

The CYPHER

Newsletter of the Southern Arizona Chapter American Guild of Organists

Chapter Website: www.saago.org

Volume 43, Number 7 March 2024

Programs at a glance through March 22, 2024

Janet Tolman, Organ Friday, March 1, 7 p.m. Christ Church United Methodist

Pamela Decker's Accessible Church Music Saturday, March 2, 10 a.m. St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church

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

Northminster Music Sunday Sanctuary Choir Sunday, March 10, 9:45 a.m.

Northminster Presbyterian Church

Play Tucson's Larger Organs

Saturdays, March 9 and 16 Various organs

Old Passion Sunday Choral Music

Sunday, March 17, 2 p.m. St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church

Lux Aeterna-Vespers in

honor of Padre Kino Sunday, March 17, 2 p.m. St. Andrew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church Sierra Vista

Nathan Laube, Organ Catalina Organ Festival Friday, March 22, 7 p.m. Catalina United Methodist Church \$30; \$25 seniors; \$10 students

Focus on March programs. . .

Pamela Decker Accessible Church Music Workshop Saturday, March 2, 10 a.m.

St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church 4440 N. Campbell Ave Light lunch following the presentation

Dr. Pamela Decker, Professor of Organ and Music Theory at the University of Arizona and winner of the UA Koffler Prize for Research/Creative Activity, will present various compositions of her own that would be suitable and accessible for church service use. This is a unique opportunity for members to hear original organ music and look at some corresponding scores.



Play Tucson's Larger Organs Two Saturdays, March 9 and 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. The instruments and their available dates are identified below. **Signup information can be found on page 8.**

March 9

Catalina United Methodist Church Christ Church United Methodist St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church March 16 St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church

Northminster Presbyterian Church



St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

SOUTHERN ARIZONA CHAPTER

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

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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:

southernarizonaago@gmail.com.

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.



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 <u>skj5@cox.net</u> by the 15th of the month. You may also send it via U.S. mail.

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T o 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 Nominating Committee (Lars Andersen, Cathie Kennedy, Carolyn Smith) has worked thoroughly and faithfully to come up with a slate of officers for the approaching election. So many of us feel we simply cannot assume another responsibility in our lives, and I respect and honor that, and deeply appreciate those of you who are stepping up to keep this chapter alive and thriving. It takes many minds and hands.

The Program Committee, under the leadership of sub-dean David Gay, is meeting regularly to line up exciting programs for next season, and their enthusiasm and diligence will undoubtedly result in events we won't want to miss.

I hope you will take time to read the article In the March 2024 edition of *The American Organist* about our own Dr. Pamela Decker's composition *The Seven Last Words and Triumph of Christ*, page 34 ff. The article is a wonderful tribute to a stellar composer and organist, and she is right here in Tucson! We are honored to have Dr. Decker in our midst and an active member of our chapter.

There is much to look forward to: the Tucson large organs event March 9 and 16, the organ crawl in Green Valley on April 3, the Fox Theater organ demonstration (with hands-on time) on May 6, then our annual meeting with food and fellowship on June 2. There's no moss gathering on us!!

With all this going on, we are now deep into Lent, with Easter on the horizon. I hope you take time during this season to reflect and strengthen the journey you have chosen to take, and then to celebrate Easter with joy and gratitude.

Dean Janet Tolman

Note: Dr. Decker's Accessible Church music workshop takes place Saturday, March 2. at 10 a.m.



Chapter and Member Programs through April

Janet Tolman, Organ

Friday, March 1, 7 p.m. Christ Church United Methodist 655 N Craycroft Rd. Free

Organist Janet Tolman, SAAGO chapter dean, will present "Rex: The King of Instruments," with Rudolph Rostash on clarinet and John Neve as narrator. Appropriate for all ages!



Janet 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. She has composed for piano, organ, mixed vocal ensemble and solo voice.

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 Free. Donations accepted.

Organist Stephen Keyl will perform music of Buxtehude, Bruhns, Sweelinck, Bach, and more on the Fritts organ at St. Alban's, an instrument ideally suited to this repertoire. Also featured is a recent echo of this great tradition: Pamela Decker's "Praeludium," composed in homage to Buxtehude.



In addition to Pamela Decker's

"Praeludium," the program will include the Praeludium in G by Nikolaus Bruhns, the Fantasia super Ut Re Mi Fa Sol La by Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck, the Fantasia on Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern by Dieterich Buxtehude, and the Fantasia and Fugue in G minor (BWV 542) by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Dr. 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.

Northminster Music Sunday

Sunday, March 10, 9:45 a.m. Northminster Presbyterian Church 2450 E. Fort Lowell Rd.

The Northminster Sanctuary Choir will present a program of psalm settings by English cathedral composers in Sunday morning worship under the direction of Dr. Thomas Cockrell, conductor, and Dr. John T. Brobeck, organist.

Works to be performed include Benjamin Britten, Jubilate Deo (Ps. 100), Ralph Vaughan Williams, O How Amiable (Ps. 84), Herbert Howells, Like as the Hart (Ps. 42), and Vaughan Williams, O Clap Your Hands (Ps. 47). Dr. Cockrell is Director of Orchestras at the UA, and Dr. Brobeck is the Director of Graduate Studies in the School of Music, in addition to leading traditional music ministries at Northminster.

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.

Old Passion Sunday Choral Music

Sunday, March 17, 2 p.m. St. Philip's in the Hills 4440 N. Campbell Ave. Free. Donations accepted

On Old Passion Sunday, the Choir of Saint Philip's In the Hills will sing a program of choral music to anticipate Holy Week. British composer, pianist, and psychoanalyst Francis Grier's exotic choral meditation on the passion of Christ, *Sword in the Soul*, incorporates texts from both Eastern and Western Christian sources, Grier's exuberant and moving style, a soulful cello solo played by Mary Beth Tyndall, and dramatic readings written by Rowan Williams and presented between movements. This deeply moving program concludes with Ēriks Ešenvalds' lush and atmospheric *In Paradisum* for choir, viola, and cello solos. Donations to the Saint Philip's music program gratefully accepted.

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. His extensive recital career includes venues spanning four continents and he is a regular guest at the most important organ festivals around the world.

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 and 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.

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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- 25 concert venues, plus three additional pre- and post-convention options.
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- Outstanding performances showcasing a variety of musical styles.
- Nine new compositions commissioned especially for the convention, as well as three additional commissions from the national AGO.
- The St. Cecilia recital performed by a woman for the first time in its history.
- A masterclass by David Higgs.
- 63 workshops covering a wide range of topics.

Chapter and Member Programs *continued*

Wurlitzer at the Fox Theatre "Hands On"

Monday, May 6, 6:30 p.m. 17 W. Congress St.

The details are still being confirmed but this should be a particularly interesting program and opportunity to play the Wurlitzer at the Fox Theatre. Details and sign up times will be provided as they are made available.

All the Bells and Whistles: Mother's Day Concert

Sunday, May 12, 4 p.m. Christ Church United Methodist 655 N. Craycroft Rd.

A musical celebration with Organ, handbells, choir, instrumentalists, and piano; with Janet Tolman, organist and Dean, SAAGO and John Neve, handbell director and member of SAAGO. This event benefits the Christ Church Food Bank. Attendees are requested to bring nonperishable food items.

Summer Social and Membership Meeting

Sunday, June 2, 4 p.m. Colonia Verde Club House 2700 N. Camino Valle Verde

Nathan Laube

Professor of Organ

Eastman School of Music

Rochester, NY

Fri. Mar. 22, 2024

7 p.m.

The annual members' meeting will take place at 4 p.m. followed by a potluck dinner and fellowship time.

IN MEMORIAM

Thomas Clark (1941-2024)

It is with great sadness that we announce that Thomas Clark, a member of our chapter since 2008, passed away on February 2, 2024, at home after a long illness. Thomas was a member of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church and was a regular participant in Contemplative Prayer and the Taizé services as well as a lover of his church's musical traditions.

At Tom's request, a simple private service took place at Adair Funeral Home.



Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to they word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people.

We extend our deepest sympathy to all those who mourn.

"In short, it was fascinating, extr — and Laube de making it a deep

fascinating, extravagant fun — and Laube delivered, making it a deep musical experience." www.timesargus.com

Laube played this music with effortless virtuosity." ArtsNash.com, October 2013

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



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

Thanks for Johnson Scholarship

Roy Johnson Memorial Scholarship

Dear SAAGO Scholarship Committee,

Thanks very much to the SAAGO for the generous scholarship. The support of the SAAGO has been instrumental in helping me achieve my goals and continue with organ studies. I am studying with Eric Plutz, the organist of Princeton University, and having lessons on the Fritts at Princeton Seminary. I am also working as a rehearsal accompanist, and occasional Sunday substitute, at a local Presbyterian church.

Again, I am grateful for the continued support of the SAAGO!

Sincerely,

Sophie Martinez Grad student, Princeton Theological Seminary 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 \$1500. For educational events, the scholarship will cover the cost of registration.

An application form may be found online at <u>www.saago.org</u>. *Completed forms may be submitted to the Scholarship Committee Chair at any time.*



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For more information, contact David Boulton

(undergraduate advisor) at davidboulton@arizona.edu



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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS School of Music

Play Tucson's Larger Pipe Organs—Sign-up Information

Play Tucson's larger pipe organs—list of instruments and sign-up information.

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—pictured on the first page) Northminster Presbyterian Church
- (Quimby, three manuals, 46 ranks)

To provide ample opportunities for all to participate, we ask that the following guidelines be observed:

- For now, only sign up for one slot on one instrument. If slots remain open within a week of the event, additional signup opportunities may be offered.
- The playing opportunities will be first come, first served, and for now will be reserved to chapter members.
- If the venue is fully subscribed, we can inquire about opening additional playing slots.
- Any questions or concerns can be addressed to Stan Kartchner at <u>ago@kartchner.bz</u>, 520-742-3696 (home), 520-784-4040 (cell)

To sign up for a 45-minute slot on one the instruments, please use this link: <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4FADAF2EA1F49-47575320-playing</u>.

An account is not required to sign up.

This is a welcome opportunity, and we extend our appreciation to the respective churches for making these wonderful instruments available to us.



Quimby, Northminster Presbyterian Church



Quimby, Catalina United Methodist Church



Schlicker, Christ Church United Methodist



Holtkamp, St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church

Chaplain's Message

The Rev. Canon David Benedict Hedges



As we proceed through the season of Lent and into Holy Week and Easter, please be assured that my prayers are with all of you who are church musicians. This most sacred time of year is the most strenuous for the clergy and musicians, and other liturgical leaders. Some of you will be observing several continuous

days of emotionally and physically draining services. This is the time when you will have the largest congregations present all year - a time when your work contributes to the worship offered by more people than any other Sunday.

As these days draw near, I can't help but think of the fact that at the end of the Last Supper, Jesus and his disciples sang a hymn (Matthew 26:30, Mark 14:26). F. Pratt Green remembers it in verse, in his beloved hymn, "When in our music God is glorified." He writes, and the Church sings: And did not Jesus sing a hymn that night when utmost evil strove against the Light? Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight, Alleluia!

Let us indeed sing (in vocal song and with the organ too!) for God and for God's people this Lent, Holy Week, and Easter!

The Rev. Canon David Benedict Hedges, BSG Rector, Saint Michael and All Angels Church (520) 886-7292 Emails are checked Tuesday through Friday

March Birthdays

Johann Sebastian Bach. (1685 - 1750) Frédéric Chopin (1810 - 1849) Antonio Vivaldi (1678 - 1741) Joseph Haydn (1732 - 1809) Maurice Ravel (1875 - 1937) Béla Bartók (1881 - 1945) Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844 - 1908) Modest Mussorgsky (1839 - 1881) The Nominating Committee has completed its work, and the proposed slate of officers for the 2022-2024 term of office appears on the following page. Thanks to all nominees (new and incumbent) willing to serve and special thanks to the Nominating Committee who has done its important work in a timely fashion.

Ballots for the election, with space for write-in nominations, will be prepared by the Secretary and distributed to all Chapter Voting Members on April 8, with a return deadline of April 21.

The results will be announced in the May issue of THE CYPHER and at the annual business meeting.

Ballots will be distributed by mail to voting eligible chapter members on April 8 with a return deadline of April 21.

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2024 SAAGO Elections



AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS Southern Arizona Chapter

2024 SAAGO ELECTIONS - NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

To: SAAGO Membership

From: Nominating Committee

Re: Slate of Officers 2024-2026

February 27, 2024

The National bylaws require that the Nominating Committee's slate of officers be announced in writing to the membership in advance of the election. Additional nominations may be made by petition of at least five (5) voting members in good standing. Nominations should be received by the Secretary within thirty (30) days of notification of the slate. Please email nominations to David Horr, secretary at <u>dahorr@comcast.net</u>, by April 1, 2024, to be included on the ballot.

The Nominating Committee of the Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Guild of Organists places into nomination the following individuals:

Dean – Raymond Ryder Sub-dean – Laura Silva Secretary/Treasurer – David Horr Membership/Placement – Lars Andersen Advertising – Fern Hieb Hospitality – Delores (Dee) Schultz Newsletter – Stardust (Dusty) Johnson Publicity – Richard Hockett Education/University Liaison – Pamela Decker Member-at-large Class of 2026 – Mark Stockwell Member-at-large Class of 2026 – Kathryn Snodgrass

Respectfully submitted,

Lars Andersen, Chair Catharine Kennedy Carolyn Smith

Ballots will be distributed on April 8 with return deadline of April 21.

Program Recaps

Pedals, Pipes and Pizza recap:

Hoorah! Teachers and students gathered at Northminster for another successful PPP. Raymond Ryder began the morning with a Bach chorale to show some of the features and sounds of the III/46 Quimby pipe organ. John Brobeck, Northminster Music Director and Organist, invited students to sit at the console to get the feel of playing while he explained how the console works and how the pipes in the chamber produce different sounds. Then David Horr played while Raymond Ryder narrated "Rex, King of Instruments" composed by Daniel Burton, to the delight of students, their parents and other guests. A delightful luncheon with a variety of pizza, fresh fruit, vegetables, and chocolate cake prepared by Cathie Kennedy was followed by the AGO video "Pulling Out All the Stops." Jeffrey Campbell tutored students in the final session with a special piece each had brought, preparing them for a mini-recital which concluded the program.



Doug Cleveland Program in the Johnson Series

Doug Cleveland performed a stunning program of French organ compositions performing on the Schoenstein Isabell Harris organ. His program was so well received that it brought the audience to its feet with enthusiastic

applause.

—David Horr



recognize and thank the

It's good to

Program Recaps continued

Two to Improvise—Johannes and Susanne

Ebenbauer presented an exciting program which opened with Johannes Ebenbauer performing J.S. Bach's Fantasia in G minor, BWV 542, and ended with the Fugue in G minor as exciting bookends to the incredible Baroque pieces for organ and voice. Susanne thrilled the audience with her vocal performances accompanied by her husband as her incredible vocal range stretched from baritone to glass breaking while performing with passionate operatic action.

-Mark Stockwell





Dave Wickerham at the Mighty Wurlitzer at the Fox. His performance was impressive and great fun.





Dusty Johnson chatting with Dave after his performance.



Another PPP photo: student and teacher

Membership Renewals

AGO 2024

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.agohq.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.
- <u>Chapter Friends and those without computer</u> <u>access.</u> Please contact Lars Andersen for information on renewal or joining as a new Chapter Friend <u>(LarsAndersen@tvlc.org</u>) at 520-909-9038.

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

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Focus on a long-time member: Larry Grove

Colleagues, I got to know Larry Grove well when we hosted the Pipes in the Desert Regional Convention in 2008 where he served as treasurer and logistics chair (I was dean at the time). He has led a very interesting life intertwined with the organ and travel that I thought would be interesting to share and asked if he would write something for THE CYPHER. Fortunately, he agreed to do so—after a little arm twisting. I hope you get to know Larry better. And, if you might like to submit a bio, let me know! Dusty Johnson, editor.

Larry Grove

- 2003 Joined SAAGO
- 2004 2008 Membership Chairperson
- 2004 2008 Pipes in The Desert (AGO Western Regional) – Co-Chairperson (Treasurer and Logistics)

Now in my 20th year of membership in SAAGO, Dusty Johnson asked that I write my profile for *The Cypher*. So here it is:

I was born in State Line (Franklin County), PA on the Maryland border about 5 miles North of Hagerstown, MD—the home of M.P. Moller Pipe Organs. Since Hagerstown was the closest city, we considered it our home town, although we lived in PA.



At age five, my mother started me on piano lessons. At age 12 I

began taking organ lessons; and at age 16 was appointed organist at my home church, Grace Brethren in Hagerstown, where I continued playing through high school and for two years after.

During high school and for two years following graduation I worked at Grove Manufacturing Company, maker of Grove cranes that are seen throughout the world. The company was started by two of my father's cousins. I then joined the US Air Force, where I served for four years on radar installations. I was first stationed at Biloxi, MS for 15 months of training. While there I was organist at First Presbyterian in Ocean Springs, MS. I was then assigned to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, where I became organist at First Baptist Church in Calumet. After that I was transferred to Iceland where I was organist at the base chapel on the Keflavik Naval Air Station. After discharge from the service I entered college as a business major on the GI Bill at Shippensburg State College (Now Shippensburg University) which was within commuting distance of my home.

While at Shippensburg, I got my old job back as organist at Grace Brethren in Hagerstown, MD. After graduation, I took a job as a hospital auditor with Capitol Blue Cross in Harrisburg, PA, where I worked for seven years. While there I became organist at Camp Hill (PA) Baptist Church. In 1974 I moved to New Jersey where I held jobs in financial management at several different hospitals and retired at the end of 2002 after 17 years as Director of Finance at The Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in Hamilton, NJ.

During my years in NJ, I substituted as several different churches and was organist for several years at The Harvey Memorial United Methodist Church in Point Pleasant, NJ. In January 2003 I moved to Green Valley, where I have substituted at my home church, Valley Presbyterian and The Methodist Church of Green Valley. For four years I worked as a volunteer with Grahame Davis on the Fox Theatre Organ Project.

Home organ history: During the 1960s and early 1970s there was a company in New York called The Schober Organ Company that sold build-it-yourself organ kits. I purchased kits for the concert modeltwo manual, 32-note pedal version which I assembled over a two-year period. While in New Jersey, I learned of a small unit pipe organ that was being discarded by New Milford Presbyterian Church (NJ). The instrument, of unknown origin, was originally the Loge Organ in The Mosque Theatre (Old Symphony Hall) in Newark NJ. In 1959 it was donated to the church. In 1984, they acquired a larger organ and I was able to negotiate the purchase of the old organ and chimes. In early 1985, with the help of several friends, we removed the relay, wind chests, pipework and chimes to the basement of my house. The console was in bad shape, so I removed the keyboards and pedals, and discarded the shell.

During the period 1985 through 1987 I totally rebuilt the instrument, which included 6 unit ranks—Open Diapason (73 pipes); Stopped Diapason (97 pipes); Melodia (85 pipes); Salicional (73 pipes); Dulciana (85 pipes) and Oboe (61 pipes). I replaced the bottom octave of the Stopped Diapason, which was not speaking properly and the Oboe, with a Schantz French Trompette. I also added a Dulciana Celeste rank—for a total of 7 ranks. I built a pipe chamber in my basement with swell shades facing into the stairwell. I took out a wall at the end of my living room adjoining the stairwell and replaced it with grill cloth through which the organ could speak. I removed the "guts" of my Schober Organ and mounted the pipe organ keyboards and pedals in it

Focus on a long-time member: Larry Grove continued

and purchased new stop controls. I rewired the electro-mechanical relay to provide for 37 stops and 5 couplers over the two manuals and pedal. In early 1987, the organ was ready for "public hearing" and I held a number of concerts with fellow organists. In subsequent years, I purchased a Yamaha baby grand piano and a Hammond Concert Model with 32-note pedal board and pedal solo unit and a Leslie speaker. I held many concerts and sing-ins in my large living room using all of the instruments.

When I decided to retire at the end of 2002, I knew the pipe organ would have to be removed before I could sell my house. Fortunately, I found a young college student who was acquiring pipe organ parts for a large organ project who agreed to buy it on the condition that he and his friends would be responsible for removing it. It took several months to get it removed and my house restored to its original condition, but fortunately the house sold within two weeks after listing. I moved the piano and Hammond with me to Green Valley and eventually sold them both on Ebay. I acquired a smaller Yamaha NU1 digital piano with mechanical action and a two-manual Allen organ from Ken Yukl, which I traded for a 1989 three-manual Allen ADC6300 in 2013.

Several months ago I donated the Allen to St. Philip's Church, where it now resides in their Bloom Music Room. I acquired a five-year old Johannus Vivaldi 3manual in factory-new condition from a music professor in Texas who was downsizing. It will probably be my final organ.



https://www.johannus.com/en/collection-home-organs/ vivaldi/vivaldi-370

Travel history: I developed a love for travel when I took my first trip to Ireland in 1989. After that I used my four weeks of vacation every year for travel to Europe (except for the years when I was working on

my organ). After retirement, I took many trips throughout the West with Pleasurebent Tours. In 2007, I took my first cruise with Wayne and Cheryl Seppala, owners of Organ Stop in El Cajon, CA. They placed an Allen Theatre Organ on the Dawn Princess and had Walt Strony on board to play master classes and concerts during a Mexican Riviera Cruise. This got me hooked on cruising and I've taken 6 to 8 cruises a year ever since. I just completed my 76th cruise and am booked through my 80th! I've been on every continent except Antarctica. Additionally, I've attended numerous AGO, ATOS, and OHS organ conventions; however, I was unable to attend any this year because of some health issues.

As you can see, I've lived an interesting and longerthan-normal life. I hope to enjoy my remaining years.



Johann Sebastian Bach (March 31,1685—July 28, 1750) Memorial in Leipzig in front of the Thomaskirche where his remains have been interred since 1950.













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