

The CYPHER

Volume 27, Number 2

November 2008

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

November in the Chapter

Showcase Recital

November 16, 2008, 2:30 p.m.,

St. Philip's In The Hills Episcopal Church,
4440 North Campbell Avenue (at River Road)

Talented local musicians showcase varied music for organ
and accessories.

Featuring:

*David Gay with percussionist,
Janet Tolman with trombonist,
Pat Katenberger and Kenneth Kelley in duetto,
and Ken Yuki.*

A reception follows.

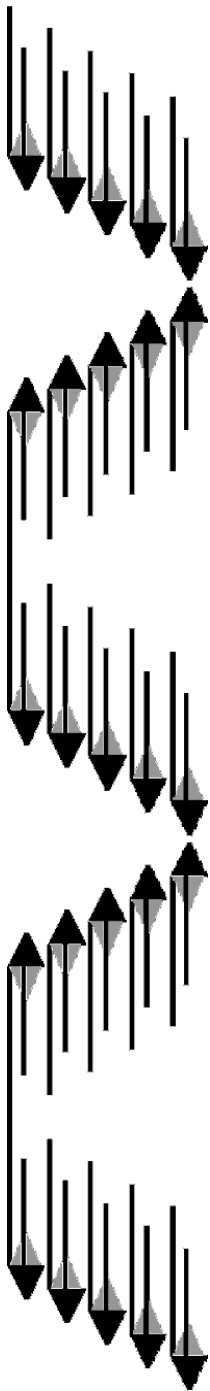
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international
year of the
organ
2008-2009

American
Guild of
Organists



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SOUTHERN ARIZONA CHAPTER
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**Dean's Message October/November
2008**

Celebrate the Organ !

By the time you receive this issue of the "Cypher" our "Celebrate the Organ" event of October 19 will have happened, and we

will be basking in the glow of wonderful music performed by a brilliant young artist on an outstanding instrument. We will have enjoyed food and fellowship together, and taken in images and sounds of great pipe organs from around the world, enjoying anew the inspiring legacy of the King of Instruments.

If you are at all like me, you might have an idea, and then concentrate all your free brain cells on trying to see that idea through to fruition. I have taken the impetus of the International Year of the Organ to embark on learning some new repertoire, and refreshing some old. What project have you taken on in your church, synagogue or school? How can all of us bring the organ and its' music to our places of worship, work or entertainment?

One easy way, for those of us who are church musicians, might be to write a short feature on a particular piece of music or composer that we are playing on a particular Sunday. Perhaps a feature article on the particular instrument that we play Sunday by Sunday in our parish newsletter.

Or attending recitals or events given by our colleagues, whenever possible, and inviting a friend along. There are many opportunities within our chapter programming this season to "Celebrate the Organ". It is also encouraging to see that various churches and arts organizations feature the organ prominently in their musical offerings. I encourage all of us to try and share our enthusiasm and love for the organ and its' music during this season of celebration.

Recently, we were fed abundantly with music, worship and fellowship at our opening Worship service at Dove of Peace Lutheran Church. In an inspiring afternoon of hymns, anthems and psalms, we all sang the great hymn "When in our music God is glorified". For many of us, I am sure, we strive throughout the year to play, sing or conduct music to the highest standard of which we are capable. We spend many hours selecting music that reaches across time, that perhaps reflects the theme of the Readings of the Day, the Season of the Church Year, or the theme of a particular sermon. In whatever musical calling in which you find yourself, please remember to offer your abundant gifts in the spirit of J.S. Bach (and Handel!) "Soli Deo Gloria"!

Jeffrey Campbell

National AGO Appointment for Local Chapter Member

The Southern Arizona AGO Chapter has a unique opportunity for direct input to AGO headquarters, since Charlotte Cordes recently accepted a position on the national AGO Development Committee. We now have a direct pipeline where ideas, innovations and concerns can be presented directly to national leadership. Charlotte returned last Saturday from her first meeting at the AGO headquarters in New York. She reported "It was impressive to see the scope of the work carried out by the National Office. We spent a significant part of our meeting reviewing budgets and costs and the need for operating funds. I had not fully appreciated all the behind-the-scenes work that is done to support this wonderful group of 18,000+ members and coordinate the efforts of its hundreds of enthusiastic volunteers!"

In addition to Charlotte, the committee consists of Barbara Adler, chair person; John Obetz, and Christopher Babcock, along with the National Treasurer (Calvert Johnson), and Director of Development & Communications, Anthony Thurman. The committee meets twice a year: in the fall in New York, and in the spring at the AGO gala fundraising event (in 2009 this will be in Michigan, honoring Marilyn Mason). Proceeds from the gala support the AGO Endowment Fund. John Obetz was honored in 2007, Fred Swann in 2008.



The Development Committee works to expand the funding available for the programs and services provided by the national AGO office whose many activities include:

1. Serving as a coordinating, unifying organization for our profession
2. Providing educational print resources and sound and video recordings
3. Publishing a monthly professional magazine (TAO)
4. Building an endowment fund, to ensure the future of AGO
5. Providing a professional certification examination program
6. Supporting competitions in organ performance and improvisation, and in organ and choral composition
7. Motivating, encouraging and supporting AGO members
8. Partnering with a selected chapter to present a biennial national convention
9. Encouraging and empowering chapters to sponsor regional conventions
10. Providing liability insurance coverage for AGO events

Supporting Pipe Organ Encounters across the country, with seed money and scholarships, to encourage young new organists

Take a look at the array of services and programs listed at the AGO website (agohq.org)

The annual AGO operating budget of approximately \$2.3 million is supported by member dues and subscriptions (43%), ad revenue in The American Organist magazine (27%), income from the endowment and conventions (13%), gifts and grants (14%), and exam fees and materials (3%).

According to Charlotte, the operating income this last year was about \$150,000 less than operating expenses. The development committee encourages **all members and chapters** to make regular donations to the Guild's Annual Fund. Gifts are also needed for the Endowment Fund, which provides continuing support for vital Guild projects. A third fund that welcomes contributions is the New Organist Fund, which supports the cultivation of new organists through Pipe Organ Encounters. (Our chapter co-sponsored a POE with Central Arizona several years ago.) This Fund also includes several scholarship funds for POE attendees. You might want to check out the online contribution form at <https://agohq.org/contributions/contribute.html>.

The Clarence Dickinson Society is a group of those who have included the AGO in their wills or estate plans. Members are encouraged to join Mary Lou Barker, Frances Nobert, and nearly a hundred others in taking this step to ensure ongoing support for AGO programs.

Charlotte says that she would “love to hear from folks about any ideas and thoughts they might like to have brought up in a committee meeting.” We are in a unique situation to have a local chapter member who has direct input to a national committee. Please take advantage of this opportunity by contacting Charlotte with your ideas.

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Frances Nobert Re-elected as AGO Region IX Councilor

Congratulations to Frances Nobert, who is continuing as our AGO Region IX Councilor. Frankie provided amazing support for our regional convention, attending many of our steering committee meetings and guiding us through the entire planning process. In the President's letter in the October 2008 issue of *The American Organist* (p. 5), Frankie was asked by President Eileen Guenther to provide a "snapshot" of some of the things of which she is most proud in her work with the Guild. At the top of the list, Frankie says "Probably the biggest successes I have experienced have been with the two Region IX Midwinter conclaves held in Las Vegas (Southern Nevada Chapter) in January 2006, and in Tucson (Southern Arizona Chapter) in 2008."



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THOMAS H. TROEGER APPOINTED CHAPLAIN OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

The American Guild of Organists (AGO) recently announced the appointment of the Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Troeger as AGO Chaplain for a term of two years, 2008–2010. The chaplain is an honorary national officer appointed to serve the diverse pastoral needs of the AGO National Council and the international membership of the Guild. Dr. Troeger will also contribute an editorial column to *The American Organist Magazine*. The appointment was made by AGO President Eileen Guenther and ratified by the AGO National Council on September 3, 2008. In speaking of his appointment, Dr. Guenther remarked:

"I have long appreciated the hymn texts Tom Troeger has written—texts that are perceptive, sensitive, artful, and that help us see and feel something new with every subject he addresses. Tom is an avid supporter of music in worship and as a writer, liturgist, and preacher will bring an important perspective to our work as musicians."

THOMAS H. TROEGER is the J. Edward and Ruth Cox Lantz Professor of Christian Communication at the Yale Divinity School and Institute of Sacred Music. Ordained in the Presbyterian Church in 1970 and in the Episcopal Church in 1999, he is dually aligned with both traditions. He is also a flutist and a poet whose work appears in the hymnals of most denominations as well as in choral anthems.

Attendees at the Region IX Midwinter conclave in Tucson in January 2008 will remember his outstanding homily at the opening worship service.

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

Chapter Opening Worship Service

Soli Deo Gloria was the theme of the opening Vespers service held at Dove of Peace Lutheran Church on September 21. The Vespers service was taken from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* the new worship book of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America published in 2006. The well attended service shared unique Lutheran musical and theological heritage. The chancel choir under the direction of Dr. Eric Holtan presented four anthems, "Stay With Us" by Egil Hovland, "O Blessed Spring" by Robert Buckley Farley, "A New Magnificat" by Carolyn Jennings, and "A Song of Thanksgiving" by John Ferguson. The choir was joined by oboist Cindy Behmer in several of the anthems and hymn variations. Organists from three Lutheran churches participated in the service, Lars Andersen (Dove of Peace), Norene Walters (Our Savior's) and Don Grice (Resurrection, Oro Valley). Dr. Holtan and Pastor Steve Springer are to be commended for compiling a fine liturgy, well-crafted and with good attention to the musical needs of choir and congregation alike. Pastor Springer spoke engagingly on the issue of clergy-musician relationships. We thank them and the congregation of Dove of Peace for their warm hospitality. Refreshments were provided by Mary Lou Barker in the parish hall for members and guests.

Chapter member recital November 2, 2008

Shirley Lockard will be giving an organ concert at Desert Hills Lutheran Church, 2150 S. Camino del Sol, Green Valley, on Sunday November 2, at 3:00 p.m. She will be playing works by Vierne, Buxtehude, D'Aquin, Swann, J.S. Bach, Jongen and Mulet. The concert is free of charge. A free-will offering will be taken. Refreshments will follow.

Chapter Member event November 9, 5:00 p.m.

Choral Evensong Service

presented by Sanctuary Choir
Northminster Presbyterian Church
2450 E. Fort Lowell Road

The choir will sing Bruckner's "Locust Iste" and Sir Walford Davies' "God Be in My Head," in addition to other anthems.

A reception follows.

2008-2009 Membership Directory Updates

Page 1: Add new member

+ANDERSEN, LARS E.

229-8784; C: 909-9038

Cromorne@Cox.net

7625 E. Helen St., Tucson, AZ 85715-5032

Organist-Dove of Peace Lutheran Church

665 W. Roller Coaster Rd., Tucson 887-5127

..... *New Member*

Page 3: Add renewing member

~~~~~COCHRAN, OLIVE ANN 207-4775; C: 307-262-6324  
BS, BA [AnBilCochr@aol.com](mailto:AnBilCochr@aol.com)  
140 E. El Limon  
Green Valley, AZ 85614-2211  
4844 Rabbitbrush, Bar Nunn, WY 82601  
..... Dual, Wyoming

Page 6: Add new member

+HOLTAN, ERIC H. 370-8016  
DMA-Choral [ericholtan@hotmail.com](mailto:ericholtan@hotmail.com)  
4167 N. Western Winds Dr., Tucson AZ 85705-2743  
Minster of Music, Art and Liturgy  
Dove of Peace Lutheran Church  
665 W. Roller Coaster Road, Tucson 85704  
887-5727 F: 887-5512  
..... New Member

Page 13: Add renewing member

-STUTZMAN, EARL J. 884-1834  
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NOTE: With these changes, you should have 96 members in your Directory.



### 2009 REGION IX FESTIVAL

The 2009 Region IX Festival will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, on June 22-25. Please take a moment to look at the Festival schedule, which boasts outstanding presenters and venues: <http://www.AGOinPhoenix.com>. Our Festival hotel, the Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa, is an historic resort of great beauty and majesty. The Biltmore has hosted numerous U.S. Presidents and celebrities and boasts the architectural inspiration of Frank Lloyd Wright. During next summer's Festival, take advantage of all that our event will have to offer and stay at the heart of the action, The Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa. In addition to

the majestic Biltmore, our Festival will also showcase the architectural excellence of Grady Gammage Memorial Auditorium, which represents Wright's final public commission, and we'll worship together at Ascension Lutheran Church, which was designed by Wright's son.

If you are able to stay at the Biltmore Resort, visit <http://www.AGOinPhoenix.com> to make reservations online. Use the menubar link "Accommodations/Info & Booking" to go to our special group reservations page. This will secure the \$139 room rate (per room, per night) and ensure that your reservations are credited toward the AGO account.

It is highly recommended that you purchase the transportation package, because of limited parking available at some of the venues and because of the high cost of gasoline! Parking at the Biltmore is free in the covered garage, and, by using Festival transportation, you will have more opportunities to relax and visit with other Festival attendees. We look forward to having you join us for this wonderful event. *Phoenix Rising: The Hottest Time You'll Ever Have!*

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#### WORLD'S LARGEST ORGAN

Grahame Davis is shown here at the console of the largest pipe organ ever built. The Midmer Losh organ installed in the Convention Hall in Atlantic City is slowly being restored by the Curator, Mr. Carl Loeser, with help from many local volunteers.



#### THANKS

The Chapter is most appreciative to Chuck Josephson for printing the current brochures at a discount rate.

Next Cypher deadline: December 1, 2008

*Inside:*  
**Phoenix Rising; Region IX Festival  
Charlotte Cordes Appointment  
Dean's Message**

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