

# The CYPHER

Newsletter of the Southern Arizona Chapter American Guild of Organists

Chapter Website: www.saago.org

Volume 43, Number 6 February 2024

### Programs at a glance through March 17, 2024

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

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

### Two to Improvise— Johannes and Susanna Ebenbauer

Friday, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church

#### Janet Tolman, Organ Sunday, Feb. 11, 7 p.m. St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church Sierra Vista

#### **David Wickerham, Organ** Fox Theatre Wurlitzer organ Saturday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m. Tickets through Fox Theatre

#### Evensong Organ Prelude Sunday, Feb 18, 4:15 p.m. St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church

#### Stephen Keyl Organ Sunday, March 3, 3 p.m. St. Alban's Episcopal Church Donation

### Play Tucson's Major Organs

Saturdays, March 9 & 16 Various instruments

### Evensong Organ Prelude Sunday, March 17, 4:15 p.m. St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church

## Two to Improvise Johannes and Susanne Ebenbauer

### Friday, February 9, 7:30 p.m.

St Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church 4440 N. Campbell Ave. Reception Following \$20; SAAGO members and students free.

SAAGO presents Viennese organist Johannes
Ebenbauer and soprano Susanne Ebenbauer on their
U.S. concert tour. Johannes 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. He is currently head of the Institute for
Organ, Organ Research and Church Music at the same
university. He regularly conducts at the Hofmusikkapelle
in Vienna and performs collaboratively in improvisation



Continued on page 4

with his wife Susanne, soprano, who is a member of the Vienna Radio Symphony Chorus and the renowned Arnold Schoenberg Choir. She performs regularly in concerts throughout Europe.

Johannes will present a unique blend of works from Bach, Frescobaldi, Byrd, Dowland and Muffat which will be juxtaposed with improvisation in various baroque and contemporary styles. He and Susanne will improvise together in an exhilarating performance of notated and improvised music through the ages.

### Douglas Cleveland, Organ Roy Johnson Memorial Organ Series Friday, February 2, 7 p.m.

Holsclaw Hall, School of Music, University of Arizona Park Avenue and Speedway and Blvd. Free for SAAGO members

Organist Douglas Cleveland will present a program entitled "The Tradition and Transcendence of the French Organ Symphony." This 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,



### AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

### SOUTHERN ARIZONA CHAPTER

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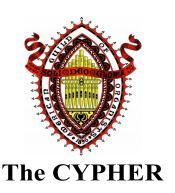
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To contact an Executive Committee member by email or phone, please use your membership directory.

Our chapter has a generic email address:

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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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Contact Fern Hieb, Advertising Chair (barryfern68@gmail.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...

Dear Southern Arizona Chapter Members,

The greatest achievement was at first and for a time a dream. The oak tree sleeps in the acorn, the bird waits in the egg, and in the highest vision of the soul, a waking angel stirs. Dreams are the seedlings of reality.

James Allen

All the events that are available for you through SAAGO began as dreams, really, and the Program Committee, chaired by sub-dean David Gay, along with many other hands, makes those dreams realities.

The annual Pedals, Pipes & Pizza event took place at Northminster Presbyterian Church on January 27. There are many to thank, and I risk missing someone, but special thanks to Raymond Ryder, David Horr, John Brobeck, Cathie Kennedy, and to the church.

Note that Doug Cleveland is performing French literature in the Roy Johnson Series on February 2. SAAGO is co-sponsoring this concert and members will be admitted free.

We all look forward to the February 9 event at St. Philip's In the Hills Episcopal Church, "Two to Improvise". Johannes and Susanne Ebenbauer promise an inspiring program of organ and vocal works. SAAGO members may attend without charge, although a donation would be appreciated, I'm sure.

Please watch for information about the rescheduled workshop that will introduce us to accessible music by composer Dr. Pamela Decker. This was scheduled for January 13, but postponed because of an issue with the venue.

Those who attended the January 19 concert by Ken Cowan at Catalina United Methodist Church, part of

the Catalina Organ Festival series, came away in awe of the artist's facility, musicality, and his playing the entire program from memory.

January 28 was the date of the recital by Felix Hell at Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior in Green Valley was also stunning. Southern Arizona has many fine venues for recitals, and we don't have to travel very far.

Maintaining our smorgasbord of offerings, look for details about the March events in this newsletter, on the SAAGO website, or on Facebook. Thanks to Dusty Johnson, Steve Keyl and Lars Andersen, respectively, for keeping information up to date.

Those of us in churches that observe the liturgical calendar are preparing for Ash Wednesday on February 14, which happens also to be Valentine's Day. Talk about love!

Do you know that Sunday, March 10, is Woman Composer Sunday? It would be a credit to women composers if you select music written by women for that Sunday.

I close with a quote from our national chaplain, Rev. Dahn Dean Gandell (February 2024 TAO):

Music is so important in troubled times because it can unify us in a way that is unique.

Don't stop dreaming, no matter what, and be a unifying force wherever you go and whatever you do.

Dean Janet Tolman

### **Chapter and Member Programs through April**

### Douglas Cleveland, Organ Continued from page 1

and Évocation (Poème Symphonique), Op. 37, by Marcel Dupré. The Vierne work was the composer's first cyclical symphony for solo organ. Dupré's Évocation is comprised of three movements: an opening that introduces the drama and color of this large-scale work dedicated to his father, Albert Dupré; a lyrical slow movement;



and a vigorous, powerful dance-like final movement that is a pinnacle and an exclamation mark for this program of French symphonic tradition in the twentieth century.

Cleveland is considered by critics and musicians to be one of America's finest concert organists. He has been on the music faculties of St. Olaf College, Northwestern University, and the University of Washington. He has served as Director of Music at Plymouth Church in Seattle and is currently Director of Music at St. Thomas Medina Episcopal Church and Musician in Residence at Temple De Hirsch Sinai in Seattle.

Co-sponsored by SAAGO.

Livestreamed at music.arizona.edu/live

### Janet Tolman, Organ

Sunday, February 11, 7 p.m. St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church 800 Taylor Dr., Sierra Vista Freewill Offering

Janet Tolman has served as organist/accompanist at Christ Church United Methodist since March 2009, and plays handbells with the Christ Church Ringers. She graduated *magna cum laude* from Washburn University of Topeka, Kansas, with a bachelor of music degree in organ performance and a



minor in piano performance. Janet is currently dean of the chapter, as well as a former chapter dean and a district convener for the Grand Canyon District of the AGO. She has composed for piano, organ, mixed vocal ensemble and solo voice.

### David Wickerham, Organ

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

This renowned theater organist, Tucsonan and University of Arizona School of Music graduate returns to the Fox to play the Mighty Wurlitzer. If you've heard Wickerham before, you'll know this is a not to miss event. Mark your calendars now for this very entertaining program!



### **Organ Prelude and Choral Evensong**

Sunday, February 18, 4:15 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church 4440 N. Campbell Ave. Free-will Offering

### Stephen Keyl, Organ St. Alban's Organ Concert Series

Sunday, March 3, 3 p.m. St. Alban's Episcopal Church 3738 Old Sabino Canyon Road Freewill offering

Stephen Keyl studied organ with Fenner Douglass, Andrew Clarke, and Robert G. Barrow. He received a Ph.D. in musicology from Duke University with a dissertation on the Renaissance organist Arnolt Schlick. He is Director of music at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Tucson, and served for ten years on the faculty of the University of Arizona School of Music.



### **Chapter and Member Programs continued**

### **Play Tucson's Major Organs**

Two Saturdays, March 9 & March 16

Chapter members are invited to play some of Tucson's larger pipe organs over two Saturdays in March: the 9th and the 16th. This is a great opportunity to enjoy playing some of Tucson's finest instruments. Signup information and updates will be provided closer to the dates. The instruments and their available dates are identified below.

#### March 9

Catalina United Methodist Church (Quimby, four manuals, 57 ranks)

Christ Church United Methodist (Schlicker, three manuals, 41 ranks)

St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church (Holtkamp, three manuals, 46 ranks)

#### March 16

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church (Aeolian-Skinner/Pipe Organ Artisans, three manuals, 64 ranks)

Northminster Presbyterian Church (Quimby, three manuals, 41 ranks)

### Lux Aeterna- Vespers in honor of Padre Kino

Sunday, March 17, 2 p.m. St. Andrew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church 800 Taylor Dr., Sierra Vista Freewill Offering

Concert featuring Carlos Zapien, Tucson-based musician, singer, pianist, cultural manager and composer, who was born in Ciudad Obregón, Sonora, and the St. Augustine Cathedral Schola.

### Organ Prelude and Choral Evensong

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

Lent Begins Wednesday, February 14







CATALINA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2700 E. SPEEDWAY BOULEVARD, TUCSON www.catalinamethodist.org/organ-festival/



Tickets \$25 seniors \$30 under 60 \$10 student with ID

### **Chapter and Member Programs continued**

### Nathan Laube, Organ Catalina Organ Festival

Friday, March 22, 7 p.m.
Catalina United Methodist Church
\$30 online, \$25 seniors 60+, \$10 student with ID card.
Free to SAAGO members

Nathan Laube, Associate
Professor of Organ at the
Eastman School of Music,
Rochester, New York, is a
leading performer and
pedagogue who has earned high
praise from critics and peers
alike. Prior to his appointment at
Eastman, he was on the organ



faculty at the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Stuttgart, Germany. He is also International Consultant in Organ Studies at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire in the United Kingdom.

### **Green Valley Organ Crawl**

Saturday, April 13

Meet at Catalina Methodist Church at 9:15 a.m.

Four organs are included in the Green Valley Organ Crawl. They are listed below in order of location, from North to South and in order of the times for each visit...

**10:00 a.m.,** United Methodist Church of Green Valley 300 W. Esperanza Blvd.

Linda Truesdell, Organist and Music Director Organ: Reuter, 1980, 35 ranks & Walker digital ranks

**11:00 a.m.,** Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior 555 S. La Canada Drive

Patricia Leege, Director of Music and Organist Organ: Holtkamp, 2015, 33 ranks

**12:00 noon,** St. Francis in The Valley Episcopal Church

600 S. La Canada Drive

Michael Case, Organist; Gerald Near, Music Director Organ: Rodgers digital, 2001, three manual 45 ranks

### 1:00 p.m. box lunch in the St. Francis Church courtyard

**1:30 p.m.,** Valley Presbyterian Church 2800 S. Camino Del

Janet Brachel, Organist

Organ: Rodgers Infinity 367, 2023, three manuals Organs AZ will have someone on hand to demonstrate the new instrument at Valley Presbyterian.

#### 2:30 p.m. Approximate end of tour.

### Green Valley Organ Crawl continued.

Plan to meet at the East parking lot of Catalina United Methodist Church (2700 E. Speedway) at 9:15 a.m. The drive to Green Valley should take approximately 40 minutes. Stop lists and other information about the churches will be available during the tour.

### **A Young Performers Recital**

Sunday, April 21, 2 p.m. St. Andrew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church 800 Taylor Dr., Sierra Vista Freewill Offering

A special organ performance program featuring organ students from Sierra Vista and Tucson

### Carolyn Smith, Organ St. Alban's Organ Concert Series

Sunday, April 24, 3 p.m. St. Alban's Episcopal Church 3738 Old Sabino Canyon Road Freewill offering

A long-time church organist in Tucson, England and Scotland, Carolyn holds a Masters Degree in English Church Music from the University of East Anglia in conjunction with Cambridge University. She also holds a degree in organ performance from the University of Arizona. She is Organist and Chancel Choir Accompanist at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.





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- 63 workshops covering a wide range of topics.

### **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

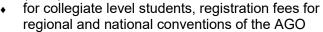
and friends. Interested choirs can choose to sing individually and/or in the massed choir. Interested directors should contact the sponsoring director Gloria Day (Northminster Presbyterian Church) at gjeanned@aol.com

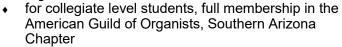
### **Roy Johnson Memorial Scholarship**

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.

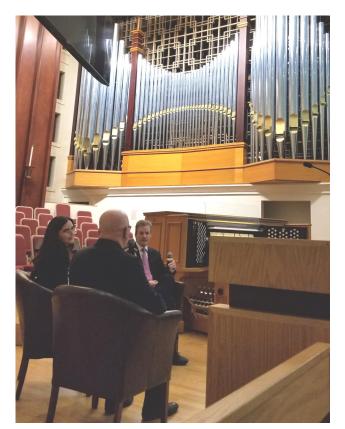
The installation of the beautiful Schoenstein organ given by Isabelle Harris, in a hall designed for the organ, was the fulfillment of his vision for a flourishing organ program.

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



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### **Photos Ken Cowan program**



Photos, Mark Stockwell

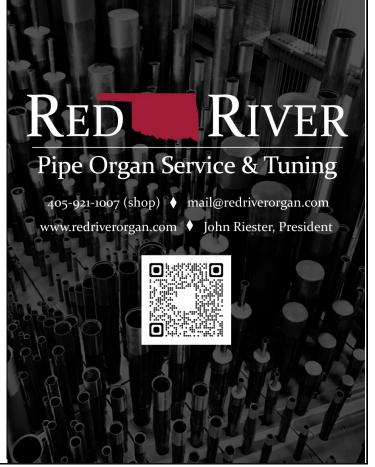
### **February Birthdays**

### Some of the truly 'greats' born in February. . .

George Frideric Handel (1675-1759)
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
Gioachino Rossini (1792-1868)
Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713)
Charles Marie Widor (1844-1937)
Carl Czerny (1791-1857)
Hubert Parry (1848-1918)
Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)
Luigi Boccherini (1743-1805)



Widor, Toccata (from Symphony for Organ No. 5)



### Membership Renewals

### **Membership Renewal Information**

- 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.

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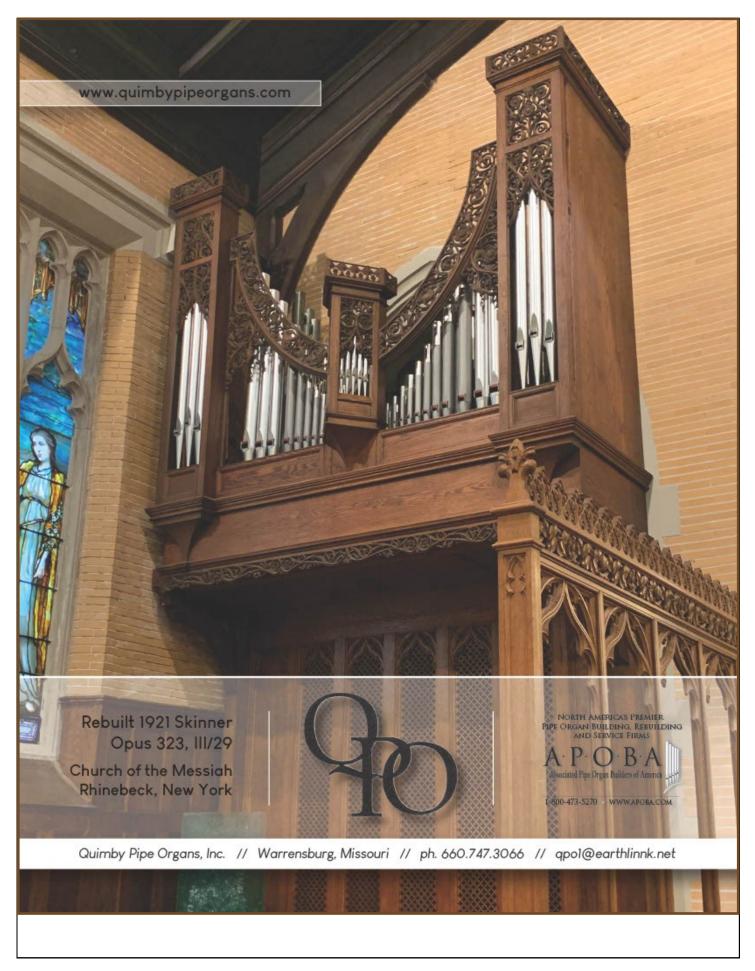
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— Charles Marie Widor

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