

# The CYPHER

Newsletter of the Southern Arizona Chapter American Guild of Organists

Chapter Website: www.saago.org

Volume 43, Number 4 December 2023

## Programs at a glance through February 2, 2024

### Bálint Karosi, Organ

Friday, Dec. 1, 7 p.m. St. Alban's Episcopal Church Donation

### **Evensong Organ Prelude**

Sunday, Dec. 17, 4:15 p.m. St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church

#### **Epiphany Social Potluck**

Saturday, Jan 6, 1:00 p.m. The Highlands Community Clubhouse, Oro Valley

## Pamela Decker's Accessible Church Music

Saturday, Jan. 13, 10 a.m.
St. Philip's in the Hills
Episcopal Church

#### Ken Cowan, Organ Catalina Organ Festival

Friday, Jan 19, 7 p.m.
Catalina United Methodist Church
\$30; \$25 seniors; \$10 students

## **Evensong Organ Prelude**

Sunday, Jan. 21, 4:15 p.m. St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church

#### Pedals, Pipes & Pizza

Saturday, Jan. 27, 10 a.m. Northminster Presbyterian Church

#### Douglas Cleveland, Organ Roy Johnson Memorial Organ Series

Friday, Feb. 2, 7 p.m. Holsclaw Hall, School of Music, U of A

# Warmest Christmas Greetings to all SAAGO Members!

## Bálint Karosi, Organ St. Alban's Organ Concert Series

Friday, December 1, 7 p.m. St. Alban's Episcopal church 3738 Old Sabino Canyon Rd. Freewill Offering

Dr. Bálint Karosi has been Cantor and Director of Music, Classical at Saint Peter's Church in Midtown Manhattan since 2015. After winning the 2008 Bach Prize in Leipzig, Bálint has been in demand as a recitalist and clinician worldwide, known for the interpretation of Bach's music and his Baroque-style improvisations. His recording portfolio includes three albums by Hungaroton, including his original orchestral works, and thirteen albums of the complete works for organ by J. S. Bach.

Also known as a composer, Bálint has studied at the Liszt Academy in his native Budapest, Hungary, the Conservatoire Superieure in

Geneva, Switzerland, and at Oberlin Conservatory in Ohio. He earned his DMA in composition at the Yale School of Music. He recently joined the faculty of the Organ Department at the University of Michigan, where he will teach organ literature, church music and improvisation. Program information on page 4.



# end the second

## **Important Notice**

Circle your calendars for January 6 SAAGO Epiphany Party and Potluck

Details on page 4



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This email will be checked by an Executive Committee member at least twice daily. You may continue to contact members using their email and phone numbers printed in the membership directory, which is not a public document.



Stardust (Dusty) Johnson, Editor (ski5@cox.net)

## Submission Deadlines for the 2023-2024 season are the 15th of each month.

NOTE: Chapter members are invited to submit program information for inclusion in THE CYPHER. We want to include your programs!

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.

Please email information to

Dusty Johnson, editor, at <a href="mailto:skj5@cox.net">skj5@cox.net</a> by the 15th of the month. 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 Southern Arizona Chapter Members,

Kenny Werner's book <u>Effortless Mastery: Liberating</u> the Master <u>Musician Within</u> has been a valuable resource for me over the past several years. I offer an excerpt from that book:

Music induces a state of ecstasy in the musician and audience. Music is there for our enjoyment and enrichment. Music is literally the sound of joy and devotion. It is a gift from God to allow us to express the incredible ecstasy of our inner nature.

I think that quote was truly realized during the annual Showcase concert on November 12 at Christ Church United Methodist. All five organists, one pianist and a clarinetist, seemed to be in the flow that elevates music to the realm of the divine. The program was varied and interesting, we ran out of printed programs because more people came than we expected (!), and the reception hosted by Dee Schultz was in a beautiful fall motif by design and food choices. It was great to have our new

chaplain, Br. Dave, there to start things off with an invocation. Many thanks go also to David Gay for pulling the program together, to Steve Keyl for doing an amazing job of emceeing and providing the printed programs, to Dave Horr for setting up the front-of-house in his usual lovely way and welcoming people, and to Christ Church for providing the sanctuary for our use.

We look forward to our typically busy Advent and Christmas seasons and then our gathering for great food and fellowship at our Epiphany social in January.

May this time of year find you in that flow of effortless mastery, sharing your gifts in a spirit of gratitude for all of life's blessings.

Dean Janet Tolman



## **Chapter and Member Programs through February**

#### Bálint Karosi continued

Dr. Karosi's program sounds a seasonal note with a Magnificat by Buxtehude and the Christmas chorales from Bach's Orgelbüchlein. It also features some recent compositions, including one by Karosi himself.

Organ Prelude and Choral Evensong

Sunday, December 17, 4:15 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church 4440 N. Campbell Ave. Freewill Offering

### **Epiphany Party—Potluck**

Saturday, January 6, 1 p.m. The Highland Community Clubhouse 332 West Matterhorn in Oro Valley.

A favorite holiday event which will be celebrated following the holidays, specifically on Epiphany, at The Highland Community Clubhouse in Oro Valley, a new venue for us. This is a wonderful opportunity to wind down from the hustle and bustle of Christmastide, and break bread with your fellow members in a delightful evening.

# Pamela Decker's Accessible Church Music

Saturday, January 13, 10 a.m. St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church 4440 N. Campbell Ave **Note the location change** Light lunch following the presentation

Dr. Decker will present various compositions of her own that would be suitable and accessible for church service use. This is an occasion for members to hear new organ music, look at the corresponding scores, and perhaps update their own repertoire!



# Ken Cowan, Organ Catalina Organ Festival

Friday, January 19, 2024, 7 p.m. Catalina United Methodist Church \$30 online, \$25 seniors 60+, \$10 student with ID card.

Ken Cowan is one of North America's finest concert organists. Praised for his



dazzling artistry, impeccable technique and imaginative programming by audiences and critics alike, he maintains a rigorous performing schedule which takes him to major concert venues and churches in America, Canada, Europe, and Asia.

## Pedals, Pipes and Pizza

#### An Introduction to the pipe organ

Saturday, January 27, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Northminster Presbyterian Church 2450 E. Fort Lowell Rd.

Everyone loves SAAGO's Pedals, Pipes and Pizza event, which is designed to give children and youth a brief introduction to the pipe organ. Students explore the instrument, including the chambers, and receive individual instruction. Watch for further details online and in an upcoming CYPHER.

# Douglas Cleveland, Organ Roy Johnson Memorial Organ Series

Friday, February 2, 2024, 7 p.m. Holsclaw Hall, School of Music, University of Arizona Park Avenue and Speedway and Blvd. Free

Douglas Cleveland, the John Delo Faculty Fellow in Organ at the University of Washington, is considered by critics and musicians to be one of America's finest concert organists. He will present a program entitled "The Tradition and Transcendence of the French Organ Symphony." The program will include the Symphonie II in E minor, Op. 20



by Louis Vierne, movements from Symphonie V in F minor, Op. 42 by Charles-Marie Widor, and *Evocation* (*Poème Symphonique*), Op. 37, by Marcel Dupré.



## **Chapter and Member Programs continued**

## Two to Improvise—Johannes and Susanna Ebenbauer

Friday, Feb. 9, <u>7:30 p.m.</u>
St Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church 4440 N. Campbell Ave.
Reception Following \$20; SAAGO members free.

Johannes and Susanna Ebenbauer will present a unique blend of organ works (Muffat, Bach and Frescobaldi), vocal works (Dowland and Byrd) and collaborative improvisation in various styles. Johannes Ebenbauer was formerly organist and director of music at St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna. Since 2013, he has been Professor for Organ and Improvisation at the University of Music and



Performing Arts in Vienna. And since October 2020, he has been head of the Institute for Organ, Organ Research and Church Music at the same university.

## David Wickerham, Organ

Fox Theatre Wurlitzer organ 17 W. Congress St. Saturday, February 17, 7:30 p.m. Tickets through Fox Theatre

Renowned theater organist, Tucsonan and University of Arizona School of Music graduate, returns to the Fox to play the Mighty Wurlitzer. Mark your calendars now for this very entertaining program!





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



Tickets \$25 seniors 60+ \$30 under 60 \$10 student With ID card

## **Advent and Christmas Programs**

## Catalina United Methodist Church

2700 E. Speedway Blvd.

**December 3, 4.pm.**—Combined CUMC and Helios Ensemble present Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of A Carols*.

December 7, 7 p.m.—La Posada Inn of Southern Arizona Benefit Concert presented by the Newoteric Chamber Choir and Divine Life Ministries Choir featuring music by Whitacre, Hailstork, Campbell and a world premiere by Alison Wahl. \$10/person, students free with ID.

## Christ Church United Methodist

655 N. Craycroft Rd.

**December 17, 10 a.m.**—Choir, organ and instruments will present *Invitation to a Miracle*, a Christmas cantata by Joseph M. Martin.

### **El Camino Baptist Church**

7777 E. Speedway Blvd.

**December 10, 4 p.m.**—Choir and Orchestra will present "Sing Christmas" composed and arranged by Joel Raney & Mary McDonald; directed by David Eckert.

## **Northminster Presbyterian Church**

2450 E. Fort Lowell Rd.

**Advent Courtyard Music--**Choral and instrumental music presented in the courtyard each week of Advent following services of worship.

**December 5, 9:45 a.m.**--Sanctuary Choir presentation of Christmas portions of *Messiah*, Handel's masterpiece with soloists, organ and a 10-piece chamber orchestra directed by John Brobeck during the worship service.

**December 24, 7 p.m.**—Christmas music for organ, voices, and instruments, followed by a traditional service of Candlelight Carols at 7:30 p.m.

## St. Philips in the Hills Episcopal Church 4440 N Campbell Ave.

**December 17**, **4:15 p.m.**—Seasonal Organ Music of Bach and Pachelbel, performed by Dr. Jeffrey Campbell.

**4:30 p.m.**—Choral Evensong sung by the Saint Nicholas Treble Choristers and Adult Schola Cantorum featuring choral music by Sumsion and Appel. Freewill offering supports the choir's 2024 Summer UK Choral Residency at Lincoln Cathedral.

**December 24, 7 p.m.**—A Service of Nine Lessons & Carols, sung by the Saint Nicholas Treble Choristers and Adult Schola Cantorum. This service is modelled

on the Lessons & Carols service of King's College, Cambridge. Music of Warlock, Britten, Mathias and Willcocks, with favorite carols sung by all. Freewill Offering supports the choir's 2024 Summer UK Choral Residency at Lincoln Cathedral

**December 24, 9 p.m. and 11 p.m.—**These services feature carols for choir, organ and brass, as well as the festive "Missa ad Praesepe" by George Malcolm.

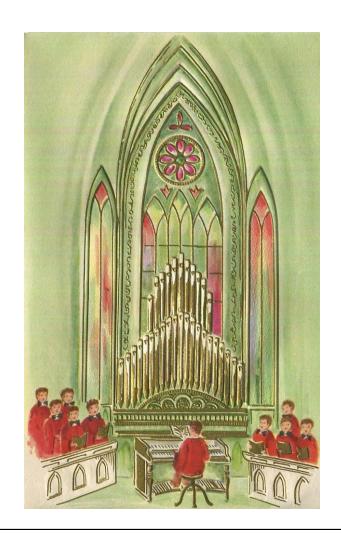
## Trinity Presbyterian Church

400 E University Blvd.

**December 3, 11:30 a.m**. -- Greening of the Sanctuary service. Please join us as we finish decorating the sanctuary, sing some carols, & explore the meaning behind many of our Christmas decorating traditions.

**December 10, 11:30 a.m.** -- A Jazzy Holiday -- Advent mini-concert with the Trinity Jazz Ensemble.

**December 17, 10:20 a.m.** -- The Trinity Choir and orchestra present "O Holy Light," a Christmas cantata by Mary McDonald, followed by an Advent miniconcert with a string quartet made up of TSO musicians.



## **Children's Choir Festival**

# Invitation to participate in a Children's Choir Festival

## Young Voices Rejoice!

Tucson's 7th annual Children's Church Choir Festival

Saturday, February 10, 2024 10 am-3 pm St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church 5150 Valley View Rd.



The festival is open to all children's choirs in Tucson churches. The day will include rehearsals, games/activities, choir chimes, lunch and a performance for family

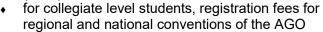
and friends. Interested choirs can choose to sing individually and/or in the massed choir. Interested directors should contact the sponsoring director Gloria Day (Northminster Presbyterian Church) at gjeanned@aol.com

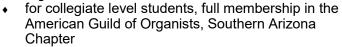
## **Roy Johnson Memorial Scholarship**

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)





Scholarship awards for organ study will range from \$350 to \$1500. For educational events, the scholarship will cover the cost of registration.





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#### 2023 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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## **Recap of Showcase Concert**

Our annual Showcase Concert featuring some of our own SAAGO Members and guest artists was a tremendous success, including very good attendance. The performers presented a wide variety of organ compositions as well as compositions for organ/piano and organ/clarinet. The variety of compositions demonstrated the versatility of the Schlicker organ and made the program especially interesting. The afternoon concluded with a lovely reception. Thanks to all the performers and their guests artists and to Dee Schultz and Cathy Kennedy for the enticing reception. And special thanks to Steve Keyl for his excellent commentary as host and for preparing the programs!!!





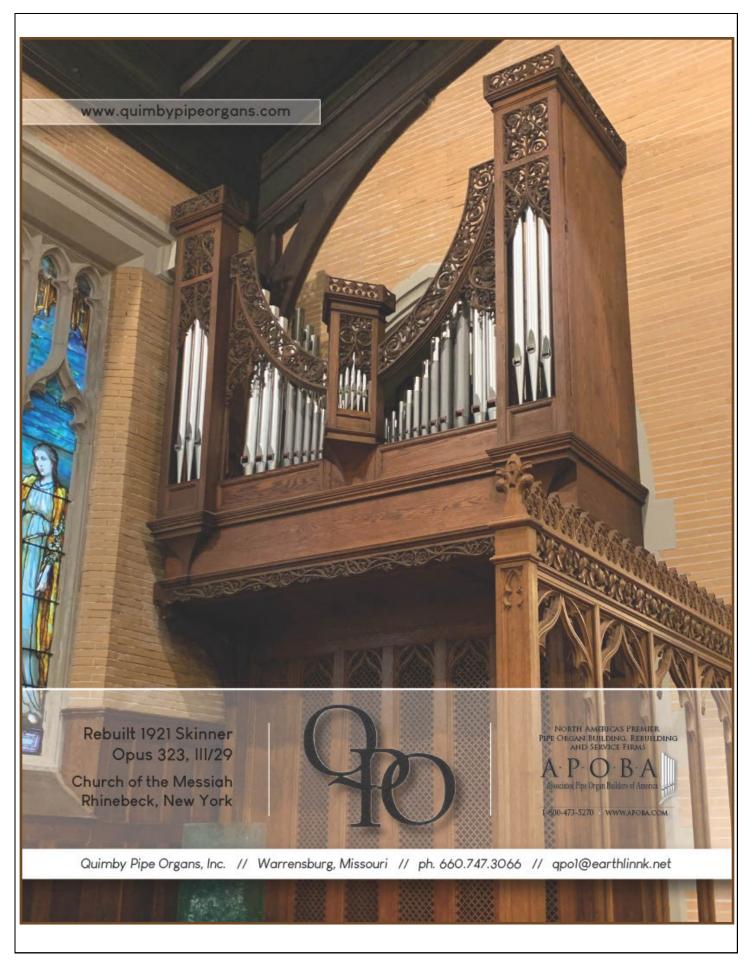


And thanks to the organ!



Carolyn Smith, Lynn Moser, Carolyn Rapp, Rudolph Rostash, Janet Tolman, Bill Kuhlman, Yvonne Kuhlman, Steve Keyl





## **Recipient of Roy Johnson Memorial Scholarship**

# Congratulations to Sophie Martinez, Johnson Scholarship Recipient

Sophie has been awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$1500 from the Roy Johnson Memorial Organ Scholarship Fund. Sophie is a dual member with SAAGO and the Central AZ chapter and is the granddaughter of Roy Johnson. Sophie graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in May with an organ minor and is currently a graduate student at Princeton Seminary where she is studying organ with Dr. Eric Plutz, Princeton University organist. She has also become involved with the Central New Jersey chapter of the AGO. In addition, she is choir accompanist at the Dutch Neck Presbyterian Church in nearby New Windsor, NJ.



Left: Sophie seated at the Fritts Organ, Op 20/ 2000, 2m/39s in the seminary chapel.

She says the instrument is fabulous and wonderful to play.

The beautiful Fritts Organ in the seminary chapel where it is played and heard for all seminary chapel services and where it also serves as the accompanying instrument for the chapel choir.





Ghirlandaio, Adoration of the Shepherds, 1488





## Membership Renewals

## god Jul och Gott Nytt År

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- We want you to be included in our current 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.agohg.org/oncard/
- 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 (LarsAndersen@tvlc.org) at 520-909-9038.

Membership Directories have been distributed. If you have not received yours, please contact David Horr at dahorr@comcast.net

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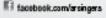


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