



The CYPHER

Newsletter of the Southern Arizona Chapter
American Guild of Organists

New Chapter Website: www.saago.org

Volume 35, Number 1
September 2015

Programs at a glance through December

Admission or suggested
donation for some events

In Memory of Roy Johnson
Saturday, Sept. 26, 4 p.m.
Catalina Methodist Church

Janet Tolman, Organ
Poulenc *Concerto in G minor*
Saturday, Oct. 10, 3 p.m.
Catalina Methodist Church

Pamela Decker, Organ
Sunday, Oct. 11, 3 p.m.
St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Hitting the Organ Trail Again
Organ Crawl
Saturday, Oct. 17, 8:30 a.m.
Carpool from Catalina UMC.

Stephen Keyl, Organ
Sunday, Oct. 18, 4 p.m.
St. Philip's in the Hills

Dorothy Young Reiss, Organ
Johnson Series
Friday, Oct. 30, 7 p.m.
Holsclaw Hall, U of A

Colin Lynch, Organ
Catalina Series
Friday, Nov. 6, 7 p.m.
Catalina Methodist Church

Hymn Festival
Sunday, Nov. 15, 2 p.m.
St. Philip's in the Hills

AGO Showcase Recital
Friday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m.
St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Sara Tobe, Organ
Sunday, Dec 20, 4 p.m.
St. Philip's in the Hills

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER PROGRAMS

In Memory and Celebration of Roy Johnson

Saturday, September 26, 4 p.m.

Community Choir gathers at 2 p.m., Catalina Sanctuary

Catalina United Methodist Church
2700 East Speedway Boulevard



See note about this photo on page 4

Join us for the first program of the new season, which is a celebration of the legacy of the late Roy Johnson, UA professor of organ and active chapter member. The program commemorates the 20th anniversary of his death in 1995 and features music that he loved. Renowned organists Renée Anne Louprette and Chelsea Chen are featured performers. Renée Louprette will perform Bach "Prelude and Fugue in A minor," BWV 543, and two chorale preludes and *Fantasy on the Name of Roy Andrew Johnson* composed by Pamela Decker, Roy's successor at the UA. Chelsea Chen will perform James Biery's *Elegy*

for organ and violin, also composed in Roy's memory and commissioned by this AGO chapter, with Emily Nolan, violin; César Franck's *Pièce Héroïque*; organ chorales by Brahms; and the *Variations on a Noël* by Marcel Dupré.

A community chorus directed by Woosug Kang and Jonathan Kim will sing two of Roy's favorites: the impassioned "Lacrimosa" from Mozart's *Requiem* and the tranquil "How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place" from Brahms' *Deutsches Requiem*. Those who wish to participate in the choir should meet at 2 p.m. in Catalina's sanctuary and bring their own scores.

Continued on page 4

Hitting the Organ Trail Once Again

Saturday, October 17, 8:30 a.m.

Carpool from Catalina United Methodist Church
2700 East Speedway Boulevard

This is an organ crawl of four Tucson pipe organs, gems you may not have seen or heard before. It is also an opportunity to play your favorite Thanksgiving and Advent organ pieces, listen to your colleagues, and have a great adventure! The day includes a light lunch served at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church (\$5).

Continued on page 4.



Gress-Miles, Faith Lutheran

**AMERICAN GUILD
OF ORGANISTS**

**SOUTHERN ARIZONA
CHAPTER**

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The CYPHER

Dusty Johnson, *Editor*

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NOTE: Chapter members are invited to submit information about their special programs to be included in The CYPHER. If you have programs you would like included, we would like to hear from you! Please send program descriptions, along with pertinent information—title, date, location, time, brief description, cost, and photos—to Dusty Johnson, *CYPHER* editor. The information will appear in the print edition as well as in the online edition. Material may be edited as needed.

Deadlines for the 2015-2016 season are

October 1
December 1
February 1
April 1

Please email information to

Dusty Johnson, editor, at skj5@cox.net by the published deadlines. You may also send it via U.S. mail.

Advertising space available

Full page, \$150; Half page (horizontal), \$100
Quarter page (vertical), \$75; Business card size, \$50
Contact Dhira Mahoney, Advertising chair (Dhira.Mahoney@asu.edu)

To play only what is written is the domain of science. To realize what is not written is the domain of art.
—Jean Langlais.

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message from the dean...



This past summer has included spending time with family and friends, learning new music, relaxing at the lake and sojourns to rejuvenate the mind, body and soul. I hope each of you have had a wonderful summer!

I have been pleased to see many of you over the past few months at concerts, social events and at the recent West Region Convention. This "Party in Paradise" was beautifully planned by our colleagues in San Diego, and they arranged for absolutely marvelous weather the entire week! There were eight members of our chapter that attended the convention. We had a blast! Each day was filled with excellent worship opportunities, workshops, concerts, exhibits and leadership meetings. It is always a joy to see so many friends and be introduced to new colleagues. Their passion is what makes the AGO such a dynamic organization!

I had the great opportunity to share with the leadership of our West Region about the wonderful things our SAAGO chapter has been doing the past few years to reach out to our community. At this meeting others shared their experiences and goals for the future as well. Still, the highlight for me was hearing the wonderful work of so many fine artists in our region: Martin Green, Doug Cleveland, Emma Lou Diemer, Martin Ott, Carol Williams, Craig Phillips, Allison Luedecke, and Chelsea Chen. Their organs, choirs, compositions, extraordinary performances and enthusiasm made for a truly memorable week! I'm inspired and grateful for the exceptional work of Leslie Wolf Robb in her passion for "Growing Young Organists". We heard many fine performances by young players (who have been influenced by the fine teaching of Leslie and others) that are now pursuing advanced studies. Congratulations to Matthew Burt, West Region Councillor and to Jack Lasher, Convention Coordinator for the fun-filled "Party in Paradise"!

Information in this newsletter announces our SAAGO chapter's upcoming season of events. Many thanks to our Sub-Dean and Program Chair, Woosug Kang, in planning for an outstanding year. There is certainly something for everyone in our community to enjoy and participate in. Please mark your calendars and keep our new website (www.saago.org) on your radar for continuous updates and related calendar information on these events and other concerts of interest.

Our opening chapter event will be held Saturday, September 26th at 4 p.m. This concert at Catalina UMC will celebrate the memory of Roy Johnson whose life was cut short twenty years ago. His passion for the organ and

his work with this students is carried on by so many of us now. He left us with a list of some of his favorite organ and choral works which will be a part of this celebration. This will be a day for "giving back," and showing our appreciation to Roy and his family. They have influenced our community with their generosity and talents for many years. Joining us will be guest artists, Renée Anne Louprette and Chelsea Chen. Both are well known organists and beloved women who have appeared often in Tucson. Most importantly, Renée and Chelsea have been inspired by the Johnson family, and with their sincere compassion and support have generously offered to perform this day. We are most appreciative to Michael Quimby and his associates for providing travel expenses...and to chapter members who will serve as hosts to our guests.

As part of this concert, there will be a community choir that will assemble at 2 o'clock on that day to rehearse two pieces: *Lacrimosa* from Requiem...Mozart, and "How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place" from Requiem...Brahms. Everyone is encouraged to participate by singing. Please bring your scores (and a few extra for others that wish to sing). We will meet in the Catalina Sanctuary at 2pm on September 26th. Be sure to invite all your friends for the concert at 4 pm. This will be an extraordinary event for a very special man.

Just recently, the music world lost another soft-spoken giant. The brilliant organist and conductor, John Scott, died suddenly of a cardiac event suffered at age 59 in New York after returning home from a concert tour in Europe the day before. So many of us cherish and will be inspired forever by the support, encouragement and kindness he showed us through the years. The sublime sounds of his choristers in service and his exceptional organ playing are firmly imbedded in my soul! John's funeral will be held at St. Thomas Church, New York, Saturday, September 12th, where he was Organist and Director of Music after leaving St. Paul's Cathedral, London UK in 2004. He left us with many riches, including countless performances with his choirs and organ concerts posted on YouTube. He leaves his bride, Lily and their unborn baby, soon to arrive in September. Please keep his heart-broken family, choristers and the entire St. Thomas Parish in your prayers.

In closing, I would like to thank the Executive Board of SAAGO for their diligence and hard work over the spring/summer to prepare for the upcoming season. Also, thank you to the entire chapter for your support and generosity in making this ambitious season possible. Your talents and gifts are important to the AGO.

Warmest regards,

Dennis

Fall 2015 Programs

Johnson Memorial Concert, continued from page 1.

Special thanks are extended to all who have made this program possible, especially our dean and sub-dean, the guest artists and Michael Quimby, whose support is helping to make this program possible.

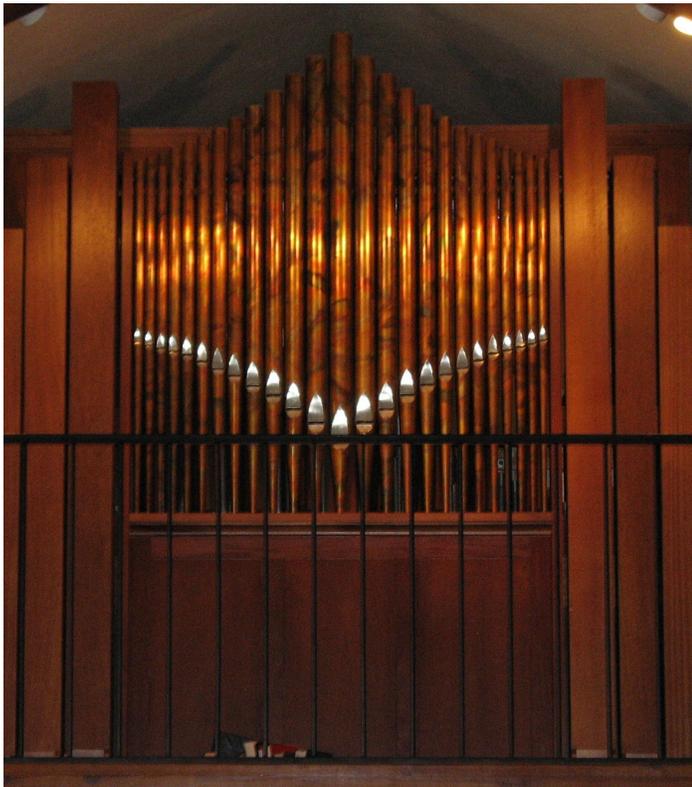
Photo note and credit: The photo was taken on February 13, 1995, by Dusty Johnson, which was only two weeks before Roy's death on February 28. It was taken at the February chapter program where Roy and Jack Bethards (president, Schoenstein Organs) demonstrated the new organ in Holsclaw Hall and chapter members had the opportunity to hear the new organ, to ask questions, to explore the chambers and to play the instrument.

Hitting the Organ Trail Again, continued from page 1.

Featured instruments:

- Moller (9 ranks) at Dove of Peace Lutheran Church, 665 W. Roller Coaster Rd. (9:00-9:45)
- Wendhack, Redeker, & Kreuzer (28 ranks) at St. Odilia Roman Catholic Church, 7570 N. Paseo Del Norte (10:00-10:45)
- Gress-Miles (8 ranks) at Faith Lutheran Church, 3925 E. 5th St. (11:15-12:00)
- Schoenstein (8 ranks) at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 545 S. 5th Ave. (12:15-1:00).

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church



Dove of Peace Lutheran Church



Site hosts include Lars Andersen (Dove of Peace), Mike Koss (St. Odilia's), David Gay (Faith), Sheldon Curry & Jeffri Saunders (St. Andrew's).

Kathryn Snodgrass (kbspnorg@q.com) and David Gay (dgay@math.arizona.edu) are the event organizers. A car pool will leave the Catalina Methodist Church east parking lot at 8:30. Email Kathryn Snodgrass if you would be willing to be a driver or if you would like a ride. Be sure to email Kathryn Snodgrass by Thursday, October 15, to reserve a lunch for \$5.

Notes: Event organizers will put together a packet of information about the instruments (including specifications) to hand out at the sites. They will provide driving directions to all the churches. St. Andrew's Neighbors Feeding Neighbors will provide the lunch.

St. Odilia's Roman Catholic Church



Fall Programs Continued

AGO Showcase Concert

Friday, November 20
Reception at 6 p.m., Pre-concert talk at 6:30
Concert at 7 p.m.
St. Alban's Episcopal Church
3738 Old Sabino Canyon Road



The annual AGO Showcase brings our own talent to the public with a twist! This year's Showcase features the Fritts organ at St. Alban's Episcopal Church.

Three organists from our chapter, Dennis Grannan, Jeffrey Campbell, and Norene Walters, will

perform works well fitted to the wonderful coloring of the Fritts, including collaborations with other instruments to explore its chamber qualities.

Suggested donation: \$10

Other Fall Organ Events

Janet Tolman, Organ
with the Civic Orchestra of Tucson
Saturday, October 10, 3 p.m.
Catalina United Methodist Church
2700 E. Speedway Boulevard

Janet performs Poulenc's *Concerto for Organ, Orchestra and Tympani* with the Civic Orchestra of Tucson. Janet, organist at Christ Church United Methodist, is past dean of our chapter. She has also served as district convener of the Grand Canyon District.



Pamela Decker, Organ
October 11, 3 p.m.
St. Alban's Episcopal Church
3738 Old Sabino Canyon Road
Admission \$15; seniors, \$10; students, \$5



Pamela Decker, University of Arizona Professor of Organ, performs in the St. Alban's 2015-16 Concert Series. Her performance will include "The Martyrdom of St. Alban," composed in 2015, as well as works by Bach, Muffat and Near. Her "Fantasy on the Name Roy Andrew Johnson" was just released by Wayne

Leupold Editions.



Roy Johnson

Organ Music of Bach,
Franck, Decker,
Dupré & more

Memorial Concert Honoring the Legacy of Roy Johnson

Saturday, September 26, 2015 4 p.m.



Renée Anne Louprette



Chelsea Chen

Choral Music of
Brahms & Mozart

Mass Community
Choir

Woosug Kang
&
Jonathan Kim,
Conductors



CATALINA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2700 E. SPEEDWAY BOULEVARD, TUCSON
www.catalinamethodist.org/organfestival



Stephen Keyl, Organ

Sunday, Oct. 18, 4 p.m., Evensong, 4:30
Pre-Evensong Concert Series
St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church
4440 N Campbell Ave.
Freewill Offering

Stephen Keyl, director of music at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, serves on our chapter's Executive Board. He also manages the St. Alban's Organ Concert Series and is past music faculty member at the University of Arizona.

Choral Evensong: Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in B minor by T.T Noble and "And I saw a New Heaven" by Edgar Bainton



Dorothy Young Reiss, Organ Roy A. Johnson Memorial Organ Series

Friday, Oct. 30, 7 p.m.
Holsclaw Hall, University of Arizona
Park Avenue and Speedway Boulevard
\$10; Seniors, \$7; Students, \$5

Dorothy Young Reiss, organist, is a medical doctor, now in her 80s, with a strong background in organ performance and personal experience in TGY (The Golden Years). After retirement from 30 years practicing Internal Medicine in Pasadena, she returned to organ performance, playing with enthusiasm, focus and discipline and is much sought after as organ recitalist.



Catalina Series—Colin Lynch, Organ

Friday, Nov. 6, 7 p.m.
Catalina Methodist Church
2700 E. Speedway Boulevard
\$15 advance purchase; \$20 at the door



Hailed as "an impeccable performer with compelling musicality and technical command," (*The American Organist Magazine*). Mr. Lynch serves as Associate Director of Music and Organist at Trinity Church, Copley Square in Boston, MA. In 2014, he was a featured

performer at the American Guild of Organists National Convention as the organist for the opening worship service.

Hymn Festival

Sunday, Nov. 15, 2 p.m.
St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church
4440 N Campbell Ave.
Freewill Offering

Led by Woosug Kang and Jeffrey Campbell to benefit St. Philip's Youth Choir 2016 UK residency. The congregation is invited to join in singing with the choir. **Note the special time—2 p.m.**

Sara Tobe, Organ

Sunday, Dec 20, 4 p.m.
Pre-Evensong Concert Series
Concerts at 4 p.m.; Choral Evensong at 4:30 p.m.
St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church
4440 N Campbell Ave.
Freewill Offering

Sara Marie Tobe, Director of Music at First United Methodist Church, is pursuing a Master of Music degree in organ performance at the University of Arizona, studying with Dr. Pamela Decker. Additionally, she serves as organist and harpsichordist for the Arizona Baroque ensemble at the university.
Choral Evensong: Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in B minor by Sir Hugh Blair and Evening Hymn by B.Gardiner



IN MEMORIAM

Christine Barnes Nelson (1917-2015)

A long time member of our chapter and Tucson resident since 1950, Christine passed away May 4, 2015. She was an accomplished pianist, performing as a pianist in many venues, including the Tucson Symphony Orchestra. She was also a strong supporter of the organ and was the daughter of William H. Barnes, the noted organist, organ consultant, and author of the classic work *The Contemporary American Organ*. Christine and her late husband, Harvey Nelson, were benefactors of the University of Arizona Fred Fox School of Music (in organ and opera) as well as the Arizona Opera Company. Long-time family friend, Dr. Fred Swann, offered service music at her memorial service, held at Grace-St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Communion music was played by Dr. Pamela Decker on the Grace-St. Paul's harpsichord, constructed principally by Christine's husband, Harvey.



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November 2015 - April 2016

Nov. 6, 2015, 7 p.m.

Colin Lynch



Organist, Trinity Church
Copley Square, Boston, MA

Feb. 5, 2016, 7 p.m.

Peter Krasinski



Silent Movie returns to Catalina -
'The Ten Commandments'

Mar. 4, 2016, 7 p.m.

The Chenault Duo



4 hands and 4 feet
at the same console

April 16, 2016 1 - 4 pm

Visions: French Festival
of Art, Organ and
Choral Music

Five organists, two organs,
Projections of inspirational art.
The Choirs of Catalina UMC &
St. Philips in the Hills
Six 30 minute performances
Doors open between
each segment

French Café by the fountain
Stay as long as you wish!



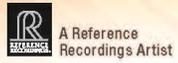
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Tickets
range
from \$15
to-\$25

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Lessons and Carols by Candlelight
Dec 10-13

Cantus: We Sing Love Jan 22 - 24
Part of the Tucson Desert Song Festival

The King of Instruments Feb 26-28
Featuring Guy Whatley, organ

American Rhythm April 1-3
Featuring Homero Cerón, marimba



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SAAGO
SOUTHERN ARIZONA
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New Chapter Website www.saago.org

We are delighted to announce that the Southern Arizona Chapter's new website is up and running at www.saago.org. We think you'll find it useful, attractive, and up-to-date both in functionality and appearance. You can view it on a smartphone or tablet as well as on your desktop or laptop computer—great flexibility for those on the go, and a must for any website intended to attract younger users. Our web designer is Michael Fan, a well-known Tucson violinist as well as a web expert. I'll be maintaining the site from day to day, and you can address any questions to me at skeyl@cox.net. The old site (agosaz.com) is no longer active; please remove it from your list of favorites or bookmarks and substitute saago.org.

A new feature we hope you'll use often is the Events area. It shows up on the right side of the home page as a list of upcoming organ-related events in southern Arizona, both those sponsored by the Chapter and those that have been made known to us by other organizations. Hovering over any of the events will give you a thumbnail with basic information, and you can click on the event for fuller details and a link to the sponsoring organization. For a complete list of the season's events, click on "Events" on the menu bar at the top of any page. You might be amazed at the richness, diversity, and sheer number of the concerts, special services, and educational opportunities for organists and organ enthusiasts in southern Arizona. The new SAAGO website is the one place to go for information about all of it!

At the lower right of the home page you'll find Recent Posts. Look here for pointers to chapter or national happenings, reports on recent events in the chapter or elsewhere, musings on organs or organ pieces, and other bits of news and opinion. Many of these items will not be official news of the chapter but will solely reflect the views of their authors. You're invited to contribute, by the way—send your submissions to me at skeyl@cox.net. They may be edited for grammar, clarity, or to avoid scandal, and we

reserve the right to post or not to post any submission, but we want this to be an area where members of the chapter can express their views and can share information of general interest!

The feature with the greatest visual appeal is undoubtedly the home page's display of a selection of noteworthy Tucson organs. Behind this is an atlas of southern Arizona pipe organs with photos, information, and specifications viewable by clicking on "Tucson Pipe Organs" on the menu bar. Currently we are displaying essentially what was on the former website, but in the coming months we want to develop this into a real resource for organists and organ enthusiasts both in the chapter and beyond, posting material gathered by David Gay and others, including sound clips. Stay tuned!

The "News" button on the menu bar will take you to a listing of organist and choral positions available in southern Arizona and to an archive of past issues of *The Cypher*. We hope you'll find this useful as well. Dhira Mahoney tells me that the successful applicant for a recent job opening learned of the position through saago.org, so the new website is already proving its value.

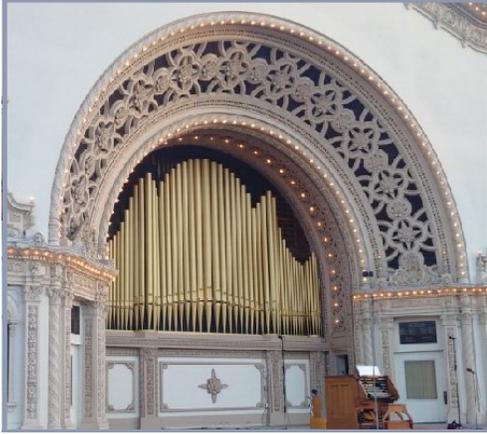
If you haven't yet renewed your membership in the Guild, you can do so via the "Join SAAGO" button on the menu bar. We put this right at the top both as an invitation to new members and to make it convenient for current members to renew. Tell your friends about it, especially if they are not yet members of the chapter!

Expect a few tweaks in the near future. We will probably reorganize and simplify the menu bar, and we will certainly add to the organ atlas and to the organ-related links. But saago.org is up and running, and you can look to it as the online voice of your chapter going ahead!

Stephen Keyl

Help **Swell** our **Ranks**. Bring a friend to the next meeting.

San Diego 2015 Convention Recollections



Spreckels Organ, Balboa Park

Your editor, along with seven other chapter members, had the good fortune of being able to attend the West Region Convention held in San Diego this past June. Attending a convention with its multitudes of opportunities to hear great music on great organs, to attend valuable workshops and to renew acquaintances and simply mingle with friends is always enormously beneficial as well as inspiring. Following are reports which share the experiences of some of our members who, too, were fortunate enough to be in attendance. Also included is a report from Norene Walters who attended the New Haven Convention as well as a report from Larry Grove who attended the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS) Annual Convention.

Members Dennis Grannan, Dean, Jeffrey Campbell, Pamela Decker, Dusty Johnson, Ji Sun Lee, Doug Leightenheimer, Janet Tolman and David Wachter attended the West Region Convention. Photos on this page were taken by Jeffrey Campbell.

Dr. Jeffrey Campbell

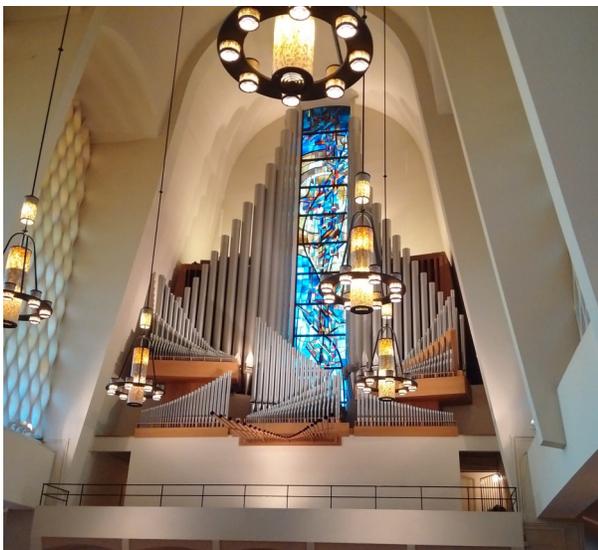
Several memories stand out from this well-organized, well-attended Regional convention. Two of the most memorable events happened at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, an exquisite Gothic structure, with stone and soaring columns capturing the changing of light of dark-hued stained-glass. The organ is a superb example of the refined tonal vision of Quimby Pipe Organs, and seemed to seamlessly reflect an Anglican Cathedral organ, in its accompanying role at the opening Choral Evensong. The young trebles of the choir filled the room with pure sound, and the Brass Quintet merged with the dark-toned reeds of the organ. Martin Green, the Cathedral's Music Director, created a musical feast within the hallowed tradition of Evensong.

The second memorable event at St. Paul's, a stupendous recital featuring the brilliant young Asian recitalist Weichang Zhao, performing electrifying repertoire by King, Guillou, and Dupré, and, along with his wife Fang Gao, a stunning transcription of the famous "Butterfly Lovers" concerto, which showcased not only the virtuosity of the performers, but the huge color palette of the instrument, with seamless crescendos and diminuendos aided by the warm acoustic.

Wisely, St. Paul's was again the venue for the electrifying concert by Douglas Cleveland which followed Evensong. The program included Pamela Decker's ravishing "Jesu, dulcis memoria" as well as David Briggs' fiendishly difficult "Four Concert Etudes," which Doug carried off with seasoned aplomb.

Visually stunning is the Blackinton instrument at First United Methodist Church, with gleaming 32' Principal stop in the gallery façade. Colorful reeds and flues made the large instrument sing in a fine program by Christopher Houlihan.

Many other great instruments and performers, including the shall we say, audacious Carol Williams at the Spreckels Organ in Balboa Park! The tip of the hat to the San Diego AGO Chapter for creating such a great "organ culture" that has shaped the musical life of so many young people. Chelsea Chen gave a truly gifted performance that acknowledged this in the warm environs of First Presbyterian Church, with its unique treasure in San Diego, a fine large Casavant from (originally) 1973.



First Methodist, Blackinton Organ



First Presbyterian, Casavant Organ

Janet Tolman

I think I won't forget the hauntingly beautiful "Elegy for Organ and Saxophone" presented by Dr. Douglas Cleveland and Ben Lulich (clarinet) at the opening concert at St. Paul's Cathedral. As working professionals, necessity is sometimes the mother of invention, and Dr. Cleveland affirmed that by substituting clarinet for saxophone. The "Elegy" and the David Briggs "Four Concert Etudes" were commissioned personally by Dr. Cleveland.

The apex concert for me was Tuesday night at First United Methodist Church of San Diego, where Christopher Houlihan played stunningly from memory and provided insights between numbers. The architecture of the building and of the Blackinton instrument also provided a beautiful aesthetic experience.

Nicholas Halbert, an undergraduate student at the Eastman School of Music, performed brilliantly at the Paradise Valley Seventh-Day Adventist Church. The background information he provided about circumstances in France leading up to Alexander Guilmant's composition "Sonata No. 1 in d minor" gave fresh insight and appreciation for that work.

Being active in the handbell ensemble at Christ Church United Methodist, I was elated by the performance of "TIMBRÉ," so few ringers and such ringing expertise!

John West's performance at Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church featured some music that seemed accessible, and I wrote "get!" by 4 of those works. He displayed poise and humor in a venue that was uncomfortably warm for him and with intermittent airplane noise.

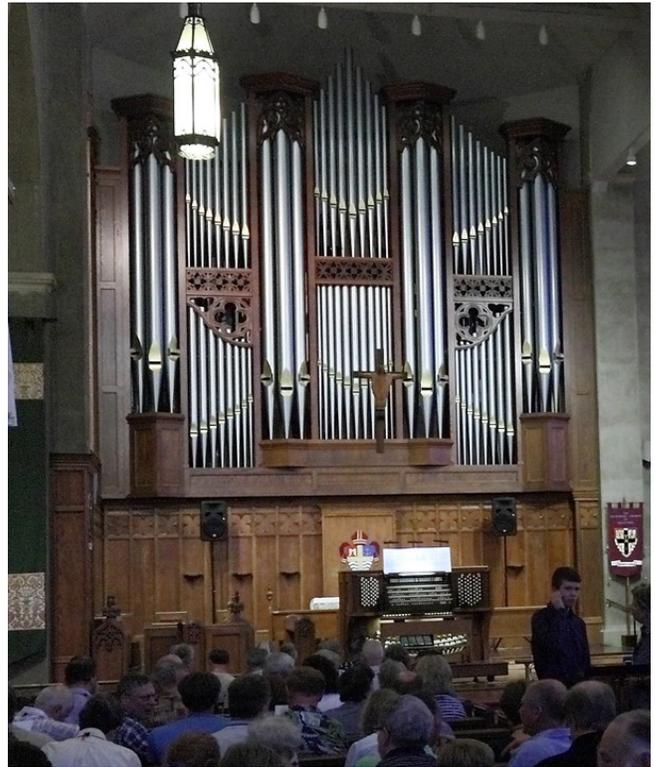
Overall, this was a very good convention. Kudos to San Diego!

David Wachter

San Diego, a place where Tucsonans flock to escape summer heat, became a place where organists flocked for a musical feast. Some highlights:

The feast began with a banquet Sunday evening at St. Paul's Cathedral: Evensong, followed by a program by Douglas Cleveland. We missed the Evensong service because we were in transit, but Cleveland's program was magnificent, displaying with both sensitivity and fire the vast tonal palette of the four-manual Quimby organ. Among other works, his program featured the beautiful "Jesu, dulcis memoria" by Pamela Decker.

On Monday morning, Tyler Boehmer played a varied program as winner of the AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists at Clairemont Lutheran Church, home of a three-manual Schantz organ. His playing was excellent, but the acoustics of the church were too dry. Next, Carole Terry played a program ranging from Lübeck through Bach, Brahms, and Mendelssohn, to Reger at St. Brigid Catholic Church, home to a three-manual



Quimby Organ, St. Paul's Cathedral

Photo, David Wachter

Martin Ott mechanical-action organ. Her program was a delight, and the acoustics of the building supported the sound of the instrument. Carol Williams' Monday evening program on the Spreckels organ in Balboa Park was a time to enjoy the organ as sheer entertainment. She showed off, with inimitable style, all the resources of this remarkable instrument, on a beautiful, warm summer evening.

On Tuesday, the Village Community Presbyterian Church in Rancho Santa Fe was the site of three programs in a row: Allison Luedecke and the Millenia Consort in a splendid program of music for organ and brass; Thomas Mellan in a program of J. S. Bach, Guillou, and Reger, all very difficult and stunningly played; and Susanna Valleau, in a program of Stanford, Gawthrop, and Rheinberger. Christopher Houlihan's concert on Tuesday night at First United Methodist Church was a highlight of the convention. He handled the 108-rank Blackinton organ magnificently in a program ranging from Bach to Vierne.

Wednesday afternoon brought us back to St. Paul's Cathedral for another stunning program, this one by Weicheng Zhao, organist, and Fang Gao, violinist. Wednesday evening took us to Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church, where John West played a varied, satisfying program on the church's Blackinton organ. It was warm and humid, and the church's open windows let in the sound of every plane taking off from the airport nearby.

Thursday morning found us at First Presbyterian Church in downtown San Diego. Chelsea Chen treated us to a varied program, beautifully played, on the church's 101-rank Casavant. We then headed to the Balboa Theatre, where Russ Peck treated us to the sounds of theatre organ as he

David Wachter's article continued.

provided musical scores to Charlie Chaplin and Laurel & Hardy silent films.

The best part of a convention is getting reacquainted with friends, and there were ample opportunities on the buses that ferried us to events. There were great meals included in the convention, as well. As far as I could tell, all of the events went off without a hitch, and the bus transportation was flawless. Well done, San Diego!

The weather was unusual for San Diego in the summer; it was warmer and more humid than usual, and it rained more than once—unheard of in a San Diego summer.

**An unexpected convention event:
A happy birthday to Dusty Johnson**



Dennis Grannan, Dusty Johnson and beautiful birthday cake.

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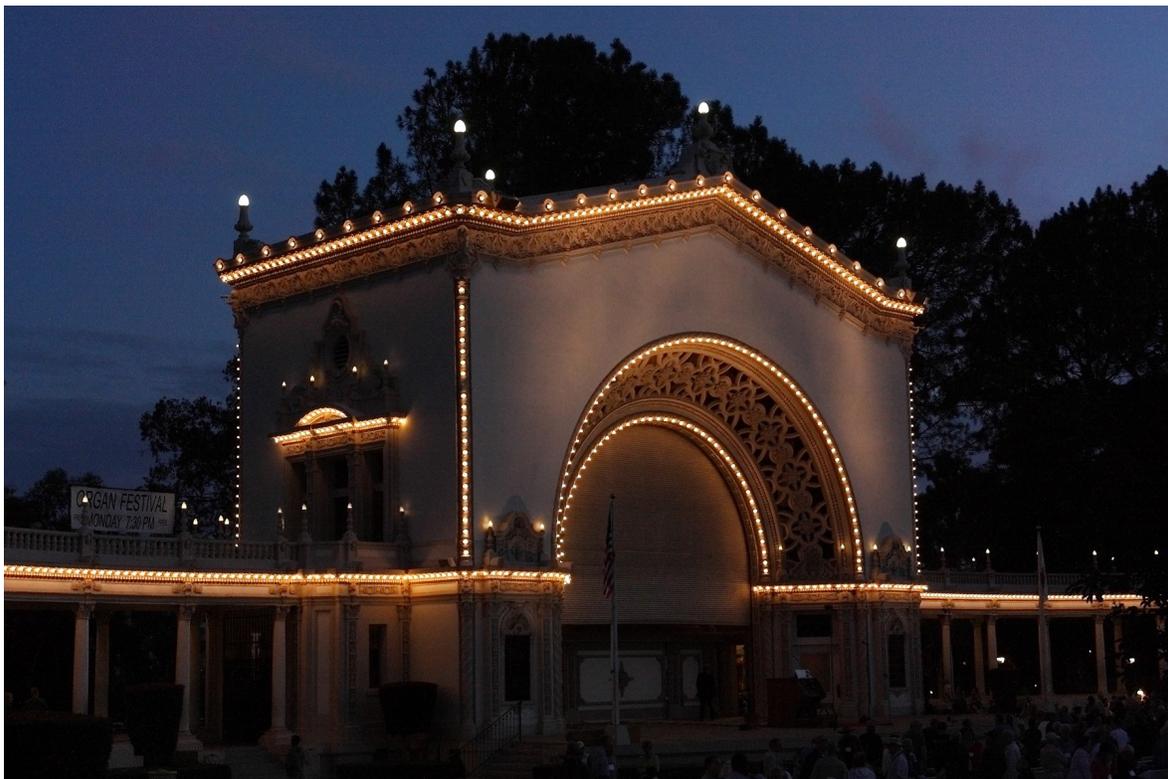
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- ◆ This will take you to the Login page, where you will need to login. Follow the directions on this page.
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Spreckels Organ, Balboa Park, at night

Photo, David Wachter

AGO Northeast Regional Convention

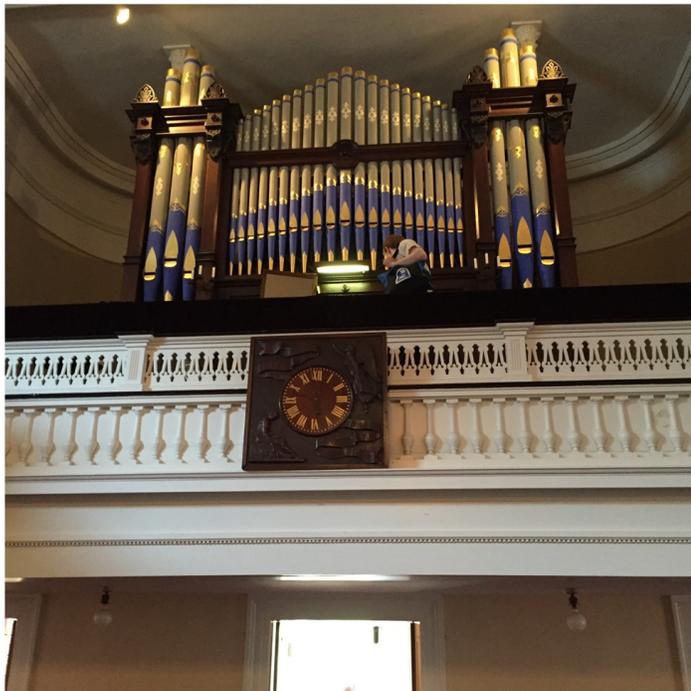
June 28–July 1, 2015

Dr. Norene Walters

When in February I noticed that the AGO Northeast Regional Convention was to be held in New Haven this summer, I knew I did not want to miss any opportunity to sit in Woolsey Hall and listen to the Newberry Organ. Beyond that was enticement to see and hear many fine pipe organs in the New Haven area and to admire the Georgian and Neo-Gothic architecture of the Yale Campus.

Among organs showcased during the convention were instruments by Rudolf von Beckerath, Charles B. Fisk, Hermann Hillebrand & Sons, Walter Holtkamp, E. & G. G. Hook and Hastings, Lively-Fulcher, E. M. Skinner, Æolian-Skinner, Taylor & Boody.

It was refreshing to hear the E. & G. G. Hook & Hastings organs. Each of these historic American instruments (in three different venues) from the 1870s had undergone restoration. The stoplists are dominated by full, rich, and sweet-sounding 8' and 4' foundations. Pictured below is the façade of an instrument in Stonington, Conn., which is, as the tourist guide boasts, "the most beautiful seaside village in New England."



E. & G. G. Hook & Hastings, Op. 558 (1870)
United Church of Stonington, Conn.

A new instrument by Taylor & Boody in Marquand Chapel at the Yale Divinity School makes possible an authentic realization of early music for modern ears. Inspired by an Arp Schnitger organ in the far north of Germany, this instrument is singularly well suited for playing the pre-Bach repertoire of the seventeenth century. See its beautiful casework in the photo following.



Krigbaum Organ, Taylor & Boody, Opus 55 (2007)
Marquand Chapel, Yale Divinity School

Pitch: *Chorton*, A=465

1/4 syntonic comma meantone tuning, Split sharp/flat keys

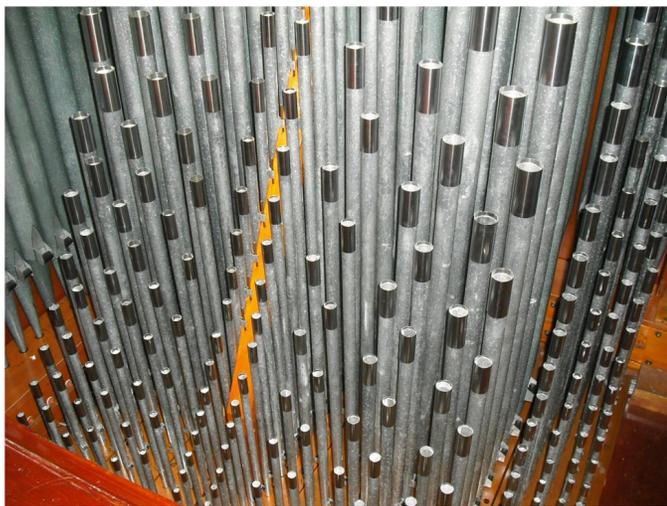
As an aficionado of vintage (E. M.) Skinner organs, I find the Æolian-Skinner, Op. 927 (1935), designed by G. Donald Harrison (his work and that by his successor Joseph Whiteford remains largely intact) at Trinity (Episcopal) Church-on-the-Green a joy to hear. Its placement in the room with main divisions in both the Chancel and Gallery works well both for service-playing and in recital.

When at last, I sat in the center of the first balcony of Woolsey Hall, transfixed in vast space by the expanse of organ façade behind the stage and the magnificent sound of the 197-rank E. M. Skinner (1928) Newberry Organ for the convention's capstone recital by Thomas Murray, I, with knowing friends simply agreed that *no one* plays Woolsey like Tom. He is a masterful colorist, whose registrations are transparent and perfectly balanced in sonic beauty, and he knows this instrument intimately; his phrasing is beautifully shaped, multiple Swell boxes in continual motion for tapered phrase endings.

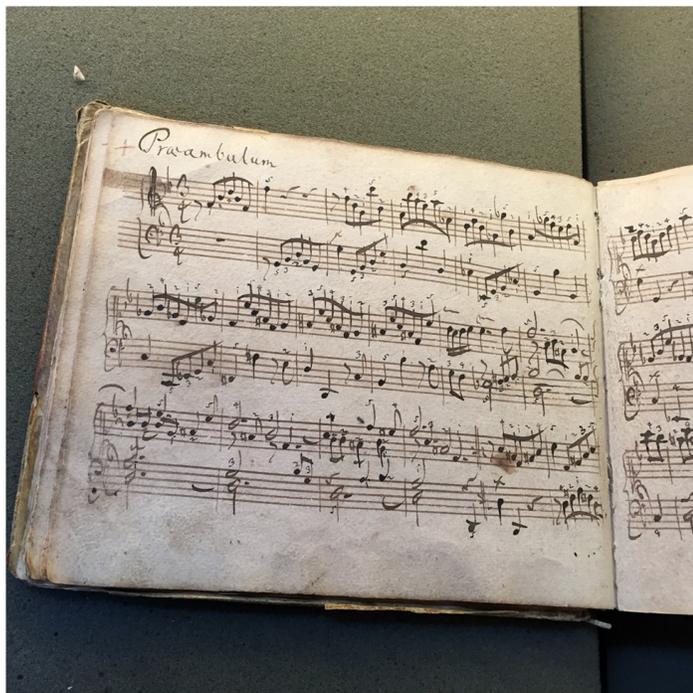
Curators Nick Thompson-Allen and Joe Dzeda deserve heaps of credit for the meticulous care and restoration (ongoing) that this Large Romantic instrument receives from the Thompson-Allen Company. Fun to note here are the First, Second, Third, and Fourth (!) open Diapasons on the Great, a Pedal division open wood 32' and 64' Gravissima (Resultant), a large Orchestral division on 10" of wind pressure, complemented by a String Ensemble division that is housed in its own pipe chamber. [See photo at top of following page]

Convention-goers were treated to a special exhibit prepared by staff members at the Gilmore Music Library. We saw autograph scores of Yale composers Charles Ives's *Variations on "America"* and Paul Hindemith's Organ Sonata III (*Sonate für Orgel nach alten Volkslieder*). The library archivist noted that for musicologists Ives's scores

197-rank E. M. Skinner (1928) Newberry Organ



are far more interesting than Hindemith's; Ives's are "messy" (revisions scribbled over revisions), revealing much about his compositional process, whereas Hindemith's are pristine, revealing little. Held in reserve for us as a surprise, the autograph score of Johann Sebastian Bach's *Clavier-Büchlein vor Wilhelm Friedemann Bach* (1720) was ceremoniously brought out to light, air, and camera phone shots as a centerpiece for our viewing: a dessert to follow a fine repast of archival manuscripts and books. Pictured below is the first page of one of a small *Praeludium*, in G Minor, BWV 930. Notice that Bach added fingering to aid his son's learning.



Side-note: It was great fun to see many friends at the convention, including Southern Arizona Chapter member Kathryn Snodgrass, who summers in New Hampshire.

For photos and specifications of organs at Yale:
<http://ism.yale.edu/about/facilities/organs@yale>

Philadelphia Summer Organ Events Larry Grove

On June 6, I flew to Philadelphia to attend the 20th annual Wanamaker Organ Day. (I've attended all 20!) The weekend began Friday, June 5, with tours of the organ chambers, a video presentation on the history of the Wanamaker Building and Organ and an evening concert. Saturday June 6 was Organ Day with continuous concerts throughout the day and a special ticketed after-hours evening concert with the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra that included music by Richard Strauss, Dmitri Shostakovich, Richard Wagner, Gustav Mahler--



concluding with Camille Saint-Saens Symphony No. 3. (For information on the Wanamaker Organ, go to www.wanamakerorgan.com). On Sunday morning I attended a wonderful musical mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul with its magnificent Austin/Tellers pipe organ. Dr. Steven Ball, Artist in Residence, played that service.

After spending 2 weeks in Alaska in June, I flew back to Philadelphia on July 1 for the one-week American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS) Annual Convention, sponsored by the Dickinson Theatre Organ Society of Wilmington, DE. The optional first day was spent at the beautiful DuPont Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA. Jonas Nordwall played several concerts on the recently rebuilt 146-rank Aeolian Organ in the Conservatory Ballroom. That evening there was an after-hours concert on the Wanamaker Organ with Peter Richard Conte.

On July 3, the first official day of the convention, we went to Wanamaker's Greek Hall to hear Ron Rhode on its Wurlitzer theatre organ. Then we were bussed to Phoenixville, PA (about 25 miles NW of Philadelphia) to hear a concert at the Colonial Theatre by Mark Herman on the magnificent Wurlitzer theatre organ that has been voiced and *is being maintained by our own Grahame Davis!* After dinner at a Wilmington, DE, country club, we went to the Dickinson High School Auditorium for a concert by Dave Peckham. Dickinson houses one of the largest theatre organs (Kimball) in the world with two matching consoles. (For Dickinson organ information, to to <http://www.dtoskimball.org/>)

July 4 included some seminars and then another trip to Phoenixville for the young artists competition and an afternoon concert by the winner of last year's competition. We returned to Wilmington for dinner and then back to Dickinson for an evening concert by *Dave Wickerham (a former Tucson resident who was educated by Roy Johnson at the U of A School of Music!)*. Dave played one of the best concerts of the entire convention with several encores.

On July 5 we went to the Grand Theatre in the small town of East Greenville, PA for a concert and silent movie. After that we went to Macungie, PA, to the Allen Organ Company headquarters for a concert by Lance Lunce at

Allen's Octave Hall. From there we went to the Sunnybrook Ballroom in Pottstown, PA with its United States Pipe Organ where we had our annual banquet and awards presentations. Sunnybrook hosted most of the big bands during the 40s & 50s.

July 6 took us back to Dickinson High School for an afternoon concert by Hector Olivera who played in his normal vibrant style, mixing virtuoso classical and theatre organ techniques. Following dinner, we had an interesting one-hour ride on the Wilmington & Western Railroad, which has one of the oldest steam engines still in use and vintage early 1900 passenger cars. That evening we were back at Dickinson for a duet concert with British organists Simon Gledhill and Richard Hills. It was a fitting end to the official convention.

July 7 was an optional encore event which took us to the Broadway Theatre in Pittman, NJ, for a concert and silent movie accompanied by Don Kinnier. From there we went on to Atlantic City to hear the under-restoration organ in Boardwalk Hall (formerly Convention Hall). Only 25% of the organ's nearly 500 ranks is currently playable, but it is still quite an experience to hear. If it is ever totally restored, it will be the world's largest pipe organ (surpassing the Wanamaker Organ by about 20 ranks).

(For more information, go to https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boardwalk_Hall_Auditorium_Organ) We also heard the nearly restored Kimball Theatre organ in the Boardwalk Hall Ballroom. That evening I was back in Philadelphia in time to attend the Wanamaker Organ evening concert before flying home on July 8.



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Kimball*

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Wilmington,
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Dorothy Young Riess
Guest Artist
Friday, October 30, 7:00 p.m.



Norene Walters
Guest Artist
Friday, January 15, 7:00 p.m.



Ashley Snavley
Guest Artist
Friday, April 15, 7:00 p.m.

The Roy A. Johnson Memorial Organ Series, established in memory of Professor Johnson following his tragic death in 1995, showcases outstanding contemporary organists. Professor Johnson made enormous contributions to the organ studies program, the keyboard area, and to graduate studies during his 29 years at the University of Arizona.

The installation of the beautiful Schoenstein organ given by Isabelle Harris, in a hall designed for the organ, was the fulfillment of his vision for a flourishing organ program.

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First Sunday Music Series St. Philip's in the Hills

Missa in Angustiis (Lord Nelson Mass)
Franz Joseph Haydn
October 4, 2015 at 9AM & 11:15AM

Requiem—John Rutter (b.1945)
November 1, 2015 at 9AM & 11:15AM
Thomas Cockrell, UA's Nelson Riddle Endowed chair, and past interim Director of Music at St. Philips guest conducts.

Welcoming Advent with Masters of Baroque!
December 6, 2015 at 9AM & 11:15AM
Bach Cantata BWV 61, *Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland*
Magnificat—Vivaldi

Christmas Eve Festivals
December 24, 2015 at Various Afternoon & Evening Times
Cherub Choir (Children's Choir), St. Nicholas Choir (Youth Choir) and Schola Cantorum (Advanced youth choir with adults) will lead 3:30PM, 5PM and 7PM Services, respectively. The 7PM service takes the Lessons and Carols format. At 9PM and 11PM, the adult choirs and youth apprentices will present *Mass in G* by Franz Schubert with chamber orchestra and more festive carols for choir and congregation.

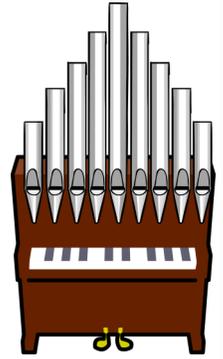
Evensong Service Northminster Presbyterian Church Sunday, November 8, 5 p.m.

A choral service of hymns, anthems and prayers presented by the Northminster Sanctuary Choir directed by Dusty Johnson with John T. Brobeck, organist.

Organ Study Scholarship

Emma Barnes, organ student of Stephen Keyl and also organ scholar at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, was awarded a scholarship from the Roy Johnson Scholarship Endowment to assist with her organ studies. She is very excited both about studying organ and about receiving a scholarship.

Just a reminder: Scholarship funds are available for organ study at a variety of levels. Check our website for guidelines.



Mildred Flood Mahoney Memorial Organ Recital Pamela Decker & Friends: Solo and Ensemble Works to Celebrate the King of Instruments



Featuring UA Faculty Artist Pamela Decker
with Guest Artists
Joel Pierce & Sophie Johnson Martinez

Sunday, April 24, 2015
Holsclaw Hall, 7:00 p.m.
Free Admission

The program will include performances by Dr. Pamela Decker, professor of organ and music theory at the Fred Fox School of Music, along with guest artists Sophie Johnson Martinez and Joel Pierce.

Dr. Decker and Ms. Johnson Martinez will present the premiere performance of a new organ duo by Pamela Decker.

Works from various periods and countries will pay tribute to the power, color and variety of the pipe organ.

Support our chapter with a financial gift.
 Consider underwriting a concert, making
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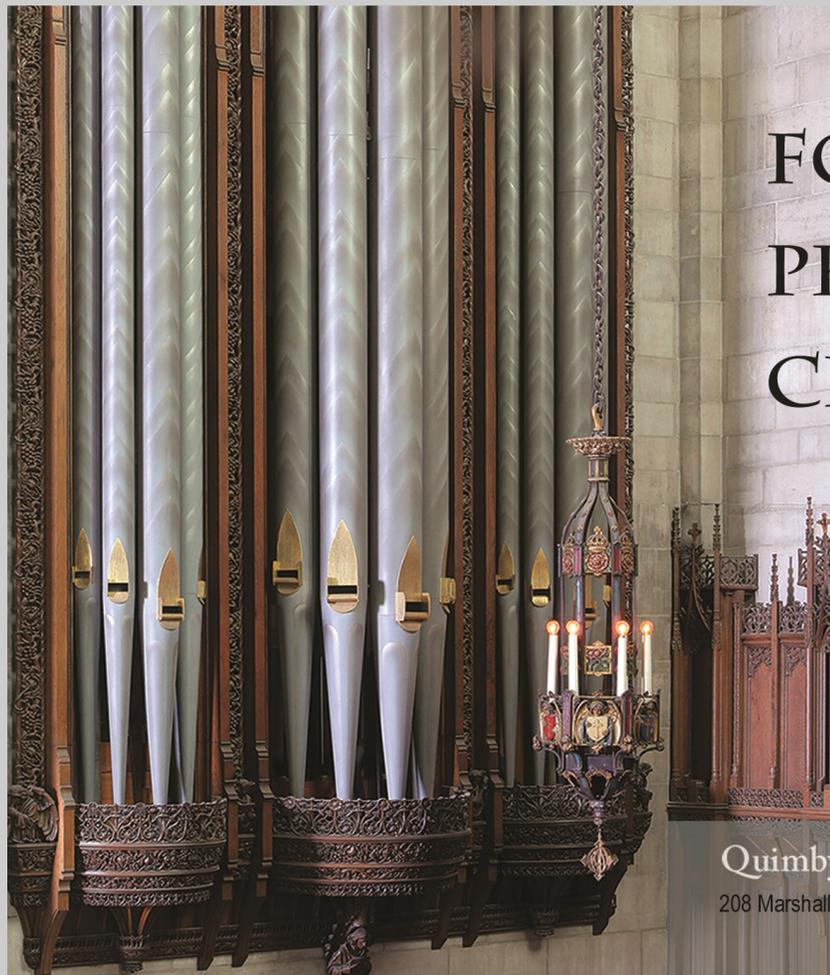
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