



The CYPHER

Newsletter of the Southern Arizona Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Chapter Website: www.saago.org

Volume 36, Number 6
May/June 2017

At a glance—Programs through August 5

Admission or suggested
donation for some events

Social & Membership Meeting

Sunday, June 4

General membership meeting,
4:30 p.m.

Potluck Dinner, 5 p.m.

Colonia Verde Club House
2700 N. Camino Valle Verde

In from the Heat

Summer Siesta Concerts

Catalina Methodist Church First Saturdays at Noon

Lunch in Fellowship Hall and
recital following in the sanctuary
2700 E. Speedway Blvd.

Saturday, June 3—**Emma**

**Whitten, Organ, Flores del
Desierto: Organ Works of the
Sonoran Desert**

Saturday, July 1—**Jared Isaac**

**Aragón, Organ, and Samivaya
JD Dalton, Native American flute,
“Katsina Dances”**

Saturday, August 5—**James**

**Gerber, Organ, Vierre
Symphony no. 1**

“Organ playing is the
manifestation of a will
filled with the vision of
eternity.”

—Widor

Summer Social at Colonia Verde

Sunday, June 4,

General membership meeting, 4:30 p.m.

Potluck Dinner, 5 p.m.

Colonia Verde Clubhouse

2700 N. Camino Valle Verde, Tucson

Celebrate the end of our 80th year in style at the beautiful and welcoming Colonia Verde Clubhouse on Tucson’s East Side. Come together to enjoy food and fellowship. The chapter’s historical scrapbooks will also be available for viewing. These are filled with interesting photos, news clips and programs that are very impressive. The chapter has had an amazing 80 years. And be sure to arrive by



4:30 to attend the general membership meeting to celebrate our accomplishments as a chapter over the last year and look forward to the coming season. Bring your favorite dish for the potluck supper. Contact Joyce Swinehart **before May 30** to let her know what dish you’ll bring (call 664-6651 or email her at joyceehart@gmail.com). Utensils and soft drinks will be provided.

Thanks to David Horr for making these arrangements. The views from the clubhouse are spectacular! See page 10 for driving directions.

80th Anniversary Celebration photos, pages 5 & 6

**AMERICAN GUILD
OF ORGANISTS**

**SOUTHERN ARIZONA
CHAPTER**

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The CYPHER

Stardust (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.

Deadline for the September issue is August 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
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Contact Dhira Mahoney, Advertising chair (Dhira.Mahoney@asu.edu)



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message from the dean...

It is hard to believe we are in the final month of our 2016-2017 program year. Our 80th anniversary season has been an exceptional one. Bookended by our opening celebration in September and our fabulous 80th birthday celebration in April, we have experienced many wonderful offerings including our Showcase Concert, an organ crawl, and many concerts and master classes by internationally renowned artists. But our year isn't finished quite yet! Please mark your calendars and plan to attend our end-of-the-year social on Sunday, June 4, at the Colonia Verde clubhouse. In addition to wonderful food and fellowship, we will have our year-end business meeting, and I hope all of you will attend.

As the program year winds down for the summer months, the board is ramping up as we begin to plan for the next season. Many thanks to those of you who returned surveys and offered ideas and suggestions for the next program year; they filled an entire page! The board will consider each and every suggestion. Resoundingly there was a request for more educational events and programs. While we will continue to feature organ concerts, the bulk of our programming next season will be a variety of educational events offered at a variety of times.

Speaking of programming, I extend thanks and best wishes on behalf of the chapter to our subdean, Sara Tobe, who is leaving us (please see Sara's article on pg. 9). Sara stepped up to the plate this past season and did a wonderful job as program chair. Due to the fact that we are on biennial elections, the board has the option of appointing a temporary subdean until our next election a year from now. In the meantime, I am taking the reins as program chair, and the board is assisting as the program committee. We send our very best wishes with Sara as she begins this new and exciting chapter in her life!

On the national front, this has been a year of change and challenge for the guild. At the forefront has been the settlement with the Federal Trade Commission that challenged the legality of parts of the guild's Code of Ethics and the circulation of fee guidelines. As a partial result, the Code of Ethics has been revised. Another ongoing challenge for the guild is how to remain vital and relevant in the face of the changing culture. At our Dean's meeting a few weeks ago, Regional Councillor, Matthew Burt, announced that, as part of the AGO's strategic planning, the guild has engaged a consulting firm that specializes in working with non-profit organizations.

Another change for the guild is the dues structure that, as of July 1, will become age based. This, in part, comes from the idea that younger folks are less likely to have the financial resources of those who have worked longer. Thus it encourages younger folks to join the guild at a lesser rate and eliminates the need for a student rate. Please see Michael Koss' article elsewhere in this issue on the new dues structure. This is the time of year for renewals for most of us, and so please be on the lookout for and respond to your renewal notice. If you have any trouble at all with membership renewal, please contact Michael Koss at michaelpkossphd@gmail.com.

During his visit, our national president, Michael Bedford, was impressed with the longevity and vitality of our chapter, and so am I! In spite of the changes and challenges that face us both locally and nationally, I have every confidence that we will remain strong both as a chapter and as the AGO. Thank you for your continued support of the guild and of our chapter!

Lastly, please consider attending our regional convention in Salt Lake City this summer. It was reported that, to date, the West region has the largest registration of the seven regional conventions!

I look forward to seeing you all at our end-of-the-year social on June 4!

Dean Doug

Organ Crawl Report

What a great day! We had a good time visiting churches of Cochise County, hearing their pipe organs, soaking up great acoustics, admiring great architecture and art work, and enjoying each others company. Special thanks to

- ♦ organizers Stan Kartchner, Dave Horr, David Gay and Jim Borgeson
- ♦ local hosts Wes Moulton, Rebecca Williams, David Dame
- ♦ those who introduced the instruments and demonstrated them: Wes Moulton, Lars Andersen, Dave Horr
- ♦ players: Wes, Lars, Dave, Sara, Doug, Quinton, David, Steve, Stan (this is a record number for organ crawls in recent history)
- ♦ Father Vic, Father Donne, and other helpers at St. Stephen's who gave a slide show on the organ's rebuild and presented us with a buffet of goodies
- ♦ Judy Pike from Covenant who welcomed us and opened the church especially for us
- ♦ others from the car-pool who listened and applauded while some of us played
- ♦ locals from Sierra Vista who stopped by to check things out
- ♦ Wil Wiemer (and friend) who opened up St. Paul's, Tombstone, welcomed us and gave us a tour
- ♦ Rebecca Williams who recommended Bisbee's Table where we all had lunch.

Ten guild members (plus three spouses) made the trip from Tucson. One guild member from Sierra Vista (Rebecca) was a host. I estimate another 15 or so who popped in from Sierra Vista and Bisbee for all or part of the crawl. So maybe 25 in all.

Report submitted by David Gay

A Major Event in our 80 year history

PIPES IN THE DESERT Regional Convention January 20 - 24, 2008

Near the end of 2004, AGO National approved the Southern Arizona Chapter to host the Region IX (Now Western Region) Convention in 2007. Since conventions are usually held during June and July (Southern Arizona's hottest months), it was decided to delay the 2007 regional convention until January 2008 and call it a Midwinter Conclave.

After three years of untold hours of planning by our Regional Councilor, Frances Nobert; Chapter Dean, Dusty Johnson; Convention Coordinators, Fern Hieb, Larry Grove, and Charlotte Cordes, and dozens of volunteers, "Pipes in the Desert" was held on January 20-24, 2008. Renowned artists, Michael Burkhardt, Richard Elliott, Frederick Swann, Millennia Two, Phoenix Bach Choir, Paul Jacobs, the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus, and the U of A Arizona Choir performed, in addition to our own Pamela Decker, Kimberly Marshall from Arizona State University and many of our chapter member artists.

The Conclave was a resounding success with 267 attendees from 33 states and Canada. Registration, ticket sales to the general public, advertising and gift and grants provided total revenue of nearly \$140,000. After all expenses were paid, an excess of revenue over expenses of \$41,338.86 was transferred to the Chapter treasury.

Submitted by Larry Grove
Pipes in the Desert Treasurer

Southern Arizona Organ Crawlers



Southern Arizona Chapter AGO Fabulous 80th Anniversary Celebration Weekend April 28-30, 2017



Above: Michael Bedford, national AGO president and Doug Leichtenheimer, holding Congratulations certificate from the American Guild of Organists.

If you weren't able to attend and/or didn't receive a copy of the 80th anniversary program, you may contact Maxine Fifer at wetypefast@yahoo.com to obtain a copy.



Left: 80th anniversary committee: Maxine Fifer, Dusty Johnson, Kathryn Snodgrass and Janet Tolman (not pictured).



Below: Past deans—Dennis Grannan, Fern Hieb, Douglas Leichtenheimer (current dean), Dusty Johnson, Lynn Moser and national AGO president, Michael Bedford.

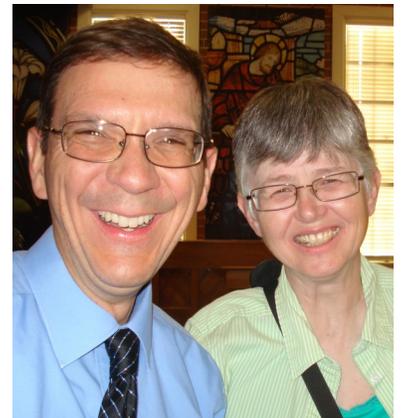


Member Recitalists: Larry Kuipers, Alan Shultz (composer), Dennis Grannan, Carolyn Smith, David Gay, Janet Tolman, Michael Koss, Doug Leichtenheimer, Sara Tobe, Michael Case (composer), Lynn Moser, David Horr



Below: Matthew Burt, Skye Hart, Doug Leightenheimer, Sara Tobe, Matt Estes (SNAGO Dean), Kristen Houlton Prouty, Michael Bedford, Kathi Colman (SNAGO Secretary).

Above: Matthew Burt, Regional Councillor



Above: Lynn and Kathy Moser
Below: Dhira Mahoney, Joel Pierce, Pamela Decker



Above: Alan and Delores Schultz
Below: Matthew Burt and Joyce Swinehart



Meet your chapter Executive Committee members

Grahame Davis, Member at Large



Grahame Davis is a life member of the AGO and is a member in good standing of both the Central and Southern Arizona Chapters. In his work as a pipe organ builder, restorer, service person and tuner, he regularly visits cities in four states across the southwest. Active AGO chapters are located in these cities, each with their own diverse pipe organ cultures. Grahame represents the interests and activities of the

local Arizona chapters in his travels.

Grahame is a Vestry member of St. Michael and All Angels Church and Day School in Tucson and the Curator of the Aeolian Skinner pipe organ, Opus 1352. He leads a team of dedicated volunteers in the restoration of a unique Wurlitzer pipe organ soon to be installed at the historic Fox Theater. They work out of a 10,000 sq. ft. workshop near the Tucson International Airport. Grahame has served on the Fox Theatre Foundation Board and is currently member-at-large of the southern Arizona chapter of the AGO.

Pamela Decker, Liaison, University of Arizona

Pamela is Professor of Organ/Music Theory/Composition at the University of Arizona and Organist at Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Her works for various instruments and/or ensembles are published by C.F. Peters, Wayne Leupold Editions, Hinshaw, Augsburg Fortress, World Library Publications, and Oxford University Press.



Pamela Decker holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Stanford University. She also studied both organ and composition as a Fulbright Scholar in Germany. She has won prizes in national and international competitions as both performer and composer. In 2004 she was awarded the Henry and Phyllis Koffler Prize for Research/Creative Activity at the University of Arizona, and in 2000 she was awarded the College of Fine Arts Award for Teaching Excellence.

As both recitalist and composer, Pamela Decker has been active in the United States, Europe, the Baltic Region, and Canada. She has been a featured recitalist in many conventions and festivals, including the American Guild of Organists (AGO) National Convention, two AGO regional conventions, the Annual Conference on Organ Music at the University of Michigan, the Twice Festival, the Redlands Organ Festival, Tallinn International Organ Festival, and the Festival International d'Orgue de Monaco. Her compositions have been performed in at

least nineteen countries and recorded commercially on multiple labels. Her disc, *Flights of Fancy*, recently received a rave review in the "Classical Hall of Fame" section of *Fanfare*, in which she was acclaimed as "one of America's most intrepid virtuoso organists. Of the Loft Recordings disc entitled *Decker Plays Decker: Desert Wildflowers* (LRCD 1076), a *Gramophone* review referred to Decker as "an organist noble in the Bach line..."

Joyce Swinehart, Hospitality Chair

Joyce was a part of the student chapter of the SAAGO while a student of Dr. Roy Johnson, beginning in 1969. At that time, students often played "beginning" pieces for chapter meetings, an idea of Dr. Johnson's designed to give students an opportunity to play before professional organists.



Joyce began her professional career as organist and children's choir director at Fountain of Life Lutheran in Tucson. She also had the opportunity to play for the Chicago White Sox AAA franchise in Tucson, and the Houston Aeros hockey farm club, the Tucson Mavericks.

After meeting her future husband Jim (in the press box at High Corbett Field) his career moved them many places giving her the opportunity to have organist positions in Los Angeles, Buffalo, Knoxville, TN, and Kansas City. Retirement brought them back to Tucson and the opportunity to continue as organist at Tanque Verde Lutheran, until retiring the fall of 2016.

IN MEMORIAM



Kathryn O'Sullivan. Long-time chapter member, Kathie was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and attended elementary school and high school in Milwaukee before attending Dr. Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota, where she earned a bachelor's degree in education and went on to teach elementary school in

Lutheran parishes in smaller towns in Minnesota and Wisconsin. In the mid 1970s she moved to Arizona, where she taught at Redeemer Lutheran School, as well as serving as the church's music director and organist. She married Michael O'Sullivan, Arizona pipe organ builder, in 1989 and thereafter taught and directed music at several Catholic parishes in Tucson, finally at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish until her death in Tucson after a year-long illness on March 2, 2017. Her life was celebrated with a Memorial Mass at Sts Peter and Paul on Saturday, March 25, 2017.

2017 Dues information from Michael Koss

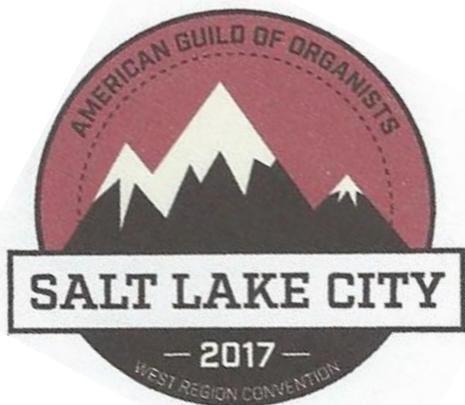
Dear Members,

In January of 2017, the AGO National Council approved new membership dues that include several notable changes. The new dues structure takes effect on July 1, 2017 for new members. The dues are now structured strictly by age. Additionally, members are now provided an option to receive an electronic-only copy of "The American Organist" magazine for a discounted rate. TAO magazine online is accessed through the AGO website at www.agohq.org.

AGO now sends renewal notices directly to your email. If you wish a paper invoice to be mailed in the future, please select the appropriate boxes in your account. It is also very important to review and update your personal information every year. Whatever is written on your membership database is the information printed in the upcoming directory this fall.

Dues Schedule:

Regular members (ages 30-64)	\$105 with a print and mailed TAO magazine \$97 with online TAO.
Special members (ages 65+)	\$80 with a print and mailed TAO magazine \$72 with online TAO magazine
Young Organist members (under 30)	\$50 with print and mailed TAO magazine \$42 with online TAO magazine
Regular Dual	\$41
Special Dual	\$33
Young Organist Dual	\$18
Friend	\$35 with no TAO magazine



Summer 2017 "In from the Heat" Luncheon & Recitals 12 Noon

June 3
Emma Whitten
"Organ Music of
the Sonoran Desert"

July 1
Jared Isaac Aragón, Organ
Samivaya JD Dalton,
Native Am. Flute
"Katsina Dances"

August 5
James Gerber, Organ
"Symphony No. 1",
Louis Vierne

Luncheons in Fellowship Hall
Recitals in Sanctuary



Catalina United
Methodist Church
2700 East Speedway Blvd.
www.catalinamethodist.org/organfestival

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From Sara Tobe, Subdean

Dearest SAAGO members,

During the past four years that I have lived in Tucson, this group has provided me with the steady, much-needed support of colleagues, as well as giving me a sense of community that I desperately needed having moved so far from home. When I first came here to start my Master's in ethnomusicology, I never dreamed that my path would bring me back to being an organ major. It is thanks to all of you that I developed the confidence I needed to realize this was something I could actually do as my career, and that I made the decision to pursue playing the organ full-time again. For this I will be forever grateful. Therefore, it is with a heavy heart that I must tell you all that I will be leaving Tucson in mid-May and stepping down as your subdean.



I have known for a long time that I want to pursue a doctoral degree, and as I was thinking about what I wanted to do when I finished my degree this spring, I came to a few realizations about myself and what I want for my future. One of these was that getting a graduate degree is much more mentally and emotionally challenging than I had ever thought it could be. This led me to the conclusion that I didn't think there was any way I could make it through another degree without having the support of my family far closer to me than it is now. Ultimately, I ended up choosing to apply for doctoral programs that were within a reasonable day's drive from the majority of my family in Ohio.

In January and February, I traveled frequently to audition at the College Conservatory of Music (CCM) at the University of Cincinnati, Eastman School of Music, and the Schulich School of Music at McGill University. All of these were fantastic trips where I was able to play many organs: the Noack studio and practice organs at CCM, the Casparini at Christ Church and the studio organ at Eastman in Rochester, and lots of Casavants in Montreal. All of the students and faculty I met were wonderful, and gave me some solid ideas of where I wanted to end up.

I was accepted to CCM at the end of January and was given the opportunity to compete in the Strader Organ Competition following this. I placed 2nd, which awarded a full-tuition scholarship to CCM as well as a cash prize of \$1500. At the beginning of April, I accepted my admission to CCM, as well as the organ scholar position at Christ Church Cathedral in downtown Cincinnati. My brother and his family live in Cincinnati, most of the rest of my family is nearby, and the program has the flexibility that I'm looking for, so this school was really the best choice for me all around.

While I am sad to be leaving all of my friends and colleagues here in Tucson, I'm also excited for the future. I know that this chapter will continue to thrive and will continue to be active (you have to so I can come visit!), and will continue to welcome and encourage new members and

new organists to be a part of this community. I want to thank you all one last time for how incredibly kind and supportive you have been, and I want you all to know that the time I've spent with you has meant more to me than you could fathom. I'll miss you all dearly.

Peace and love,

Sara

From Mary Frances Fest, Past Dean

April 24, 2017

Dear Members of the Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Guild of Organists,

Congratulations the 80th Anniversary of SAAGO Chapter! My 46 years in Tucson as an organist and a choir director were part of a beautiful saga with the Tucson Chapter, and I truly embrace the many special memories woven into those years. The Southern Arizona AGO has flourished and distinguished itself in many significant ways during its long history because of continual renewal from within. That is how it has always been. It is just who we are!



I miss all of you, I miss the Tucson AGO Chapter, and I will truly miss sharing this momentous occasion with you. I will most certainly be thinking of you as the exciting weekend festivities unfold.

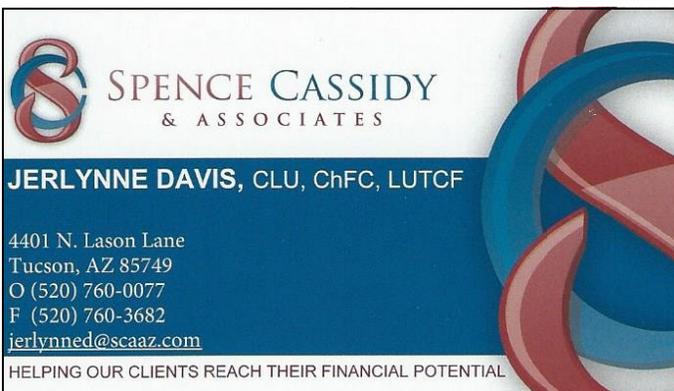
On another front, the good news is that I survived my first east coast winter and am so enjoying being close to my daughter, Jane; her husband, Nate; and my grandson, Carter. My son, Brad, and his wife, Rachael, are also located in the East. So family is front and center and so much fun!

I also treasure my new position as Organist and Choir Director at Eliot United Methodist Church. Of course, there are always the cascade of challenges that go with the territory, but the plus side is where the sun is shining!

May all of us continue to focus on what is beautiful in life!

Your friend always,

Mary Frances Fest, Past Dean
Southern Arizona Chapter of the AGO



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& ASSOCIATES

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HELPING OUR CLIENTS REACH THEIR FINANCIAL POTENTIAL

Directions to the Colonia Verde Club House.

There are two ways to get to the Colonia Verde club house:

1. Drive east on River Road to its end at Sabino Canyon Road, then turn RIGHT (south) on Sabino Canyon Road. Get in the left lane; go through the light at Cloud Road. After crossing Tanque Verde Wash, you will pass three HOA's and then Sabino Baptist Church on the left. Immediately beyond the church, take the next left turn (E. Portal Airosa) into Colonia Verde. Drive one block, cross Camino Valle Verde into the clubhouse parking lot, straight ahead.
2. Drive east on Speedway Blvd., then LEFT on Wilmot (north). Wilmot becomes Tanque Verde at Pima. Stay on Tanque Verde and get in the left lane. Go through traffic lights at Grant/Kolb and Camino Principal. The next light is Sabino Canyon Road. Take the right left-turn lane and turn left (north) on Sabino Canyon Road. (BE CAREFUL TO TURN WITH THE GREEN ARROWS ONLY. There is both a leading AND a lagging left-turn arrow.) Turn RIGHT at the second street on the right (E. Portal Airosa) into Colonia Verde. Drive one block, cross Camino Valle Verde into the clubhouse parking lot, straight ahead.

Please join your colleagues and friends on Sunday, June 4, at 4:30 p.m. for the general membership meeting and 5 p.m. for the potluck dinner.,



Robert A. Anderson



Phone: (520) 326-4048
5027 E. Timrod St.
Tucson, AZ 85711

You Can Help.

As many of you know, Janet Miller, Past Dean, has operated Wildlife Rehabilitation in Northwest Tucson for more than twenty years. The licensed rescue focuses on orphaned and injured birds and small mammals. The facility suffered a devastating fire recently, killing at least thirty birds. It took twenty-two Northwest Fire District firefighters more than twenty minutes to put out the fire, and another forty-five minutes to control the multiple hotspots. Fortunately, Janet's living quarters were left intact. But the loss of the birds, some of which she'd taken care of for more than a decade, has devastated her.



Janet is working on rebuilding, and her all-volunteer staff is staying focused on the animals they still have. In addition to the extensive property damage, the organization also lost costly medicine, supplies and food in the fire.

There is an online fundraising [campaign](https://www.generosity.com/animal-pet-fundraising/help-wildlife-rehab-of-nw-tucson-recover-rebuild-2) to help them get back on their feet. They are also accepting donations via mail at PO Box 86045, Tucson, AZ, 85754. Other volunteers have put together a fundraising effort to help rebuild the facility. Please donate and share this campaign at <https://www.generosity.com/animal-pet-fundraising/help-wildlife-rehab-of-nw-tucson-recover-rebuild-2>.



Grahame Scott Davis

President and Artistic Director

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Mildred Flood Mahoney Memorial Organ Recital

Joel Pierce

Sunday, April 30, 2017

Isabelle B. Harris Organ – Holsclaw Hall, 2:30 p.m. – Free Admission



UA master's candidate in organ performance Joel Pierce will present a program of French and German organ literature, including works by Vincent Lübeck, Louis-Nicolas Clérambault, J.S. Bach, and Louis Vierne. Joel is gathering renown as a player of both virtuosity and expressive power. This program in tribute to Mildred Flood Mahoney will highlight music from celebrated traditions in the organ repertoire.

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2017

ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY • AUGUST 5-11
THE TWIN CITIES • MINNESOTA

IN FROM THE HEAT!
Summer Siesta Concerts

Emma Whitten
Flores del Desierto:
Organ Works of the Sonoran Desert
Saturday, June 3, 2017
Lunch will be served at NOON
with organ recital to follow.
Donation: \$10.00



Catalina United Methodist Church
2700 E. Speedway Boulevard, Tucson
www.catalinamethodist.org/organfestival



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