



The CYPHER

Newsletter of the Southern Arizona Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Volume 44, Number 8
April 2025

Chapter Website: www.saago.org

Chapter & Member Programs at a glance through May 25

SAAGO—Anna Lapwood
An Introduction to the Organ
Sunday, Apr. 6, 4 p.m.
Catalina United Methodist Church
Pizza following, *registration required*

Anna Lapwood, Organ
Catalina Organ Festival
Monday, Apr. 7, 7 p.m.
Catalina United Methodist Church
SOLD OUT

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.

ANNA LAPWOOD

Internationally Renowned British Organist
An Introduction to the Organ, Sunday, April 6, 4 p.m.

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



This is an exceptional and exciting opportunity to see and hear the organ sensation known as Anna Lapwood. The internationally renowned artist is presenting this workshop for SAAGO—a workshop which has drawn over 100 registrants as of the end of March, including six persons who will perform as part of the workshop. Thanks to the Catalina Organ Festival for bringing Ms. Lapwood to Tucson, which has enabled our chapter to offer this workshop on Sunday afternoon.

Ms. Lapwood is enormously popular on social media and has introduced countless people to the organ via that medium as well as in concerts. As she has said, she has taken 'the organ out of church.' To quote the British **Tatler**, "she's irreverent, charismatic, a born performer and a whip-smart communicator." This is a rare opportunity to hear, meet, and see Ms. Lapwood demonstrate how the organ works and to hear her observations and suggestions for the compositions six performers are going to play.

Pizza reception follows.

ANNA LAPWOOD, ORGAN

Catalina Organ Festival, Monday, April 7, 7 p.m.

Catalina United Methodist Church
2700 E. Speedway Blvd.
\$30; \$25 seniors; \$10 students
SOLD OUT



Ms. Lapwood has an amazing technique and vibrant personality that invites people to watch and listen. She has introduced countless people to the organ through her concerts and online presence on social media. And she is performing in Tucson on the Catalina Organ Festival Series.

**AMERICAN GUILD
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**SOUTHERN ARIZONA
CHAPTER**

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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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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 Colleagues,

The recent anniversary of the death of my partner... the news of a friend less than half my age being put into hospice care... sharing a concert on the Roy Johnson Memorial organ... How do things tie together? Not just 'How do these things tie together,' but how do things tie together at all? (This was not at all the direction I would have anticipated for this month's column).

The recent Member's Recital really helped tie things together. Most of the time while I'm accompanying congregational singing, I am focused upon keeping my own playing flowing rhythmically and perhaps changing up the pedal part or re-harmonizing a little bit either in the introduction and/or later verses. But to actually sing the text (for a change!) during the Member's Recital gave me a different perspective and new insight(s) to congregational hymns. All too often, I think of each verse separately, but singing all the verses in order clarifies how often the verses combine to relate a stronger message than each verse relates by itself.

Each and every day I need to spend some time at the piano and/or the organ, and sometimes more than once. In a very real sense, it's my Musical Self

Therapy. Part of that time on the keys is spent reviewing hymn tune settings, or exploring new ones, to select things for upcoming services. But, beyond the titles, I rarely think of the text. Instead, I'm thinking about whether the melody would be familiar to the congregation. I'm also thinking about the harmonies, and the character of the setting... would this be good for a postlude, or a communion meditation? But after singing as part of the 'congregation' at the Members Recital, I'm going to start paying more attention to the text. I'm sure it will enhance the therapeutical value of my time at the keyboard or at the console.

I consulted that same World Book Dictionary that gave me inspiration for my previous column, and because of papers tucked between its pages, it opened right to the page with "console." Perhaps it's appropriate that organists engage the console as a noun to console as a verb.

Keyboard therapy time here...

Raymond Ryder, Dean



Chapter and Member Programs

Jeffrey Campbell & Stephen Keyl, Organ

Sunday, Apr. 27, 3 p.m.
St. Alban's Episcopal Church
3738 Old Sabino Canyon Rd.
Free will donation



Jeffrey Campbell, Associate Music Director and Organist at St. Philip's In the Hills Episcopal Church, and Stephen Keyl, retired Director of Music at St. Alban's, will collaborate in a complete performance of Bach's "Great Eighteen" chorales in St. Alban's Organ Concert Series.

The "Great Eighteen" are a group of ambitious, large-scale organ works based on Lutheran chorales, which are considered the cornerstone of the organ repertory. Bach assembled them toward the end of his life from pieces he had written years earlier, revising and in some cases expanding them, perhaps intending to have them printed. Many are favorites with organists and audiences, such as the brilliant fantasia on "Come, Holy Ghost" for full organ, the lyrical "Savior of the Nations, Come," and the quietly moving "Before Thy Throne I Now Appear," said to have been revised by the composer shortly before he died.



SAAGO

SAAGO—Building Church Musicians, Raymond T. Ryder

Saturday, May 10, 10 a.m.
Christ Church United Methodist
655 N. Craycroft Rd.
Lunch

Dr. Raymond T. Ryder, SAAGO dean and Piano Director, Pima Community College, will address how musicians, pianists particularly, can successfully prepare to transition into service playing, choir accompanying, and leading rehearsals.



St. Philip's Sings—Gerald Finzi and Ralph Vaughn Williams

Sunday, May 11, 2 p.m.
St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church
4440 N. Campbell Ave.

Youth of St. Philip's in Concert

Sunday, May 25, 3 p.m.
St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church
4440 N. Campbell Ave.



SAAGO

SAAGO—Summer Social Potluck & Business Meeting

Sunday Jun 1, 4 p.m.
Colonia Verde Clubhouse
2700 N Camino Valle Verde

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



**AGO 2025
PHOENIX**

Excursion to Tucson

Friday, June 20 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

SAAGO Members are invited to join the excursion in visiting

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church to hear the restored 1959 Aeolian-Skinner organ (III/64) in a special program by Dr. Pamela Decker and Chris Fresolone, followed by open console time.

Catalina United Methodist Church: The 2014 Quimby organ (IV/57), hosted by Mariana Mevans, Organist and Director of Music, and Dennis Grannan, Organist./Curator Emeritus and founder of the Catalina Organ Festival. The event features a special performance by Bill Kuhlman, Professor Emeritus of Luther College, followed by open console time.

SAAGO members are invited to join the excursion group for free by registering using the discount code: SAAGOTUCSON.

CATALINA ORGAN FESTIVAL

Anna Lapwood

Organist, Composer

Conductor

Pembroke College

(Cambridge)

London U.K.

April 7, 2025

Monday 7 p.m.



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Holy Week and Easter Music

El Camino Baptist Church

7777 E. Speedway Blvd.

Maundy Thursday Service, April 17, 7 p.m.

The choir and orchestra at El Camino Baptist Church will present a Maundy Thursday service which has been created with choral anthems, congregational hymns, and Scripture reading, detailing the events of Christ's Last Supper, Betrayal, Foot Washing, Mandate to Love One Another, and Garden Prayer, ending with Christ's Arrest. The service includes Communion at which every baptized believer may participate.

520-886-7770/ elcaminochurch.org

Resurrection Lutheran Church

11575 N. 1st Ave., Oro Valley

The Easter Story

Saturday, April 26, 5 p.m.

Sunday, April 27, 9:15 a.m.

The Resurrection Choir and orchestra will present ***The Easter Story***, by Tom Fettke and Thomas Grassi. The cantata retells Jesus' suffering, death, resurrection, and exaltation to the right hand of God the Father. The narrative helps listeners relive the events that unfolded in Jerusalem two thousand years ago, and also places them in the flow of God's dramatic, eternal story of redemption.

The production will feature a local interpretive sign language ensemble, ***Rise 'n Sign***. The 35-minute musical will be presented within worship on Saturday.

Trinity Presbyterian Church

400 E. University Blvd.

Maundy Thursday, April 17

Dinner, 5:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited to share a meal and the Lord's Supper together in Fellowship Hall. The church will provide the main course; attendees are requested to bring a side dish to share. Please RSVP 520-623-2579 or office@trinitytucson.org.

Tenebrae Service, 6:30 p.m.

A Service of Tenebrae in the sanctuary with Scripture readings and music that relates the story of Jesus' life from the Last Supper to the Crucifixion as candles are extinguished & the sanctuary darkens.

Trinity Presbyterian Continued

Easter, April 20, 10:20 a.m.

The Trinity Choir and orchestra will present a stunning cantata entitled, *A LIVING HOPE*, based upon 19th century American musical sources arranged by Tom Fettke and Thomas Grassi. It follows the journey from Palm Sunday to Easter portraying extraordinary images of hope gained, hope lost and hope reborn. Adhering to Scripture where even Jesus' closest friends and disciples doubted his promise that, "In three days He would rise again." Death, however, was swallowed up in victory and through his death and resurrection, those who follow Jesus receive new birth into *A Living Hope*.

Tucson Interfaith Choir and Orchestra ***Lamb of God Oratorio***

Palo Verde High Magnet High School Auditorium
1302 S. Avenida Vega

Free tickets at TucsonLambofGod.eventbrite.com

Friday, April 18, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 19, 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

An Interfaith choir and orchestra, hosted by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, presents Rob Garner's Oratorio, entitled ***Lamb of God***, a dramatic musical portrayal of the final days of Jesus' life. The work was completed in 2010 and recorded with the London Symphony Orchestra that same year. A unique aspect of this work is that in addition to the soloists, choir, orchestra and spoken narration, there is no vocal soloist depicting Christ, but instead his voice is always represented by a solo cello.

Each year, an estimated 4,000+ performers across the world participate in locally-produced performances of "Lamb of God" in places as far-reaching as the Netherlands, Romania and Buenos Aires. These performances play for a total audience of well over 50,000 people from dozens of faiths.

Catalina United Methodist Church

2700 E. Speedway Blvd.

Palm Sunday, April 13, 10 a.m.

The Sanctuary choir will perform excerpts from the Fauré *Requiem* with organ accompaniment.

Good Friday, April 18, 6 p.m... The Catalina Choir will collaborate with First UMC to perform Fauré's *Cantique de Jean Racine* at First United Methodist (915 E. 4th St.).

LAMB *of* GOD

A Tucson interfaith choir and orchestra presents a dramatic musical portrayal of the final days of Jesus' life.

April 18

FRIDAY

7:30 PM

April 19

SATURDAY

4:00 PM

April 19

SATURDAY

7:30 PM

Palo Verde High School | 1302 S Avenida Vega, Tucson
Reserve Free Tickets | TucsonLambofGod.eventbrite.com

Hosted by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



Scan me

Recap Members' Recital , March 16



Raymond Ryder, Quinton Hurst, Laura Silva, Lars Andersen, David Horr, Stan Kartchner, John Brobeck

Our Members' Recital was an outstanding success with good attendance and great playing. Several comments were how much they enjoyed singing the hymns and hearing the arrangements. Thanks to each performer and to John Brobeck, host who introduced the performers, gave commentary on the hymns, and played most of the hymns. And a special thanks to Dee Schultz for great goodies at the reception. For those of you who missed it, here's the program:

Photo, Greg Silva

*HYMN, Savior of the Nations, Come
Nun komm der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659, J. S. Bach
 Toccata on Antioch, Craig Phillips
 LAURA SILVA

"Did you Think to Pray?" W O. Perkins, arr. R.P. Manookin
 HYMN, A Mighty Fortress is Our God
 Toccata on *Ein Feste Burg*, Gordon Young
 QUINTON HURST

HYMN Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent
 Meditation on "Picardy," Leo Sowerby
 LARS ANDERSEN

Carillon on a Ukrainian Bell Carol, Gerald Near
 STANLEY KARTCHNER

HYMN Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether
 Prelude on "Union Seminary," Charles Callahan
 "Holy Manna," Dale Wood
 DAVID HERR

HYMN, Every Time I Feel the Spirit
 "Every Time I Feel the Spirit," Adolphus Hailstork
 Prelude on "Old 124th," arr. Raymond T. Ryder
 "It is Well With My Soul," Joel Raney
 HYMN, It is Well With My Soul
 RAYMOND T. RYDER



Photo, Mark Stockwell

Chaplain's Message



"My heart is firmly fixed, O God, my heart is fixed; I will sing and make melody. Wake up, my spirit; awake, lute and harp; I myself will waken the dawn."
Psalm 108:1-2

A more traditional wording of this verse is "O God, my heart is ready." One of the great musical congregations, St. Thomas Church Fifth Avenue, has this as its motto. Whether we use our voice, the lute, the harp, or the organ, we know - to sing and make melody well takes readiness - it takes preparation! I don't have to tell you that, because you know the hours of practice and leadership it takes to get God's people ready, both in heart and voice, to sing and make melody. As Lent proceeds and Easter approaches, you have my prayers and my thanks for the work of preparation - preparing yourselves and preparing the people you serve to waken the dawn, that eternal symbol of Christ's resurrection and his coming again in Glory. God bless you all.

*Br. David Benedict Hedges, BSG
Rector, St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church
SAAGO Chaplain*

Part-time Music Position: Organist and/or Choir Director

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Saint Alban's Episcopal Church is seeking talented and dedicated candidates to fill the position of Organist and Choir Director – or 2 people to fill the positions separately. The ideal candidate/candidates will bring musical excellence, creativity, and leadership to our worship services and a collaborative environment for the choir and congregation. Knowledge of the classics, a passion for sacred music in the Episcopal tradition, and more contemporary choral music and hymns is an expectation.

To apply, submit a resume and cover letter outlining your experience and vision for music ministry along with professional references and recordings or videos of your organ or choral work to:

Saint Alban's Episcopal Church
3738 Old Sabino Canyon Road
Tucson, AZ 85750

Or email to: albanslife@stalbandsza.org.
Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

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.



**AGO 2025
PHOENIX**
JUNE 16-19

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June 16-19, 2025
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Richard Elliott



Isabelle Demers



Bálint Karosi



Raúl Prieto Ramírez



Ilona Kubiacyk-Adler



Scott Dettra



Brett Valliant

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PHXAGO2025.org



The Wanamaker Organ—its last public day. . .

Member Larry Grove visited Philadelphia to hear the Wanamaker organ—the world's largest—for its final day of public performance: March 22. Here he shares some interesting observations and some great personal photos culled from his visit on that day.

From Larry:

The Wanamaker Building in Center City Philadelphia has been the home of major department stores since its opening in 1911. The 13-story building, which covers an entire city block, was built by John Wanamaker in the early 1900s. During its construction he purchased the then world's largest pipe organ from the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair and had it brought to Philadelphia in 13 rail cars where it was installed in the seven-story Grand Court in the center of the store.

The organ was first played when the store opened in 1911. Since then, it has been played every day at least twice a day from Monday through Saturday. John Wanamaker was a religious man who kept the store closed on Sundays; in recent years, however, when the store has been open on Sundays,



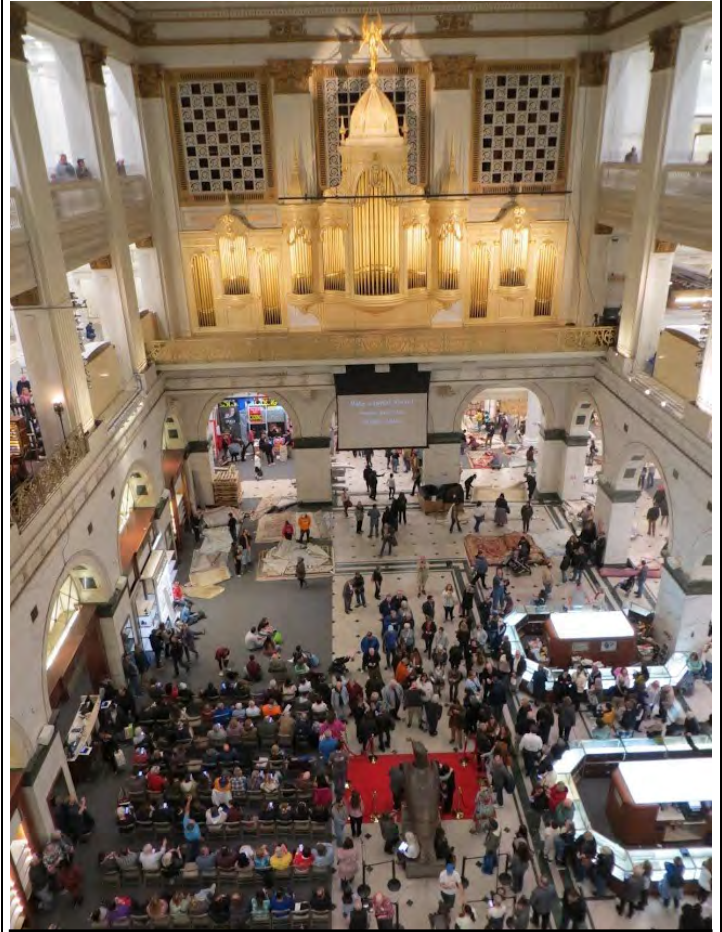
the organ was not played out of respect for the Wanamaker.

After the organ was first used in 1911, in spite of its size, it was deemed not large enough for the space, so from 1911 through the 1930s the organ was continually enlarged by the addition of pipes made in the Wanamaker organ shop, which is still maintained in the Wanamaker Building.

The Wanamaker Store closed in the 1980s, but was followed by Hecht's, Strawbridge & Clothier, Lord &

Taylor and finally Macy's for the past 20 years. Recently, only three of the seven floors remained as the department store retail space. The upper floors were all converted to office space. You can read everything about the organ on this website: [Wanamaker Organ - Wikipedia](#)

During Macy's tenure in the building, the company brought the organ back to 100% playing capacity. It had fallen into poor condition in the late 1980s to 1990s. This past January Macy's announced the



Crowds hear the organ on March 22, 2025

store would be closed in March because of declining sales, shoplifting and lack of profitability. The store closed for good on Sunday, March 23. On Saturday, March 22, a "goodbye" celebration of the organ was held with all-day concerts beginning at 9 am and ending at 6:30 pm with a different organist playing a concert every hour on the hour throughout the day.

It is not known, when, if ever, the organ will again be played in public. It and the Grand Court are listed on

More photos on the next page

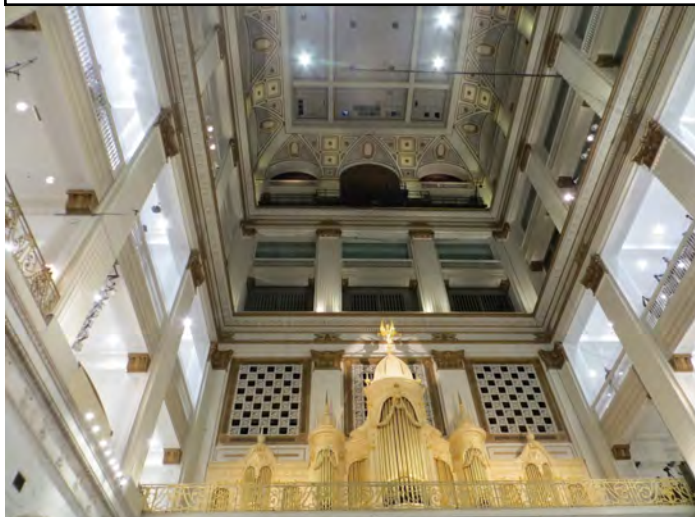
The Wanamaker Organ con't.

the National Register of Historic Places, so they cannot be changed, although the building will be repurposed.

With the current retail environment there will never be another major department store in the building, so how the building will be repurposed is unknown. The building's owner has pledged to keep the organ and Grand Court intact.



464 ranks, six manuals, 28,750 pipes



Dramatic view from the Grand Court, looking up



Celebrating the Organ March 2005

A look back 20 years. SAAGO conference *Celebrating the Organ* schedule. See brochure front and photos on back page.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2005

Holsclaw Hall/ Music Bldg.
University of Arizona campus

- 6:30 Registration
- 8:00 Recital: Daniel Roth
- 9:30 Reception

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2005

- 8:00 Registration and Coffee
St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church
4440 N. Campbell Ave.
- 8:30 Morning Prayer
- 9:00 Keynote Address: Victoria Sirota
- 9:45 Break; travel to Grace St. Paul's
Episcopal Church, 2331 E. Adams St.
- 10:15 Master Class: Daniel Roth
- 12:15 Lunch Break (box lunches provided;
exhibits open)
- 1:15 Workshop: *Mendelssohn Discovered*,
Thomas Murray
- 2:30 Break, exhibits open
- 3:00 Workshop: *Orgelbüchlein*, Lenten portion
Robert Clark
- 4:45 Wine & Cheese Panel Discussion:
*21st Century Trends in Organ Design
& Construction*
Jack Bethards, Michael Quimby,
Eric Johnson, Grahame Davis
- 6:15 Dinner (Advance Reservation Only)
- 7:45 Recital: Pamela Decker,
Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church
- 9:15 Reception

SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2005

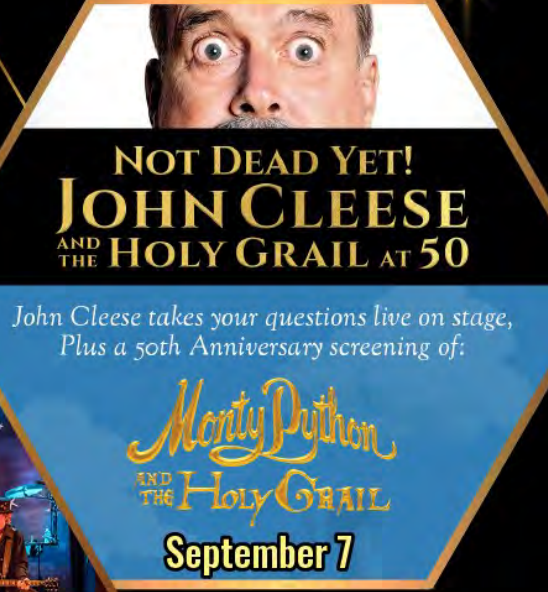
- 9:00-noon: Worship at local churches.
- Noon Lunch on your own
- 2:15 Pre-Recital Talk: John T. Brobeck,
Northminster Presbyterian Church
2450 E. Ft. Lowell Rd.
- 3:00 Recital: Thomas Murray
- 4:30 Reception



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(undergraduate advisor) at davidboulton@arizona.edu



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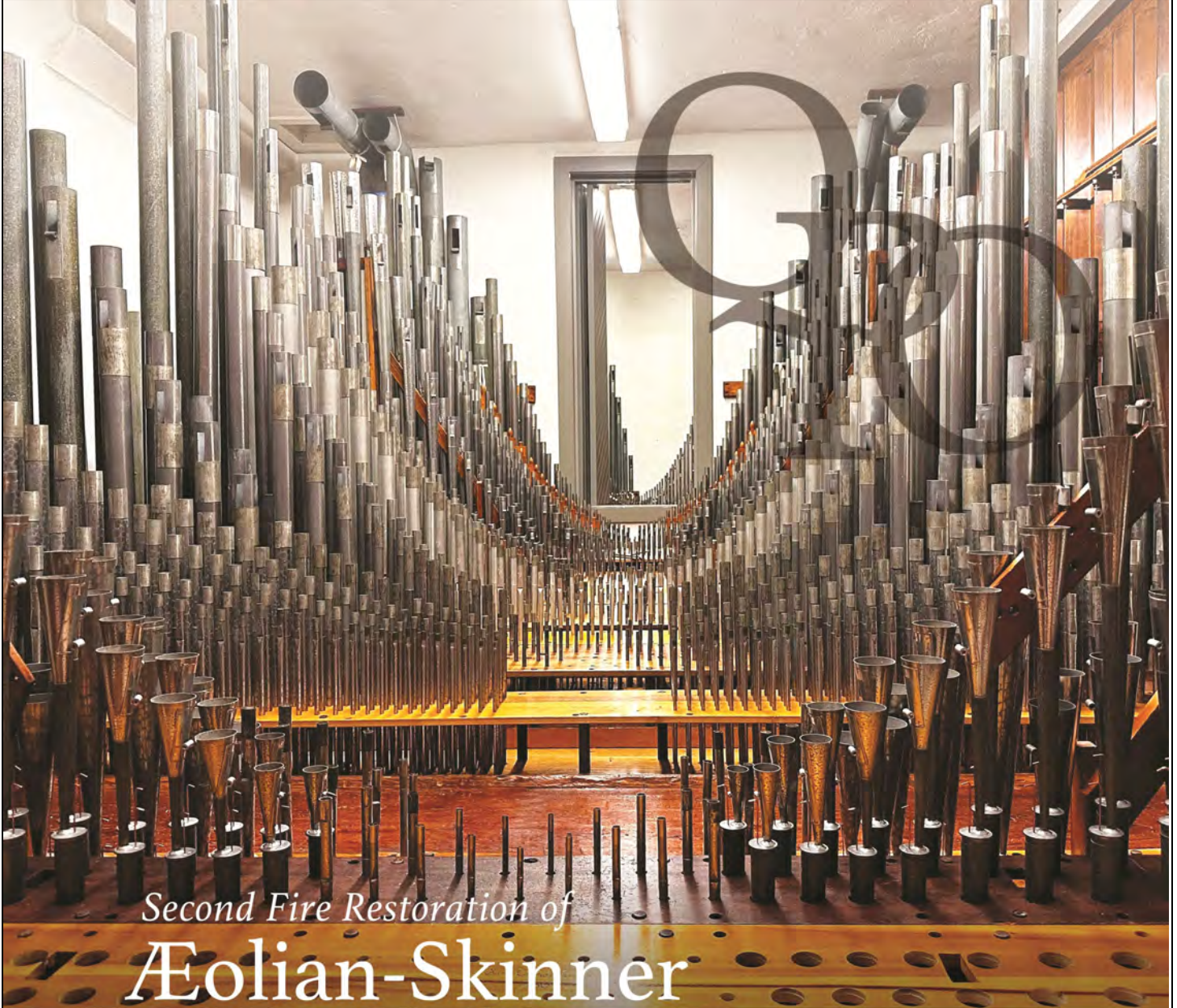
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Douglass Hunt, Project Consultant
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**Frankenstein A Choral
Ballet & Brahms "Love Song
Waltzes"**
November 22-24, 2024



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



**The Best of Baroque
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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

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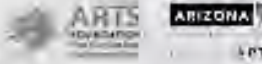
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