingieri, and one of Karosi's own works.*

I enjoyed hearing the compositions of John Karl Hirten during Evensong—very beautiful. Dr. Karosi's organ concert was wonderful. My dear old departed friend Ken Mansfield, former dean SFAGO, would have loved the harmonies of Karosi's Prelude and Fugue in G.

I was surprised that his improvisation on the hymn tune (I believe it was 379 God is Love) was in the Baroque idiom tonally. He played it in the form of theme and variations. It was magnificent. It was refreshing that his concert highlighted 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century new organ music.

Dr. Karosi was accessible and I enjoyed exchanging a few words with him.

*-Linda CVR*

## Items of Note

- The PA/Pen AGO has a Facebook page! Please be sure to “Like” and Follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/PaloAltoPeninsulaAGO/> .
- The next Salon event has been rescheduled for Saturday, October 19 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at First Presbyterian Church, Burlingame. Please contact Fjord Hawthorne if you have any questions.

## Upcoming Events

- Midday Organ Recital—October 1, 12:15 PM, All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverly St., Palo Alto.
- Madrigalchor Kiel—October 6, 2:00 PM, Saint Mark’s Lutheran Church, 1111 O’Farrell Street, San Francisco. *Here at St. Mark’s Lutheran we are very excited to host the Madrigalchor Kiel as part of a cultural exchange with San Francisco’s sister city, Kiel, the northernmost port in Germany. This wonderful, semi-professional ensemble’s appearances around the Bay Area are in response to a concert I gave last year in Kiel’s historic Nikolaikirche. Because of that special relationship, the Madrigalchor Kiel’s concert here at St. Mark’s on Sunday, October 6 at 2 pm is especially meaningful to the St. Mark’s community, and I hope you and your friends and colleagues would consider joining us. The concert is free, as is parking, and the St. Mark’s choir will host a reception afterwards. –Dr. Timothy Zerlang, Director of Music*
- Paul Jacobs, Organ—October 20, 3:00 PM, Davies Hall, San Francisco. Tickets \$30-\$40 each.
- Halloween Concert Featuring Students of Angela Kraft-Cross—October 25, 8:00 PM, Congregational Church of San Mateo, 225 Tilton Ave., San Mateo.
- Dr. James Welch, Halloween Concert—October 26, 7:30 PM, St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. Tickets \$10 each.
- Douglass Franks Memorial Service—November 9, 4:00 PM, All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverly St., Palo Alto.
- All Soul’s Sunday—November 10, 10:00 AM, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 415 El Camino Real, Burlingame. *Choir and orchestra will perform Mozart’s Requiem as part of St. Paul’s Evensong music series.*

### **Palo Alto/Peninsula Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.**

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