



# The CYPHER

Newsletter of the Southern Arizona Chapter  
American Guild of Organists

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

Volume 40, Number 9  
May 2021

## End-of-Season Social Gathering and Membership Meeting

**Sunday, May 23**

Membership Meeting, 4 p.m.

Light supper, 5 p.m.

Desert Skies United Methodist Church  
3255 N. Houghton Rd. (see directions opposite)

**Celebrate the end of our amazing online streaming season outdoors in-person on the patio and in the Fellowship Hall of Desert Skies United Methodist Church.**

View the mountains, visit with colleagues and enjoy time together.

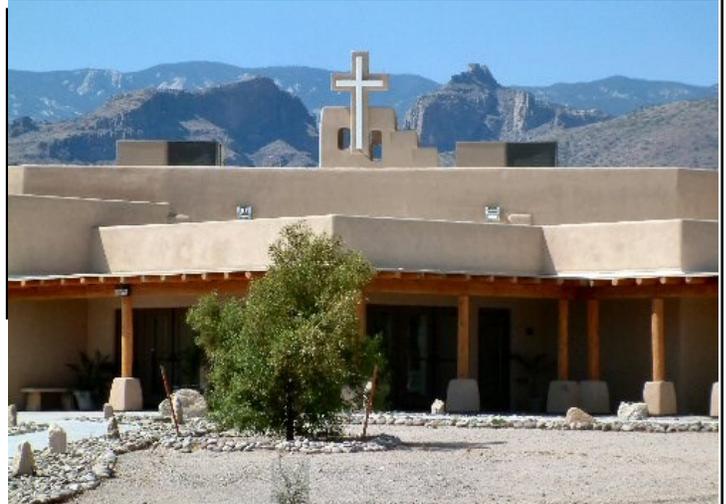
The membership meeting begins at 4 p.m. We hope you will attend. Our chapter needs your presence and your input as we look towards the 2021-2022 season and assess this past unimaginable year. Your ideas and input will be invaluable in that assessment and in planning the coming season.

Members of the Executive Committee will report on activities of this past year, ideas for next year and the state of our SAAGO finances.

Although many of us have been fully vaccinated, if you feel more comfortable wearing a mask and observing social distancing, please feel free to do so. *In any case, it will be so good to be together after this long time of meeting via Zoom.*

Our amazingly talented hospitality hostess, Joyce Swinehart, is preparing a light supper that is sure to delight the palate. And it is free so you need bring nothing except yourselves and the anticipation of enjoying the mountain views with your colleagues and friends who love the organ.

**Please RSVP to Joyce Swinehart, 520-664-6651, or [joyceehart@gmail.com](mailto:joyceehart@gmail.com), by Thursday, May 20, to reserve your meal.**



### Desert Skies United Methodist Church Driving Directions

The church is at the Northwest Corner of Houghton and Ft. Lowell Roads, but the entrances to the parking lots are off Ft. Lowell.

Our meeting will be in Fellowship Hall, so the easiest route is to take Tanque Verde east, past Catalina Highway, to the stop light at Houghton. From Tanque Verde turn left to head north on Houghton. After just over a mile, turn left onto Ft. Lowell, and then take the second drive on your right. As you drive in, use the parking lot to your left (the westernmost). The entrance to Fellowship Hall is at the southwest corner of the building.



**Patio, Desert Skies United Methodist Church**

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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 2021-2022 season are  
the 15th day of each month.**

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.

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***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 Colleagues,

In this “merry month of May” I’m thinking of Johannes Brahms, born May 7, 1833, in the slums of Hamburg, Germany. In Patrick Kavanaugh’s book “Spiritual Moments with the Great Composers”, Brahms is described as being a very modest person who typically wore old, simple clothing, even at the height of his career and fame. Taking long country walks and eating in plain roadside cafes suited him, and he was a quiet benefactor to poor people. He was particularly fond of children, though he never married or had children of his own. He was known for praising the work of other composers.

Concerning Mendelssohn, he said, “I’d give all my compositions if I could have written such a piece as the ‘Hebrides Overture’.” He threw a copy of his own sonata on the floor after playing one by Bach, saying, “After that, who could play such stuff as this?” When he was about to be toasted at a dinner by the host, “to the health of the greatest composer,” he jumped to his feet and shouted, “Quite right! Here’s to Mozart’s health!” Most of us have played his chorale preludes and can within them sense his humility. I feel Micah in him: “. . .and walk humbly with your God.” Thank you, Johannes.

We had an insightful, pleasant Zoom meeting with our chaplain, Rev. Beth Rambikur, on April 25. As far as any of us on the board knows, this was the first time a chapter meeting was devoted to getting to know our chaplain. The meeting was recorded and is available on our web site for those who missed it but would like to view it.

Can it be? YES! We plan to get together safely in person for the May meeting! We will meet at Desert Skies UMC. This is our annual meeting, which fulfills requirements for our 501(c)(3) status, so we would really like to see some of you attend that meeting. Each officer will give a very brief report of the past year, and we welcome your input and comments. Read more about it in this issue.

Your board is already talking about programs for next year and will outline them this summer, so you can save the dates.

I hope you have a “merry month of May”, and I hope to see you at our gathering.

*Dean Janet Tolman*



# CATALINA ORGAN FESTIVAL

Returning in the fall of 2021

Save the dates

Friday, November 19, 2021

Friday, February 18, 2022

more to come as artists  
are confirmed!!

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Dr. Lori Wiest, Director  
Fred Fox School of Music  
lwiest@arizona.edu

## *Roy A. Johnson Memorial Organ Series*

Dear friends,

As the newly appointed director of the Fred Fox School of Music, it is a pleasure to greet the rich organ community in Southern Arizona. I had the opportunity to work with Dr. Roy Johnson when I was a doctoral student at the University of Arizona in the late '80s, as he helped to advise me my first year in the Choral Conducting/Music Theory programs. What a wonderful, warm person! I am happy to be involved with such an outstanding organ series that honors both his legacy and his memory.

While we truly don't know what fall semester will hold for us as it relates to health during the current Covid-19 situation, we are postponing live performances, including our organ series. At this time, I would like to encourage the organ community to help strengthen the established Roy A. Johnson Memorial Organ Series Endowment at the University of Arizona. I look forward to hearing from you!

*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.*

*Co-sponsored by the Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Guild of Organists*

## Position available

Christ the King Episcopal Church is seeking a permanent organist to start in the fall. The church is located at 2800 W. Ina Road.

The church has an Aeolian-Skinner (Op. 1192) organ that was installed in the spring of 2012. More details about the organ can be found at:

<https://ctktucson.org/ministries/music/>

The organ was originally built for the First Church of Christ, Scientist, in 1949. The church was located at 5th and Country Club and was recently demolished to make way for a high density, gated community.

Contact Elena Zimmerman via email: [percypetunia@gmail.com](mailto:percypetunia@gmail.com) for further information

This position has also been posted on our chapter website (<https://saago.org>) and our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/497988863981903/>



### Notre Dame organs Update

Our Webmaster, Lars Andersen, has posted a link on our Facebook Page to an informative article about the reconstruction work that is still proceeding on the Notre Dame organs. The article is entitled ***Two Years Later: An Update on the Organs at Notre-Dame de Paris.*** Olivier Latry, titular organist at the Cathedral of Notre-Dame and professor of organ at the *Conservatoire de Paris*, discusses music at Notre-Dame, the current and planned repairs of the *grand orgue*, as well as impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic with *Vox Humana* Associate Editor Katelyn Emerson.



# VOX HUMANA

*Current ideas, trends, and research about the organ*  
An affiliate of the American Guild of Organists | Christopher Holman, *Editor*



<https://www.voxhumanajournal.com/latry2021.html>

# A pipe organ fit for a cathedral

## Meet the doctor who built his home around a pipe organ fit for a cathedral

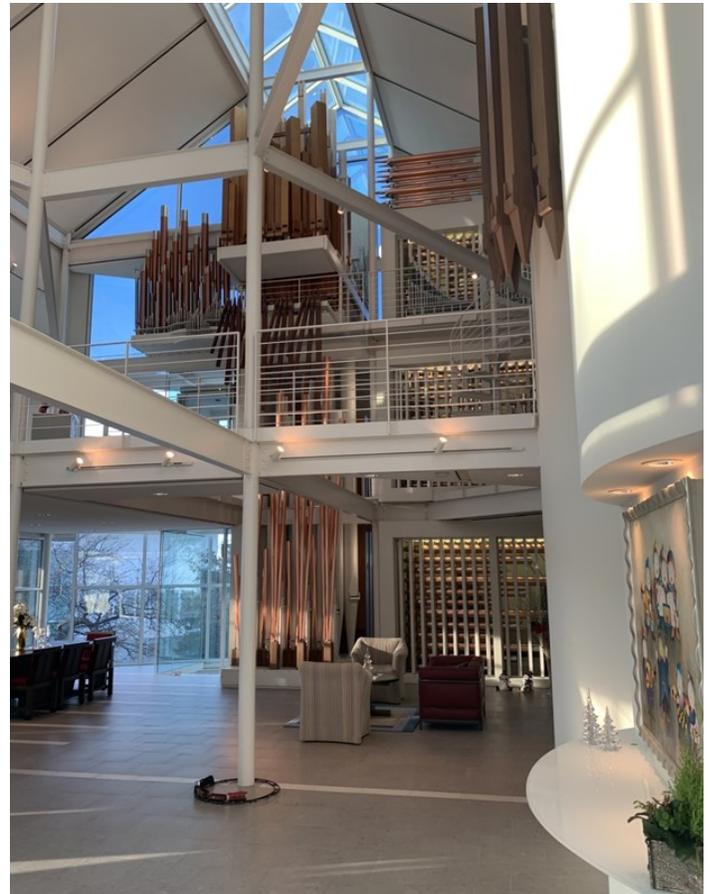
BRATENAHL, Ohio — On a private lane in Cleveland's affluent Village of Bratenahl stands an architecturally appealing home on two lots with obvious grandeur. Yet, what isn't transparent, like the ground to sky glass and concrete that encases the home, is that it was specifically built to house a 7,406-pipe organ.

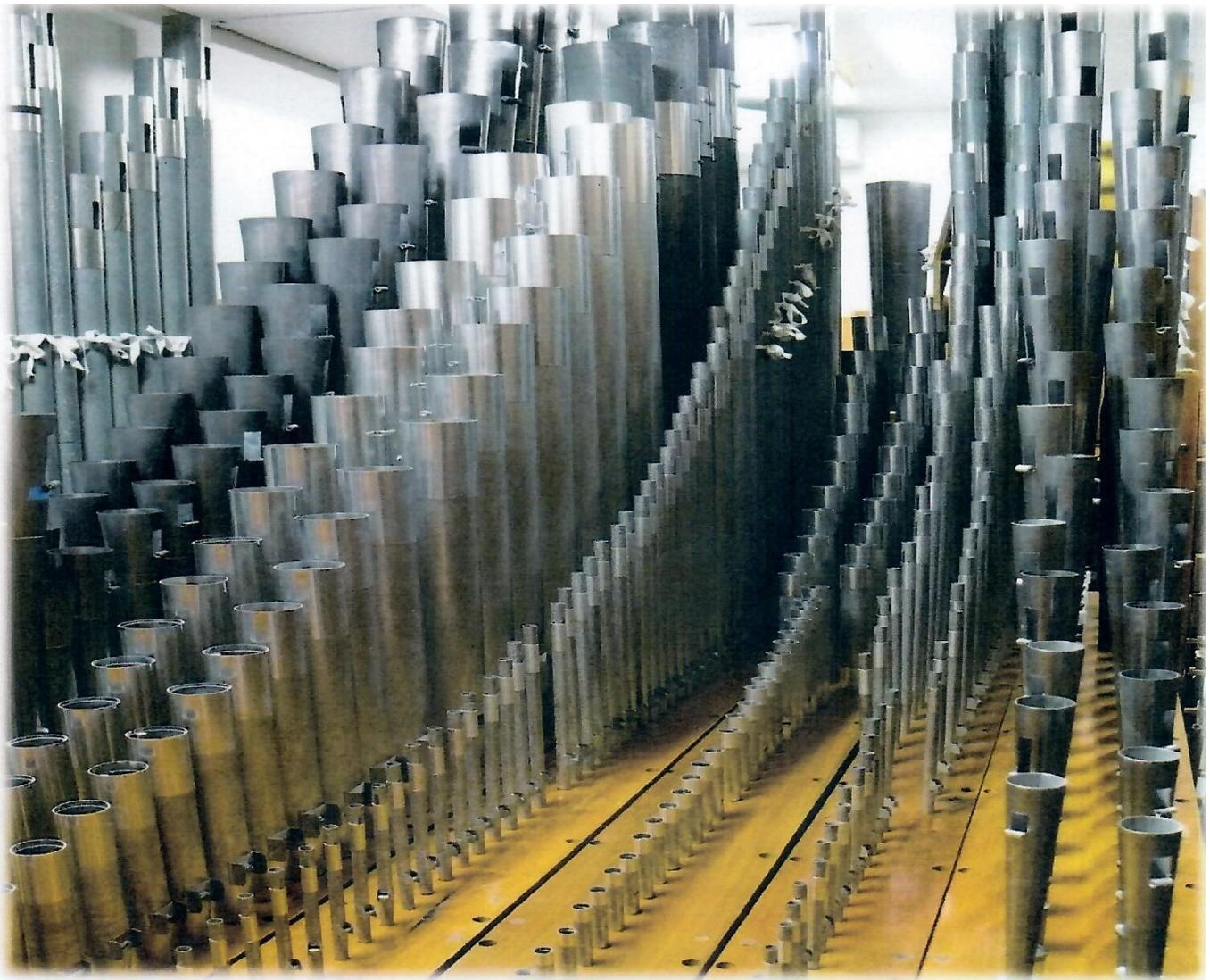
Dr. Eugene Blackstone is a cardiologist at Cleveland Clinic's renowned thoracic and cardiovascular surgery department and a professor at Case Western Reserve University. When he isn't saving lives and teaching students, he's inside his 9,000-square-foot home producing musical waves on his 20th-century Aeolian-Skinner, an instrument fit for a cathedral.

<https://www.news5cleveland.com/news/local-news/oh-cuyahoga/meet-the-doctor-who-built-his-bratenahl-home-around-a-pipe-organ-fit-for-a-cathedral>



Thanks to Jeffrey Campbell for bringing this to our attention





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## Scholarship Review Committee

A committee has been appointed to review the guidelines of the Roy Johnson Memorial Organ Scholarship. Given the recent extremely generous gift of \$10,000 in Roy's memory, it is an appropriate time to review those guidelines, particularly in light of the current environment related to the organ and organ study.

Committee members are Dave Horr, Dusty Johnson, Bill and Yvonne Kuhlman, Doug Leightenheimer, Wes Moulton, and Janet Tolman, ex officio. The committee has met once and will continue to meet to explore ways of utilizing the funds to give the organ more visibility and to attract more students to study this marvelous, multifaceted, complex instrument which requires the complete focus of the performer's intellect, physical skill and balance.



## 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.**

Home of the Roy Johnson Memorial Pipe Organ



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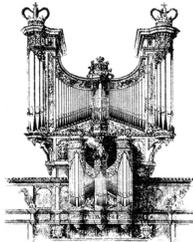
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## Renew Your Membership

- We want you to be included in our 2020-2021 Membership Directory. If it's time for you to renew, use one of the following renewal methods.
- 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 then print the AGO application form, include your check, and mail it directly to the address indicated at the bottom of the form.
- 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.
- Chapter Friends and those without computer access. Please contact Lars Andersen for information on renewal or joining as a new Chapter Friend ([L.andersen@q.com](mailto:L.andersen@q.com)) or at 520-909-9038.

***Membership Directories are being prepared and will be mailed to the membership when they are completed.***





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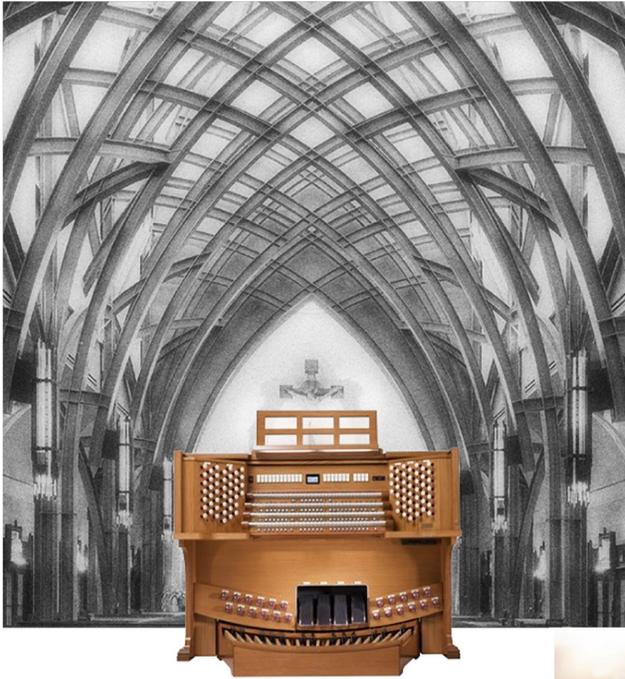
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