

THE DESERT WIND

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Southern Nevada Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Dean's Notes

Dear Colleagues,

Over the past four months, my main parish, Saint Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, has been running a capital campaign for money to build our church/offices. The priests comment each time they raise the money issue as to how unfortunate and ill-timed is the building project when the economy is so weakened and people's financial lives are so challenged. But what actually has occurred is that the people are contributing to the building fund as if the economy is as robust as before the recession. Why is that? I think it's because they see the great good to be achieved by having our own church facility rather than being nomads, celebrating Mass and Sacraments in a CCSD school. We are all ready to be in our new Faith home.

Because of this parochial experi-

ence, I am thinking that perhaps each member of our AGO Chapter would feel the need to help in some way to keep our little arts organization being a beacon of light in the cultural world of Las Vegas. Since our convention in 2006, we have continued to present each year a concert series that draws more and more people to be fans of the pipe organ and to be discriminating concert-goers. Our outreach has more than quadrupled, as seen by the number of e-mails that go out before each concert. I do not want to return to the days where almost no one came to an organ recital.

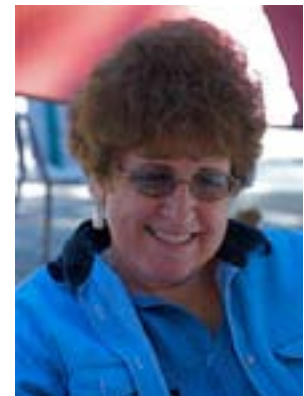
To continue to provide fine concerts, we need more members to become Patrons for the recital series. An anonymous donor has offered to match funds, dollar-for-dollar, for any AGO member who did not contribute to the Patrons

Fund, but does so this year. Contributors are listed in each recital program.

This is the year! Please consider contributing to the Patron Fund this year so that we can continue to provide top-notch artists in our recital series for the people of Las Vegas.

Warmly,

Shireen Beaudry-Johnson



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The American Guild of Organists
Southern Nevada Chapter

Organ Recital Series

Sunday, October 26, 2009

Sietze de Vries

Winner of more than fifteen organ playing and improvisation competitions, Sietze de Vries from The Netherlands was the 2002 first-place winner of the prestigious Haarlem International Improvisation Competition. His concerts are always extraordinary events.

Friday, November 13, 2009

David H. Brock

Trained as a chorister at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., Mr. Brock maintains an active organ recital schedule across the U.S. He currently resides in Incline Village, Nevada

Sunday, December 6, 2009

Advent-Christmas Recital

This year's edition of the annual holiday recital, performed by members of the Southern Nevada chapter of the AGO, will feature the new 4-manual, 55-rank pipe organ at Christ Church Episcopal (at E. St. Louis Avenue and Maryland Parkway) designed and installed by the Schantz Organ Company of Orville, Ohio. You won't want to miss this event.

Friday, February 26, 2010

Dr. David C. Pickering

Assistant Professor of Music at Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa, Dr. Pickering earned his Bachelor of Music degree at Brigham Young University, and his Master's and Doctoral degrees in musicology and organ performance from the University of Kansas.

Friday, April 16, 2010

Dr. Heather Hernandez

Currently Director of Music at the Lutheran Church of the Master in Phoenix, Arizona, Dr. Hernandez earned degrees in organ performance from Bethany College (B.M.) and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (M.M. and D. Mus. A.) She is also the accompanist for the Phoenix Girls Choir. She has presented organ recitals in the U.S. and in Europe.

Sunday, May 16, 2010 - 4:00 P.M.

Organ Plus

The season finale will present local musicians in a program of works for organ and instruments. One of the featured works on the program will be Marcel Dupré's rarely heard "Variations on Two Themes," Op. 35 for organ and piano, performed by Dorothy Young Riess and Voltaire Verzosa

All recitals (except December) presented in Doc Rando Recital Hall in the Beam Music Center on the UNLV Campus at 7:30 P.M.

Open to the public at no charge

The Organ Recital Series is partially supported through the generosity of Patrons in the community. Contributions are tax-deductible.

If you would like to become a Patron, send your check made to

"Southern Nevada Chapter, AGO"

Dr. David Dorway, Treasurer,

10613 Shoalhaven Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89134

“Variations on Aberwystwyth” scheduled to be heard on PipeDreams

by Paul Hesselink

You may recall that the late Don Hannah composed his first (and only) work for the organ after a little goading from me. When John Karl Hirten suggested a workshop for the Southern Nevada Chapter in January, 2008 on the topic “Compositions for the Organ by Las Vegas Composers,” I was surprised to learn that during 50 years of marriage to Margaret, a fine organist and member of our chapter, Don had not written a single note for her instrument. Over the next several months preceding the workshop, Don’s response to my challenge was a set of variations on the hymntune “Aberwystwyth.” I had assumed that Margaret would play the piece at the workshop, but when I casually spoke about her doing that, Margaret said, “Oh, no! I’ve been married to this man for more than 50 years and I want to stay married to him!” She was adamant about that! Since I had sort of started the whole thing, I realized that I would likely have to learn the piece and so began work on it and did play it on the January workshop.

In early fall when I began to plan a faculty recital at UNLV, I thought I would ask Don whether he would agree to an official premier performance of the work on the recital scheduled for February 2009. He graciously agreed to my request, and I think also was pleased I wanted to perform the piece. He continued to work on little refinements and changes (I learned later that this “tinkering” with his compositions was typical). In October I had planned to go to the EROI Conference at Eastman in Rochester, New York; before I left for Rochester Don called and left me a message that he’d like to get together to work through a few of the little adjustments he was making. I called back and Margaret said, “You just missed him---he went out the door a few minutes ago.” So I left the message with Margaret that I

couldn’t meet with him at any of his suggested times because I would be out of town, but I would call Don when I returned from the EROI Conference. When I did return to Las Vegas I was saddened to learn that while I was gone he had died suddenly. Our meeting was destined never to take place.

The week of the faculty recital I had arranged with Ian Mylchreest of KNPR to do an interview to be aired on the program “State of Nevada” as a sort of preview and teaser for Don’s composition I was performing. That interview was eventually archived on the station’s website. Apparently, Michael Barone, host of the syndicated program “PipeDreams,” has the “Google” feature on his computer set to advise him

whenever anything having to do with organ music appears on the web. We think that Michael listened to the archived interview and then wrote to Dave Becker, Programming Director of KNPR, asking whether the premiere performance had been recorded. It just so happened that I had asked our chapter member Dorothy Riess to record the recital, so was able to supply the Program Director a copy of Don’s recorded work which he sent off to Michael



Barone. Attending a lecture-recital at UNLV I encountered Jay Bartos, in charge of Community Events web listings for KNPR. We were chatting and he said, “I see that you are scheduled to perform on one of our programs.” I was a bit puzzled and then after a few questions learned that it was PipeDreams! The notice under “Program Highlights” on the KCNV website is:

PipeDreams

Sunday on May 10th at 9 pm on PipeDreams it’s The American Muse... an ongoing tribute to some of our native composers who know how best to exploit the pipe organ’s colors and agility. The program features local Las Vegas organist, Paul Hesselink who will play: Don Hannah: Variations on Aberwystwyth.



77th Birthday Recital

The Music Ministry Concert Series of First Christian Church, 101 S. Rancho Dr., Las Vegas, will present Associate Organist, Dorothy Young Riess, M.D., in her 77th Birthday Celebration Organ Recital on Sunday, May 17, 2009, at 4:00 PM. In addition to music by Buxtehude, Bach, Mendelssohn, Reger and Dupre she plans a tribute to her father, Roy Wallace Young, concert violinist (1875-1959). She will perform the world premiere of his “Canzonetta” arranged for organ from the original orchestral score of his First Symphony. Also included are her arrangements of two of her father’s favorite violin solos, Fritz Kreisler “Liebesfreud” (Love’s Joy), and Paganini “24th Caprice” (for pedals alone). Admission is free and open to the public. For further information call 702-384-1544.

Bach Birthday Bash at the Bigler’s held on Saturday, April 18

A small group of Bach aficionados converged at the home of Scott and Jan Bigler to celebrate the 324th birthday of Johann Sebastian Bach. Appropriately, there were fourteen (B-2+ A-1 + C-3 + H-8 = 14) members and their guests who arrived with assorted contributions to the tasty potluck repast.

The event was also an occasion to showcase the many changes to the pipe organ in the Bigler home. Starting out originally as a 3-rank Moller of 2-manuals and pedal, the instrument has now grown to 11 ranks and 3-manuals and pedal (a 12th rank, a 16’ pedal bombarde, is waiting to be installed). Jan and Scott with the help of organ builder Richard Wallace have invested much effort and many hours to bring the organ to its present state of completion. (While there are still things to finish, one suspects that the instrument may continue to “change” into the foreseeable future!) Voicing of the instrument has been intentionally developed to be “gentle” in order not to overpower the performer and listeners in the space.

Six chapter members performed on the program which opened with a piano duet written for Jan when she was 12 years old---”Not-So-Symphonic Variations Bon on a natalis dies” composed in 1966 by William Blanchard. Jan provided the following background on the piece:

We lived in Claremont, Calif. from 1965-1968. My mother took organ lessons from William Blanchard (mom later told me he had a crush on her!) I hung out with her occasionally and one time went to Blanchard’s house. He somehow knew it was my birthday and he gave me the arrangement of Happy Birthday for my 12th. Mom and I sight-read it at his house and it became a family regular for everyone’s birthdays. Paul Hesselink was conscripted to read the primo part with Jan playing the secundo. The organ selections heard and their performers included:

We Thank You God (Sinfonia from Cantata 29) - Richard Wallace

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her, BWV 606 (Orgelbüchlein) - Carla Swift

Das alte Jahr vergangen ist, BWV 1091 and Wir Christenleut, BWV 1090

(Neumeister Chorales) - Bruce Behnke

Prelude and Fugue in D Minor, BWV 539 - Paul Hesselink

O Mensch beweine deine Sünde gross, BWV 622 (Orgelbüchlein) - Jan Bigler

Erschienen ist der herrliche Tag, BWV 629 (Orgelbüchlein) – Cherrie Hoeft

The program Jan prepared for the occasion, was headed “First Annual Bach Birthday Bash.” We can all look forward to a delightful “second annual” event next year celebrating Bach’s 325th!

*The Southern Nevada Chapter of the
American Guild of Organists
presents*

An Organ-Plus Spectacular

Saturday, May 2, 2009

7:30 P. M.

*Doc Rando Recital Hall
Beam Music Center
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
5405 S. Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Music by Bruce Saylor and Olivier Messiaen,
presented by the Mastersingers Chamber Chorale,
with brass, handbells and organ.*

with guest organist

Stephen Harouff

Free and open to the public.

*The Maurine Jackson Smith Organ was built in 2004
by the Rudolf von Beckerath Orgelbau - Hamburg, Germany*

The final concert of the Southern Nevada AGO Organ Recital Series, 2008-2009 Season, will be an Organ-Plus Spectacular featuring the music of distinguished New York composer Bruce Saylor and a complete performance of Olivier Messiaen's "Ascension Suite." Guest organist Stephen Harouff from Baltimore, the Chamber Chorale of the Las Vegas Master Singers (member Doug Wilson accompanist), the Las Vegas Harmony Handbell Ringers and a brass ensemble with timpani will all contribute to this sonic splash.

Saturday, May 2 at 7:30 P.M. in Doc Rando Recital Hall in the Beam Music Center on the UNLV campus. Free parking is available in the parking garage nearby, and admission to the recital is without charge.

Handbell Offerings

Sunday, April 26, 2009 4:00 PM

Senior Center of Boulder City

Free will offering

Presentd by Sun City Ringers and Harmony Ringers, Directed by Janet Y. Ty.

Sunday, May 3, 2009 2:00 PM

Unitarian Church

3616 E. Lake Meade Blvd.

Presentd by Sun City Ringers and Harmony Ringers

Free will offering



Wednesday, May 27, 2009 7:00 PM

Westminster Choir College Handbell Ensemble

Mountain View Presbyterian Church

8601 Del Webb Blvd.

Free will offering

They ring the largest set of bells. 8 octaves of handbells and 6 octaves of handchimes. This is one event you do not want to miss. 15 music major college studnets ringing.

New Organ for Grace in the Desert

Grace in the Desert Episcopal Church has recently installed a new 3-manual Rodgers Organ – Allegiant Model 778. The dedicatory recital is planned for May 31, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the church. The address is 2004 Spring Gate Lane, Las Vegas, 89134. The featured recitalist will be Doug Wilson, of Community Lutheran Church. We are happy to invite all members of the Southern Nevada Chapter of The AGO to join us in the celebration and reception at the church. No RSVP necessary, but if further information is required please contact Doris Francis at 702-459-7734 or lvdbf2@embarqmail.com.

Doris Francis

Music Director

Grace in the Desert Episcopal Church