

March 2009

# American Guild of Organists San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

*SFAGO March Chapter Event*

## SFAGO Member Recital

On Sunday, March 22, 4pm, at Grace Cathedral, five distinguished members of the San Francisco Chapter will perform music written by contemporary composers. Sandra Soderlund, David Hatt, Angela Kraft Cross, Robert Gurney and Brian Swager will each have a turn the cathedral's magnificent organ.

The five compositions you will hear have one thing in common: they are all winners of the Holtkamp-AGO Award in Organ Composition. This competition was an outgrowth of The International Contemporary Organ Music Festival, sponsored by the University of Hartford's Hartt College of Music. Edward E. Clark, Edward Diemente, John Holtz, and Elizabeth Sollenberger founded it in 1971. Each summer the Festival brought together organists and composers of all ages to stimulate performance, composition, study and interest in new organ music.

In order to encourage younger composers and enhance interest in the Festival, Walter Holtkamp, President of the Holtkamp Organ Company of Cleveland, Ohio, decided in 1977 to establish the Holtkamp Organ Composition Contest in 1977 as a competition to be held annually in connection with the Festival. The AGO took over the reins the competition in 1983, with the Holtkamp Company continuing to sponsor the first prize through 2008.



*Sandra Soderlund*

The music on the March 22 SFAGO program will be performed in chronological order according to when each prize was awarded.

*That Line Which is Earth's Shadow* by Ellen Ruth Harrison was written in 1987 and won the AGO competition in

2008-2009

## SFAGO Chapter Programs

**March 22, 2009**

**Sunday, 4:00 p.m.**

SFAGO Member Recital & Dinner  
Grace Cathedral, San Francisco

A program of Holtkamp Prize winning compositions

**May 1, 2009**

**Friday, 8:00 p.m.**

Cameron Carpenter  
St. Agnes Church, San Francisco

**June 1, 2009**

**Monday, 6:00 p.m. dinner;**

**7:30 p.m. concert**

SFAGO Dinner & Annual Meeting  
Compositions for organ and/or choir  
by SFAGO members.

First Congregational Church, Berkeley



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1992. It will be performed by Sandra Soderlund. She is the editor of scholarly editions of keyboard works, including the *Two-Part Inventions and Four Duets* of J. S. Bach and the *Livre d'Orgue* of L.N. Clérambault, as well as the author of articles on performance practices. Her book *Organ Technique: An Historical Approach* has been a standard text. The expansion of that book, entitled *How Did They Play? How Did They Teach? A History of Keyboard Technique* was recently released by Hinshaw Music. Soderlund is on the editorial board of the *Early Keyboard Journal* and teaches harpsichord and organ at Mills College in Oakland, California. She has performed throughout the U.S., in Holland, Germany, France, and Korea, and has recorded for Arkay and Albany Records.

David Hatt will perform *Variations sur un vieux Noel*, by Timothy Tikker, which won the prize in 1993-94. David is the Assistant Cathedral Organist at St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco. Darcey Press, Amalgamate Sound and Wayne Leupold Editions have published his works. In 2004, he was asked to present the opening concert of the 47<sup>th</sup> National Conference of the College Music Society. This event featured the music of CMS composers, and it was the first time in the history of the Society that the invited guest performed every piece that was submitted by the review committee. He is featured on a new DVD, *Streets and Sounds of San Francisco*, produced by Michael Schnurr. He is also featured in an experimental opera *I, Norton*, by Gino Robair, about a famous character in San Francisco history.



David Hatt

Angela Kraft Cross will begin the program with the award winner of 2002, *What Wondrous Love is This, O My Soul? A Fantasia on Four American Hymns (Wondrous Love, Were you there, Deep River and Burleigh)*, by Emily Maxson Porter. Angela Kraft Cross, graduated from Oberlin College and Conservatory of Music in 1980 with bachelor's degrees in Physics and Organ Performance. In 1993, she completed her Master of Music degree in Piano Performance at Notre Dame de



Angela Kraft Cross

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)



The Organ at  
Grace Cathedral,  
San Francisco

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(MEMBER RECITAL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Namur University. Her organ teachers have included Louis Robilliard, Marie-Louise Langlais, Sandra Soderlund, S. Leslie Grow, Garth Peacock and William Porter. In 2001, she earned the Associate degree from the American Guild of Organists (AAGO). Dr. Kraft Cross has performed extensively on both organ and piano, having given over 250 concerts across the United States, Canada, and Europe including such venues as Notre Dame Cathedral and St. Sulpice in Paris, Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., St. Thomas Church in NYC and Southwark Cathedral in London.

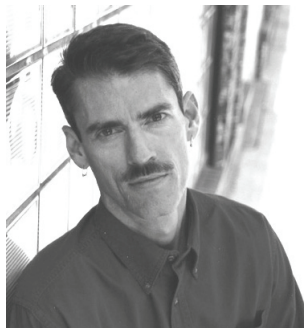


Robert Gurney

Robert Gurney will then play *Six Sketches on Children's Hymns*, Op. 481 by Canadian composer Barrie Cabena. This composition won the award in 2006. Robert is Organist-Choir Director at Trinity Episcopal Church, Music Director of the San Francisco Lyric Chorus, Museum Organist at the

Legion of Honor and Organist at Temple Rodef Sholom in San Rafael. A native of Ohio, he studied at Youngstown State University and The Cleveland Institute of Music, studying organ with Ronald Gould and Karel Paukert. He has performed at St. Mary's Cathedral and Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, St. Paul's Cathedral, San Diego and St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Berkeley. At the Palace of the Legion of Honor he has performed over 200 recitals on the museum's E.M. Skinner organ.

The program will close with the most recent winner of the award, Rachel Laurin's *Prelude and Fugue in f minor*, Op. 45, played by Brian Swager. He holds the Doctor of Music Degree in Organ Performance from Indiana University where he was a student of Larry Smith. His other organ teachers were Richard Shirey (University of Akron), Flor Peeters (Belgium), and Marie-Claire Alain (Paris). Study with the latter culminated in a Premier Prix in organ from the Conservatoire National de Région, after a year of study on a scholarship from the French government. Brian



Brian Swager



The Nave of Grace Cathedral, San Francisco

received the Final Diploma with great distinction from the Royal Belgian Carillon School after two years of study on a Fulbright-Hays grant. He won the silver medal in the 1990 Queen Fabiola International Carillon Competition in Mechelen, Belgium. He was Assistant Professor of Music and University Carillonneur at Indiana University where for nine years he taught carillon, piano, and organ, and played weekly recitals on the Arthur R. Metz Memorial Carillon. He is the carillon editor for *The Diapason* magazine.

We are honored to have these distinguished Chapter members offer their talents to us. This recital will present an opportunity to hear the evolving musical language of post-modern American organ composition. It will also be one of the few remaining opportunities to hear the Grace Cathedral organ before extensive renovation will limit its use for several months.

Preceding this concert, at 3pm, Evensong will be sung by the Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys. They will offer music by Wood, Stanford, Howells and Leighton. After the recital, there will be a reception for SFAGO members and friends across the plaza in the Chapter House Library. Join us!

## Dean's Letter: AGO Matters

By John Karl Hirten

This month's column focuses on two important items. But first, this reminder: "The purpose of the American Guild of Organists is to promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles, to encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music, and to provide a forum for mutual support, inspiration, education, and certification of Guild members."

That's the Guild's mission statement, and in order to accomplish its purpose, two things are needed:

1) **Funding.** This is where the AGO Annual Fund comes in. This fund helps to offset the cost of the Guild programs, which cannot be covered by membership dues alone. The National Office of the AGO has a small paid staff that essentially coordinates a phalanx of volunteers (those of us who work in churches know what that entails). The funding doesn't really support the staff so much as the programs they coordinate--outreach programs like Pipe Organ Encounter, all the various competitions, educational resources (check out page 8 of the *TAO*), *TAO* for that matter, and a host of other things.

Because the AGO is a nonprofit organization, it can also apply to outside foundations for grants. A grantor organization is always interested in finding out how many people contribute to a nonprofit, more than how much money the nonprofit can raise. That's why it's important that as many people as possible contribute, even if they only contribute a few dollars.

2) **An active, connected membership.** One of the best ways to become active and connect with other people in the Guild is to attend local AGO-sponsored events. Our program committee endeavors to try to find ways to attract our members to SFAGO events. We need to do better and will continue to try. Feedback is always welcome.

Even better, attend regional conventions, like the Central Arizona Chapter Region IX Festival in Phoenix, June 22-25 this summer. Regional conventions are, I think, "kinder, gentler" conventions. They are more manageable, less expensive, and musically every bit as interesting as the national conventions. Plus, one has the added bonus of making contact with other people in the region.

Have you ever had a conversation with someone about

## Classified Ads

Collected by Simon Berry

*This information is provided as a service to SFAGO members and the employing institutions. Inclusion of information in this column does not imply endorsement by the SFAGO. Send Job Referrals items, Substitutes Available notices, and For Sale items to: Simon Berry, 1035 Fell St, San Francisco, CA 94117; email [berrysimon@aol.com](mailto:berrysimon@aol.com). Next issue deadline is March 10 for the April issue.*

### JOB LISTINGS

**Organist & Pianist:** Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley: Thursdays: afternoon worship planning meeting, evening choir rehearsal. Sundays: 11:00 am service, and twice a month 9:00 am service. Recent salary \$20k/yr. See [uucb.org](http://uucb.org). Contact: Dr. Bryan Baker: [pianosing@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pianosing@sbcglobal.net)

**Musician Available:** Rosemary Wren is looking for work as choir director and organist, substitute work or regular positions. Contact (916) 873-6412; [rosemaryg224@hotmail.com](mailto:rosemaryg224@hotmail.com)



## SFAGO Quimby Regional Competition Preliminaries Cancelled

By John Karl Hirten

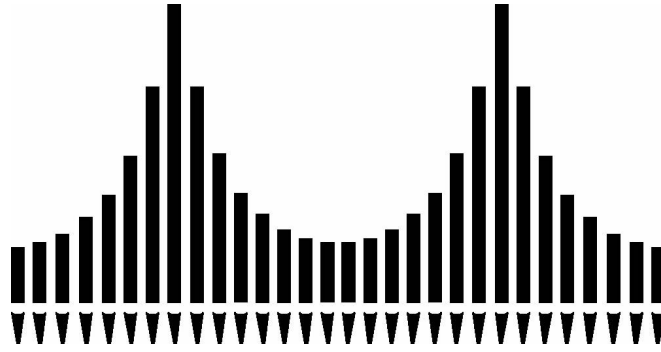
The San Francisco Chapter auditions for the AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists, scheduled for March 14, have been cancelled because there were no applicants.

The Regional competition will take place in Phoenix, Arizona, on Saturday, June 20, as part of the Central Arizona AGO Region IX Festival (June 22-25, 2009).



church music in the east as opposed to the west, how organ music is not as well liked or understood out here as it is there? Well, at least when you go to a Region IX convention you meet other people who are in the same boat as you are. Plus, our western hotels have really nice swimming pools.

Kidding aside, I hope you consider attending the Festival in Phoenix. For more information, go to [www.AGOinPhoenix.com](http://www.AGOinPhoenix.com).



## 2009-2010 SFAGO Chapter Election Slate

James Bisbing, Nominating Committee Chair

The Chapter Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following members standing for elected office in the 2009-2010 Chapter election.

Dean: John Karl Hirten (incumbent)

Sub-Dean Elect: Angela Kraft Cross, Jane Rosenblum

Secretary: Simon Berry (incumbent)

Treasurer: Bill Montgomery (incumbent)

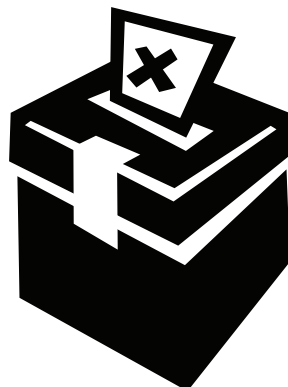
Auditors (2): Dora Burdick (incumbent), Oscar Burdick (incumbent)

Members at Large (4): Eulah Capron, Leon Chisholm, John Hupalo, Walter Knowles, Terry O'Connor, Helen Pereira, Jim Sharpe, Brian Swager, Frank Uranich

Special Projects (2): Robert Train Adams, Douglas Franks

Biographies of these candidates will appear in the April issue of the newsletter.

Additional nominations may be made via petition signed by at least five Chapter Voting members in good standing and received by the Secretary prior to March 15. Voting members will receive a ballot in April. The results of the election will be announced at the June 1 Chapter meeting (a plurality of votes cast is sufficient for election).



## Good news about *Phoenix Rising*,

### June 22-25, 2009

By Frances Nobert, AGO Region IX Councillor

The early registration fees for *Phoenix Rising*, the AGO Region IX Festival, have been extended until Saturday, February 28, 2009.

Registration fees, if postmarked by February 28, 2009 are:

Regular (or Spouse/Partner) \$295 (\$347 after February 28)

Special (over 65) \$245 (\$295 after February 28)

Student with ID \$245 (\$245 after February 28)

Non-AGO Member or Chapter Friend \$395 (\$395 after February 28)

If you have questions, call Carol Sailer at 623-584-3158 or e-mail her at [carolsailer@cox.net](mailto:carolsailer@cox.net)

Special hotel rates of \$139 per night are available for June 19-29. Enjoy pre-festival and post-festival events if you wish. Please book the accommodations through the link on [www.agoinphoenix.com](http://www.agoinphoenix.com) rather than through contact with the hotel directly. If there are any difficulties with receiving the festival rate, please call Michael Heap at 602-234-6967 or e-mail him at [mikmus@aol.com](mailto:mikmus@aol.com).

I look forward to seeing you at *Phoenix Rising: The Hottest Time You'll Ever Have* with fabulous presenters, outstanding instruments and wonderful venues!

(CALENDAR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

5pm. Mark Bruce, organ. TE

31 Sunday

3pm. Great Paschal Vespers. GC

### JUNE

1 Monday

6pm. SFAGO Dinner and Annual Meeting. FCC-B

7:30pm. SFAGO Chapter Event. Compositions for organ and/or choir by SFAGO members. FCC-B

7 Sunday

3pm. The Choir of Men and Boys. Buon Viaggio in Italia! GC

14 Sunday

6:10pm. Julie Vidrick Evans (Washington, DC), organ. Recital follows 5:30 Evensong. SME-B

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## AGO Region IX Convention Hosted by the San Francisco Chapter July 3-7, 2011



21 Saturday

5pm. St. Paul's Choristers and Chancel Choir. Lenten Meditation on Passion of Christ. SPE-BU

22 Sunday

3:30pm. David Phillips, organ. CSMA

4pm. SFAGO Member Recital. SF/AGO Chapter Event. Recital preceded by 3pm choral evensong. GC

7pm. RLC musicians and guests, George Biester, director. Abendmusik: Bach's Birthday. Resurrection Lutheran Church, 391 Euclid Avenue, Oakland

25 Wednesday

12:15pm. Ron McKean, organ. Preludes and Fugues of the young and old Bach, celebrating J. S. Bach birthday. FPC-O

29 Sunday

2pm. Natsuko Murayama, organ, with WCUMC vocalists and instrumentalists. Music for the Lenten Season. Walnut Creek United Methodist Church, 1543 Sunnyvale Avenue, Walnut Creek

3pm. Jeffrey Smith, organ. Improvisations on the Stations of the Cross. GC

3:30pm. Garret Collins, organ. CSMA

5:30pm Choral Evensong for the Fifth Sunday in Lent. St. Francis' Choir & Instruments, Robert Kerman, Director; Rodney Gehrke, organ. Music of Proulx, Purcell, Gibbons, Brahms, Pärt, J.S. Bach. SFE

#### APRIL

3 Friday

8pm. San Francisco City Chorus, Larry Marietta, conductor, John Walko, organ. Beethoven *Mass in C Major*, Brahms *Alto Rhapsody*, Mendelssohn *Psalm 42*. FCC-B

4 Saturday

7:30pm. San Francisco City Chorus, Larry Marietta, conductor, John Walko, organ. (Repeat: see 4/3) TE

5 Sunday

3pm. A Palm Sunday Meditation. GC

3:30pm. Mauro Correa, Guitar, and the Latin American Chamber Music Society. CSMA

10 Friday

6:30pm. John R. S. Walko, organ. Recital followed by Tenebrae Service. FPC-B

12 Sunday

3:30pm. Angela Kraft Cross, organ. CSMA

19 Sunday

3pm. A Festival of Lessons and Carols for Eastertide. GC

3:30pm. David Pickering (Graceland University, Iowa), organ. CSMA

26 Sunday

3:30pm. Louis Perazza (Philadelphia), organ. CSMA

#### MAY

1 Friday

8pm. Cameron Carpenter, organ. SF/AGO Chapter Event. St. Agnes Church, San Francisco

3 Sunday

5pm. John Karl Hirten, organ. TE

7 Thursday

8pm. Grace Cathedral Choir with the American Bach Soloists. A Handel 250th Celebration: The *Dettingen Te Deum* and excerpts from *Water Music* and *Royal Fireworks Music*. GC

8 Friday

8pm. Grace Cathedral Choir with the American Bach Soloists. (Repeat: see 4/7) GC

10 Sunday

5pm. Benjamin Bachmann, organ. TE

6:10pm. Reiko Lane, organ. Recital follows 5:30 Evensong. SME-B

7pm. RLC musicians and guests, George Biester, director. Abendmusik: Music by Women Composers. Resurrection Lutheran Church, 391 Euclid Avenue, Oakland

16 Saturday

5pm. St. Paul's Choristers and Chancel Choir. Festive Choral Evensong. SPE-BU

17 Sunday

3pm. San Francisco State University Choirs. A Mendelssohn Festival. GC

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

# Bay Area Concert Calendar | March 2009

Collected by Robert Train Adams

Events, dates, times, and locations subject to change without notice. Compiled from flyers, press releases, and listings submitted by members and organizations. SFAGO is not responsible for errors, although every effort is made to be accurate. Submission deadline for the next issue is **March 10 for the April 2009 issue**. Send event listings to [AGOCalendar@yahoo.com](mailto:AGOCalendar@yahoo.com).

## MARCH

1 Sunday

3pm. A Lenten Procession. GC

3pm. Hector Olivera, organ. Church of the Assumption, 1100 Fulton Avenue, San Leandro

4 Wednesday

12:15pm. Ron McKean, organ. Works of Mendelssohn, Philip Glass, Hugo Distler. *Improvisation: the Canzone, Capriccio and Ricercare*. FPC-O

7 Saturday

2pm. Katharine Phillips, David Phillips, organ; Ilya Demutsky, bass. Church of the Advent, 311 Fell, SF

8 Sunday

3:30pm. Christoph Tietze, organ. CSMA

4pm. Jeremy Filsell (Washington DC), organ. Bach's *Clavierübung Chorales* interspersed with more virtuosic 20<sup>th</sup>-century fare. Recital preceded by 3pm choral evensong. GC

6:10pm. Brian Swager, organ. Recital follows 5:30 Evensong. SME-B

11 Wednesday

12:15pm. Ron McKean, organ. Bach's milieu: Pachelbel, Kerll, Buxtehude and Muffat. FPC-O

13 Friday

7pm. John R. S. Walko, organ and piano; Corey Mike, violin. Opening event of 16th annual Lenten Organ Recital Series. Debussy Violin Sonata; works of Ermend Bonnal, Maleingreau and other French impressionists. Reception follows. FPC-B

14 Saturday

2pm. Christoph Tietze, organ. Church of the Advent, 261 Fell, SF

5pm. Soli Deo Gloria with Orchestra Gloria, Allen H Simon, director. Chamber Secrets: works by Monteverdi, Buxtehude, Telemann, Blow, Mozart, and Haydn. Tickets at [www.sdgloria.org](http://www.sdgloria.org) or 888-SDG-

SONG. First Lutheran Church, 600 Homer, Palo Alto

15 Sunday

3:30pm. Christoph Tietze, organ. CSMA

3:30pm. Soli Deo Gloria with Orchestra Gloria, Allen H Simon, director. (Repeat: see 3/14). St. Joseph Basilica Parish, 1109 Chestnut, Alameda

4pm. Christopher Herrick (UK), organ. Works by Buxtehude, Bach, Bartok, and others. Recital preceded by 3pm choral evensong. GC

18 Wednesday

12:15pm. Ron McKean, organ. Arrangements of Irish folksongs by Ron McKean. FPC-O

20 Friday

7pm. John R. S. Walko, organ and piano; Corey Mike, violin. Lenten Organ Recital Series. Brahms 3rd Violin Sonata; Brahms *Preludes and Fugues* for organ. Reception follows. FPC-B

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

### Recurring Venues

Churches and institutions offering programs on a regular basis have been assigned abbreviations so as to save space in our listings. Abbreviations are listed below with the full name of the venue. When no city is stated, San Francisco is assumed.

CPLH: California Palace of the Legion of Honor

CSMA: Cathedral of St Mary of the Assumption

FCC-B: First Congregational Church, Berkeley

FPC-O: First Presbyterian Church, Oakland

GC: Grace Cathedral

SFE: St. Francis Episcopal Church

SME-B: St Mark's Episcopal Church, Berkeley

SMV: St. Mary the Virgin

SPE-BU: St Paul's Episcopal Church, Burlingame

TE: Trinity Episcopal Church