



The CYPHER

Newsletter of the Southern Arizona Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Volume 35, Number 3
January 2016

New Chapter Website: www.saago.org

Programs at a glance through March 20

Admission or suggested
donation for some events

Norene Walters, Organ
Roy Johnson Organ Series
Friday, Jan. 15, 7 p.m.
Holsclaw Hall, U of A

John Brobeck, Organ
Sunday, Jan. 17, 4 p.m.
St. Philip's Episcopal Church

Samuel Metzger, Organ
Friday, Jan. 22, 7 p.m.
Northminster Presby. Church

Nathan Laube, Master Class
Saturday, Jan. 23, 10 a.m.
Grace St. Paul's Episcopal
Church

Nathan Laube, Organ
Sunday, Jan. 24, 3 p.m.
Lutheran Church of the Risen
Savior, Green Valley

Peter Krasinski, Organ
The Ten Commandments
Friday, Feb. 5, 7 p.m.
Catalina Methodist Church

Gail Archer, Organ
Sunday, Feb. 14, 3 p.m.
St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Ashley Snavelly, Organ
Sunday, Feb. 21, 4 p.m.
St. Philip's Episcopal Church

The Chenaults Organ Duo
Friday, Mar. 4, 7 p.m.
Catalina Methodist Church

Bach Marathon
Saturday, Mar. 5, 10 a.m.
St. Philips' Episcopal Church

David Gay, Organ
Sunday, Mar. 20, 4 p.m.
St. Philip's Episcopal Church

2016—Happy New Year!

January Programs



Norene Walters

Roy Johnson Organ Series
Friday, January 15, 7:00 p.m.

Holsclaw Hall, Fred Fox School of Music

\$10 general admission
\$7 UA employees and seniors 55+
\$5 students

Performing the music of Martini, Hindemith, Alain, Franck, Bach, Widor, Hovhanness and DuBois.



Samuel Metzger

Friday, January 22, 7:00 p.m.

Northminster Presbyterian Church
2450 E. Fort Lowell Road
Free-Will Offering

Presenting a varied program, including some works studied with the late Professor Roy Johnson, performing on the Quimby organ.



Nathan Laube, Master Class

Saturday, January 23, 10:00 a.m.

Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church
2331 E Adams Street
Free

Sharing his expertise with University of Arizona organ students. Chapter members are invited and encouraged to attend this valuable session as observers.

Program details beginning on page 4

Help **Swell** our **Ranks**. Bring a friend to these programs!

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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

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)

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message from the dean...



Greetings and Happy New Year!

It is nice to have some time to reflect on the beauty of the past weeks as we prepared and celebrated Christmas with glorious music both in concert and worship. It is also wonderful to anticipate what lies ahead for the coming year and how we can make a difference through music in our communities. Throughout the holidays, music has been a catalyst, bringing so many people from different cultures and backgrounds together as we reflect on the needs and hopes for our world. The notion of love and peace eludes us, but we still have reason for hope.

Last weekend Catalina Methodist Church spearheaded a project to pack 40,000 meals for those in need in our own community. We were joined by members of the Muslim and Jewish communities who participated fully, even with financial gifts to assist with expenses! The church parking lot featured a whole line of Harley-Davidsons whose owners had arrived to participate in this 'pack-a-thon' of meals for our neighbors! Every ounce of space of the church complex was devoted to this event. People from every part of our community came together, many lined up in assembly, and others stretched on the green lawns in prayer and devotion for an inspired gathering.

Earlier in the week many others came to Catalina to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Certainly these times together at Christmas prepared our hearts for not only the work and spirit of the 'pack-a-thon' that followed, but also for the opportunities that exist with the start of a New Year. These indeed were times for hope!

We recently introduced our choir to a new carol by Fredrik Sixten, *The fleeing child, is Jesus*. The composer reflects, "Christmas as it once started out: with three refugees...today we have millions! I saw the need for a song that can relate to this great tragedy that occurs before our eyes just as we celebrate Christmas." The new lyrics are by Emil Skartveit:

*The child who is naked, fleeing
is Jesus, God's only Son.
Fear in the eyes of a sister
becomes Lord's prayer to everyone:*

*to comfort your fellow-being
so evil will not prevail
Open, don't close your heart,
compassion will never fail.*

*The child who is naked, fleeing
is Jesus, God's only Son.
Open the door for suffering
a Hope, no dream; love has won*

*This child will depend on Joseph
protects from iniquity
and helpless is Jesus lacking
an adult like you and me.*

It is so important to keep what we present relevant and fresh. But for some, everything they hear and experience can be new and fresh. Most of the carols we sing have been sung for years and we sing them from our hearts. For others, every carol is as new as the recent work of Frederik Sixten. A friend who is Muslim shared about the music of Christmas: "You are indeed a part of the carols and joys that are shared with others. I definitely enjoy hearing them, watching others enjoy, and myself finding meanings of my own in the melodies that are not necessarily from my own culture." This same friend recently gave me a recording, "Mozart In Egypt". Each of the Mozart works on this CD are heard and performed often, but never before combined with such a unique overlay of eastern rhythms, instruments and vocals interwoven with the music that certainly transcends time, place and culture.

Each New Year we have a special opportunity, through our music, to reach out to all people, and to welcome them through our singing and playing. There are so many resources available to help us plan services and programs that are unique and relevant in a world that desperately needs the unity that music can provide.

May this spirit of giving of our time, resources and talents by sharing with and helping others be with us all throughout this New Year!

Cheers!

Dennis

Programs

Norene Walters, Organ

The Roy A. Johnson Memorial Organ Series

Fred Fox School of Music, Holsclaw Hall

Friday, January 15, 7 p.m.



The recital, titled "Outbursts of Joy: Flair and Fantasy from Around the World," will include works by Martini, Hindemith, Alain, Franck, Bach, Widor, Hovhanness and DuBois. Norene, who holds degrees in organ performance from Hope College and the Yale School of Music, earned her doctorate in Choral Conducting at the University of Arizona. She has held church music and teaching positions in Michigan, Connecticut, and New York, and most recently at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Tucson, where she served as Director of Music and Organist. Accomplished as both recitalist and conductor, Dr. Walters has been a prominent member of Tucson's arts community for many years. She will perform sacred and secular works of drama and color.

\$10 general admission

\$7 UA employees and seniors 55+

\$5 students



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John T. Brobeck, Organ

Sunday, January 17, 4 p.m.

Pre-Evensong Concert Series

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

Dr. John T. Brobeck, Director of Graduate Studies in the Fred Fox School of Music, U of A, has been on the faculty for more than 20 years and has published multiple research articles on French music and musical patronage during the 15th and 16th centuries. John is also

Organist and Assistant Director of Music as well as Director of the Men's Choir at Northminster Presbyterian Church where he has served for 20 years.



Samuel Metzger, Organ

Friday, January 22, 7 p.m.

Northminster Presbyterian Church

2450 E. Fort Lowell Rd.

Free-Will Offering



Samuel Metzger is nationally renowned as organist, composer and recording artist. Organist at Second Presbyterian Church, Memphis, Tennessee, he previously served as senior organist of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, Fort Lauderdale, Florida (2003-2009) where services were broadcast throughout the USA and internationally to 202 countries.

An Arizonan, he studied organ with Marilyn Brandon (NAU), Roy Johnson (U of A) and Robert Clark (ASU) prior to being awarded two Fulbright Scholarships for study in Germany. He also studied with Marie-Claire Alain in St. Germain-en-Laye, France. He is heard regularly around the country in concert and he has recorded six CDs. His compositions are published by Morning Star Music. He is performing works that he studied with Roy Johnson.

Programs continued on page 6

PIPE ORGAN DEDICATION SERVICE

January 10, 2016, 9:00AM
Holtkamp Organ, Opus 2112



*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all ye nations.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Psalm 100: 1-2*



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**Nathan J. Laube, Organ
Dedicatory Concert
Sunday, January 24th, 3:00p.m.**
Reception Following. Free Will Offering.

*Works by J.S. Bach, Buxtehude,
Rachmaninoff, Dupré, Mendelssohn,
and Hollins*

Co-sponsored by the Southern Arizona
American Guild of Organists.



Programs continued

Nathan Laube, Organist

Master Class, Saturday, January 23, 10 a.m.

Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church
2331 E Adams Street

Sunday, January 24, 3 p.m.

Dedication Recital

Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior
555 S La Cañada Dr, Green Valley
Free-Will Offering

Nathan Laube conducts a master class for organists on Saturday morning in Tucson and then plays the dedication recital for the new Holtkamp Organ (three manuals, 28 ranks) at Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior in Green Valley.



Referred to as a star among young classical musicians, concert organist Nathan Laube has quickly earned a place among the organ world's elite performers. In addition to his busy performing schedule, Mr. Laube serves as Assistant Professor of Organ at The Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, where he teaches with distinguished professors David Higgs and Edoardo Bellotti. As a church musician, Nathan most recently served from 2011-2013 as Artist-in-Residence at the American Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Paris, France.

Peter Krasinski, Organ

Silent Film, The Ten Commandments

Friday, February 5, 7 p.m.

Catalina United Methodist Church
2700 E. Speedway

Peter Krasinski accompanies Cecil B. DeMille's 1923 silent film epic, **The Ten Commandments**. Conductor, organist, and music educator, his improvisations have been called "stunning" and "seamless." He is well respected in both the secular and sacred genres of his field and has taught the enchantment of music to both public and private institutions in the greater Boston area. His Bach playing has been hailed in the press as "sublimely spiritual."

\$20 general admission in advance

\$25 general admission at the door



Gail Archer, Organ

Sunday, February 14, 3 p.m.

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
3738 Old Sabino Canyon Road

Gail Archer is a Grammy-nominated, international concert organist, recording artist, choral conductor and lecturer. She is the founder of Musforum, a professional network for women organists which celebrates and promotes their accomplishments. Ms. Archer is college organist at Vassar College, and director of the music program at Barnard College, Columbia University where she conducts the Barnard-Columbia Chorus. She serves as director of the artist and young organ artist recitals at historic Central Synagogue, New York City.

\$15 general admission

\$10, seniors (60+)

\$5, students



Ashley Snavelly, Organ

Sunday, February 21, 4 p.m.

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

Ms. Snavelly holds the DMA from ASU where she studied with Kimberly Marshall. She is Director of Music and Arts Ministries at Paradise Valley United Methodist Church in Scottsdale. She previously held a position at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Paradise Valley, where she served as interim choirmaster and organist as well as the youth and children's music associate and handbell director. Free-Will Offering



The Chenaults Organ Duo

4 Hands and 4 Feet at the same console

Friday, March 4, 7 p.m.

Catalina United Methodist Church
2700 E. Speedway

Elizabeth and Raymond Chenault, duo-organists, have performed extensively throughout the United States and in Europe. Specializing in works written for two performers, the Chenaults have commissioned and premiered over forty organ duets. Because of their unique and refreshing repertoire, combined with their exciting and sensitive artistry, the Chenaults are in demand as recitalists and have established themselves as America's leading duo-organists.

\$20 general admission in advance

\$25 general admission at the door



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
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Five organists, two organs,
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The Choirs of Catalina UMC &
St. Philips in the Hills
Six 30 minute performances
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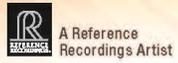
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Dec 10-13

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



For tickets and concert information, contact the Box Office at 520.401.2651 or www.trueconcord.org

Programs continued

Bach Marathon, Saturday March 5

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

10 a.m.—UA Musicians on Tour

Music by Bach plus transcriptions, music by Bach's contemporaries, and music influenced by Bach, all performed by more than 12 musicians with a variety of instruments, repertory and styles.

1:30—Bach's Lunch (charge)

3:00—Jonathan Biggers, Organ

Jonathan Biggers, who teaches at Binghamton (N.Y.) University, has won prizes in dozens of competitions, most notably first prizes in the 1985 Geneva International Competition and 1990 Calgary International Organ Festival Concerto Competition.

He studied at the Eastman School of Music, Geneva Conservatory of Music and the University of Alabama. Two CDs of his performances, of music by Max Reger and Bach, have been released on the Calcante label. He is a champion of new music, having premiered works by Michael Colgrass, Richard Proulx, Craig Phillips and David Brackett.



Suggested donation: \$20

David Gay, Organ

Sunday, March 20. 17, 4 p.m.

Pre-Evensong Concert Series

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



Active chapter member David Gay, Professor Emeritus from the Department of Math at the UofA, has presented programs and performances of new music, some commissioned by him and his wife, violist Ilona Vukovic Gay, including a Jay Vosk premiere for of *And the Idols* at the chapter's Showcase Concert in 2011.

2016 Election—Chapter Officers

In accordance with the operating procedures of SAAGO, which require bi-annual elections of our chapter officers, a nominating committee has been formed to prepare and present a ballot for election of officers to be held in the spring. The nominating committee consists of three SAAGO members, Fern Hieb, Dhira Mahoney and Lynn Moser.

Much has been accomplished in our chapter in recent years and we appreciate the efforts of many people who have offered their time, skills and talents to the benefit of our AGO Chapter. A natural rotation of people and ideas keeps our organization fresh and vibrant. Positions are either up for renewal or change every two years. Should you be approached by our nominating committee, we hope that you will consider assisting to keep SAAGO an important part of the musical community in Southern Arizona.

Just as an FYI, our Southern Arizona chapter belongs to the West Region of the AGO, a large region which includes Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Alaska, Oregon, and Washington as well as Korea, Shanghai, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Sydney, Australia.

Dennis Grannan, Dean

Support our chapter with your vote and your presence at programs.



music gives a soul to the universe, flight to the imagination, and life to everything - Plato



A musician cannot move others unless he too is moved. He must of necessity feel all of the affects that he hopes to arouse in his audience, for the revealing of his own humour will stimulate a like humour in the listener.

(Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach)

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, 2016
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.



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ISABELLE B. HARRIS ORGAN
Holsclaw Hall

A bit of interesting information about the development of the organ (which you may already know)

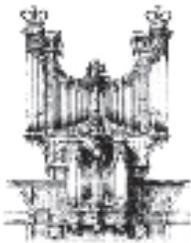
- The concept of the organ appears to have been created in 246 BCE by Ctesibius of Alexandria. He invented a mechanical flute-playing instrument with wind pressure regulated by means of water pressure, called a hydraulis.
- The first reference to hydraulis-playing was in 90 BCE. The instrument was introduced to Rome where Cicero, Lucretius, and Petronius wrote of its powers.
- The hydraulis spread throughout the Mediterranean region and is recorded as having been played at banquets, games and circuses.
- An existing hydraulis from Roman times was found in Aquincum (Budapest) in 1931.



The water organ (or *hydraulis*). Note the presence of the curved trumpet, called the *bukanē* by the Greeks and, later, *cornu* by the Romans.



"I know it was the bride's third marriage, but slipping 'Here we are again' into the Wedding March was rather uncalled for"



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SAAGO *Historic Information*

- Southern Arizona Chapter ratified April 19, 1937
- Announced in the June 1937 *Diapason*.
- Henry Switten, Dean, U of A School of Music, is dean.
- Performances on rebuilt Scottish Rite Cathedral organ

1940s

- 1947—Program at All Saints, Camil Van Hulse as organist/conductor
 1948—Dr. William H. Barnes, Masonic Temple
 1949—Alexander Schreiner, Scottish Rite Cathedral
 1949—Andrew Buchhauser dedicated rebuilt McDowell organ, St. Philip's in the Hills

1950s

- 1950—Flor Peeters, Scottish Rite Cathedral
 1951—Richard Ellsasser, Scottish Rite Cathedral, included improvisation on a theme submitted by Camil Van Hulse.
 1951—Mario Salvador, St. Louis Cathedral, dedicates Reuter organ at Saints Peter & Paul
 1955—Compositions by local composers at SS Peter & Paul (Van Hulse, Rinehart, Buchhauser, others)
 1957—Nita Akin performs in Tucson
 1958—Alexander Schreiner at Catalina Methodist (3-manual Reuter, new sanctuary, 1,200 attended).

Roy A. Johnson Memorial Organ Series 2015-2016



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.

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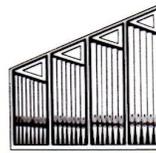
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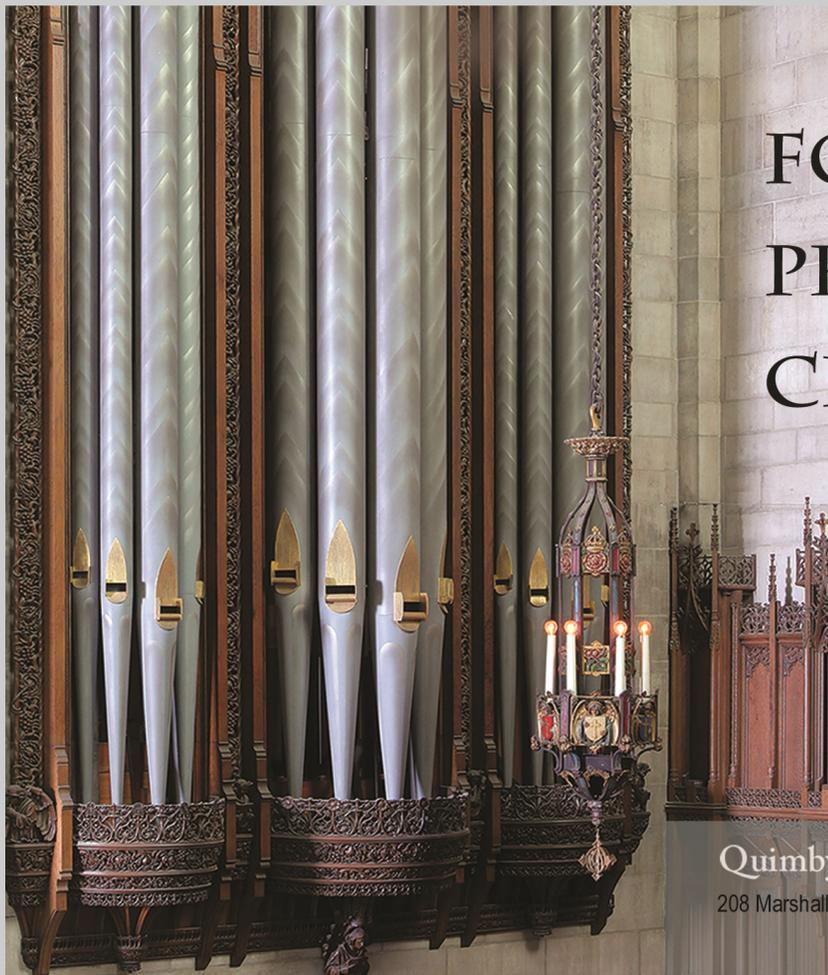
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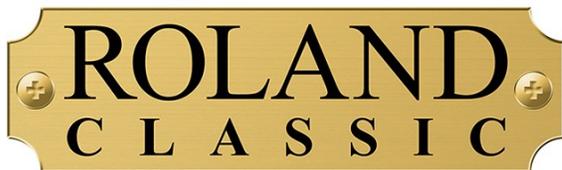
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