



The CYPHER

Newsletter of the Southern Arizona Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Volume 38, Number 1
September 2018

Chapter Website: www.saago.org

Programs at a glance through November 18

Admission or suggested
donation for some events

Opening Service, Installation of Officers & Dinner

Sunday, Sept. 23, 4 p.m..
St. Mark's Presbyterian Church

Stephen Keyl, Organ

Friday, Sept. 28, 7:30 p.m.
St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Douglas Reed, Organ

Roy Johnson Series
Sunday, Oct. 14, 7 p.m.
Holsclaw Hall, U of A

John Schwandt, Organ

Friday, Oct. 19, 7 p.m.
Catalina United Methodist
Church

John Schwandt, Improvisation Workshop

Saturday, Oct. 20, 10 a.m.
Catalina United Methodist
Church

Trevor Carolan, Organ

Sunday, Oct. 21, 4 p.m.
St. Philip's in the Hills
Episcopal Church

Woosug Kang, Organ

Sunday, Oct. 28, 2 p.m.
St. Philip's in the Hills
Episcopal Church

SAAGO Showcase Recital

Sunday, Nov. 4, 3 p.m.
Grace St. Paul's Episcopal
Church

Mariana Mevans, Organ & Harpichord

Sunday, Nov. 18, 4 p.m.
St. Philip's in the Hills
Episcopal Church

September Opening Service of Installation, Membership Meeting and Dinner

Sunday, September 23, 4 p.m.

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
3809 E. 3rd St
Dinner: \$10 per person

Join us for the first program of
the 2018-2019 season with a
festive meet and greet social
event that will begin with a
brief service of worship and
installation for all officers and
which will continue with a
membership meeting and a
catered dinner.

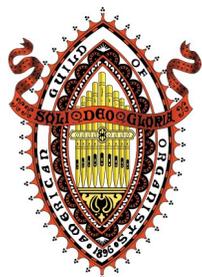
It's an opportunity to get to
know—or become
reacquainted with—your
fellow chapter members over
a delicious dinner, and to share ideas for the
chapter as well as your musical needs.
Spouses and partners are welcome, as
are other potential chapter members!

Please plan to attend the opening meeting
of the 2018-2019 season!

**Please reserve your space and the number attending by contacting
Doug Leightenheimer (dleightnc@aol.com or 910-515-2404) by Sunday,
September 16. \$10 per person. When making dinner reservations, please
specify requests for vegetarian or vegan meals.**



St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
with Schantz keyboard



RENEW YOUR AGO MEMBERSHIP BY SEPTEMBER 13
so that your name and contact information will appear
in the 2018-2019 membership booklet.

*Please see article on page 10 for
additional information.*

**AMERICAN GUILD
OF ORGANISTS**

**SOUTHERN ARIZONA
CHAPTER**

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The CYPHER

Stardust (Dusty) Johnson, *Editor*

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skj5@cox.net

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 2018-2019 season are

September 15
October 15
November 15
December 15
January 15
February 15
March 15
April 15

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...

Hello everyone!

Hello everyone,
Allow me to introduce myself: I am Larry Kuipers, the new Dean of SAAGO. I extend all manner of formal greetings and bestow the usual complimentary salutations to all of you. September is upon us and we have a full year of thrilling organ events just awaiting your attendance. Yes, indeed, the planning committee has been very busy planning events for the 2018-2019 season. Organizing and coordinating such occasions is no easy or uncomplicated task. Many thanks to Doug Leightenheimer and Jared Aragón for their work on the program committee. Jared is also our new sub-dean. A complete list of the board members can be found on page 2 of this CYPHER, the website and in the Membership Directory which will be available at the September meeting.

The American Guild of Organists has undergone some significant changes in the last year or so of which I am sure you are all aware. Therefore, one of our main functions now is to organize events for the coming year. As I just mentioned above, we have already planned this coming year, so my request to all of you is to please attend as many events as possible. As some of you know, I attend every concert; if I am not in attendance, it is because of an unresolvable schedule conflict. Now, I

know I am single; I don't have family responsibilities; and I am quite flexible with my time, so I am able to attend almost all of our concerts. Many of you cannot do that, and this is thoroughly understandable, but I hope you will make every effort to support the organist community of Tucson and beyond. I must tell you there have been times I was not the slightest bit in the mood to attend an organ recital; but I can also tell you even at such times, I have ALWAYS been glad I went.

So, ladies and gentlemen, here is my introductory note. I look forward to learning what being dean is all about. This roll came to me quite out of nowhere, not in my wildest dreams, but I have accepted the challenge. As for all of us, I know stepping out of one's comfort zone, although frightfully painful at times, always leads to an embellishment of character and a deepening of wisdom. I am up for the challenge. I hope I lead SAAGO not only to your satisfaction, but to your great delight.

See you at the September meeting.

Warmest regards,

Larry Kuipers, Dean



Organ Programs

Stephen Keyl, Organ

Friday, September 28, 7:30 p.m.

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
3738 N. Old Sabino Canyon Road
\$15; \$10 seniors (60+) and St. Alban's members; \$5 students

Faith Made Audible: Music from Counter-Reformation Europe

A year after the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, organist Stephen Keyl will perform music by Frescobaldi, Froberger, Correa, Cabanilles, De Grigny, Buxtehude, and others in a concert highlighting the emotional intensity and captivating instrumental color of the Counter-Reformation organ repertory. This music had strong appeal even for Protestant organists—Buxtehude and others built on Frescobaldi's achievements, using his forms and expressive devices on a massive scale suited to the enormous instruments of northern Germany.

Stephen Keyl is Director of Music at St. Alban's Episcopal Church. He has performed as singer or organist for Arizona Repertory Singers, Musica Sonora, and the Arizona Early Music Society's *Hausmusik* concerts. He holds a Ph.D. in musicology from Duke University where he studied organ with Fenner Douglass. He taught for eleven years at the University of Arizona Fred Fox School of Music. And he is a past member of our chapter's Executive Board.



Douglas Reed, Organ

Roy Johnson Memorial Organ Series

Sunday, Oct. 14, 7 pm

Holsclaw Hall, Fred Fox School of Music, U of A
Admission: \$10, seniors \$7, students \$5

Celebrated concert organist Douglas Reed will offer a program of contemporary music for organ, highlighting works by the legendary American composer William Albright (1944-1998). Included on the program will be the "Whistler Nocturnes," a major work by Albright that has been prepared for performance and publication by Dr. Reed. This landmark set of three pieces drew inspiration from the art of James Abbott McNeill Whistler (1834-1903). Dr. Reed is Professor Emeritus of Music, the University of Evansville. Co-sponsored by SAAGO.



John Schwandt, Organ

Friday, Oct. 19, 7 p.m.

Catalina United Methodist Church
2700 E. Speedway Boulevard
\$25, \$15 seniors, \$5 students

Organist John Schwandt brings back the silent film era with his accompaniment to silent movies. In those glory days without TV or the Internet, silent films were actually not silent since there were often theatre organs and organists. A featured performer for the AGO, ATOS and OHS, he is equally at home on a classical or theatre organ. Dr. Schandt is Associate Professor of Organ and Director of the American Organ Institute (AOI) at the University of Oklahoma School of Music,



John Schwandt, Improvisation Workshop

Saturday, October 20, 10 a.m.

Catalina United Methodist Church
2700 E. Speedway Boulevard
Free

Dr. Schwandt provides a look into the improvisation process, a topic which is typically of much interest to all organists. Contact Dean Larry Kuipers if you would like to be an active participant in the workshop. Be sure to mark your calendars for this.

Trevor Carolan, Organ

Pre-Evensong Service Organ Recital,

Sunday, October 21, 4 p.m.

St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church
4440 N. Campbell Avenue

Trevor Carolan served as organist for numerous Minnesota Twin Cities churches, after studying organ at Wartburg College in Iowa and was most recently interim organist at All Saints' Cathedral, Phoenix.

Woosug Kang, Organ

Sunday, Oct. 28, 2 p.m.

St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church
4440 N. Campbell Avenue
Suggested Admission: \$20, students free.
Reception following.

Concert organist, former Director of Music at St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal and former active SAAGO member, Woosug Kang will perform works of J.S. Bach, Vierne, Dupre, composers from New Zealand and Australia as well as the monumental "Sonata on the 94th Psalm" by Reubke.

Welcome back, Woosug!



2018-2019 SAAGO Chapter Programs

Sunday, September 23, 4 pm—Opening Service, Installation of Officers, Membership Meeting and Dinner—Join us for the first program of the 2018-2019 season with a festive meet and greet social event that will begin with a brief service of worship and installation for all officers and which will continue with a membership meeting and a catered dinner.

Reservations for the dinner need to be made no later than Sunday, September 16. Contact Doug Leightenheimer either at dleightnc@aol.com, or at 910-515-2404. Specify requests for vegetarian or vegan meals.

Plan to attend this wonderful beginning to the 2018-2019 season. *St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, 3809 E. 3rd St*

Saturday, October 20, 10 am—John Schwandt, Improvisation Workshop. Dr. Schwandt will offer guidelines and insights into the improvisation process. *Catalina United Methodist Church, 2700 E. Speedway Blvd.*

Sunday, November 4, 3 pm—Showcase Recital. Performances by Larry Kuipers, Jared Aragón and David Wachter. Reception following. *Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2332 E. Adams.*

Sunday, December 9, 5 pm—Celebrate the Holidays Social. Take a break from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season for food and fellowship with your fellow members of SAAGO. Graciously hosted by Past Dean Doug Leightenheimer. *2572 N. Splitwood Ave.*

Saturday, January 12, 10 am—Seasonal Service Music. This is an opportunity for members to share favorite service music (preludes, offertories, postludes) for the liturgical year. *Christ Church United Methodist, 655 N. Craycroft Rd.*

Saturday, January 26, 10 am-2 pm—Pedals, Pipes and Pizza. SAAGO's annual event is designed to give children and youth a brief introduction to the pipe organ and its music. Attendees get to explore the inner workings of the instrument and will also receive individual instruction on the organ. *St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, 3809 E. Third Street.*

Saturday, February 2, 10 am—Kimberly Marshall, Regional Organ Design. Dr. Marshall will discuss what differentiates organ design in different countries and historical periods and how to register pieces composed for these organs on the modern (classic) American organ. Lunch (\$5) following. *St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, 602 N. Wilmot Rd.*

Saturday, March 2, 10 am—Pamela Decker, A Look into the Creative Process. The AGO's Distinguished Composer of the Year and University of Arizona Professor of Organ will discuss and give insight into the creative process of her musical compositions. *Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior, 555 S. La Canada Dr, Green Valley.*

Saturday, April 6, All Day Event—Phoenix Organ Crawl. Join fellow chapter members for an exploration of various organs in Phoenix. Individual organs will be identified in future issues of the CYPHER. The day will culminate with a meal at the Organ Stop Pizza Parlor in Mesa (cash, no credit cards), home of the 'Mighty Wurlitzer.' *Meet at Catalina Methodist Church parking lot at 8 a.m. to carpool.*

Sunday, May 5, 3 pm—Dedication of Dove of Peace Organ featuring Guy Whatley . SAAGO has been invited to attend this celebratory event. The original two-manual Moller organ with seven voices is being rebuilt into an organ of three manuals with an additional 23 voices available by Pipe Organ Artisans of Arizona. The installation phase begins in mid-October. Reception Following. Dove of Peace Lutheran Church, 665 W. Roller Coaster Rd, .

Sunday, June 9, 4 p.m.—End of the Year Potluck Social and Membership Meeting. Colonia Verde Clubhouse, 2700 N. Camino Valle Verde.



2018-2019 Chapter and Member Programs at a Glance

Listings include member events and are included at editor's discretion and may be edited for space and style. Information is subject to change. Please check with the sponsoring organization.

▪2018▪

SAAGO Opening Service, Installation of Officers & Dinner

Sunday, Sep. 23, 4 p.m.
St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Dinner: \$10

Stephen Keyl, Organ

Friday, Sep. 28, 7:30 p.m.
St. Alban's Episcopal Church
\$15; \$10 seniors (60+) and St. Alban's members; \$5 students

Douglas Reed, Organ Roy Johnson Organ Series

Sunday, Oct. 14, 7 p.m.
Holsclaw Hall, U of A
\$10; Seniors, \$7; Students, \$5

John Schwandt, Organ

Friday, Oct. 19, 7 p.m.
Catalina United Methodist Church
\$25, \$15 seniors, \$5 students

John Schwandt, Improvisation Workshop

Saturday, Oct. 20, 10 a.m.
Catalina United Methodist Church
Free

Trevor Carolan, Organ

Sunday, Oct. 21, 4 p.m.
Pre-Evensong Recital
St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church

Woosug Kang, Organ

Sunday, Oct. 28, 2 p.m.
St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church
\$20; students free

SAAGO Showcase Recital

Sunday, Nov. 4, 3 p.m.
Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Donations gratefully accepted

Mariana Mevans, Organ and Harpsichord

Sunday, Nov. 18, 4 p.m.
Pre-Evensong Recital
St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church

Christa Rakich, Organ

Friday, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m.
St. Alban's Episcopal Church
\$15; \$10 seniors (60+) and St. Alban's members; \$5 students

SAAGO Celebrates the Holidays

Sunday, Dec. 9, 5 p.m.
Doug Leightenheimer's home

Joseph Ripka, Organ

Sunday, Dec. 16, 4 p.m.
Pre-Evensong Recital
St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church

▪2019▪

Seasonal Service Music

Saturday, Jan. 12, 10 a.m.
Christ Church United Methodist

Christa Miller, Organ

Friday, Jan. 18, 7 p.m.
Catalina United Methodist Church
\$25, \$15 seniors, \$5 students

John T. Brobeck, Organ

Sunday, Jan 20, 4 p.m.
Pre-Evensong Recital
St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church

Pedals, Pipes and Pizza

Saturday, Jan. 26, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
St. Mark's Presbyterian Church

Lich/Lee Duo Guitar and Organ Roy Johnson Organ Series

Sunday, Jan. 27, 7 p.m.
Holsclaw Hall, University of Arizona
\$10; Seniors, \$7; Students, \$5

Kimberly Marshall, Regional Organ Design

Saturday, Feb. 2, 10 a.m.
St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church

Will Thomas, Organ

Sunday, Feb. 17, 4 p.m.
Pre-Evensong Recital
St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church

Douglas Cleveland, Organ

Friday, Feb. 22, 7 p.m.
Catalina United Methodist Church
\$25, \$15 seniors, \$5 students

Doug Leightenheimer, Organ

Friday, Mar. 8, 7:30 p.m.
St. Alban's Episcopal Church
\$15; \$10 seniors (60+) and St. Alban's members; \$5 students

Julia G. Tucker, Organ

Sunday, Mar. 17, 4 p.m.
Pre-Evensong Recital
St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church

Pamela Decker, Workshop A Look into the Creative Process

Saturday, Mar. 2, 10 a.m.
Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior,
Green Valley

Pamela Decker, Organ Roy Johnson Organ Series

Sunday, Mar. 31, 2 p.m.
Holsclaw Hall, University of Arizona
Free

SAAGO Phoenix Organ Crawl

Saturday, Apr. 6, 8 a.m. meet at
Catalina Methodist Church Parking lot
to carpool.

Jean-Pierre Gabriels, Organ Mildred Flood Mahoney Concert

Sunday, Apr 28, 4 p.m.
Holsclaw Hall, University of Arizona
Free

Dove of Peace Organ Dedication Guy Whatley, Organ

Sunday, May 5, 3 p.m.
Dove of Peace Lutheran Church
Reception Following

Susan H. Wilson, Organ

Sunday, May 19, 15, 4 p.m.
Pre-Evensong Recital
St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church

End of Season Social and Membership Meeting

Sunday, June 9, 4 p.m.
Colonia Verde Clubhouse



Recap of “A Celebration of Camil Van Hulse”

From Past Dean Doug Leightenheimer. Many thanks to Alan Schultz; organists Lynn Moser, Dave Horr, David Gay and Larry Kuipers; and all who attended our May program "A Celebration of Camil Van Hulse." It was a stellar program attended by guild members and an audience totaling nearly 50 people. Alan's informative commentary was wonderfully crafted and presented, and the organists played an equally wonderful variety of pieces composed by Camil. Thanks also to Joyce Swinehart who, as usual, provided a wonderful lunch for the chapter.

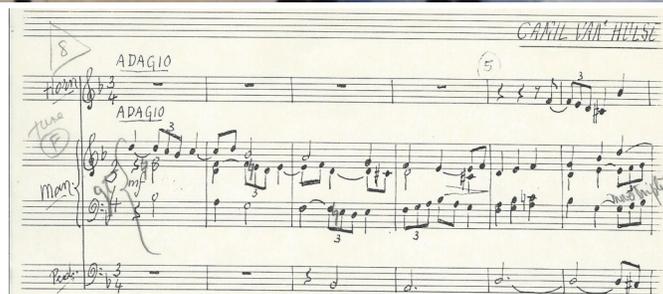
Steve Keyl's submission to TAO. May 26, the chapter presented a "Celebration of Camil Van Hulse" at SS. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Tucson. The Belgian-born Van Hulse (1897–1988) settled in Tucson

and was a prominent organist and composer with more than 150 published works. Chapter members Lynn Moser, David Horr, David Gay, Larry Kuipers, and Doug Leightenheimer played organ music by Van Hulse on Reuter Opus 947 which the composer had designed. Alan F. Schultz offered reflections on the life and work of Van Hulse, who had been his mentor, emphasizing the composer's modesty, humor, learning, and devotion to craft. A luncheon prepared by hospitality chair Joyce Swinehart followed.



Alan Schultz

Doug Leightenheimer, Lynn Moser, Larry Kuipers, Alan Schultz (holding Camil's tie), David Horr, David Gay



IN MEMORIAM

Joan Josephson (1932-2018)



A long-time, active chapter member, Joan grew up in Gary, South Dakota. She earned a B.A. from Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and later, after returning with her husband from Europe, was a music teacher and she earned a master's degree in English from the University of Illinois, combining graduate school with teaching. She and Chuck

(also a long-time member) were married in Würzburg, Germany, while he was in the service. They later adopted two children. Music and musical performance were a great joy for Joan. She was an active church musician in Tucson for 35 years as pianist, organist and children's choir director. She directed the children's choirs for some years at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, and she was organist and pianist for First Church of Christ, Scientist. Joan's Alzheimer's experiences, first diagnosed in 2008, were publicized and documented in several articles published in the Arizona Daily Star and elsewhere. A memorial remembrance for family and close friends was held at the Josephson home.



Our deepest sympathy is extended to Chuck and family



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Roy Johnson Memorial Scholarship

Established by the Southern Arizona Chapter of the AGO in memory of Professor Roy Andrew Johnson, the scholarship is available to assist in funding organ study as follows:



- ◆ lessons at any level through collegiate;
- ◆ introductory organ lessons for pianists;
- ◆ Registration fees for an educational event, including a Pipe Organ Encounter (POE);
- ◆ for collegiate level students, registration fees for regional and national conventions of the AGO.
- ◆ for collegiate level students, full membership in the American Guild of Organists, Southern Arizona Chapter.

Scholarship awards for organ study will range from \$350 to \$500. For educational events, the scholarship will cover the cost of registration.

An application form may be found online at www.saago.org. Completed forms may be submitted to the Scholarship Committee Chair at any time.

Support our chapter with a financial gift.

Consider underwriting a concert, making a contribution to the general fund or to the Johnson Scholarship Fund.

DONOR LEVELS

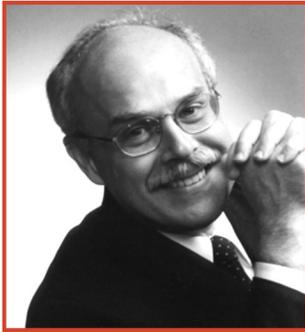
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P.O. Box 31511
Tucson, AZ 85751**

*Thank you!
Your gifts make a difference.*

Roy A. Johnson Memorial Organ Series 2018-2019



Douglas Reed

Sunday, October 14, 7:00 p.m.
Guest Artist
\$10, 7, 5



Michael Lich & Ji Sun Lee

(Guitar & Organ Duo)
Sunday, January 27, 7:00 p.m.
Guest Artists – \$10, 7, 5



Pamela Decker

Sunday, March 31, 7:00 p.m.
Faculty Artist
\$Free

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.

Box Office: 621-1162 On-line ticket sales: tickets.arizona.edu

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CATALINA ORGAN FESTIVAL

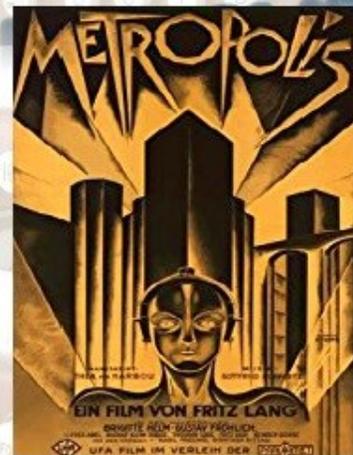
John Schwandt

Sensational organ
improvisation
accompanying

1927 Fritz Lang silent movie

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018

Sanctuary Concert 7 pm



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

Tickets
\$25 online
\$15 for
seniors

Farewell & Thanks, Michael

Farewell and thanks to Michael Koss, recent Membership Chair, who has moved to West Virginia and who is going to be greatly missed. Following is a note from Michael.

Greetings from Wild and Wonderful West Virginia!

Things are well in Davis, WV. It has been a month since Nichole and I arrived and already have made some waves in the community. I started working as organist at St. John's Lutheran Church in Davis the Sunday after we arrived. The church community is small (about 40 in attendance on Sunday) but they have given us a big and warm welcoming; they love singing and the organ. St. John's is a great fit and I haven't enjoyed an organist position like this in years. Also, I have the pleasure of directing their volunteer choir, which begins after Labor Day.

Last week was my first day with students at the Harman School in Harman, WV. The school is PreK-12 public school with about 165 students enrolled. The faculty and staff at the school are a great bunch and it is a pleasure to work with these fine colleagues. Many of the students are excited to get the band started up again and are eager to learn. There is an incredible amount of potential at the school for a fine music program.

I do miss Tucson and all my friends in the Southern Arizona organ community. I look forward to my next visit out west, especially during the winter months. Stay cool out there and I wish everyone the best.

Michael Koss



Michael Koss

Renew Your Membership

Please renew your AGO membership if you haven't already done so. We want you to be included in our 2018-2019 Membership Directory. Here are the ways to renew:

Online using your credit/debit card. Go to the ONCARD website and follow the instructions: <https://www.agohq.org/oncard/>

Online sending a check through the mail. Go to the website <https://www.agohq.org/oncard/> and then print the invoice, include your check, and mail it directly to headquarters in New York. The address is given in the form.

Surface Mail. Please contact Doug Leightenheimer for information ..(dleightnc@aol.com or 910-515-2404)

Also, please take a few minutes and update your information on AGO ONCARD. The email address, home address, and phone numbers listed on that database are used for the membership directory.

IMPORTANT NOTE: In order to have membership directories ready in early September and available for distribution at our September 23 meeting, all renewals must be completed by **September 13**. Please be sure to allow a few days for processing and *please send a note to me informing me that you have renewed if you renew close to September 13.*

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Help Swell our Ranks.

Bring a friend to the September meeting.



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EMAIL: Levsenorg@aol.com
WEB SITE: www.Levsenorg.com

2018 National Convention Highlights

From Joyce Swinehart

I was not disappointed in my first AGO national convention. From the stirring opening celebration titled “Remembrance and Reconciliation” (a tribute to WWI soldiers) to the many expertly led workshops, it was an amazing week. Highlights included “Deep Practice,” “Suggestions for Chapter Growth” and “Unknown Puccini”. The week



included an array of inspiring organ performances. I'm motivated now to begin deep practice!

From Kathryn Snodgrass

I would easily say that the highlight of the AGO Kansas City National Convention was the impeccable and exquisitely musical program by Chelsea Chen on the wonderful Casavant Freres organ in the Kaufmann Center for the Performing Arts. Next I would say listening to Damon Spritzer explore the magnificent sounds of the E.M. Skinner organ at the Grand Avenue Temple was a REAL thrill. Many thanks to Quimby Pipe Organs, Inc., and especially to Eric Johnson for their many, many hours volunteered to keep this instrument in excellent original shape. As an aside, it was really fun to be in Eric Johnson's presence with his many stories and wicked sense of humor.

Dusty Johnson

Although my participation at the convention was impeded by an unexpected encounter with a sidewalk, I was still able to attend some events. Two in particular stand out—and they both have personal implications. The first was the workshop on the unknown organ works of Giacomo Puccini. I was especially interested in attending because Roy had a connection with Puccini/Lucca, Italy. Roy's

Chicago piano teacher, Carlo Della Nina, Italian immigrant from Lucca, had some original Puccini scores. Carlo's father was an organ pupil of Puccini in Lucca. I knew about the scores and, as I recall, Roy saw those scores at some time. I also know that Carlo Della Nina sold those scores through Sotheby's Auction House about 1980 or so. Well, imagine my astonishment when a major part of the presentation revolved around the “Della Nina scores”—a collection of 19 manuscripts for organ composed by Puccini. I was dumbfounded. Some of the scores are now published and available for sale through Carus-Verlag. I've purchased a copy of one. Though most of the manuscripts are not dated in Puccini's hand, they probably originated between 1870 and 1880 during his musical training and his activities as an organist in Lucca. As an aside, Roy stayed in Lucca for a week in 1954 with Carlo Della Nina's sister.

The second event was the concert at the Grand Avenue Methodist Temple on the 1906 E.M. Skinner organ, unaltered since its installation. Damon Spitzer's splendid performance utilized registrations that demonstrated the best of the instrument in spite of the awful heat in the sanctuary. I have a particular fondness for this instrument and church since my son, Eric with Michael Quimby's support, has spent countless hours keeping it alive, even at a time it appeared that the church would close. In addition, more than 25 years ago, he proudly invited his dad to play the instrument and the church attached a plaque to the instrument honoring Roy and Eric after Roy's death in 1995.

The convention was inspirational, with amazing choral and organ programs, and especially with its recognition of the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One, a war which had tremendous and far-reaching consequences,

many of which impact us yet today.

Attending a convention is always enriching and invigorating. Plus, it's just good to be with others who love the organ.

**Dusty Johnson
with Eric Johnson
on E.M. Skinner
bench**



THE 1995 RESTORATION OF
THE SKINNER PIPE ORGAN
IS DEDICATED TO THE GLORY
OF GOD AND THE MEMORY OF
ROY ANDREW JOHNSON, DMA.
MAY 27, 1995

From Doug Leightenheimer

Situated in the center of the country and with an impressive arts culture, everything seemed up to date in Kansas City, and it was an ideal setting for the 2018 AGO National Convention. This was my fifteenth consecutive national convention, and, as always, it was a wonderful week of concerts, workshops, and reconnecting with colleagues and friends from around the country. The SAAGO was represented by a prominent ad in the convention booklet, and in person by Pamela Decker, Dennis Grannan (who hails from Kansas City), Dusty Johnson, Kathryn Snodgrass, Joyce Swinehart, and yours truly. It also was good to see former member Norene Walters and our former sub-dean Sara Tobe.



The Julia Irene Kauffman Casavant Organ, Opus 3875

In order to offer as much as possible in the short span of a four-day week, convention planners schedule workshops and certain other events in concurrent time blocks. While this provides for different interests and a wider variety of options, one cannot do everything. And so this report covers only those offerings in which I was able to take part. Convention programs and the convention booklet will be available at our opening meeting in September for anyone who would like to peruse them and see the full spectrum of the convention's offerings.

As per usual, the final round of the NYACOP took place immediately before the official start of the convention. The competition was held on Monday at Village Presbyterian Church in neighboring Prairie Village, Kansas. Village Presbyterian is an outstanding venue and home to Richards, Fowkes & Co. organ, Op. 22 (2017). The mechanical action instrument is both visually and aurally beautiful and has 54 stops across three manuals. Five finalists competed, and competitor Aaron Tan's brilliant performance deservedly won both first place and the audience prize. Aaron is artist in residence at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Detroit. His degrees are in science with a Ph.D. in Engineering specializing in nanomaterials. He will pursue a master's degree in organ performance this fall at Yale (his FIRST music degree!).

The official beginning to the convention took place at Helzberg Hall in the architecturally stunning Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. A memorial tribute to John Obetz preceded the Opening Celebration that, as with all worship services at the convention, commemorated the ending of WWI one hundred years ago this year. The celebration certainly set the standard for the remainder of the convention. It was led by the Spire Chamber Ensemble along with the Convention Festival Brass and Percussion under the direction of Ben Spaulding; narrator Matthew Naylor of the World War I Museum and Memorial; Pastor Adrion Roberson; and Jan Kraybill playing the Center's Casavant Frères organ, Op. 3875 (2012). Following the Opening Celebration, the renowned Kansas City Chorale, under the direction of Charles Bruffy, took the stage for the final concert of the evening. Elisa Bickers and Kurt Knecht were the accompanists.

The final round of the NCOI was held on Tuesday morning at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral (Episcopal). In addition to improvising a four-movement work on given themes, each competitor also played a technically challenging American piece composed after 1980, realized a continuo part, and crafted a creative introduction and accompaniment to lead the audience in the singing of a hymn. Three finalists competed, and Finnish-born Kalle Toivio won first prize. The audience, however, favored competitor Robert Horton who was awarded the audience prize. Kalle, who was the third place winner of the NCOI in Houston in 2016, is the founder and sub-dean of the Finland Chapter of the AGO, and serves on the precollege faculty at Manhattan School of Music.

The Bach Vespers concert on Tuesday afternoon featured the motets of J. S. Bach exquisitely performed by the Spire Chamber Ensemble (heard at the Opening Celebration) and Baroque Orchestra under the direction of founder and artistic director Ben Spaulding. The concert was held at Visitation Catholic Church that is yet another beautiful and architecturally unique space. The prelude and postlude for the concert were selections from the Clavier Übung III beautifully performed by Jan Kraybill on the church's Lively Fulcher organ, Op. 12 (2004).

Tuesday evening brought Douglas Cleveland's fabulous and much anticipated concert at Village Presbyterian Church that featured the world premiere of Pamela Decker's commissioned piece "The Seven Last Words and Triumph of Christ." (see preceding page for photo) Pamela again worked with dancer Kaley Jensen who choreographed the nine movement-work for four dancers. Pamela's work is remarkable, and her thoughtful musical interpretations of the texts were, in turn, beautifully interpreted by Doug and Kaley to create a true work of art and one of the highlights of the convention. SAAGO's congratulatory ad was featured prominently in the concert program, and, needless to say, we are thrilled for and very proud of Pamela.

Wednesday morning brought a convention-wide continental breakfast and regional meetings at the convention hotel. The West Region meeting offered more

Doug Leightenheimer's report continued



Kudos to Pamela Decker!

Doug Cleveland with Pamela Decker in front of the Richards, Fowkes & Co. Opus 22 organ, following the premier performance of *The Seven Last Words and Triumph of Christ for Solo Organ and Dance*

Photo by Joyce Swinehart

information regarding the 2019 West Region convention that will be held in Orange County, CA, June 30–July 3. It also was reported that the 2021 West Region convention will be held in the San Francisco Bay area.

Morning workshops followed the regional meetings after which we returned to the Kauffman Center for a concert by the inimitable Chelsea Chen. A group of us decided to walk, and we were fortunate to find along the way the one establishment with food that was open downtown on the Fourth of July! (Food wasn't actually their main offering, but the pizza was good, and I did enjoy at my age having to show my ID.) As usual, Chelsea played brilliantly and with grace and ease. The Kauffman Center Casavant organ has mechanical action with 102 ranks and 79 stops across four manuals. It resides high above the stage and is visually striking. The room and organ certainly are similarly aligned in design with Disney Hall in Los Angeles.

A hymn festival entitled "The Peaceable Kingdom" followed Chelsea Chen's concert. The prelude was played by Mark Kurtz, winner of the 2018 AGO/Marilyn Mason Award in Organ Composition, who expertly performed his delightful

winning composition "Re-Formations (After Bach)" that, as the title implies, incorporates themes and motives of the great master. The hymn festival was led by a stellar cast, including organists James Bobb and Tom Trenney; the Convention Festival Choir, Brass and Percussion led by St. Olaf's Anton Armstrong; hymnologist and hymn writer Mary Louise Bringle; clergywoman Karen Wright; and the Laudate Ringers Handbell Ensemble under the direction of Jane Anderson. It was beautifully planned and executed and another of the highlights of the convention.

From the Kauffman Center we proceeded to the Exhibition Hall at the Convention Complex for what must have been the world's largest barbecue dinner. Following dinner, the AGO Annual Meeting was held in the adjacent Kansas City Music Hall. Co-coordinators for the 2020 National Convention in Atlanta announced that the convention will be held July 5–9. Award presentations were made including the 2018 Distinguished Composer Award to Pamela Decker. Eileen Hunt reported on the three-year Strategic Growth Plan (2018–2021) that consists of specific goals and action plans to help the guild continue to grow and fulfill its mission. Executive Director James Thomashower reported on the Antitrust Compliance Training. The meeting concluded with the installation of the 2018-2020 National Council and Regional Councillors by Chaplain Don Saliers.

Following the meeting we were treated to a wonderful theater organ concert

performed by Dave Wickerham on the Music Hall's Robert Morton Theater Organ. Many of you may remember Dave who moved to Arizona in 1976 and became Associate Organist at the Organ Stop Pizza Restaurants in Tucson, Mesa and Phoenix. Dave attended the U of A and studied organ for six years with Roy Johnson. His career has taken him throughout the country, and he now resides with his family in Crystal Falls, MI.



Dave Wickerham

Thursday morning brought more workshops and an afternoon return to the Village Presbyterian Church for a concert by the Te Deum Chorale Ensemble conducted by Matthew Shepard, Associate Director of Music at the church. Late afternoon and evening events were held in Independence at the Community of Christ, formerly known as the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The Rising Stars concert, "Pipedreams Live!," was hosted by Pipedreams host Michael Barone and was held at the renowned Auditorium on the Aeolian-Skinner organ made famous in weekly broadcasts by John Obetz. The concert began with Michael Unger, Professor of Organ at the University of Cincinnati, who was followed by the seven 2017 RCYO winners. Michael (Barone) briefly interviewed each of the players after his/her performance. I must admit

Doug Leightenheimer's report continued

A bit of personal pride in that Matthew Bickett, the winner of the Great Lakes Region competition, is from Dave Horr's and my hometown! Dominic Pang, the West Region winner and now a mere 15 years old, performed beautifully from memory a set that included Liszt's "Prelude and Fugue on BACH." Each of the players performed spectacularly and left no doubt in anyone's mind as to the future of the organ!

Following the concert, we walked through the tunnel to the Community of Christ Temple for another outstanding concert by organist Todd Wilson on the Temple's remarkable Casavant Frères Organ Op. 3700 (1993) which, similar to the organ at the Kauffman Center, is a mechanical action instrument with 102 ranks and 60 stops across four manuals. It is a beautiful room and installation, and Todd played flawlessly with great depth and maturity.

Unfortunately, I had to leave the convention on Friday and was unable to attend the majority of Friday's events and the Closing Ceremony.

During the course of the convention I attended five of the morning workshops. Ruth Elderidge Thomas presented an interesting lecture on the organ works of Parry. She is in the final stages of completing an edition of Parry's complete organ works that will be published by Wayne Leupold. Vance D. Wolverson, Chair Emeritus of the Department of Music at California State University, Fullerton, gave a wonderfully informative presentation on the Latvian sacred choral tradition. Matthew Hoch of Auburn University presented a paper on the forgotten Anglican passion cantatas of Stainer, Maunder, Somervell,



Aeolian-Skinner organ, Community of Christ Auditorium

Wood and Nicholson, and their practical use in modern worship. Charles Bruffy offered a session on conductor tips entitled: "Say it Like You Mean It." The session focused on how to enhance text declamation by drawing on the meaning of words rather than concentrating only on pronunciation and inflection. James Thomashower and Eileen Hunt offered a session on the guild's Strategic Growth Plan for 2018–2021 that included group discussions and questions.

Kansas City is a beautiful and vibrant city, and I'm sorry time didn't afford me the opportunity to explore it more beyond the events of the convention. Even so, I had a wonderful time, and I offer my congratulations to the Kansas City Chapter for a wonderful convention, to Pamela Decker for the 2018 Distinguished Composer Award, and my thanks to the SAAGO for helping sponsor my attendance.

Central Arizona Chapter, POE, June 2016. Staff, faculty, and students in front of the Casavant organ American Lutheran Church, Sun City



After a 15 year hiatus, the Central Arizona Chapter of the AGO held its second Pipe Organ Encounter from June 17-22, 2018.

All Saints Episcopal Church
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Southern Nevada Chapter 50th Anniversary

Doug Leightenheimer

On June 15 I had the privilege of representing our chapter in Las Vegas at the 50th anniversary celebration of the Southern Nevada Chapter (organized June 18, 1968). Our chapter also was represented by a prominent congratulatory ad placed in the celebration booklet. Kathi Colman, secretary for the SNAGO, chaired the event and was a most gracious host.

The event took place on the campus of the University of Nevada Las Vegas and began in the Foundation Room with an elegant anniversary dinner and program. Eighty guests were in attendance including AGO President Michael Bedford, Regional Councillor Matthew Burt, District Convener Kristen Houlton-Prouty, and Deans Steven Wright (SNAGO), Skye Hart (CAZAGO), and yours truly. President Bedford was the keynote speaker, and the program included a history of the chapter and its recital series.

Recognitions included two founding members of the chapter who were in attendance, and Edward D. Smith and family who gave the von Beckerath organ on the UNLV campus in memory of Maureen Jackson Smith. A celebration recital featuring the von Beckerath organ followed in the Dr. Rando-Grillot Recital Hall in the Beam Music Center adjacent to the Foundation Room. The recital was performed by organist James C. Kasen and the

Southern Nevada Choral Artists under the direction of founding conductor Marsha Borovicka.

The von Beckerath organ was completed in 2004 and is the largest mechanical action instrument in Nevada with 53 ranks and 38 stops across three manuals and pedal. The acquisition of the organ was a catalyst for the SNAGO Recital Series that was founded in 2006 and features the von Beckerath organ. Also in 2006 the chapter hosted the Region IX Far West Mid-winter Conclave.

A copy of the SNAGO anniversary booklet will be available for perusal at our opening meeting in September.

THE SOUTHERN ARIZONA CHAPTER CONGRATULATES ITS FRIENDS IN
SOUTHERN NEVADA ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY.

Visit us at saago.org!



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Welcome sign (left)
Beckerath organ, "Doc Rando" Hall (right)

Photos: Doug Leightenheimer

2018 Organ Historical Society Convention Highlights

From Larry Kuipers, Dean.

I had the joyous opportunity to attend this year's Organ Historical Society Convention in Rochester, New York. Not all that far from Niagara Falls, Rochester is your typical, picturesque, clean, and moderately sized city of just over 210, 000 residents. What sets it apart from other typical American cities of comparable size is not only the Erie Canal and its historical significance and charm, but the wealth of beautiful churches and fabulous instruments representing great historical diversity in construction and sonority; and I suspect that Rochester being home to the highly esteemed Eastman School of Music and its stellar Organ Department (and long list of subsequent organ-world dignitaries) has in no small way contributed to this fact. Whatever the reasons for this treasure chest of churches and organs, if ever you could attend either an AGO or OHS convention in this town at a future date, it is an event NOT TO BE MISSED!

(Check out the OHS convention website for photos of the various organs. <https://organhistoricalsociety.org/2018/venues/>)

As is typical of any convention, it is an opportunity to showcase the finest organists in America. This was certainly the case in Rochester. All the organists were fantastic, and I was quite overwhelmed with the level of artistry and skill of every organist I heard. I will highlight a few of the events that I attended.

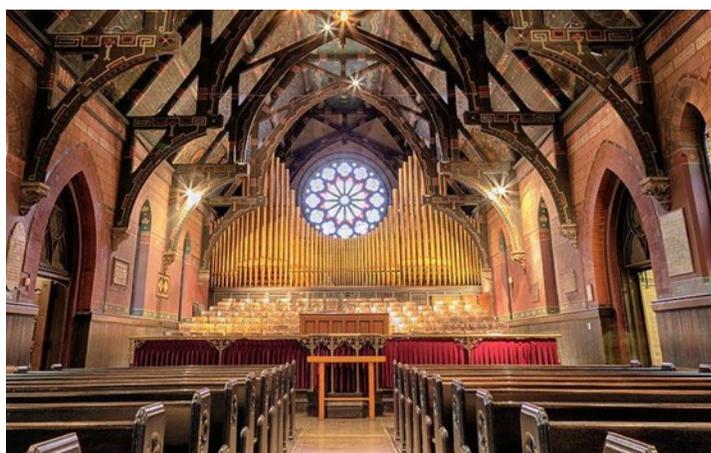
I arrived in time to attend the pre-convention recitals in Ithaca, NY, home of Cornell University. There were two



Baroque Organ in Anabel Taylor Hall

recitals in Ithaca: the reputable Bill Porter played on the Cornell Baroque Organ in Anabel Taylor Hall. This organ is a "fantasy reproduction" of an instrument built by Arp Schnitger (1648-1719) at the beginning of the 18th century. Its tonal design is based on the instrument built in Berlin at the Charlottenburg *Schlosskapelle* (Palace Chapel) in 1706; its layout and visual design are modeled on Schnitger's breathtaking organ case at Clausthal-Zellerfeld (1702). Most regrettably, that instrument was a casualty of the Second World War. As some of you may know, both of my parents are from the Netherlands, and interestingly enough, the organ in my mother's home church in Sneek, the Netherlands, is also a Schnitger (well, sort of). If you google "Sneek, Martinikerk orgel" and click on images, you will notice that the Cornell Baroque organ and that of the Martinikerk in Sneek are nearly identical. I say the Martinikerk is "sort of" an Arp Schnitger because although he did build it in 1710/11 and the case is still original, the organ itself has been "abused" (I will censor a more descriptive term for the sake of etiquette) over the centuries altering most the original Schnitger pipework beyond repair. Lamentably, very little of it remains. I've played that instrument several times and it is still quite lovely, but I digress.... To continue, Bill Porter played a fabulous program on the Cornell instrument showcasing the extreme care and artistry applied in the construction of this amazing instrument. Of particular beauty are the Vox Humana and Hoboy.

That evening, the venerable Jonathan Ryan delivered a stunning performance on the fabulous Aeolian-Skinner organ in the equally stunning Sage Chapel at Cornell University. Of particular noteworthiness was Jonathan's performance of Prelude and Fugue on ALAIN (Duruflé). He played it at a somewhat slower tempo than we are used to,



Aeolian, Skinner Organ, Sage Chapel

and I must say, it brought a musicality, lyricism, and elegance to this piece not attainable at a faster tempo. It was perhaps the most beautiful rendition of this beloved organ gem I have ever heard.

During the convention, we were given a bit of a “side dish”—if you will—from the typical organ fare, as we were enlightened and entertained by a lecture/recital on the 19th century harmonium by Belgian scholar and performer, Joris Verdin, and the pedal clavichord by Joel Speerstra. These were both presented in the stately Kilbourn Hall at Eastman School of Music. Now, I don’t personally know that much about the pedal clavichord, but it is a painfully soft instrument – that I can tell you! In fact, the pd. cl. was so soft Joel had the air conditioner in Kilbourn Hall TURNED OFF because the soft drone of the flowing air would nearly obliterate the nearly inaudible sound of the delicate instrument. I thought that quite amusing. I sat in the front row right next to the timid instrument and I could hear every note just fine.

Aeolian-Skinner zealots will be thrilled to know there is a massive organ by that firm in Kilbourn Hall just awaiting restoration. Contact Nathan Laube to send in your generous restoration financial gift IMMEDIATELY!

Now, regarding one of two highlights of the entire convention. This was the organ duet recital by the esteemed Ken Cowen and the illustrious Bradley Welch given at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church on the DIVINE 1927 E. M. Skinner organ. Many flowery words of acclamation come to mind in describing this concert, but I’ll just go with WOW! They were both out of this world. Typically, I’m not a real big fan of organ duets, but after that concert, I am. I put this concert in the category of top 10 recitals I have attended in my life. Seriously. St. Paul Church is a handsome Gothic Revival building complete with large west perpendicular window and intricate hammer beam ceiling. The organ is completely contained on the left side of the



St. Paul’s Episcopal Church 1927 E. M. Skinner organ

chancel and, although extensive restoration work has been done on the instrument over the years, the instrument—as created by the genius of Ernest M. Skinner—survives rather intact. The duets were absolutely spellbinding, but one piece in particular—performed by Ken Cowan—stands out. He played the Karg-Elert setting of “Nearer, My God, To Thee.” It’s not a particularly profound piece of music, but it is an enchanting musical painting capturing the horror

and desperation of that infamous night to remember—April 14, 1912—the night Titanic sank taking 1517 souls with her to their deep, cold Atlantic graves. Ken used the Skinner organ masterfully, capturing the panic and hopelessness of the passengers destined for catastrophe. I sat directly under the organ in the choir chancel benches, so I was quite literally moved both physically by the rumble and roar of the 32’ bombard and brought to tears emotionally as I imagined the terror of that night. WOW!

Finally, the incomparable Nathan Laube cannot be omitted in this (not so) brief synopsis. I suppose most of you know who he is; if not, the first assignment I am giving you as dean is to learn about and follow the career of the GREAT Nathan Laube. In my estimation, he is perhaps one of the top three finest organists in the world. AND HE’S ONLY 30! Nathan played on the evening of Thursday, August 2, (my 55th birthday, btw) at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. An impressive bit of typical American neo-Gothic architecture, the edifice was renovated recently. In addition to the welcome installment of air conditioning, a major part of the work done at the cathedral was the placement of a visually stunning new organ by Paul Fritts at the east end of the church. Pick a superlative, they all work. What an amazing instrument. The only fly in the ointment is the



Paul Fritts Organ

unsightly placement of a rood beam and crucifix in front of the organ thus obstructing all viewing angles of the lavish instrument. As you know, the organ at Tucson’s St. Alban’s Church is also by master builder, Paul Fritts, so if you like that instrument (and I LOVE it) imagine that times five or six. Among other delights, Nathan played the “Ad nos, salutarum undam” of Franz Liszt. I admit I was initially somewhat alarmed since you would not expect that piece to make itself comfortable on a neo-Baroque instrument; but in the hands of a genius and perhaps with some convention sorcery, Nathan did just that. Not only did he play it flawlessly, he played it FROM MEMORY! Wow. After the recital, I told him it was my birthday and that I could not have imagined a better way of spending it than with his playing a concert on that organ. He gave me a big hug.

There were so many more “wow” moments I could share with you, but you get the idea. I’ll sum it up this way: I was transported by amazing performances on superlative instruments.

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