

# ***TITULAIRE***

## **The NEWSLETTER for the AGO PALOMAR CHAPTER**

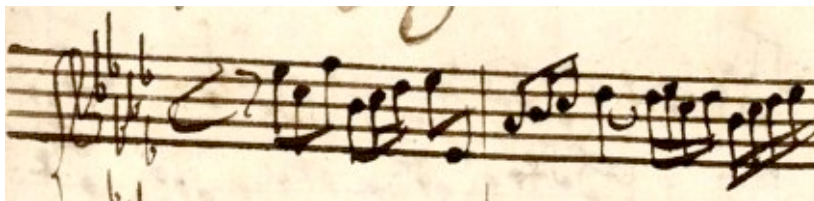
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Steve Vandlen, Ronél Wishnuff, Adam Ferrara and Michael Munson, backstage at First Presbyterian Church, Oceanside.

# A Note from the Dean



Dear Palomar AGO friends,

We are now entering into the Advent Season with its many opportunities for celebration and praise through music. I have an unnerving number of performance commitments coming up in the next two and half weeks. I can imagine that you all are or have been in similar situations. We think of what we have to do with some trepidation, but we always make it through.

My oldest son Philip and his wife Nicole had their first child on October 25, a girl they named Samantha Violet. I didn't think I was going to see the baby in person until January, but they decided to drive down here for Thanksgiving. I had to compete with my wife and two great-grandmothers and two great-grandfathers for a chance to hold her, but I did get a nice half hour or so on the couch with Samantha before Thanksgiving. My dad's wife Marie is a pianist, so I was very excited that Steve Vandlen, Adam Ferrara, Ronél Wishnuff and I were performing our four-piano extravaganza at Oceanside Presbyterian while she was here. I want to thank Steve for suggesting the concert and his church for supporting music so well. We all had a blast playing. I could only grin ridiculously after every piece listening to the enthusiastic applause. Thanks to all of you who were able to attend. We hope to do it again next year.

Thanks to those of you who came to Palomar College on November 16 to hear me play the nine-rank Wicks that has been there since 1966. I must give a special thanks to Judith Moore, who talked about her experience studying organ at Palomar, and to George Butterfield, who talked about the organ and how the Wicks was a good choice for Palomar, since its action was very low-maintenance. I was in the library earlier that day, and the librarian who helped me said, "Aren't you giving a concert today? We saw an email about that with your name and picture." I asked them if they knew that Palomar College had not one, but two pipe organs. They had no idea. Most people who work at Palomar have no idea. A colleague remarked when I told her about the librarians that most people at Palomar College have no idea that there is a theater with live music, dance, and drama. We have a lot of work to do there. Anyway, if you are ever talking about Palomar College, please don't forget to mention the pipe organs. And the Brubeck Theater.

We must all also congratulate Jenny Yun on her appointment as organist at La Jolla Presbyterian Church. I hope she will let us know when she gives her next concert there. I hope you all have a great holiday season, and that you make it through with more joy than trouble or stress.



# Four Piano Concert at First Presbyterian Church, Oceanside



The church was packed.

Sunday, November 19, 2023: Four AGO Palomar members performed at First Presbyterian Church in Oceanside, California, in an exciting a novel event: a four-piano concert. Steve Vandlen, Ronél Wishnuff, Adam Ferrara and Michael Munson performed a variety of works by John Phillip Sousa, Joel Raney, Ingolf Dahl, Johannes Brahms (arranged by Sergei Rachmaninoff), Tchaikovsky, Darius Milhaud, Emmanuel Chabrier (arranged by Camille Chevillard), Edward Grieg and Georges Bizet (arranged by Mack Wilberg). The concert (including intermission/offertory) lasted about an hour forty-five minutes. The newsletter editor attended the concert, and was delighted, as was the entire audience of what appeared to be a couple hundred people, apparently most were music-loving members of the congregation. Bravo! and Brava!











# Welcome

The Stars and Stripes Forever

By John Philip Sousa/Arr. by Mack Wilberg

Eight Hands in Praise

*Incorporating the Tunes: Coronation, Diadem,  
Italian Hymn, Hymn to Joy, Hyfrydol*

Arranged for Four Pianos by Joel Raney

Quodlibet on American Folk Tunes and Folk Dances

Arranged by Ingolf Dahl

Symphony No. 3 – Movement III

Johannes Brahms

Valse no. 6 from The Sleeping Beauty, Op. 66

Pyotr Llyich Tchaikovsky  
Arranged by Sergei Rachmaninoff

# Intermission

Scaramouche, Op. 165

*I. Vif*

*II. Modéré*

*III. Brasileira*

Darius Milhaud

Spirituals for Eight Hands

*Featuring: Deep River, Swing Low, Sweet Chariot,  
In That Great Getting' Up Morning, I Want Jesus to Walk with Me  
Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child, Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho.*

Arranged for Four Pianos by Joel Raney

España

Emmanuel Chabrier/Arranged by Camille Chevillard

Peer Gynt

Edward Grieg

Fantasy on Themes from Bizet's Carmen

Arranged by Mack Wilberg



### **Adam Ferrara**

Adam Ferrara is an organist, pianist, photographer, and videographer from Michigan who recently moved to the San Diego area. He has been organist and accompanist at the United Methodist Church of Vista since 2017, teaches lessons, and accompanies SACRA/PROFANA and two of the San Diego Children's Choir ensembles. He earned his M.M. in Organ Performance from Eastern Michigan University studying under Dr. Michael Burkhardt and B.M. in Piano Performance with a minor in Computer Science from Alma College. In his free time, Adam continues work on his custom 5-manual Hauptwerk-based 9 organ. He also enjoys mountain biking and has a small obsession for peppermint and vanilla ice cream.

### **Michael Munson**

Dr. Michael D. Munson is the organist of the First United Methodist Church of Escondido, a Life Member of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) and current Dean of the Palomar Chapter of the AGO. He has performed in Southern California, the eastern United States, and Europe. He has also given four concerts at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park as part of the weekly Sunday Concert Series there and at Saint Paul's Cathedral in San Diego. Munson earned his Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music from the Eastman School of Music in 1992. Since 1994, Dr. Munson has been working at Palomar College when he started accompanying ballet classes, which he still does. Currently, he teaches applied piano, plays for ballet, and accompanies the Palomar Chorale and the Chamber Singers. He has taught beginning piano, music theory, and organ. He also accompanies and coaches students in the music program at MiraCosta College.

### **Steve Vandlen**

Steve Vandlen has been the organist and accompanist for the traditional service at Oceanside First Presbyterian Church for over 8 years. In addition, he has been the choir director at the church for the past year. He is a native of the great state of Michigan and graduated with a business degree from Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids Michigan. He and his family moved to Southern California to further his career with Farmers Insurance, where he is a Zone Sales director for the South-Western United States. Steve studied piano in college and has been involved in church music as a staff musician for over 40 years. Steve's role has not only enriched his own life but also allowed him to forge meaningful connections with others who share his profound love for both music and faith.

### **Ronél Wishnuff**

Ronél Wishnuff was born in Roodepoort, west of Johannesburg, South Africa. She holds BMus in piano performance from the University of the Witwatersrand. Ronél worked for several years as a music teacher and freelance accompanist before relocating to San Diego. Ronél served as music director/organist at the Congregational Church in Pacific Beach for seven years. During this time, she completed a Master's in Piano Performance and Pedagogy at San Diego State University. For nine years, Ronél worked as organist for La Jolla United Methodist Church. In May of 2018, she became the organist/accompanist at Rancho Bernardo Presbyterian Church. Ronél freelances as a collaborative pianist and teaches piano in her home studio in Vista and is an enthusiastic singer, who has sung in numerous choirs. Ronél has served as adjudicator for the Musical Merit Competition and Goodlin Scholarships and is a board member and treasurer of The Suzuki Music Association of California.

# Upcoming Chapter Events

**Sunday, February 11**, 4 PM - Members recital at Fallbrook United Methodist Church

**Sunday, March 10** -San Diego Baroque Soloists at King of Kings Lutheran, Oceanside. Co-sponsoring with King of Kings

**April** Organ Concert with artist Seth Bott. More details later.

## Other Events

Dec 1 & 2: San Luis Rey Chorale Christmas Concerts at the Mission San Luis Rey. Tickets available starting in Nov through the Mission website.



# PALOMAR CHAPTER AGO

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First, visit the following link: <http://www.agosd.org/jobs/job-listings.html> This will take you to the San Diego Chapter AGO's website Job Listing page. Here you can 1) view current job listings for San Diego and Palomar Chapters, 2) post a job vacancy, and 3) contact George via email or phone with any placement questions. Please note there is a nominal \$35 fee to post a job listing.