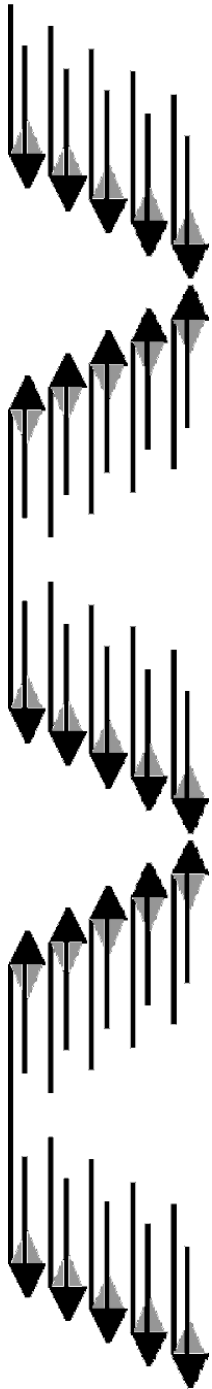


# The CYPHER

Volume 27, Number 4

January 2009

*The Newsletter of the American Guild of Organists — Southern Arizona Chapter*



## **NEXT EVENT IN THE CHAPTER**

**Sunday February 22**  
4:00 p.m.

### ***Festival of Hymns***

Dr. Paul Westermeyer, conductor

Dr. Norene Walters, Dr. Kenneth Kelley,  
organists

Jubilate Ringers Handbell Choir  
directed by Dr. Rosella Duerksen

**Our Saviour's Lutheran Church**  
1200 N, Campbell Avenue

international  
year of the  
organ  
2008-2009

American  
Guild of  
Organists



**AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS  
SOUTHERN ARIZONA CHAPTER  
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**Dean's Message**

Happy New Year!

Many of us recently led, or participated in, many of the Hallowed Rituals of the Christmas season, which included, of course, our worship and music, as well as family and friends gathering around the table to partake of roast beasts of various descriptions. It was important for me to have time to rest, reflect and rejuvenate over the Twelve Days of Christmas. It was a time to be grateful for all the blessings which we have enjoyed in the past year. It was a time to think of those less fortunate than ourselves, who may have suffered loss of some kind, or endured hardship as a result of the ongoing economic crisis. We may have found time and resources to donate to a favored charity or organization to help reach out to those in need. Surely this is at least part of what the spirit of the season means. In this new year of expectation, hope and, yes, some anxiety, to be sure, let us find in our fellowship together, our programs, and our vocation as church musicians, some continuing means of giving of ourselves, our time, talents, and treasure. For those of us who work within a liturgical tradition, the theme of Epiphany reminds us that all of our gifts, however humble, are of value. Music is one gift that all of us can offer, and through pipes, voices, and instruments express the joy, hope, fear, and wonder that all of us share.

Please join us for our upcoming events, including the wonderful hymn festival being organized by Dr. Kenneth Kelley and which will be led by the wonderful Dr. Paul Westermeyer. More details about this can be found on p. 3.

Jeffrey Campbell

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## FESTIVAL OF HYMNS

The Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Guild of Organists presents a Festival of Hymns on Sunday, February 22, at 4:00 p.m. at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 1200 North Campbell Avenue. Based on the new worship resource Evangelical Lutheran Worship, the festival will showcase familiar hymns as well as three newly composed hymns, notably a setting of a new hymn text by Susan Palo Chervien entitled "Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen." Dr. Paul Westermeyer, Professor of Church Music, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, will conduct, and Drs. Norene Walters and Kenneth Kelley will serve as organists. The afternoon will also feature brass quintet and timpani; the Jubilate Ringers, a handbell choir directed

by Dr. Rosella Duerksen; and a choir composed of representatives from Tucson's many church choirs. The festival celebrates hymn singing's historic roles: hymns are a part of worship, tools for theological instruction, a means to identity formation, and records of past spiritual experiences of the believing community. As Dr. Westermeyer says, choirs and congregations "voice the sung word in response to the Incarnate word." We celebrate what we believe through the music of hymns.

The public is cordially invited to attend. A freewill offering will be collected.

A reception follows.

### A Message from Ken Kelley, Sub Dean Singers Needed !

Please talk with your choir and invite them to sing in the choir for this festival. We are looking for (S.A.T.B.) Quartets from at least 25 churches. Perhaps your choir will want to send two or three quartets. Each singer will receive a packet of music which contains three hymn anthems and a listing of hymns to be used from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal. This will enable each singer to learn the music before our rehearsal on February 22, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Please email or phone Rosella Duerksen [rhduerksen@comcast.net](mailto:rhduerksen@comcast.net) Phone 760-2442 to let her know who will be singing from your choir. Church choirs who participate in this community event will be listed in the program if you will let Rosella Duerksen know names by January 31, 2009.

Ken Kelley

**Posters to promote this event are available on the Chapter website [[www.agosaz.com/events](http://www.agosaz.com/events)].**

## **Dr. Paul Westermeyer**

Paul Westermeyer has worked with the music of choirs and congregations since his high school days. To use his words, "They voice the sung word in response to the Incarnate word." He came to Luther in 1990 to implement and direct the Master of Sacred Music (MSM) program. One of only a few such degree programs in the country, the MSM helps musicians in the church refine their craft and simultaneously study the theological foundations of their work. Students study music at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, and theology at Luther.

A musician-theologian, Westermeyer majored in music at Elmhurst College, did his M.Div. at Lancaster Seminary, his M.S.M. at Union Theological Seminary in New York and his Ph.D. in church history at the University of Chicago. He served as choirmaster for congregations in Illinois, New Jersey, Maryland and Pennsylvania, and chaired the Music Department at Elmhurst College in Illinois. His book,

*Te Deum: The Church and Music*, is an historical analysis of the church's encounter with music from the Old Testament to the present. Other books include *The Church Musician*, *With Tongues of Fire*, and *Let Justice Sing: Hymnody and Justice*.

Westermeyer says that "religious communities approach music differently because they have different theological mindsets. For example, the prophetic punch a Lutheran congregation might give 'A Mighty Fortress Is Our God' is quite different from the more priestly pull a Roman Catholic community might give a chant based on the Kyrie."

The sacred music program has proved more popular and more ecumenical than Westermeyer had anticipated. Luther Seminary's MSMs have come from seven different countries and eleven different denominational groups. They form the nucleus of the chapel's musicians and the Schola Cantorum, the Seminary's choir, which is open to all students, faculty, staff and their spouses.

## **Workshop with Dr. Paul Westermeyer** **Congregational Song: Neither "Traditional" nor "Contemporary"**

**Dove of Peace Lutheran Church**, 665 West Roller Coaster Road  
**Saturday, February 21, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Church musicians and clergy often find themselves caught in "worship wars" between advocates of what is called "traditional" and "contemporary" church music. The Rev. Dr. Paul Westermeyer will suggest that this dichotomy points to the empire's categories, but not the church's. In this informal colloquy, Westermeyer will explore with worship leaders and church musicians a better way. Westermeyer is currently on sabbatical from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Min-

nesota, the largest seminary in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). During his sabbatical he is writing the Companion for *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, the new, primary worship book of the ELCA. Westermeyer is getting acquainted with this book of worship, has written about materials like it from Lutheran and other traditions, and will seek to unpack the church's rich resources to which all such books points us.

## CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

### **Organ a la Carte Sunday February 15**

This popular series at St. Philips in the Hills Episcopal Church continues on Sunday February 15 with a recital by **Dr. Jeffrey Campbell**. In honor of the Mendelssohn anniversary year (the 200th anniversary of his birth) Jeffrey will perform the large-scale Sonata No 1 in f minor. This is one of a set of six sonatas (really suites) that Mendelssohn composed and performed himself on tours of England and Germany. They successfully unite Mendelssohn's lyrical gifts, with virtuoso displays for hands and feet. Dr. Campbell will also perform works by J.S. Bach that were performed by Mendelssohn himself at a celebrated recital at Bach's own church in Leipzig in 1829. Courtyard refreshments begin at 12:30 p.m., with the recital beginning at 12:45 p.m., and lasting about 45 minutes. Admission is free, with donations accepted to help cover the cost of refreshments.

### **A Valentine Concert Sunday February 15**

Sunday afternoon, February 15, 2009, the Women of St. Mark's Presbyterian Church present "A Valentine Concert," a program honoring Alan Schultz --- Orchestra Conductor, Master Organist, Choral Director, Composer, Poet. A long-time member of the Southern Arizona Chapter of the AGO, Alan has been for many years a major presence in Tucson's sacred music, amateur choral and orchestral music scenes. He is St. Mark's Music Director Emeritus. He is the former music director both of the Tucson Masterworks Chorale as well as of the Southern Arizona Symphony Orchestra. During the program February 15 he will play the pipe organ, performing many of his own compositions (including selections from his recently completed magnum opus "Twenty-four Preludes and Fugues in All Keys for Organ"). He will also reminisce about his music career and read some of his own poetry. The program begins 3:00 p.m., at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, 3809 E. Third St., Tucson. Admission free -- but donations will be accepted for the work of The Haven and Casa de Palmas.

### **Other upcoming Events**

#### **Monday, February 2, 2009, 7:00 p.m.**

Solo Handbell Concert, featuring Kathie Fink solo handbell artist. She will present "Christmas Treasures - Revisited," with her accompanist, Linda Maloney.

Northminster Presbyterian Church  
2450 E. Fort Lowell Road Free.

#### **Friday, February 27, 7:30 p.m.**

John Brobeck, organ and the UA Symphonic Choir  
Christ Church United Methodist, 655 N. Craycroft Rd. -  
Free Admission

#### **Sunday, March 8, 2:30 p.m.**

Robert Bates, Organ (Roy A. Johnson Memorial Organ Series)  
Holsclaw Hall, UA School of Music -  
\$9.00 General Admission; \$7.00 Senior/UA Employee

**Sunday, March 8, 2009, 5:00 p.m.**

Music for Organ and Brass

John T. Brobeck, Organist The Tucson Skyline Brass Quintet

John T. Brobeck and the Tucson Skyline Brass Quintet will present a program featuring music for solo organ, for brass quintet and for combined organ and brass, mixing styles and periods. John will perform works by Bach, Vierne, Dupré and James Biery's *Elegy*, the work commissioned by this chapter, with the added violin descant.

Northminster Presbyterian Church

2450 E. Fort Lowell Road

## **TUCSON AREA VISIT OF RENOWNED GERMAN ORGANIST FELIX HELL**

### **Tuesday March 10 Recital**

Valley Presbyterian Church and the Joyful Noise Academy present German organ virtuoso, Felix Hell, in concert at 7pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults.

Valley Presbyterian Church,  
2800 Camino del Sol, Green Valley



### **March 10 Children's Workshop**

A free children's workshop by world renowned organist Felix Hell is available for your students March 10 at 10am at Valley Presbyterian Church.

This one hour program is designed to introduce children to the fun and diverse sounds of an organ.

Students through High School are welcome with their teachers at no charge through The Joyful Noise Academy although reservations are required. Call 625-5023 for this great musical opportunity.

### **March 11 Workshop**

#### **Organ Demonstration and Presentation for Children**

9:30 a.m., Grace–St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2331 E Adams Street

23-year-old German organ virtuoso Felix Hell puts the organ through its paces in a program designed to appeal to children and adults alike. Presented by Opening Minds through the Arts (OMA), a proven program in the Tucson Public Schools that uses the arts, primarily visual, dance, instrumental, and vocal, to stimulate the curriculum.

# Phoenix Rising

Region IX Festival 2009 (June 22-25)

***Early Registration Deadline is January 31!***

Phoenix Rising promises to be an event you'll not want to miss. Save money now and register early! Regular Registration (or spouse/partner) is \$345, but if postmarked by Saturday, January 31, it is only \$295! Special Registration (over age 65) is \$295, but if postmarked by Saturday, January 31, it is only \$245. Take advantage of the deep discount and register today. Forms are available online at [www.agoinphoenix.com/registration.htm](http://www.agoinphoenix.com/registration.htm). While online checkout the Biltmore Resort link and reserve your room at our Five-Star Jewel of the Desert, the Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa! You'll also want to arrive early for the Festival and plan to stay a little longer! Peter Conte, Court Organist at the world-famous John Wanamaker Store, will perform one of our pre-Festival recitals, on Sunday, June 21, 7:00 p.m. at La Casa de Cristo Lutheran Church, Scottsdale. The recital will feature the church's new 92-rank, 4-manual Berghaus organ in its complete state. A post-Festival organ tour will feature world-renowned artists on two of the valley's finest home organ installations, the Bigelow organ in the Biltmore Estates home of Susan and Samuel Robinson ([www.mlbigelow.com/mlb/organs/27/stopList.cfm](http://www.mlbigelow.com/mlb/organs/27/stopList.cfm)) and the Midmer-Losh organ in the Phoenix home of Adrian Phillips ([www.midmerlosh.com/specification.htm](http://www.midmerlosh.com/specification.htm)). So make plans now to Feel the Heat and Catch the Fire at Phoenix Rising, the Region IX Festival 2009! Act now; spaces are filling quickly! -Dr. Mark D. Ramsey, Program Chair

## **Onnalee Grimes Miller**

Onnalee Jean McMillan Grimes Miller, AGO member and past Dean of the Chapter passed away on December 6, 2008. An obituary was published in the Tucson Daily Star on December 9, 2008. The obituary can be found at [www.legacy.com/Tucson/obituararies.asp](http://www.legacy.com/Tucson/obituararies.asp).

## **2008-2009 Membership Directory Updates**

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**-MATTHIES, ALICE JANE**

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**-MILLER, ONNALEE GRIMES**

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**+STAHL, KAREN S.**

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Next Cypher deadline: April 15, 2009

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