

The CYPHER

Newsletter of the Southern Arizona Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Volume 33, Number 4
January 2015

At a glance—Programs through February 28

Admission or suggested
donation for some events

Saturday, Jan. 10, 7 p.m.
Woosug Kang, organ
St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal
Church

Friday, January 23, 7 p.m.
Isabelle Demers, organ
Catalina United Methodist
Church

Friday, January 30, 7 p.m.
Pamela Decker, organ
Holsclaw Hall, U of A

Friday, February 6, 7 p.m.
Chelsea Chen, organ
Northminster Presbyterian
Church

Friday, February 13, 7 p.m.
Dorothy Papadakos, organ
Silent Film Festival
Catalina United Methodist
Church

Saturday, February 14, 10 a.m.
Dorothy Papadakos, organ
King of Instruments for Families
Catalina United Methodist
Church

Sunday, February 22, 3 p.m.
Music of Jay Vosk, Tucson
composer
Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Saturday, February 28
24th Annual Bach Marathon
Jeffrey Campbell & Woosug
Kang, organ, 10 a.m.
Kimberly Marshall, organ, 2
p.m.
St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal
Church

RECEPTION HONORING PAMELA DECKER

Friday, January 30

Following her performance at 7 p.m. in the
Roy Johnson Memorial Organ Series

**Roy Johnson
Memorial Organ
Series Concert**
7 p.m., Holsclaw Hall,
University of Arizona
Park Avenue &
Speedway Boulevard
General admission: \$10

Dr. Pamela Decker,
Professor of Organ/
Music Theory, University
of Arizona, has been named by the
American Guild of Organists as the AGO Distinguished Composer for 2018. The
prestigious award, created in 1986, is presented biennially to recognize outstanding
composers of organ and choral music in the United States. Previous award recipients
include: Virgil Thomson, Ned Rorem, Daniel Pinkham, Samuel Adler, Dominick
Argento, William Albright, Conrad Susa, Emma Lou Diemer, Dan Locklair, William
Bolcom, Alice Parker, Carl Schalk, Margaret Sandresky, Richard Proulx, Stephen
Paulus, Craig Phillips and Libby Larsen.

Congratulations, Pamela, for this recognition of your skills as a composer!

The chapter is hosting this reception to demonstrate its recognition and appreciation
for Pamela Decker. As noted, Dr. Decker is a leading figure in composition for the
organ. *Faneuil Hall*, commissioned for the 2014 Boston Convention, was played as a
competition piece for NYACOP competitors and performed by Renée Louprette in
recital at that convention. Pamela is the chapter's liaison to the university. Celebrating
her wonderful work in the musical community will be a joyful occasion!

(continued on page 8)



Professor Pamela Decker

*"She is a stunning virtuoso, and composes music that utilizes her formidable
technical and musical abilities to the fullest."*

The American Organist

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

SOUTHERN ARIZONA CHAPTER

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The CYPHER

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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, 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.

The remaining deadlines are Feb. 15 and Apr. 15

Please email information to

Dusty Johnson, editor, at [skj5@cox.net](mailto: skj5@cox.net) by the published deadlines. You may also send it to her via U.S. mail.

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message from the dean...



Greetings!

The new year includes parties and celebrations honoring the past, and looking to the future. The SAAGO is no different. Our New Year is filled with many opportunities to recognize the important achievements of our colleagues and to

celebrate by attending many inspiring concerts and programs given by our friends and fellow musicians.

In January, we typically have an event that gives us an opportunity to socialize with our fellow SAAGO members and to celebrate the New Year. On January 30th we are having a celebration that honors our friend and colleague, Pamela Decker. It will be a fine time for us all to gather, and in a special way, to thank a member of our SAAGO that has given so much to our profession through her wonderful performances, creative teaching and outstanding compositions. Her dedication and immense talents are respected world-wide. There is no greater honor for a composer than to receive The Distinguished Composer Award given by a national organization—the American Guild of Organists—which

promotes the instrument that you have dedicated your life's work to! Bravissima!

And the celebrating continues throughout the season with concerts, movies, workshops, marathons, culminating with the 2015 West Region AGO Convention in San Diego, June 28-July 2. You can save by registering for the convention before the January 31st early deadline...it's only \$375! During our regional convention, one the world's largest outdoor pipe organs (Spreckles Organ in Balboa Park) is celebrating its 100th birthday!!!!

So load up your 2015 calendars! Further information about all these events can be found in the newsletter and on our website. Updates and further announcements will be sent to the membership as events approach.

Happy New Year.....let the celebrations continue!
Cheers!

Dennis



AGO and Members' Programs

Woosug Kang, organ

January 10, 7 p.m.

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

Woosug Kang, our subdean and program chair, is presenting this concert as a fundraiser to assist the *Schola Cantorum* and St. Nicholas Choir in serving as the Choir in Residence at Worcester Cathedral, Worcester, UK in July of 2016.



Isabelle Demers, organ

Friday, January 23, 7 p.m.

Catalina United Methodist Church
2700 E. Speedway Boulevard
Donation: \$20



Isabelle Demers, Organ Professor and Head of the Organ Program at Baylor University, is rapidly becoming recognized as one of North America's most virtuosic organists. She presents a varied program playing Bach, Schumann, Tchaikovsky, Reger and others.

Chelsea Chen, Organ

Friday, February 6, 7 p.m.

Northminster Presbyterian Church
2450 East Fort Lowell Rd.

Since Chelsea Chen emerged as a young artist, her performances have electrified audiences throughout the United States, Europe, Australia, and Asia in venues such as Singapore's Esplanade, Hong Kong's Cultural Centre, Kishinev's National Organ Hall, and Philadelphia's Kimmel Center. Her concerts have been described as having "rare musicality" and "lovely lyrical grandeur." As a composer she is broadening the classical organ repertoire with her own works based on Asian folksongs.



In 2014 she became Organist and Artist-in-Residence at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Ft. Lauderdale. She splits her time between Florida and New York, where she is also Artist-in-Residence at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in Manhattan.

Reception Following. Free Will Offering.

(funded in part by the Southern Arizona Chapter of the AGO)

Dorothy Papadakos, organ

Silent Film Festival

Friday, February 13, 7 p.m.

Catalina United Methodist Church
2700 E. Speedway Boulevard
Donation: \$20

Celebrated for her imaginative improvisations and scores for theatre, film, TV & ballet, Dorothy Papadakos initially came to international attention as the first woman to be Cathedral Organist of the world's largest gothic cathedral, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in NYC from 1990-2003.

King of Instruments for Families

With Dorothy Papadakos

Saturday, February 14, 10 a.m.

Catalina United Methodist Church
2700 E. Speedway Boulevard

Learn about the Organ through Improvisation.

Famed organist and improviser Dorothy Papadakos returns to Tucson. As part of her weekend celebrating the great new

instrument at Catalina, she will work with young people to demonstrate the different colors of the new instrument through improvisation—a treat for the whole family!

(funded in part by the Southern Arizona Chapter of the AGO)



Out of the Desert and Beyond: the Music of Jay Vosk

February 22, 2015, 3 p.m.

Our Savior's Lutheran church
1200 North Campbell

David Gay with Linda Doughty, native flutist, performs music of Jay Vosk, including *Songs of Creation for Native Flute and Organ* and *And the Idols Shall Suddenly Pass*, commissioned by David Gay and Ilona Vukovic Gay and premiered at the chapter's Showcase Concert in 2011. The concert also includes five pieces which are world premieres.



24th Annual Bach Marathon

Saturday, February 28, 2 p.m.

Jeffrey Campbell & Woosug Kang, organ, 10 a.m.

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

"Darkness and Light" with darkness represented with the performance of minor key preludes and fugues and light represented by performance of major key preludes and fugues. Suggested donation: \$10

-4- "Bach's lunch" available: \$10

Kimberly Marshall, Organ

Saturday, February 28, 2 p.m.

St. Philips in the Hills Episcopal Church
4440 North Campbell Avenue



ASU Organ Professor Kimberly Marshall is the 24th annual Bach Marathon featured artist. She holds the Patricia and Leonard Goldman Endowed Professorship in Organ at Arizona State University, having previously held teaching positions at the Royal Academy of Music, London, and Stanford University, California. Winner of the St. Albans

Competition in 1985, she has been invited to play in prestigious venues and has recorded for Radio-France, the BBC, and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

She maintains an active career as a concert organist, performing regularly in Europe, the US and Asia.

Suggested donation: \$20

(funded in part by the Southern Arizona Chapter of the AGO)

Dream Destinations

Sunday, April 19, 3 p.m.

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church
602 North Wilmot Road

Experience some of the great organs of Europe through this presentation by chapter members who have visited and played these instruments. This is for everyone who has always dreamed of going to Europe to see, hear, and play their dream instruments. It's also for everyone who would like to relive past great European organ experiences. You'll view presentations on different organs in different parts of Continental Europe and England and explore the possible option for an AGO chapter European trip to experience some of these instruments.



Saint-Sulpice, Paris



Fox Theatre Organ Project

Saturday, May 9, 10 a.m.

Pipe Organ Artisans Shop
2700 East Bilby, Bldg. 300

Venture into the exciting world of the theatre organ and see the Fox Theatre organ work in progress. The project has been restarted and the 4 manual, 31-rank Wurlitzer organ is once again being prepared for installation at the Fox Theatre.

Builder Grahame Davis, of Pipe Organ Artisans of Arizona, shares some Fox

history as well as his expertise and information about the organ. If you are interested in organ building or restoration, or in an organ type very different from the traditional church organ, this is the place to be!

Refreshments provided by Pipe Organ Artisans.

Summer Social at Colonia Verde

Sunday, June 7, 4 p.m.

Colonia Verde Clubhouse
2700 N. Camino Valle Verde, Tucson

Our summer social is a great time to enjoy visiting with your friends in the chapter. Bring your favorite dish for the potluck supper. Get your reservations to Joyce Swinehart (joyceehart@gmail.com) by Wed., May 27.

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You can still renew your membership Go to this AGO web address:

www.agohq.org/

Copy the above address and paste it into your browser to take you to the AGO headquarters homepage.

- ◆ Go to the bottom of the page and click on this graphic. It will take you to the membership overview page. Go towards the bottom of the page and click on the words **Renew Your Membership**, which are printed in red.



- ◆ This will take you to the Login page, where you will need to login. Follow the directions on this page.
- ◆ If you need assistance, call this number for help: 212 -870-2310. You can also email info@agohq.org for assistance.

Roy A. Johnson Memorial Organ Series 2014-2015



Faythe Freese

Guest Artist

Sunday, September 28, 2:30 p.m.



Pamela Decker

Faculty Artist

Friday, January 30, 7:00 p.m.



Woosug Kang

Guest Artist

Friday, March 13, 7:00 p.m.

The Roy 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.

\$10 general, \$7 UA employees & seniors, \$5 students

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

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A pipe organ for St. Margaret Mary's Church

St. Margaret Mary's Roman Catholic Church is very excited to be the very fortunate recipient of a gift of a Moller three-manual, 29 rank pipe organ from a donor in Scottsdale. The organ will be moved to and installed in St. Margaret's by Michael O'Sullivan (M J O'Sullivan & Co.) with a target completion date of Easter 2015.

Although the organ is a gift, the church needs to raise funds for moving and installation and is doing so by offering the sale of pipes in any size for \$20. Members of our chapter have the opportunity to assist in making this happen.



- ◆ **Purchase a pipe(s) of any size for \$20**
- ◆ **Purchase a pipe(s) in honor and/or in memory* of friends or loved ones**

- Make checks payable to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque R.C. church
- Make a note on the memo line that it is for the Organ Fund.
- Include a note if the pipe(s) are in honor on in memory of someone and include the name(s).
- Mail to St. Margaret Mary Church, 801 N. Grand Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85745.

St. Margaret's will acknowledge your gift with a printed receipt and, if your gift is in honor or memory of someone, will include a card with the name of the person being honored or remembered.

For further information, contact Jim Weingart (choir director and organist) at jim85711@cox.net

**Names of the deceased will be written on a parchment paper scroll and placed in the foot of the console.*

January to April 2015 Events

January 23, 2015 7 p.m.

Isabelle Demers



"Daring and fresh...
vehement virtuosity"

February 13, 2015 -7 p.m.

Dorothy Papadakos



'Love is in the Air' starring
Charlie Chaplin

April 10, 2015 7 p.m.

Christopher Houlihan



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Chapter members programs

Brahms Requiem, Sections I-IV

Sunday, March 8, 5 p.m.

Northminster Presbyterian Church

Free-will offering

Woosug Kang, organ

Roy Johnson Memorial Organ Series

Friday, March 13, 7 p.m.

Holsclaw Hall, University of Arizona

General admission: \$10

Joan Lippincott, organ

Sunday, March 22, 3 p.m.

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Admission: \$15, \$10, \$5

Christopher Houlihan, organ

Friday, April 10, 7 p.m.

Catalina United Methodist Church

Donation: \$20

Mildred Flood Mahoney Recital

Sunday, April 26, 2:30 p.m.

Holsclaw Hall, University of Arizona

St. Philip's Post-Evensong Organ Concerts

The following brief organ concerts follow the third Sunday Evensong service led by St. Philip's *Schola Cantorum*.

Evensong, 4 p.m., Free-will offering

Jeffri Sanders, organ

January 18

Jeffri is Organist, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

David Wachter, organ

February 15

David is a past dean of the chapter and is well known in Tucson as organist and choirmaster.

Doug Leightenheimer, organ

March 15

Doug is Organist/Director of Music, St. Michael and All Angels Church

Norene Walters, organ

April 19

Norene is Director of Music and Organist, Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Will Thomas, organ

May 17

Will is Director of Music and Organist, Christ the King Episcopal Church

Pamela Decker continued from front page

In addition to teaching organ, counterpoint and some theory classes, Pamela is organist at Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Pamela's compositions have been performed by American, Canadian, European, Asian, and Australian artists in such locales as Moscow, Paris, Hamburg, London, and Vienna. IN addition, her keyboard works have been performed at national and regional conventions of the AGO and in many other festivals and conferences. She has published music with Wayne Leupold Editions (affiliated with E.C. Schirmer), C.F. Peters, Augsburg Fortress, Hinshaw Music, Inc., and World Library Publications and she has commercial recordings of her works on the Loft, Albany, Arkay, Gothic, ReZound (Loft), and Arktos labels. She is the editor, as well as author of the preface, for the C.F. Peters publication of William Albright's *Flights of Fancy: Ballet for Organ*.

Pamela holds the Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) degree in organ performance, with emphasis in composition, from Stanford University and was awarded a Fulbright Grant for study of organ and composition in Lübeck, West

Germany. Her performances include solo recitals and ensemble appearances in churches, cathedrals, and concert halls in the United States, Canada, Europe, and the Baltic region, involving such locations as Grace Cathedral and Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco, Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor (MI), All Saints' Anglican Church in Windsor (Ontario), Clapp Recital Hall at the University of Iowa, the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Hauptkirche St. Petri and Hauptkirche St. Nikolai in Hamburg (Germany), the Nigulistekirikus in Tallinn, Estonia. She has performed as solo recitalist in two AGO national and two regional conventions.

She has been the recipient of numerous awards and prizes, including the UA College of Fine Arts Award for Teaching Excellence (2000) and the Henry and Phyllis Koffler Prize in Research/Creative Activity (2004). She was the first-ever winner of the Koffler Prize representing an arts-related field.

Her January 30 program will include works by Bach, Widor, Vierne, Mendelssohn and Decker—*Faneuil Hall* and a new work being premiered that evening: *Fantasy on the name of Roy Johnson* (2015)

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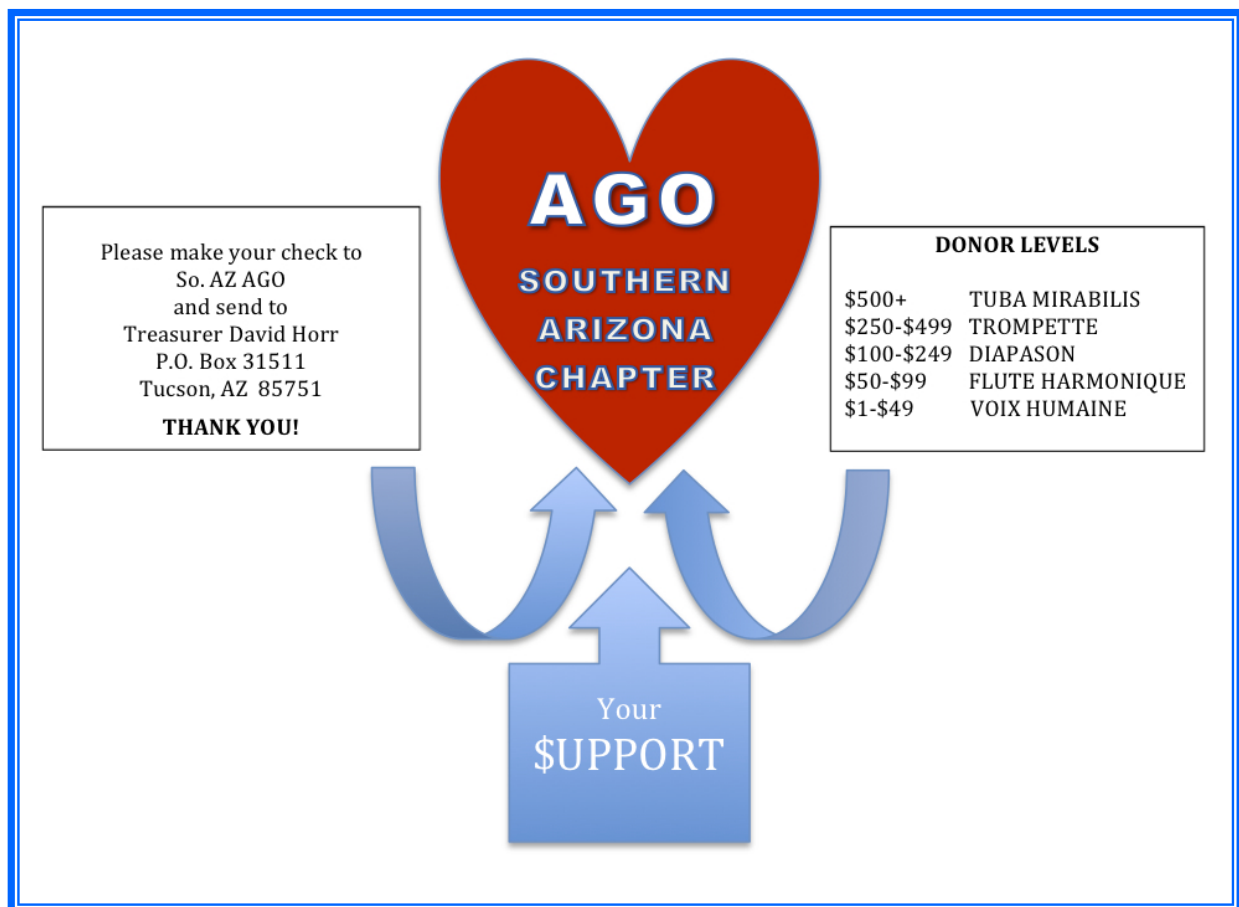
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November 21, 22 & 23

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December 12, 13 & 14

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January 23, 24 & 25

Journey with Bach

February 20, 21 & 22

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March 20, 21 & 22



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