



# The CYPHER

Newsletter of the Southern Arizona Chapter  
American Guild of Organists

Volume 38, Number 8  
April 2019

Chapter Website: [www.saago.org](http://www.saago.org)

## Programs at a glance through June 9

Admission or suggested  
donation for some events

### SAAGO Phoenix Organ Crawl

Saturday, Apr. 6, 7:30 a.m.  
Carpool departs from Catalina  
UMC Parking at 7:30 a.m.

### Arizona Repertory Singers

Sunday, April 7, 4 p.m.  
Episcopal Church of the  
Apostles  
12111 N. La Cholla Blvd.  
Oro Valley

### Lisa Ham Kang, Organ Mildred Flood Mahoney Concert—A Tribute to Dhira Mahoney

Sunday, Apr 28, 4 p.m.  
Holsclaw Hall, U of A

### Dove of Peace Organ Dedication

Guy Whatley, Organ  
Sunday, May 5, 3 p.m.  
Dove of Peace Lutheran  
Church

### Susan H. Wilson, Organ

Sunday, May 19, 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

## Phoenix Organ Crawl Saturday, April 6, All Day Event

Join fellow chapter members for an exploration of four organs in the Phoenix area, with the opportunity to hear and play these exciting instruments. Enjoy dinner at Organ Stop Pizza in Mesa.



Peragallo IV/51 + 30 digital ranks (2016) , Cathedral of SS Simon and Jude, Phoenix

- Meet in the west parking lot of Catalina UM Church to carpool
- Depart at 7:30 a.m.
- Bring a sack lunch. Water will be provided.
- Sign up by contacting Dean Larry Kuipers by **Monday, April 1** at [larikipe@yahoo.com](mailto:larikipe@yahoo.com) or at 508-745-7809 or 520-308-5651. Also, let Larry know if you might be able/willing to drive.

We will depart from the parking lot of Catalina United Methodist Church at 7:30 a.m. to travel to the Scottsdale area for our first stop at St. Barnabas on the Desert Episcopal Church. St. Barnabas houses a Casavant organ (Op. 3881, 2010) in the main church, a Pels & Van Leeuwen (Dutch) tracker in the chapel, and a 25-bell carillon from the Koninklijke Eijsbouts Bell Foundry, Asten, the Netherlands.

Article continues on page 4

### Mildred Flood Mahoney Concert—A Tribute to Dhira Mahoney

April 28, 4 p.m., Holsclaw Hall, University of Arizona  
Featuring Lisa Ham Kang, the first recipient of the Mahoney Scholarship

See article on page 5

**AMERICAN GUILD  
OF ORGANISTS**

**SOUTHERN ARIZONA  
CHAPTER**

P.O. Box 31315  
Tucson, AZ 85751-1315

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

DEAN

Larry Kuipers 308-5651  
[larikipe@yahoo.com](mailto:larikipe@yahoo.com)

SUB DEAN/PROGRAM CHAIR

Jared Aragón 505 720-9483  
[jrdscrgn@gmail.com](mailto:jrdscrgn@gmail.com)

SECRETARY & TREASURER

David Horr 822-7808  
[dahorr@comcast.net](mailto:dahorr@comcast.net)

PAST DEAN/PLACEMENT

Douglas Leightenheimer 910-515-2404  
[dleighnc@aol.com](mailto:dleighnc@aol.com)

MEMBERSHIP

Janet Tolman 888-3173  
[tolman@wvnet.com](mailto:tolman@wvnet.com)

ADVERTISING

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HOSPITALITY

Joyce Swinehart 207-0785  
[joyceehart@gmail.com](mailto:joyceehart@gmail.com)

EDITOR, *THE CYPHER*

Dusty Johnson 323-7856  
[skj5@cox.net](mailto:skj5@cox.net)

PUBLICITY/PROMOTIONS

Lars Andersen 909-9038  
[L.andersen@q.com](mailto:L.andersen@q.com)

LIAISON, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Pamela Decker 327-2169  
[pdecker@email.arizona.edu](mailto:pdecker@email.arizona.edu)

MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Grahame Davis 487-8906  
[onlypipes@dakotacom.net](mailto:onlypipes@dakotacom.net)

MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Catharine Kennedy 286-6159  
[kdckec@hotmail.com](mailto:kdckec@hotmail.com)

CHAPLAIN

The Rev. Bailey Pickens 325-1001  
[bailey.pickens@gmail.com](mailto:bailey.pickens@gmail.com)

ARIZONA/SOUTHERN NEVADA

DISTRICT CONVENER

Kristin Prouty 480-964-8606  
[kristin.holtonprouty@gmail.com](mailto:kristin.holtonprouty@gmail.com)



**The CYPHER**

Stardust (Dusty) Johnson, *Editor*

520-323-7856

[skj5@cox.net](mailto: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 2019 are**

April 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 via U.S. mail.

**Advertising space available**

Full page, \$150; Half page (horizontal), \$100  
Quarter page (vertical), \$75; Business card size, \$50

***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...

Dear friends,

Spring has sprung and we're busy; it seems we're always busy, so that's nothing new. However, April is new, and with it comes Holy Week and Easter, and that's enough to keep us **very busy**. We don't actually have all that much planned in terms of SAAGO events this month, but let me call your attention to two upcoming events to which I extend a gracious invitation for your participation.

First, on April 6, we have an organ crawl to Scottsdale and Phoenix. This all-day event includes visiting four instruments, which you will have the opportunity to play. We will visit three churches in Scottsdale: Pinnacle Presbyterian Church, La Casa de Cristo Lutheran Church, and St. Barnabas Episcopal Church (which has two organs *and* a 25-bell carillon), and SS. Simon and Jude Roman Catholic Cathedral in Phoenix. We will end the day with dinner at Organ Stop Pizza in Mesa (**cash only**, but there is an ATM in the lobby), where we will hear their mighty Wurlitzer theatre organ. For more information and photographs of the organs, please see the full description in the Cypher. I think this will be a fabulous organ adventure, and I really urge you to attend. Please contact me if you plan to come along so we can work out transportation details. Call or text me at 508-745-7809, or email me at [larikip@yahoo.com](mailto:larikip@yahoo.com).

Secondly, please join us at Holsclaw Hall at the U of A on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 in the afternoon to hear organist Lisa Ham Kang, as she performs as part of the Mildred Flood Mahoney Concert Series.

As always, I've made every effort to attend all our SAAGO-sponsored concerts offered by both members of our local chapter and visiting organists from other chapters. And so, I would like to spotlight some of the wonderful listening experiences I have had.

◆ Our very own Will Thomas presented a fine organ prelude for the monthly evensong service at St. Philip's Church on February 17. Of particular noteworthiness was his excellent rendition of the 3<sup>rd</sup> *Sonata in A Major* by Felix Mendelssohn. This is a

very popular piece. I suspect most of us have played it at one time or another (myself included), so we all know it is not the easiest piece to play. In fact, much of the piece is quite challenging, especially considering Mendelssohn calls for *poco a poco piu animato*, which can often come across as a bit of a run-away stage coach. Not so with Will's rendition, he held tightly on to the reins and steadily and evenly increased the tempo without giving the sense of panicked, stampeding horses at any time. Great job, Will!

◆ Friday evening, February 22, shall not be an evening I shall quickly forget. I fondly recall my organ teacher during my high school years, LeRoy K. Hanson, would always say, "The woods are full of good organists." And this is true. But there are those few organists among us that stand out head and shoulders above the crowd, and as far as I am concerned, Douglas Cleveland places quite firmly into this category. My goodness, I have rarely been razzle-dazzled like I was by Douglas. In particular, I am referring to his shocking rendition of *Four Concert Etudes*, by David Briggs. I don't know how one can play so many notes with only 10 fingers and 2 feet, I was left in a state of utter disbelief. It was beyond fabulous. However, as stunning as that was, Doug shattered the ceiling in the second half of the program with an equally stunning rendition of our very own Pamela Decker's glorious composition, *The Seven Last Words and Triumph of Christ*. To make matters even more sensational, we were treated to 3 divine interpretive dancers who effortlessly fluttered about the church like elegant birds of paradise. It was a truly sumptuous feast for the ears *and the eyes*, and unquestionably one of the finest concerts I've attended at Catalina Methodist Church to date.

◆ And speaking of the power-house scholar/teacher/composer/performer, Dr. Pamela Decker, we were treated to an insightful workshop on improvisational and compositional techniques on March 2, at Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior in Green Valley. Pamela offered a rare glimpse into her own creative process and provided many examples and instruction for us to sharpen our own skills of improvisation during service playing. Thank you, Pamela, for a wonderful forum.

◆ Friday night, March 8, brought our very own Doug Leightenheimer to the console of the lovely Paul Fritts organ at St. Alban's Church. Played with great

*Continued on page 6*

## Chapter Programs

### Phoenix Organ Crawl, *Continued from page 1*



Casavant III/52 (2010), St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Scottsdale



Richards, Fowkes & Co., III/72 mechanical action (2005)  
Pinnacle Presbyterian Church, Scottsdale ,



Berghaus IV/91 (2008),  
La Casa de Cristo Lutheran Church, Scottsdale

Two other visits in the Scottsdale area include Pinnacle Presbyterian Church which houses a tracker instrument built by Richards Fowkes and Company (Op. 14, 2005) and La Casa de Cristo Lutheran Church which houses a Berghaus organ (Op. 224, 2008).

From there we head to Phoenix proper to SS. Simon and Jude Cathedral which houses Phoenix's newest organ built by the Peragallo Organ Company (Op. 743, 2017).

The day concludes with dinner and entertainment at Organ Stop Pizza in Mesa. At 82 ranks, Organ Stop boasts the largest Wurlitzer theater organ in the world. Please note that we only will be patrons at Organ Stop, and that there will not be a "tour" of the organ (see p. 14).

#### ***Some important requests and information:***

1. In order for us to plan for adequate carpooling, please respond to Dean Larry Kuipers at [larikipe@yahoo.com](mailto:larikipe@yahoo.com) **by Monday, April 1**, if you plan to go on the organ crawl. When responding, also let us know your location in Tucson (mid-town, etc.) in case we need to plan a second departure point. Also let Larry know if you might be able/willing to drive.
2. Because of the distances and resulting tight travel times between venues, there is no time to stop for lunch. ***Please pack a bag lunch*** to be eaten either in the car, or during our visit to either Pinnacle Presbyterian or La Casa de Cristo Lutheran. We will provide bottles of water.
3. Organ Stop Pizza does NOT accept credit or debit cards. They do have an ATM in the lobby, but we strongly recommend that you bring cash (or a check) for dinner. You can view the menu in advance at <https://www.organstoppizza.com/the-restaurant/on-the-menu/>.
4. Arrival in Tucson between 7:30 and 8:00 pm.

*We look forward to a very full and fun day on April 6!*



## Programs

### Arizona Repertory Singers

Sunday, April 7, 4 p.m.

Episcopal Church of the Apostles  
12111 N. La Cholla Blvd., Oro Valley

Tickets: \$18 advance purchase  
\$20 at the door. Students free

The program, entitled **A New Heaven** includes music for choir and organ composed by Edgar Bainton, Herbert Howells and John Ireland, plus a Tucson premiere: *The fruit of silence* by Peteris Vasks, based on a text by Mother Theresa. The program features the recently installed Wicks Organ, Opus 6055, which was originally built in 1985 and was previously the antiphonal organ at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Green Bay, Wisconsin. It has five ranks and ARS Musical Director Elliot Jones says it is perfect for the acoustics of the sanctuary. Jones helped rebuild and install the organ in the Church of the Apostles where he is music director. The program will be repeated on Sunday, April 14, at 3 p.m., at Christ Church United Methodist. Advance ticket information at [www.arsingers.org](http://www.arsingers.org)



Elliot Jones

### Lisa Ham Kang, Organ

#### Mildred Flood Mahoney Concert A Tribute to Dhiria Mahoney

Sunday, Apr 28, 4 p.m.

Holsclaw Hall, University of Arizona  
Free

Lisa Ham Kang was the first recipient of the Mildred Flood Mahoney Scholarship for graduate study in organ performance. She completed her master's degree in organ in 2000 studying with Dr. Pamela Decker and subsequently earned a DMA in organ performance at the University of Washington, Seattle, studying with Dr. Carole Terry. She has won many competition prizes, academic scholarships, and other honors, and has maintained a career as a recitalist and teacher. She is the music director and organist at the First Presbyterian Church in Burbank, California. She will perform works by J. S. Bach, Rheinberger, Messiaen, and Pamela Decker.



### Dove of Peace Organ Dedication

#### Guy Whatley, Organ

Sunday, May 5, 3 p.m.

Dove of Peace Lutheran Church  
Reception Following

The rebuilt and refurbished organ will be introduced to the public at a dedication recital on Sunday, May 5, 2019, featuring Guy Whatley. Whatley's program will explore the

new colors of the instrument through a wide-ranging program from Bach to Messiaen. A new work by Gerald Near for choir and organ will be premiered. A champagne reception will follow the concert.

The project is being executed by Grahame Davis, Pipe Organ Artisans of Arizona.

### Susan H. Wilson, Organ

Sunday, May 19, 4 p.m.

Pre-Evensong Recital

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

Donations accepted

## Decker premiere on YouTube

### Performance of *The Seven Last Words and Triumph of Christ*, composed by Pamela Decker, available on YouTube

You can see the world premiere performance of *The Seven Last Words and Triumph of Christ*, composed by Pamela Decker, at the 2018 AGO National Convention in Kansas City with organist, Douglas Cleveland, and dancers Kaley Jensen, Alexandra Wilson, Tiffany Best, and Caitlin Pettijohn on YouTube.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O1rRxFgmkp0>

## Organ Historical Society Convention 2019, Dallas, July 14 – 18

The Organ Historical Society's annual convention features newer and older instruments, including those built by Noack, Schoenstein, Schudi, Hook & Hastings, Fisk, Dobson, Rieger, Bedient and more. Some of the 2019 featured performers are Renée Anne Louprette, Kimberly Marshall, Jan Kraybill, Douglas Cleveland and more. There is fellowship, recitals, lectures, and time to sample the local culture and architecture. Often, the work of a local organ builder (recent or historical) is highlighted.

Non-members are very welcome to attend, although members receive a significant discount on registration, so we encourage attendees to join. The [E. Power Biggs Fellowship](#) can provide funding for first-time attendees of OHS conventions.

Find additional information and registration information at the OHS convention website:

<https://organhistoricalsociety.org/2019/>

## The Mighty Wurlitzer Organ Preview Concert at the Fox Theatre

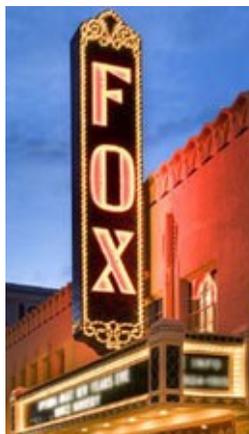
### Fox Theatre

17 West Congress Street

April 13, 7:30 p.m.

\$25 general tickets · \$75 VIP reception tickets

Be one of the first to hear the Mighty Wurlitzer play at the Fox for the first time in 60 years! Enjoy Buster Keaton's 1920 silent film *One Week* as it was originally screened, accompanied by the Mighty Wurlitzer being played by Ron Rhode!



Organist VIP ticket holders will get to see the organ up close and will be able to visit with organ experts Ron Rhode & Grahame Davis.

Ron Rhode has been a major performer in the theater pipe organ world for more than four decades. Since 1974 his concert career has taken him across the US from coast to coast, into Canada, England, and Australia. Ron is known for his "traditional" theater organ style, playing music from the golden era of the "Unit Orchestra," the 1920s and 1930s.

**Congratulations and kudos to our own Grahame Davis, pipe organ builder and chapter Executive Committee member!**

### Membership Address Correction

Fred Fox—correct email:

[sonoradesertqv@gmail.com](mailto:sonoradesertqv@gmail.com)

## *Mildred Flood Mahoney Memorial Organ Recital*



# Lisa Ham Kang

## *A Tribute to Dhira Mahoney*

*Sunday, April 28, 2019*

*Holsclaw Hall, 4:00 p.m.*

*Free Admission*

*The program will feature works by J.S. Bach, Josef Rheinberger, Olivier Messiaen and Pamela Decker. Lisa Ham Kang completed her master's degree in organ performance at UA as the first recipient of the Mildred Flood Mahoney Memorial Scholarship for graduate-level organ study. She then competed a DMA in organ performance at the University of Washington, Seattle, under the guidance Dr. Carole Terry. She has been the winner of many competition prizes, academic scholarships and other honors, and has maintained a career as a recitalist and teacher.*

## Dean's message continued from page 3

authority and musicality, Doug presented a thoughtfully designed program featuring an array of organ works that were well-suited to the neo-Baroque, north German/Dutch-influenced instrument. It became immediately apparent Doug used great scrutiny and sensitivity in his selection of precise registrations to accentuate his carefully chosen repertoire. Particularly impressive was his commanding performance of the Bruhns "Großes" *Praeludium in e Minor*, and the *Prelude and Fugue in a Minor*, BWV 543. Let me just say I worked like a little beaver on the Bach p&f a long time ago—and gave up. Doug made it sound so easy, especially considering the demands of a flat pedal board, which, other than Stephen Keyl, none of us here in Tucson play with any regularity. Thank you, Doug, for a wonderful and impressive organ concert.

- ◆ Finally, on March 10, I made the trip back down to Green Valley to hear Elisa Bickers play a concert on the very nice Holtkamp organ at Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior. Like Doug, Elisa also played a carefully thought-out program that worked well on that particular instrument. I was delighted to discover she programmed *Morningstimmung* from Edvard Grieg's *Peer Gynt Suite No. 1, opus 46*. I've always been rather fond of this piece and NOBODY ever plays it, at least I never hear anybody play it—and it worked so well on that organ. Her entire program was very interesting and very well played, but I was particularly

impressed with her rendition of the *Passacaglia in c Minor*, BWV 582. I had a chance to chat with Elisa after the concert and was very surprised to learn she had but one day of practice with that organ. I thought she must have been there all week because she came out, sat down and played the heck out of the passacaglia right off the bat with a multitude of registration changes that gave the impression she and that organ were old friends. It was also nice to hear Mendelssohn's 4<sup>th</sup> Sonata, which I enjoyed very much.

That just about wraps it up for me. Right now, as I write this, (Monday, March 11) it's just beginning to rain again. Seems we've had an unusual amount of rain this year. Just last week I had the opportunity to take my folks to Vegas to visit a family friend for a few days, and it rained in Vegas, too. As I drove on I-10 past Picacho Peak, I was stunned to see how green it was; from a distance the landmark peak resembled more something covered with lush vegetation found in the tropical Hawaiian landscape rather than the fortress-like mountain we find here in the hot and dry southern Arizona desert; don't think I've ever seen things quite so green here—very lovely, indeed.

*Easter blessings to you all,*

*Larry*



**IN FROM THE HEAT!**  
**Summer Siesta Concerts**

**Saturday, June 29, 2019**  
**Saturday, July 27, 2019**  
**Saturday, August 31, 2019**

Lunch will be served at NOON  
with organ recital to follow.

Donation: \$10.00

**Catalina Organ Festival**

Catalina United Methodist Church  
2700 E. Speedway Boulevard, Tucson  
[www.catalinamethodist.org/organfestival/](http://www.catalinamethodist.org/organfestival/)



## 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.

### SAAGO Phoenix Organ Crawl

Saturday, Apr. 6, 7:30 a.m. Carpools depart from Catalina Methodist Church Parking lot.

### Arizona Repertory Singers

Sunday, April 7, 4 p.m.  
Episcopal Church of the Apostles Oro Valley  
The singers perform accompanied by the recently installed Wicks organ

### Lisa Ham Kang, Organ

#### Mildred Flood Mahoney Concert A Tribute to Dhira Mahoney

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, 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

**Note:** The October 14, 2018, issue of *Vox Humana* has an article by Kimberly Marshall, Professor of Organ at Arizona State University, discussing medieval organ literature, instrument reconstructions, and ornamentation and improvisation practice with *Vox Humana* Associate Editor Guy Whatley.

## VOX HUMANA

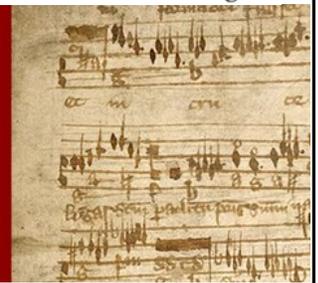
Current ideas, trends, and research about the organ

October 14, 2018

KIMBERLY MARSHALL

Medieval Organ

Music



## Grahame Scott Davis

President and Artistic Director

4814 East Fairmount Street  
Tucson, Arizona 85712

Cell (520) 437-8906  
onlypipes@dakotacom.net

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### The Organ Historical Society welcomes STUDENT CHAPTERS!

OHS announces the formation of three Student Chapters with more to come in the next few months. A hearty welcome to

Dr. Anne Laver & Syracuse University  
Dr. Alan Morrison & Curtis Institute of Music  
Dr. Kimberly Marshall & Arizona State University



### The OHS ONLINE STORE RE-OPENS

After an 18 month absence, the OHS Online store and catalog is set to re-open April 1st. No Fool!

The store takes special requests and has good relationships with Hal Leonard, GIA, W.W. Norton, Verlag, Berenreiter and many more publishers.

From April 1st until June 30th, one dollar from every purchase will go towards our E. Power Biggs Scholars program

All Saints Episcopal Church  
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## 2019 Pipe Organ Encounters

### Registration is open

<https://www.agohq.org/education/poe/>



The 2019 Pipe Organ Encounters are open for registration! Enrollment is starting to fill up, with one event already half full. *Early registration deadlines range from March 1 to March 31 across six POE sites.*

Scholarships are available for all POEs offered in 2019.

Go to <https://www.agohq.org/education/poe/> for information about the POEs and scholarships available from AGO national. Three POEs are in the Northeast, North Central, and West Regions of the USA: Cape Cod, Mass.; St. Louis, Mo.; and Seattle, Wash.

Also, *POE Advanced and Technical are being offered*—advanced (grades 9-12) in Houston, and technical in Chicago (ages 16-23).

A POE FIRST: A traditional POE is taking place in Europe, hosted by the Finland Chapter in Helsinki, August 1-7.

## 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](http://www.saago.org). Completed forms may be submitted to the Scholarship Committee Chair at any time.

## West Region POE, Seattle, Washington

**JULY 14-19, 2019**  
**PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER**  
SPONSORED BY THE  
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS  
SEATTLE CHAPTER



SEATTLE, WASHINGTON  
[agoseattle.com/poe](http://agoseattle.com/poe)

The Seattle chapter AGO will host a Pipe Organ Encounter this summer, July 14-19.

Applications are coming in and over one third of the registration slots are full. Early registration ends May 1st.

Please pass this information on to any young aspiring piano students you may know – at least intermediate piano level ages 13-18.

**Seattle Pipe Organ Encounter**  
**July 14-19, 2019**

*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

\$500+	Tuba Mirabilis
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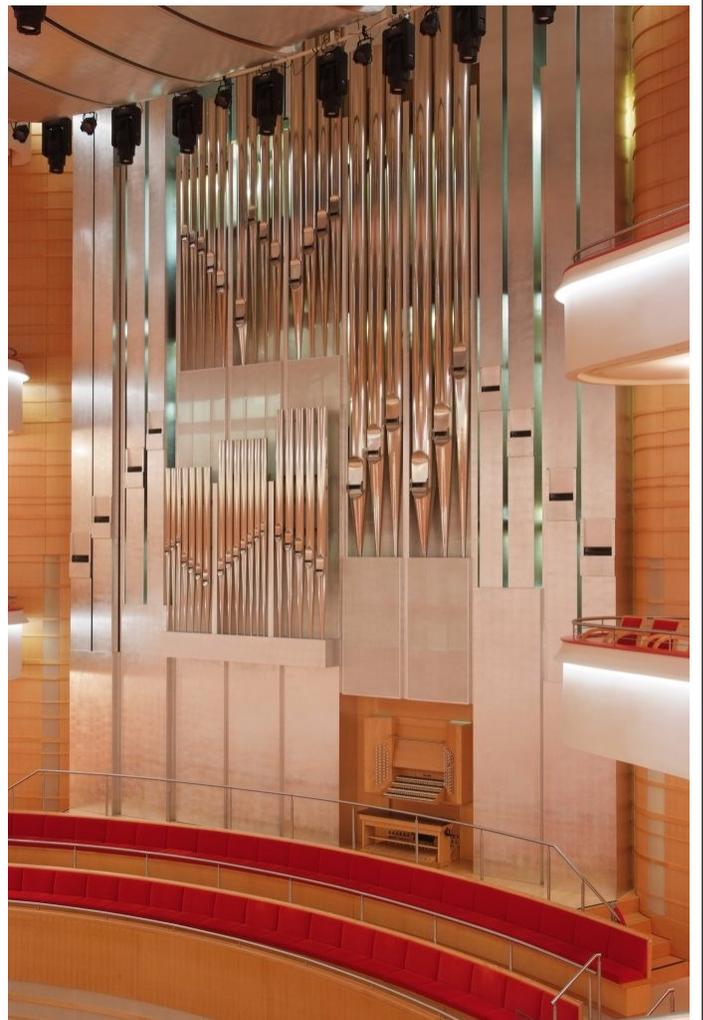
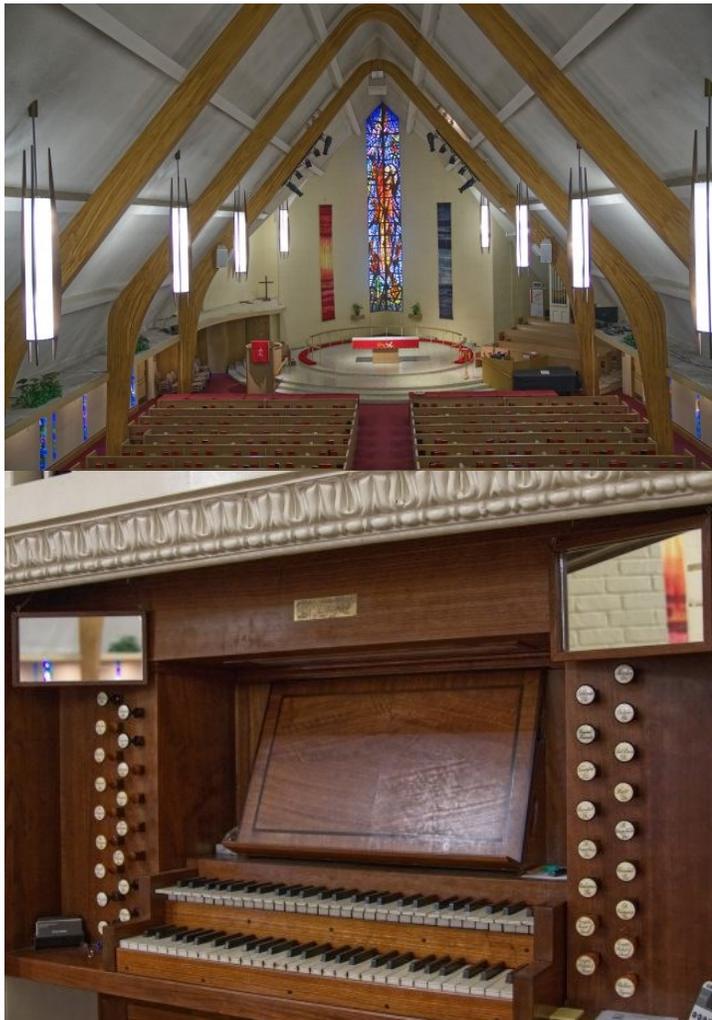
**Please make your check payable to So. AZ AGO**  
Mail it to

**David Horr, Treasurer**  
P.O. Box 31511  
Tucson, AZ 85751

*Thank you!*  
*Your gifts make a difference.*



The Orange County Chapter is proud to host the 2019 West Region Convention of the American Guild of Organists. We are excited to welcome members and other pipe organ enthusiasts to our paradise. Here is a quick look at what we have planned. **SPECIAL PRESENTATION.** Fred Swann, our dear friend and colleague, will be presented the first-ever honorary FAGO Certificate. You will want to be in attendance for this event. The convention website <http://www.agowest2019.com> is up and running with the convention schedule, artists, venues, how to donate, and much more.





facebook

Be sure to take a look at our chapter's Facebook page: american guild of organists - southern arizona chapter (<https://www.facebook.com/>)

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Phone: (520) 326-4048  
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— 18 —  
SEASON  
— 19 —

# LUMINOUS

**NORTHERN LIGHTS**

October 19 - 21, 2018

**AMERICAN RHYTHM**

November 3 - 4, 2018

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Southern Arizona Chapter  
American Guild of Organists  
P.O. Box 31315  
Tucson AZ 85751-1315