



The CYPHER

Newsletter of the Southern Arizona Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Volume 39, Number 7
March 2020

Chapter Website: www.saago.org

Programs at a glance through April 19

Admission or suggested donation for some events

Douglas Cleveland, Organ
Sunday, Mar. 1, 3 p.m.
Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior
Green Valley

Joshua Nichols, Organ
Sunday, Mar. 1, 3:30 p.m.
Christ the King Episcopal Church

Bach Bash
SAAGO Members and guests
Sunday, Mar. 8, 3 p.m.
Christ Church United Methodist

Ilona Kubiaczyk-Adler, Organ
Sunday, Mar. 8, 3:30 p.m.
Christ the King Episcopal Church

Dennis Grannan, Organ
Sunday, Mar. 15, 4 p.m.
St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church

Bradley Hunter Welch, Organ
Friday, Mar. 20, 7 p.m.
Catalina United Methodist Church

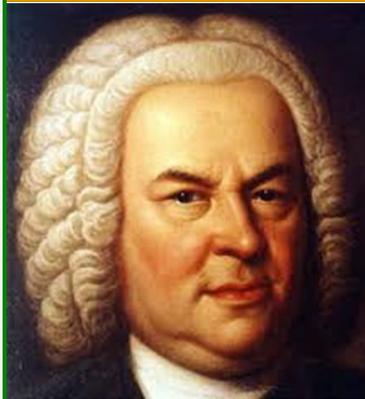
Stephen Keyl, Organ
Sunday, Mar. 22, 7 p.m.
St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Jared Aragón, Organ
Sunday, Apr. 19, 4 p.m.
Pre-Evensong Recital
St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church

A BACH BASH

Sunday, March 8, 3 p.m.

Christ Church United Methodist
655 N. Craycroft Rd.



Hear the inspiring music of the great Johann Sebastian Bach in celebration of his 335th birthday.

Join us for this program in recognition of Bach's 335th birthday in which members pay tribute by performing some of his greatest compositions.

SAAGO members John Brobeck, Jeffrey Campbell, Quinton Hurst and Doug Leightenheimer will perform preludes and fugues as well as chorale preludes on

the Christ Church III/41 Schlicker organ. In addition, they will be joined by sopranos Gabriella Carrillo and Gloria Day who will sing the exhilarating duet *Wir Eilen mit Schwachen, doch emsigen Schritten* from Cantata 78, with organ and cello accompaniment, played by John Brobeck and Jane Hallett, respectively. Stephen Keyl will give a brief overview of Bach as organist and composer.

The Christ Church organ was built by the Schlicker Organ Company of Buffalo, New York, in 1980 with Roy Johnson, University of Arizona organ professor, serving as organ consultant. He was quoted in a newspaper article saying "The organ is very exciting to play, very responsive. . . . Its voicing leans to baroque principles."

This will be a joyful, uplifting program as we pay homage to the great Bach in the month of his birth. Some specific pieces to be performed are "Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele," BWV 654, "An Wasserflüssen Babylon" BWV 653, and Prelude and Fugue in C Major, BWV 547.



John T. Brobeck



Jeffrey Campbell



Quinton Hurst



Doug Leightenheimer

Additional information and artists' brief biographies can be found on page 4.

**AMERICAN GUILD
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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.

Deadlines for the 2020 season are

March 15

April 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
Quarter page (vertical), \$75; Business card size, \$50
Contact Larry Kuipers, Dean (larikipe@yahoo.com)

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...

Hello everyone.

I hope you are all having a wonderful winter. The weather is gorgeous this time of year; I love that about southern Arizona.

This March 21st marks the 335th anniversary of the birth of Johann Sebastian Bach. There are two ways to celebrate this event. First of all, on Sunday afternoon, March 8, at 3:00 p.m., a number of our colleagues will be presenting a program of the organ works of Bach at Christ Church United Methodist. Performing in the program will be our friends John Brobeck, Jeffrey Campbell, Quinton Hurst, and Doug Leightenheimer. The event is free with a light reception to follow.

Secondly, Sunday, May 22, at 7:00 in the evening, Stephen Keyl will be performing the *Orgelbüchlein* at St. Alban's Church. Everyone is cordially invited.

There are a number of other recitals to which you are also cordially invited. Please see the listing of recitals and other programs found here in the Cypher or on our website at saago.org for more details. In addition to other local venues which regularly schedule organ recitals, I would like to draw your attention to the Lenten Recital Series being offered at Christ the King Episcopal Church on Sunday afternoons during Lent at 3:30. Will Thomas has organized a lovely lineup of fine organists who will be performing on this seasonal series—everyone is welcome.

I have received a few notifications from fellow chapter members informing me they have received unusual emails allegedly from me requesting financial favors. I hope you all realize these are entirely fraudulent. I

have received a number of them myself from a few other board members, and I've also been bombarded with them from various members of the staff at my church. Of course, they are all bogus; no one you know should ever request financial assistance via something as impersonal as email without actually speaking to you in person first. You'd think this would be completely obvious; unfortunately, I can tell you not once, but twice, people from my church office have actually gone out and purchased gift cards in sizeable amounts per the fictitious request. The moment a request for money has been made is the moment your internal alarm system should be triggered. If you are uncertain, one sure way to verify if the email is legitimate or not is to check the source. For example, if you were to receive an email from me or anyone else you know requesting money, simply check the email address from which it was sent. If it does not originate from my email address (which you all have larikipe@yahoo.com) or from the email of your acquaintance requesting the money, then you automatically know the email is false and from some villain claiming to be me or your friend. Please do not fall victim to this criminal deception. A good rule of thumb is always be skeptical and ALWAYS SAY NO!

Enjoy the beautiful weather as we enter this season of Lent.

Warmest Regards,

Larry Kuipers, Dean

Programs

A BACH BASH biographical information

John T. Brobeck, Director of Graduate Studies and Professor of Music at the University of Arizona, is Organist and Director of Traditional Music Ministries at Northminster Presbyterian Church, where he oversees five ensembles and conducts the Men's Choir. Past director of the university Collegium Musicum, he has served as faculty coach for the Arizona Baroque ensemble and has published widely regarding sixteenth-century music and musicians.

Quinton Hurst received his undergraduate and graduate training in physics from Brigham Young and Arizona State Universities respectively. He is employed as an aerospace engineer and serves as a volunteer organist for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He, and his wife, SueAnn, are the parents of four children and have two grandchildren. In his spare time, he enjoys hiking, running, and of course, playing the organ.

Jeffrey Campbell, past dean of SAAGO, is the Associate Music Director and Principal Organist of Saint Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church, where he assists Director of Music Justin Appel in overseeing a large multi-generational music program, and accompanying all rehearsals and services. He continues to concertize throughout Southern Arizona,; upcoming performances include Trinity Cathedral, Phoenix, and Christ the King Episcopal Church, Tucson. He earned his doctoral degree from Northwestern University, where he studied with Wolfgang Friedrich RübSam.

Douglas Blair Leichtenheimer is Director of Music/ Organist for St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Tucson, and organist for St. Michael's Upper School. He is a past dean of the Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, and is often heard as organist, accompanist and recitalist in the Tucson area.

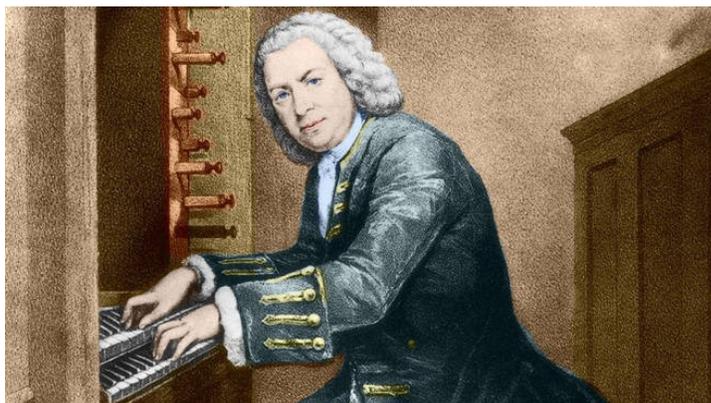
Gabriella Carrillo, Soprano, is a Tucson native, and graduate of the University of Arizona Fred Fox School of Music. She served as Northminster's soprano section leader and soloist for over nine years under the direction of Dusty Johnson. She has sung the soprano solos in many major sacred works as well as in several operas. She participated in the Saarburg Serenden International Music Festival, where she performed chamber music and opera scenes throughout the German Rhineland.



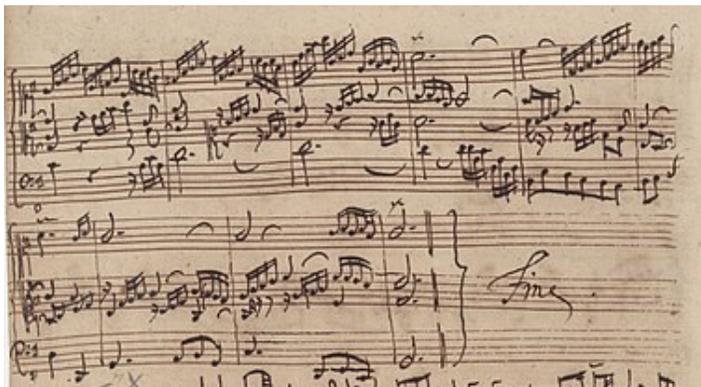
Gloria Day, Soprano, holds both bachelor's and master's degrees in music education from the University of Arizona as well as Levels 1 and 2 Orff certifications. She taught general music, band and chorus at Butterfield Elementary School in Marana for 30 years. She directs one of the Tucson Girls Choirs and is director of the children's choir at Northminster.



Jane Hallett, cellist and music educator, has many years' experience both as private and public school teacher in Massachusetts and Arizona. She studied with Gordon Epperson and earned her degree in Music Education from Ohio State University. She maintains a private studio in Tucson and plays with Southern Arizona Symphony as well as several chamber ensembles.



Johann Sebastian Bach.



Autograph Manuscript: "An Wasserflüssen Babylon"
BWV 653

CATALINA ORGAN FESTIVAL

Bradley H. Welch

Resident Organist,
Meyerson Symphony Center
Artist-in-Residence,
Preston Hollow
Presbyterian Church
Dallas, Texas



Friday, March 20, 2020

Sanctuary Concert 7 pm

Reception in
Fellowship Hall



CATALINA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2700 E. SPEEDWAY BOULEVARD, TUCSON
www.catalinamethodist.org/organfestival/



Tickets
\$20 online
\$15 Seniors
\$5 Students

Roy A. Johnson Memorial Organ Series

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.



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ISABELLE B. HARRIS ORGAN
Holsclaw Hall

March Member Programs

Douglas Cleveland, Organ
Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior
Sunday, Mar. 1, 3 p.m.

555 S. La Canada Dr, Green Valley
 Free

Dr. Cleveland has performed in 49 of the United States and has performed in such venues as Westminster Abbey, the Berlin Cathedral, Stockholm Cathedral, Moscow Conservatory, Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, and more. He has served on the faculties of St. Olaf College and Northwestern University and currently teaches at the University of Washington. He is also Director of Music and Liturgical Arts at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Medina, Washington.



Christ the King Episcopal Church
Lenten Organ Series

2800 W. Ina Rd.
 \$10 adults, \$5 students

Joshua Nichols, Organ
Sunday, Mar. 1, 3:30 p.m.

Joshua Nichols, who holds both a BA and MM in organ performance, is a teaching assistant at the Fred Fox School of Music where he is also working towards a doctorate in composition, studying with Daniel Asia.



Ilona Kubiaczyk-Adler, Organ
Sunday, Mar. 8, 3:30 p.m.

Ilona Kubiaczyk-Adler is a concert organist whose programs explore connections between early and contemporary music, the works of female composers, the music of Eastern Europe, and improvisation. A graduate of three conservatories, she maintains an international performing career while serving as Associate Director of Ministries in Music and Arts / Organist at the Pinnacle Presbyterian Church in Scottsdale.



Will Thomas, Organ
Sunday, Mar. 15, 3:30 p.m.

Will Thomas, Director of Music, Christ the King Episcopal Church, is a doctoral candidate in organ at the UA. As a concert organist, he has performed in New York City, New



Jersey, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, North Carolina, Indiana, and Florida.

Jeffrey Campbell, Organ
Sunday, Mar. 22, 3:30 p.m.

Jeffrey Campbell is the Associate Music Director and Principal Organist of Saint Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church, where he accompanies all rehearsal and a services. He maintains a performance and teaching schedule in addition to his multitude duties at St. Philips.



Joseph Ripka, Organ
Sunday, Mar. 29, 3:30 p.m.

Joseph Ripka, Director of Music at All Saints' Episcopal Church and Day School in Phoenix, is a distinguished organist who has earned a strong reputation in the U.S., the U.K., Ireland, the Netherlands and France. He has presented New York recitals at St. Thomas Church, St Patrick's Cathedral, and St. John the Divine, has performed at the National Cathedral in Washington D.C. and given extensive concerts in Minnesota, Connecticut, Massachusetts and many other regions of the country.



Dennis Grannan, Organ
Sunday, Mar. 15, 4 p.m.

Pre-Evensong Recital
 St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church
 4440 N Campbell Ave

Dennis Grannan, Associate Director of Music and Principal Organist at Catalina United Methodist Church, is a Juilliard-trained organist, who maintains a performance schedule in addition to his other responsibilities. He is also past dean of SAAGO.



Bradley Hunter Welch, Organ
Friday, Mar. 20, 7 p.m.

Catalina United Methodist Church
 2700 E. Speedway
 \$25, \$15 seniors, \$5 students

Hailed as "A world-class virtuoso" (*The American Organist*) and "an expert at defining darks,



Continued on next page

Member Programs Continued

Bradley Hunter Welch continued

lights, shadows and colors" (*Birmingham News*, Alabama), Dr. Welch is increasingly in demand as a recitalist, concerto soloist, and collaborative artist. He is the Resident Organist at the Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas and Artist-in-Residence at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church, Dallas. Bradley holds degrees from Yale University and Baylor University. He has taught at Southern Methodist University and at Baylor and was Director of Music & Arts at Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas.

Stephen Keyl, Organ Sunday, Mar. 22, 7 p.m.

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
3738 Old Sabino Canyon Road
\$15; \$10 seniors (60+) and St. Alban's members; \$5 students

Stephen Keyl, St. Alban's Director of Music and Organist, will give a complete performance of J. S. Bach's *Orgelbüchlein*. As every organist knows, the *Orgelbüchlein* is a collection of 45 short preludes on Lutheran chorales for the seasons of the church year. Within this small format, Bach gave his power of invention full play, accompanying the chorale melodies with motifs that reflect the meaning of the texts in miniatures of great variety and appeal. Come celebrate the day after Bach's birthday with one of his most colorful masterpieces!



Member Programs continued on page 8

Bach in the Subways 2020
March 19-25



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Tucson, AZ 85751
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Fax: (520) 395-1945
dahorr@comcast.net

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Membership Renewals

Please renew your AGO membership as it comes due. You can check your renewal date online. Here are the ways to renew: Go to <https://www.agohq.org/oncard-login/> where you enter your user name and password. If you've done it before and saved it, it may come up automatically. When you login, it will take you to the next page which will give you your renewal date. Just follow the directions from there!
Online using your credit/debit card. Go to the ONCARD website and follow the instructions: <https://www.agohq.org/oncard/>

Online sending a check through the mail. Go to the website <https://www.agohq.org/oncard/> and print the invoice, include your check, and mail it directly to headquarters in New York. The address is given in the form.

Surface Mail. Please contact Janet Tolman for information (tolman@wvcnet.com or 520-888-3173).

Also, please take a few minutes to update your information on AGO ONCARD. The email address, home address, and phone numbers listed on that database are used for the membership directory.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Questions may be directed to Janet Tolman, Membership Chair.

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SAAGO Chapter Programs

Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.—Tucson Home Pipe Organ Crawl. Join fellow chapter members for an exploration of organs in the homes of Laura Silva, Dusty Johnson, Jane Haman and David Wachter. Refreshments will be provided. Details regarding builders and addresses will follow. Bring some music to play.

Sunday, May 31, 5 p.m.—End of the Year Potluck Social and Membership Meeting. Plan now to attend this end-of-the-year event, which includes a general membership meeting, great food and fellowship. Dinner starts at 5:30 following the membership meeting. The Executive Committee meeting begins at 4 p.m.; members are invited to attend that as well.

Colonia Verde Clubhouse, 2700 N. Camino Valle Verde.

Article in right column written by James Reel is taken from the *Arizona Daily Star*, Monday, June 19, 1989. James Reel wrote "Custom made organs, the pride of two congregations" in which he discusses the 1980 Schlicker at CCUM and the 1986 Holtkamp at St. Philip's in the Hills. Only comments regarding the Schlicker are printed.



Schlicker Organ, Christ Church United Methodist

Member Programs Continued

Jared Aragón, Organ
Sunday, Apr. 19, 4 p.m.
Pre-Evensong Recital
St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church

Pamela Decker, Organ
Mildred Flood Mahoney Concert
Sunday, Apr 26, 4 p.m. , Free
Holsclaw Hall, University of Arizona

Janet Tolman, Organ
Sunday, May 17, 4 p.m.
Pre-Evensong Recital
St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church

Christ Church United Methodist's instrument was built in 1980 by the Schlicker Organ Co. of Buffalo, N.Y. Roy Johnson, University of Arizona organ professor, served as a consultant on the project.

The organ itself cost \$167,538; the total bill, including remodeling to accommodate the instrument, was \$224,000. Last year, the replacement cost of the organ alone was estimated to be \$300,000.

Nearly a quarter of a million dollars bought the church an organ that is impressive visually and aurally.

The oak console, on wheels for mobility, has three keyboards or manuals. The organ's 2,211 pipes of cherry and poplar, tin and lead cradled in oak casework are divided into 41 ranks (another word for stops).

The largest pipes, grand conduits for music, stretch nearly two stories toward the ceiling. The smallest are thin tubes resembling dog whistles.

And the sound? Church organist and music

director Joan Ashcraft flips a few levers at her console and demonstrates each family of pipes.

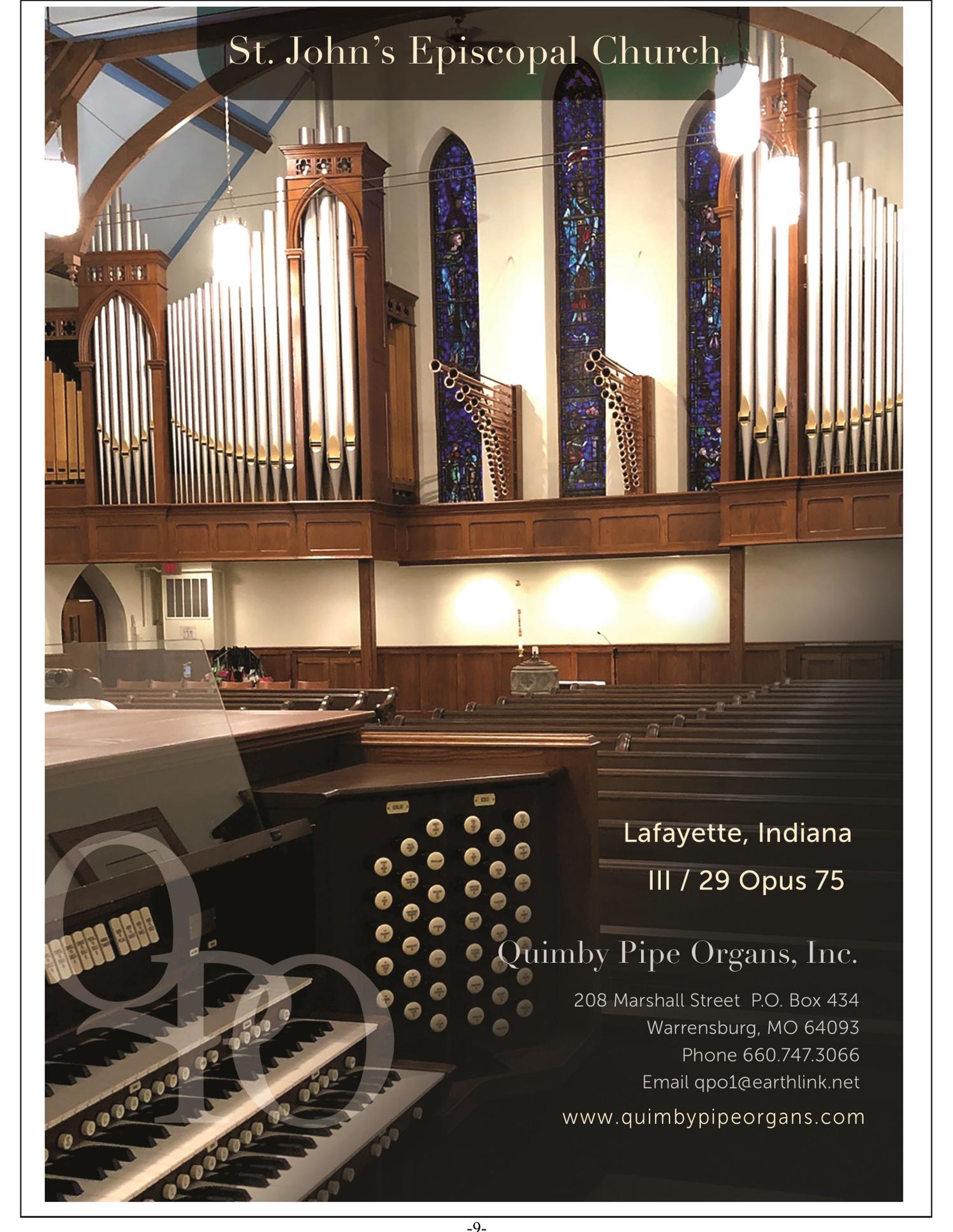
One group imitates orchestral strings with a mellow, honeyed tone. Another, the diapason, produces basic organ sound: a firm tooting. The third family, the reeds, is bright and nasal with an almost rasping edge; the bottom notes of the "bassoon" call to mind a foghorn. The fourth group, the "mixture," adds brightness, clarity, richness and variety to the sound.

At Ashcraft's feet range a series of pedals, producing the deep foundation notes, the lowest of which is aggressive and blatty. The instrument's highest note, on the other hand, is a barely audible whistle suitable for administering hearing tests.

To a degree, this is Roy Johnson's baby, and he loves it. "It's very exciting to play, very responsive," he says. "It's not without its limitations because it's not that large an instrument; it's not really well-suited to romantic repertory. Its voicing leans to baroque principles."

Baroque principles — the sound appropriate for Bach — are the specialty of the Schlicker company. Yet this is not an imitation-baroque organ; its voicing does allow forays into different literature.

"I don't think it's eclectic," says Ashcraft. "I think we've made a flexible instrument without compromising. It can handle baroque music very well, romantic music and contemporary music very satisfactorily. I'm also moved just by looking at it.



St. John's Episcopal Church

Lafayette, Indiana

III / 29 Opus 75

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Mildred Flood Mahoney Memorial Organ Recital



Pamela Decker

Sunday, April 26, 2020

Holsclaw Hall, 4:00 p.m.

Free Admission

University of Arizona faculty artist Pamela Decker will honor the family of scholarship donors James and Dhira Mahoney with a selection of works that intersect with the musical and artistic directions that they supported so generously. Dr. Decker's program will include works from the Baroque and Romantic periods, along with some American surprises.

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AGO Atlanta
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July 6-10, 2020



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. **Completed forms may be submitted to the Scholarship Committee Chair at any time.**



Grahame Scott Davis

President and Artistic Director

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