

The CYPHER

Newsletter of the Southern Arizona Chapter American Guild of Organists

Chapter Website: www.saago.org

Volume 44, Number 4 December 2024

Chapter & Member Programs at a glance through February 15

Candlelight Carols

Sunday, Dec. 1, 2 p.m. St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, Sierra Vista

48th Annual Messiah Sing-in Monday, Dec 2, 7 p.m. Christ Community Church

Epiphany Party & Potluck Saturday, Jan. 4, 1 p.m. The Highlands Community Clubhouse, Oro Valley

Annual Steinway Concert The Fanya Lin-Daniel Lindner piano duo Saturday Jan 11 3 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 11, 3 p.m. St. Philip's in the Hills Church

Pedals, Pipes and Pizza Sat., Jan. 18, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. St. Philip's in the Hills Registration Required

Julia Brown, Organ Friday, Jan. 31, 7 p.m.

St. Alban's Episcopal
Church

Donation

Kimberly Marshall, Organ Roy Johnson Memorial Organ Series

Sunday, Feb. 2, 3 p.m. Holsclaw Hall, UA School of Music, \$10

Mid 20th Century Organ Culture

William Kuhlman

Saturday, Feb. 15, 10 a.m. Northminster Presbyterian Church Lunch

Best Wishes for Christmas & the New Year!



Candlelight Carols: A Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols

Sunday, Dec. 1, 2 p.m. St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, Sierra Vista Free Will Offering

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church in Sierra Vista will present *Candlelight Carols: A Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols*—a program of brief scripture readings with traditional and contemporary carols and anthems sung by the congregation, led by the parish combined choirs, with accompaniment on piano and the historic 1949 Moeller pipe organ.

Everyone is welcome for this festive Advent service.



Looking Ahead to our Epiphany Party/Potluck.

Be sure to put this on your calendar now. Date and location is on page 4. More detailed information will be available in the January issue of THE CYPHER. It's a great time to get together for a meal and to socialize with fellow members.

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.



The CYPHER

Stardust (Dusty) Johnson, Editor (skj5@cox.net)

Submission Deadlines for the 2024-2025 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 skj5@cox.net 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...

Friends and Colleagues,

Thanksgiving Precedes Advent

Doesn't it seem a little odd that academic years and fiscal years are completely offset from calendar years? Yet for a church musician, the Liturgical Year begins with Advent. And then, as a teacher, the 'year' basically begins in the middle of August (even if my appointment book starts its year with the beginning of July), but I don't feel that the year really begins until the day after Labor Day. Any way you look at it, things are in full swing by the beginning of December.

For those of us in SAAGO, the 'year' has had an excellent start. Our opening meeting an installation of officers was in the setting of an evensong service at St. Alban's, with a nice variety of music featuring their baroque style instrument. A few weeks later, our Members Showcase at St. Michael and All Angels also showcased a more romantic instrument in a nice Spanish colonial architectural setting. The concert there a week later featuring the Fauré Requiem, was also excellent, and included not just the choir and organ, but other instrumentalists as well. Meanwhile, the Catalina Organ Festival, St. Alban's Concerts, and St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church have all had their opening concerts for the season.

Thanksgiving gives us a few days to take a break from many of our activities. But also a break to reflect upon the musical events of the season so far and take a few deep breaths before plunging into Advent. For many of us the pace really picks up in Advent. Dozens of special musical events will celebrate the holiday season, many of them simultaneously. For me, ringing in Sonoran Bells is a great way to start Advent. We are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the group and are giving a concert in four different locations around the city the first weekend of December. My following weekend will be focused upon a Christmas cantata. And then, in addition to wrapping up the semester at Pima, more special services and concerts to attend will make December cheerful and busy.

New Year's Eve will arrive in a few more weeks, but by then it really seems like the New Year is already well underway. I'm looking forward to many additional events in the New (calendar) Year as the New (musical) Year continues. See you there...

Raymond Ryder, Dean



Chapter and Member Programs

SAAGO Kicking off the year with our Epiphany Party—Potluck

Saturday, January 4, 1 p.m. The Highland Community Clubhouse 332 West Matterhorn in Oro Valley

Join us once again for this favorite holiday event which will be held after Christmas, celebrating close to Epiphany. The Kuhlmans have once again very kindly invited us to celebrate at The Highland Community Clubhouse in Oro Valley.

SAAGO—Pedals, Pipes and Pizza

Saturday, January 18, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church 4440 N. Campbell Ave. Free. Registration Required

SAAGO will once again host its popular *Pedals, Pipes and Pizza* for youth and children. All participants get to play the organ and also explore the inner workings of the instrument. They also receive individual instruction on one of Tucson's finest instruments, a pizza lunch, and they perform in a closing program. Part of the program includes a performance of "Rex, the King of Instruments." Additional information and a registration form will be available in the January edition of THE CYPHER and on the website (www.saago.org).

Julia Brown, Organ

Friday, Jan. 31, 7 p.m. St. Alban's Episcopal Church 3738 Old sabino Canyon Rd. Donation

Julia Brown, director of music and organist at First United Methodist Church in Eugene, Oregon, maintains a full schedule of teaching, performing and recording. She has appeared in concert in North and South America and in Europe, having performed for the AGO Regional and National Conventions, the



Latin American Organist Conventions, the Oregon Bach Festival and other international organ and music festivals. Her organ and harpsichord recordings of W. F. Bach, J. S. Bach, Buxtehude and Scheidemann have gained high critical acclaim.

Kimberly Marshall, Organ Roy Johnson Memorial Organ Series

Sunday, February. 2, 3 p.m. Holsclaw Hall, UA School of Music, \$10

Kimberly Marshall, renowned Professor of Organ, Arizona State University, returns to Tucson to perform in the UA Johnson Series. In addition to her career as a concert artist, she has held teaching positions at the Royal Academy of Music, London, and Stanford University. She has been a recitalist, workshop leader and adjudicator at nine National



Conventions and she served as a project leader for the Göteborg Organ Research Center in Sweden.

SAAGO—Mid 20th Century Organ Culture William Kuhlman

Saturday, February 15, 10 a.m. Northminster Presbyterian Church 2450 E. Fort Lowell Rd. Lunch

The 1960s and 70s proved fertile years for realizing the promises of the Organ Reform Movement in the building of organs as envisioned by Albert Schweitzer earlier in the century. Organ enrollment in the colleges and universities was high, and master teachers brought about a renewed interest in performance practice made possible by the "tracker" craze.



Professor Kuhlman will touch on a few of the builders and teachers of organ who were vanguards in realizing these "reforms" during these "golden" years.



Chapter and Member Programs continued—

Alcée Chriss III, Organ Catalina Organ Festival

Friday, February 21, 7 p.m. Catalina United Methodist Church 2700 E. Speedway Blvd. \$30; \$25 seniors; \$10 students

The highly regarded Alcée Chriss returns to Tucson. First-prize and Bach prize winner at the 2017 Canadian International Organ Competition, Alcée Chriss III is widely regarded as one of the leading young organists of our time. He holds many more prestigious awards and currently serves as University Organist and Artist-in-Residence at Wesleyan University.



Pamela Decker, Organ Roy Johnson Memorial Organ Series

Sunday, March 2, 3 p.m. Holsclaw Hall, UA School of Music, \$10

Dr. Pamela Decker performs her annual faculty recital on the Harris/ Schoenstein organ in Holsclaw Hall. Pamela is a prolific composer as well as professor of organ and theory at the University of Arizona. Additionally, she currently leads the composition area. Her compositions have been published by major music publishers and they



have been performed in at least 19 countries by musicians from all over the world.

SAAGO—Members' Recital with concert repertoire based on hymns

Sunday, March 16, 4 p.m. Northminster Presbyterian Church 2450 E. Ft. Lowell Rd. Donation

Members are invited to perform in this program, playing the Quimby organ, and performing repertoire based on hymn tunes. The program will include congregational singing of the hymns as well. Sign-up information will be included in a future CYPHER and on the website. Watch for it—and begin thinking about what you might like to play.

Anna Lapwood in Tucson. Wow. Mark your calendars now!!

Valerie Harris, How the West was Won: European organists touring the US in the 1920s—1950s...

Saturday, April 5, 10 a.m. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church 7650 N Paseo Del Norte Lunch

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, railroad companies used organ recitals to develop tourism and motivate people to ride the rails. Travel itineraries west to California often included a visit to the Tabernacle organ at Temple Square in Salt Lake City where there was a daily organ



recital series. Other cities followed suit and organs became a status symbol of culture and refinement.

SAAGO Anna Lapwood, Internationally Renowned British Organist presents An Introduction to the Organ

Sunday, April 6, 4 p.m. Catalina United Methodist Church 2700 E. Speedway Blvd. Free

Internationally renowned young British organist Anna Lapwood has introduced countless people to the organ via concerts and social media. This is a rare opportunity to hear, meet, and see Ms. Lapwood demonstrate how the organ works—and perhaps to



interact at the organ. More details to follow. Pizza 'reception' will follow.

"She is much more than a gifted organist, choral conductor and social media sensation... she's a star on a mission." The Sunday Times (London)

Anna Lapwood in Concert

Catalina Organ Festival Monday, Apr. 7, 7 p.m. Catalina United Methodist Church \$30; \$25 seniors; \$10 students

Ms. Lapwood, MBE, is an organist, conductor and broadcaster, and holds the position of Director of Music at Pembroke College (Cambridge), Associate Artist of the Royal Albert Hall (London) and Artist in Association with the BBC Singers.

Chelsea Chen Concert Recap

Annual Messiah Sing-in

Chelsea Chen, Organ Catalina Organ **Festival**

Catalina United Methodist Church

A superb recital performed on an outstanding organ.

Chelsea Chen performed with finesse and controlled artistry, presenting an awesome performance to a receptive and enthusiastic audience

Thanks to Catalina for bringing her to Tucson again!



Mariana Mevans, Chelsea Chen Dennis Grannan

Photo, Mark Stockwell

48th Annual Messiah Sing-In Monday, December 2, 7 p.m.



Bring your copy of Messiah and join with other Tucson choral music lovers for the annual community sing-in of Handel's much-loved Messiah, which is totally funded by contributions and staffed by volunteers and is free of charge. The conductor

\$30 under 60

\$10 student with ID

is Ryan Phillips, who is the Director of the Arizona Repertory Singers as well as Director of Music Ministries at Desert Skies Methodist Church. The soloists are Kimberly Chaffin (soprano), Diana Peralta (mezzo soprano), Michael Chaffin (tenor), Francisco Rentería (bass)— all accompanied by an amazing orchestra and a chorus of many hundreds.

Venue: Christ Community Church, 530 S. Pantano Rd. at Kenyon Dr.

Donations are gratefully accepted.

messiahsingintucson.org



www.catalinamethodist.org/organfestival

ORGAN & VIOLIN CONCERT

February 2, 2025 at 3:00pm at
Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior
555 S. La Cañada Dr, Green Valley, AZ
Free Will Offering





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Membership Information

The AGO's new database and website

The old ONCARD system has been replaced with a new integrated database called iMIS. Every AGO member should have received an email from agohq.org explaining how to log into the new system. Importantly, your previous ONCARD logins are no longer active.

All future logins to the new system will contain your email address and your own password. Your former logins will not work. Follow the instructions everyone should have received in an informational email from national headquarters.

If you have questions or difficulty, don't hesitate to contact AGO headquarters at 212-870-2310 during business hours (Eastern time zone) or email info@AGOhq.org. You can also contact the Membership & Information Technology Coordinator, Daniel McCaffrey, directly at dmccaffrey@agohq.org for tech support questions.

The new system is quite different. Lars Andersen, Membership Chair, is available to provide assistance.

Roy Johnson Memorial Scholarship

Students may apply for a 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 \$1500. For educational events, the scholarship will cover the cost of registration.

Application forms are online at www.saago.org.





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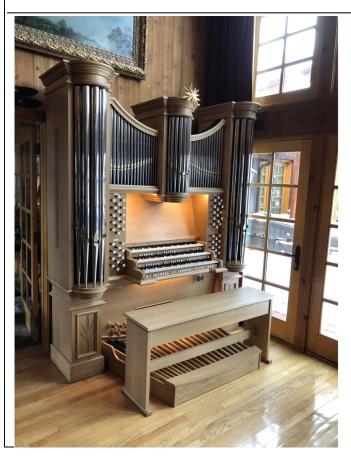
Dr. Pamela Decker

Professor of Organ and Harpsichord pdecker@email.arizona.edu 520-204-5691

For more information contact David Boulton (undergraduate advisor) at davidboulton@arizona.edu







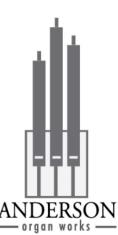
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Positions Available

Protestant Music Director Davis Monthan AFB

The Protestant Music Director shall provide for a comprehensive choral music ministry and associated programming, including all necessary music direction, and necessary advertising coordinated with responsible chaplain or chapel administrative staff.

Qualifications include two plus years' experience in leading music ministry, the ability to play and direct music with emphasis in the contemporary worship tradition, experience in planning and leading music in church or chapel setting, ability to play keyboard, piano or guitar as needed, ability to sing and lead a team of musicians for congregational singing, adequate command of music theory to transpose, arrange, and lead music as needed.

The comprehensive list of qualifications and duties can be found at the <u>SAAGO.org</u> website.

This is a part-time position with compensation based on budget and the candidate's experience and qualifications. Applications must include three references and may be made through the Job Board or Directly: https://music-ministry.jobsoid

Choir Director Catalina United Methodist Church

CUMC announces the availability of a part-time position of Choir Director for its 40-voice choir. The position includes Thursday night rehearsals and Sunday morning church services as well as occasional special events.

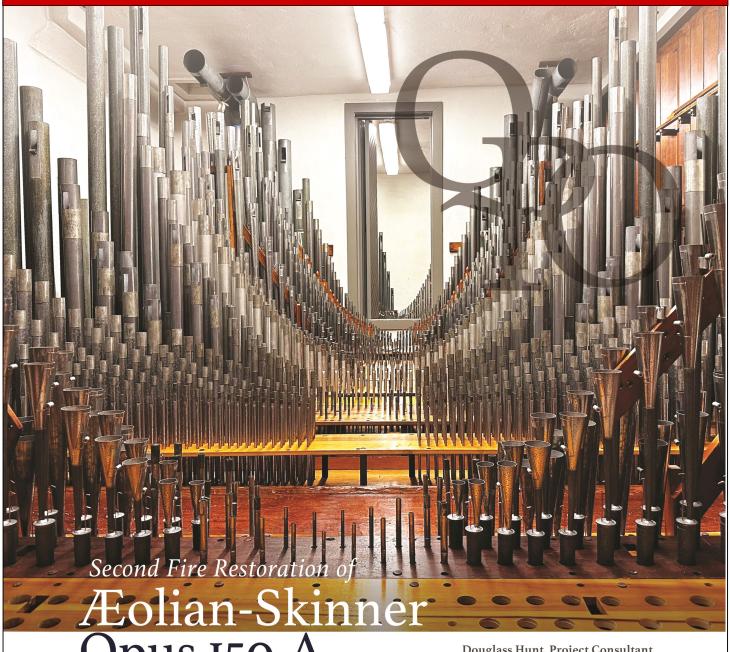
Contact: Pastor Mike Kerr-Osman (<u>Mike@catalinamethodist.org</u>) for the complete job description and an application. Start date is January 2, 2025.

Summary of Qualifications

- Must have conducting experience, knowledge of choral literature, piano facility, openness to various musical styles and traditions, ability to work with a range of accompanists and musicians, be a team player with staff members and other volunteers, have strong organization skills, ability to organize and direct ensembles with or without the choir, be open to organizing and directing additional programs and concerts or concert series.
- •Bachelor's degree in music preferred.
- •Base Salary range is 12-14K annually.
- •The position is part time.



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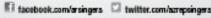
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Alcee Chriss, Organ Catalina Organ Festival

Friday, Feb. 21, 7 p.m. Catalina United Methodist Church \$30; \$25 seniors; \$10 students

Rising Stars, Young Musicians

Ayla Moreno & Bryan Zhang, Piano Saturday, Feb. 22, 3 p.m. St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church

Pamela Decker, Organ Roy Johnson Memorial Organ Series

Sunday, Mar. 2, 3 p.m. Holsclaw Hall, UA School of Music \$10

SAAGO—Members' Recital— Concert repertoire based on hymns

Sunday, Mar. 16, 4 p.m. Location TBA Donation

Rising Stars, Young Musicians

Sarah Roland, Cello Saturday, Mar. 22, 3 p.m. St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church

SAAGO—Valerie Harris, How the West was Won: European organists touring the US in the 1920s—1950s...

Saturday, Apr. 5, 10 a.m. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Lunch

SAAGO—An Introduction to the Organ with Anna Lapwood

Sunday, April 6, 4 p.m. Catalina United Methodist Church Free

Anna Lapwood, Organ Catalina Organ Festival

Monday, Apr. 7, 7 p.m. Catalina United Methodist Church \$30; \$25 seniors; \$10 students

Jeffrey Campbell & Stephen Keyl, Organ

Sunday, Apr. 27, 3 p.m. St. Alban's Episcopal Church donation

SAAGO—Building Church Musicians, Raymond Ryder Saturday, May 10, 10 a.m.

Saturday, May 10, 10 a.m. Christ Church United Methodist

St. Philip's Sings—Finzi and R. V. Williams

Sunday, May 11, 2 p.m. St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church

Youth of St. Philip's in Concert Sunday, May 25, 3 p.m.

St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church

SAAGO—Summer Social Potluck & Business Meeting

Sunday Jun 1, 4 p.m. Colonia Verde Clubhouse



May the music of Christmas gladden your heart with joy!



Listings include member events and are included at editor's discretion and may be edited for space and style. Information is subject to change. Please check with the sponsoring organization.