



The CYPHER

Newsletter of the Southern Arizona Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Volume 44, Number 5
January 2025

Chapter Website: www.saago.org

Chapter & Member Programs at a glance through February 21

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.
St. Philip's in the Hills Church

Pedals, Pipes and Pizza
Sat., Jan. 25, 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

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

A very Happy New Year—2025!

Stars and Pipes Epiphany Party/Potluck

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

Relax and enjoy the company of your colleagues at the chapter's annual Winter Social on Saturday, January 4! SAAGO will supply ham, beverages, plates, and utensils. You will supply the conversation and a food item for the potluck!

Please RSVP to Dee Schultz as soon as possible to let her know what you're bringing. You can email Dee at adschul@yahoo.com, or phone her at 520-343-5343. This is a wonderful opportunity to wind down from the hustle and bustle of Christmastide, and break bread with your fellow members for a delightful afternoon. The Kuhlman's are adding a little fun with some organ trivia questions after lunch and dessert along with a few prizes.

We hope to see you there!

Directions to the Highlands Clubhouse are on page 6.

Pedals, Pipes and Pizza

Sat., Jan. 25, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
St. Philip's in the Hills
4440 N. Campbell Avenue
Registration Required

Everyone loves SAAGO's *Pedals, Pipes and Pizza* event, which is designed to give children, youth and adults a brief introduction to the pipe organ. Students explore the instrument and receive individual instruction and then have a chance to perform on the instrument in a closing ceremony. Part of the program includes a performance of "Rex, the King of Instruments." Be sure to publicize this unique opportunity to become acquainted with the King of Instruments!

Information and the application form are on pages 8 and 9.



Quimby Console, Holtkamp Pipe Organ, St. Philip's Church

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**SOUTHERN ARIZONA
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Our chapter has a generic email
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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.

Advertising space available

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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...

Friends and Colleagues,

Bring in the New Year...

December is always busy... the academic semester wraps up with revising the last tests of the semester, grading close to fifty tests and reading a similar number of essays, and listening to dozen of performance evaluations for various sections of class piano (many submitted online at the last minute). Then comes calculating semester grades (mostly done by Pima's software system for courses), submitting Final Grades, and then following up with scoring each student in every course as to the 'Student Learning Outcomes.' But December also includes the holiday concerts of the Sonoran Bells which entailed about twenty hours the first weekend of the month (including driving time, but not including outside preparation time). Then the Christmas Cantata at church the following weekend... and falling under the weather.

Suddenly holiday events, preparations, and church services have to be approached with isolating at home pending the results of Covid tests (negative twice in a row), trying to get plenty of rest, and treating symptoms of fever, congestion, and cough. I think this will turn out to be one holiday season I won't want to both remembering.

So what's next? Next, I've slowly been getting better; I've been visiting family in Colorado, where the mostly grey winter weather makes resting up seem easy; and, I've been reading, which is one activity that I've had to set aside for several weeks (reading and grading essays doesn't count!). Most of my reading has little, if anything, to do with music, but if I start making connections, you may read of them in the next month or two. But a friend shared a poem that I think captures my mood. It put me in a more positive frame of mind, and reminds me that one nice thing about living in Tucson is being spared the 'bleak mid-winter.'

Robert Frost put it this way I "Dust of Snow"...

The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree

Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I rued

Raymond Ryder, Dean



Chapter and Member Programs

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.



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.

Kimberly Marshall, Organ Roy Johnson Memorial Organ Series

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

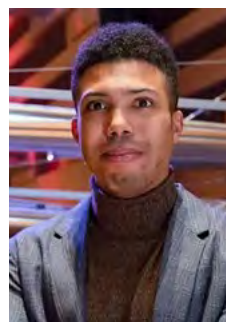
Kimberly Marshall, renowned Professor of Organ, Arizona State University, returns to Tucson to perform in the UA Johnson Series. In addition to her career as a concert artist, she has held teaching positions at the Royal Academy of Music, London, and Stanford University. She has been a recitalist, workshop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



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.



Happy Birthday to Mozart, Schubert, Poulenc, Duruflé, Albinoni,
Scriabin, Pergolesi, Taverner, Duparc, Climenti

Chapter and Member Programs *continued*—

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.

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.



Tickets are already selling fast and a 'full house' is anticipated!

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

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.
Christ Church United Methodist

Directions to the Highlands

SAAGO Winter Social & Potluck Directions

**The Highlands Community Clubhouse
332 West Matterhorn Street, Oro Valley**

Although you can use your GPS to guide you, Bill Kuhlman has also sent these directions:

Take Oracle Road north to Pusch Ridge Road.
Turn left at the stop light.

Follow Pusch Ridge across the bridge over the wash and continue straight. It soon becomes Lambert Lane.

About a half mile on the right is Desert Springs, and just past the entrance for that, also on the right, is the entrance to The Highlands. (Watch for the silver fire hydrant).

Turn into the entrance onto The Highlands Drive. You'll see the Clubhouse and Pool area ahead.

Go straight past the stop sign and office, bearing left at the Y in the road, and park around the Clubhouse and pool area. The entrance to the clubhouse is on the left side of the building.



CATALINA ORGAN FESTIVAL

Alcée Chriss III

Doctorate of
Music - McGill

February 21, 2025
Friday, 7 p.m.



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Wesleyan University
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Conductor, composer



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AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
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WELCOME!

Pedals, Pipes and Pizza

For Middle-and High School music students, and adults, to introduce them to the pipe organ.

NEW DATE: Saturday, January 25, 2025

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Saint Philip's in the Hills, 4440 N. Campbell Ave., Tucson

- ◆ 10:00 – Registration.
- ◆ 10:15 – Demonstration piece.
- ◆ 10:25 – *How the Organ Works*.
- ◆ 10:40 – *How the Console Works*. Students will have the opportunity to sit at the console and play the organ.
- ◆ 11:15 – “Rex, The King of Instruments”
- ◆ 11:30 – Lunch: Pizza and soft drinks.
- ◆ 12:15 – Individual instruction on basic playing techniques. All students will have the opportunity to play the three-manual Holtkamp pipe organ.
- ◆ 1:30 – Students perform on the organ.
- ◆ 2:00 – Wrap-up.



Quimby organ console, Saint Philip's in the Hills Church



**The Pedals, Pipes & Pizza Event is FREE.
Parents and friends are welcome to attend.**

Space is limited... Register now!!

Forms are available at the Guild's web site: www.saago.org

Or contact Dr. Raymond Ryder, 520-661-8231,

or e-mail him at raymond4music@gmail.com

Southern Arizona Chapter, AGO, serving organists, music and choir directors since 1937.



American Guild of Organists
Southern Arizona Chapter presents



Pedals, Pipes & Pizza

*An introduction to the pipe organ for middle school,
high school, and adult music students.*

Saturday, January 25, 2025, 10 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

(includes pizza lunch)

Saint Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church, 4440 N. Campbell Ave., Tucson

Registration form

Student Information (Please register ONE student per form).

1. What is the name of the student who will attend the Pedals, Pipes & Pizza event?

2. How many years has the student been taking music lessons? (enter 0 if not taking lessons).
_____ years.
3. What instrument(s) does the student play and/or is taking lessons?
 - Piano
 - Wind instrument (flute, clarinet, oboe, etc)
 - Brass instrument (trumpet, horn, trombone, etc)
 - String instrument (guitar, violin, etc)
 - Other
 - None (does not play/not taking lessons)

Primary Contact Information

4. Name of primary contact for the student (parent, legal guardian, music teacher):

5. Address of the student:

6. Best phone number to reach the primary contact: _____ - _____ - _____
7. Please provide an alternate phone number: _____ - _____ - _____
8. Primary contact e-mail address: _____

Permission to use photographs: I hereby grant my permission to The American Guild of Organists, Southern Arizona Chapter, to include a photograph or photographs of the above registered student in any publication of the Chapter and/or The American Guild of Organists. (Signed) _____, Parent or Legal Guardian

Primary Contact for the event: Raymond Ryder, Chair. If you have questions, please contact Raymond at: raymond4music@gmail.com, or: 520-661-8231

Please mail the completed registration form by January 17, 2025, to:

David Horr, Secretary, P.O. Box 31511, Tucson, AZ 85751-1511

SAAGO – serving organists, music and choir directors throughout Southern Arizona.

Available Position

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 (Mike@catalinamethodist.org) 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.

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.

www.phxago2025.org

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PHOENIX
JUNE 16-19

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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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Camil Van Hulse's 80th birthday

Work to be premiered

Free concerts to help celebrate Van Hulse's 80th birthday



Tucson composer Camil Van Hulse and his wife, Augusta, accept congratulations and flowers from Vice Mayor Henderickx in a reception for Van Hulse in his hometown of St. Nicolas, Belgium.

By KENNETH LA FAVE
The Arizona Daily Star

In his native St. Nicolas, Belgium, he is "one of the local boys who made good." In his adopted city of Tucson, composer Camil Van Hulse is a living reminder of another time, of a tradition that stretches back through centuries.

Van Hulse's 80th birthday was Aug. 1, but its public celebration has been scheduled for Sunday, when the Southern Arizona chapter of the American Guild of Organists will present two free concerts featuring his works.

The first will take place at 2 p.m. at St. Augustine's Cathedral, 192 S. Stone Ave. Works to be performed include a cantata, "The Beatitudes, op. 43"; a suite for cello and piano, op. 37, and "Variations on a Phrygian Theme" for piano solo, op. 26.

The premiere of a work for 10 French horns and organ, "Variations and Finale on a Pentachoral Tune, op. 120," will highlight the program.

"I am very happy it is finally getting done," says Van Hulse of the unusually scored piece. The work was begun 10 years ago when a Los Angeles horn club sponsored

a contest for compositions using multiple horns. Van Hulse put the project aside when he found that the contest was restricted to U.S. citizens. (Van Hulse is still a citizen of Belgium.)

Years later, he finished the piece, but scheduling difficulties have twice kept the work from being premiered. "This time it's on the program," notes Van Hulse with relish. "They have to do it."

Performers for the afternoon concert will include cellist Gordon Epperson, pianist Nicholas Zumbro, organist Roy Johnson, hornist Keith Johnson, and an orchestra and chorus under the direction of Mary Frances Halter.

At 7:30 p.m., the festivities move to Trinity Presbyterian Church, 740 N. 4th Ave., where organist Joyce Jones will concertize.

"They were going to do all Van Hulse," says the composer of the evening event, "but I said to Joyce — 'You must do some Bach.'"

So, the program will open with two of Van Hulse's favorite works by the organ's unchallenged master — the B minor Prelude and Fugue, and the Adagio from Sonata No. 4. Works by Van Hulse will fol-

low. The Sinfonia da Chiesa, op. 144, and two movements from the Symphonia Elegiaca, op. 83, are the major scheduled pieces.

Jones was Van Hulse's choice. "They asked me for an organist and right away I said 'Joyce Jones — she is phenomenal.'"

In addition to the concerts, Van Hulse will be the guest of honor at a reception Saturday from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Fremont House, in the Civic Plaza. That event is also free and open to the public. Van Hulse's role in the founding of the Temple of Music and Art will be emphasized.

By nature, Van Hulse is a bit crusty about all this attention. "Why must a man of 80 put up with all this rigamarole for merely making it this far?" he asks. In August, Van Hulse was similarly honored in Belgium when St. Nicolas turned out for two concerts and various festivities celebrating his attainment of octogenarian status.

In his study, near the University of Arizona campus, Van Hulse continues to compose, but he is reflective. "At 80, a man doesn't look forward any more, but he has a lot to look back upon."

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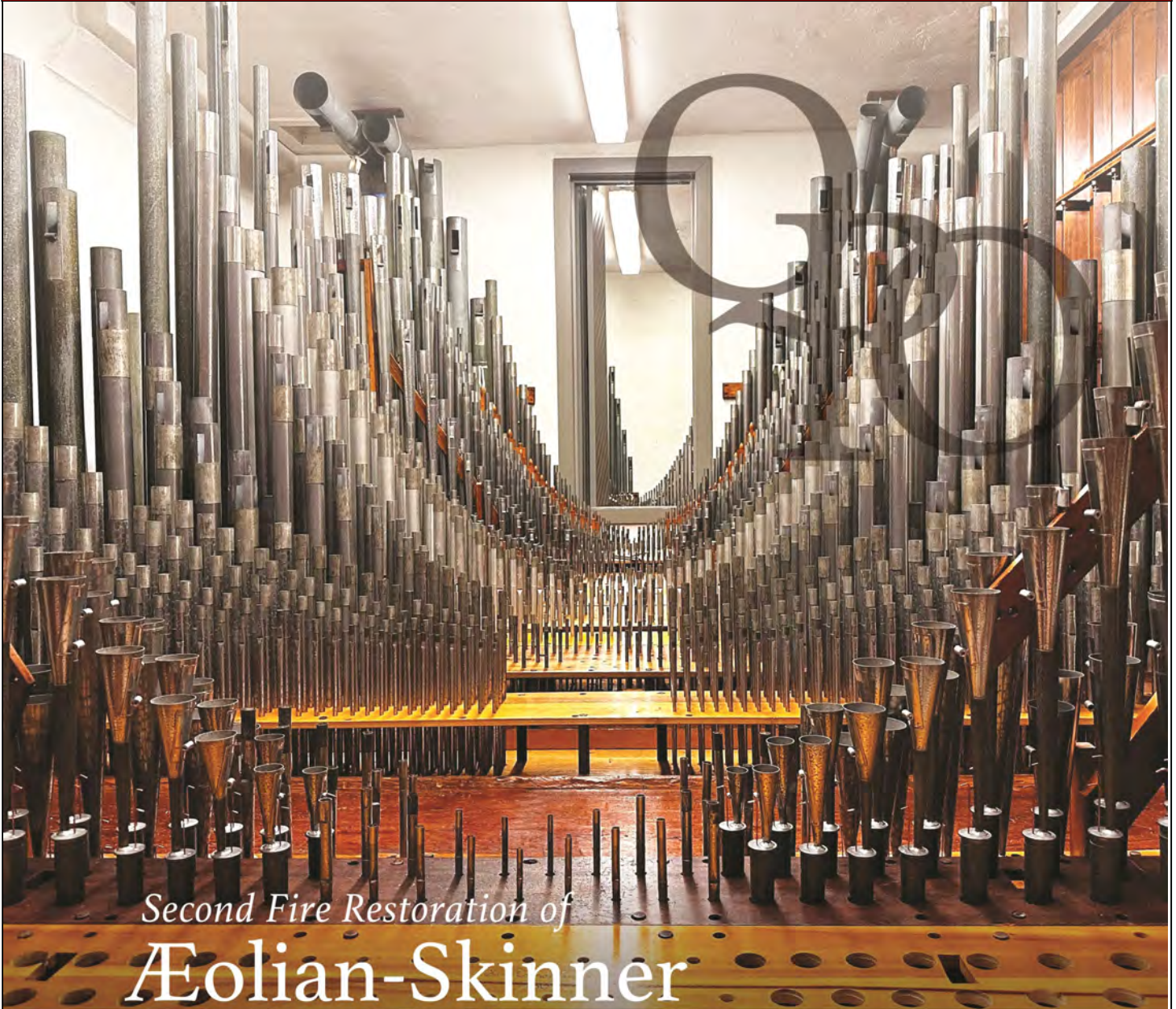
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**Lessons & Carols by
Candlelight
A Southwest Christmas**
December 12-15, 2024



**The Best of Baroque
Handel *Dixit Dominus* &
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January 17-19, 2025



**The Love of Flight
Works of Blitzstein,
Bernstein, Copland & More**
February 28-March 2, 2025



**Mozart *Requiem* & Paulus
*Prayers and Remembrances***
March 28-30, 2025

Close-Up Vocal Recitals 2025



**RYAN SPEEDO
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bass-baritone
January 16



**NATION
duo**
February 18



**CHELSEA
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soprano
April 1



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**It's a Wonderful Life
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**How the Grinch
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**"The Gold Rush" (1925) with
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Jan. 5**



**An Evening with Jake Shimabukuro
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Featuring Jackson Waldhoff
& Justin Kawika Young**



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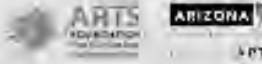
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program*

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Publication Information: *The Cypher* is a monthly newsletter published by the Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. It is distributed to chapter members, organists of Tucson churches and surrounding communities, and deans of all chapters in the West Region (Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Alaska, and Oregon, as well as Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Sydney, Australia.)

Southern Arizona Chapter members who do not request a printed version will receive *The Cypher* via email. Send information for publication to Stardust (Dusty) Johnson at email skj5@cox.net. Please type "Cypher" in the subject line. Views expressed in any of the pieces herein are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the Southern Arizona Chapter of the AGO, its officers or members.

2025 Chapter and Member Programs at a Glance

SAAGO—Epiphany Party and 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.
St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal
Church

SAAGO—Pedals, Pipes and Pizza

Saturday, Jan. 25, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
St. Philip's in the Hills Church
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

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.
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

*The stunningly beautiful
reconstructed and restored Notre
Dame Cathedral with the
Cavaillé-Coll Grand Organ*



*Born virtually blind, Louis
Vierne's works are said to reflect
the vast and decorated
architecture of Notre Dame,
Paris.*

*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.*