



The CYPHER

Newsletter of the Southern Arizona Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Volume 44, Number 7
March 2025

Chapter Website: www.saago.org

Chapter & Member Programs at a glance through April 7

POSTPONED

Pamela Decker, Organ
Roy Johnson Memorial Organ Series
Sunday, Mar. 2, 3 p.m.

SAAGO—Members' Recital
Sunday, Mar. 16, 4 p.m.
Northminster Presbyterian Church
Reception

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

Pamela Decker, Organ
Sunday, March 23, 2 p.m.
St. Andrew the Apostle Church
800 Taylor Drive, Sierra Vista

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
\$30; \$25 seniors; \$10 students

Members' Recital *Sunday, March 16, 4 p.m.*

Northminster Presbyterian Church
2450 E. Ft. Lowell Rd.
Reception Following
Donation

Join your fellow members as they play an interesting and varied program on organ compositions mostly based on chorales or hymn tunes—and in two cases, Christmas carols. There will be time for singing some of the hymns as well. John Brobeck will welcome us as Northminster host and organist and will share a little information about the Roy Johnson Memorial Organ as well as introduce each of the performers and their selections.



Quimby organ (Opus 51, III/46), 1999

See page 4 for the selections each of the performers will play.

Performers are identified left to right below

Top Row: Yvonne Kuhlman, Raymond T. Ryder, Laura Silva, John T. Brobeck
Bottom Row: Lars Andersen, David Horr, Quinton Hurst, Stan Kartchner



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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.

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realize what is not written is the domain of art.***

—Jean Langlais.

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Message from the dean...

Inspiration

Dear Colleagues,

For me, the month of February held three recitals that I found inspiring. But the idea that these performances were 'inspiring' brought to mind the question: What does inspiration mean? Looking it up seemed like a good way to get started on writing this column. So I went to the bookshelf, itself archaic I suppose, to consult an actual book, a 'Dictionary,' rather than Google or Siri. This particular one is a two-volume dictionary that's part of a World Book encyclopedia set that I inherited several years ago, but have never actually used. I was surprised to find papers in between some of its pages, such a bulletin from a 1979 memorial service, but that's another story... Back to the question, what does inspiration mean?

"Inspiration" (I'll skip the phonetic pronunciation) "n. 1. the influence of thought and strong feelings on actions, especially good actions..."

The three performances were inspiring partly because of the seemingly effortless mastery of the performers, but also because of their choice of works to perform and their commentary. First was Doug Leightenheimer's recital in Holsclaw Hall as part of the Roy Johnson Memorial Organ Series. Since organists are usually occupied simultaneously, it was great to hear Doug play not just a couple pieces during a service, or in a showcase, but an entire solo recital. The performance and the choice of repertoire made for an uplifting and energizing afternoon.

A couple weeks later, the concert pianist Rachel Breen, presented a concert on Centennial Hall

Stage. Both the performer and the audience were on stage, surrounded by the shell that usually would be behind a large ensemble in performance, so it was a much more intimate experience for the audience than a typical artist recital. Her playing is stunning, with amazing clarity in dynamic layers and contrasts. She played some exceptionally difficult repertoire as if it were child's play, but in such a communicative way that spell-binding is an apt description of her performance.

The third inspiring performance was that of Alcée Chriss III as part of the Catalina Organ Festival. His concert was another spell-binding performance of effortless mastery. His registrations had such clarity and colorfulness that it seemed like I was hearing that instrument for the very first time. And like the earlier inspiring concerts I attended, time flew by as my attention was entirely captured by the performance. As I walked back to my car that evening, I felt that I had breathed in new energy, I had breathed in Music, I had been inspired.

So, if inspiration is "the influence of thought and strong feelings on actions, especially good actions..." what actions should follow? Hearing Rachel Breen and Alcée Chriss both perform from memory inspires me to memorize or re-memorize more pieces. But all three performers inspire me to be more communicative with my music making. They inspire me to prepare music that is worthy of inspiring others. And who knows, maybe start memorizing... the Widor Toccata perhaps?

Raymond Ryder, Dean

Chapter and Member Programs

Members' Recital *con't from front page*

A sneak peek at the program which includes the following. No doubt you'll find a favorite.

- Meditation on "Picardy," Sowerby;
- "Holy Manna," Dale Wood;
- "Did you Think to Pray?" Perkins;
- Toccata on *Ein Feste Burg*, Young;
- Carillon On A Ukrainian Bell Carol, Near ;
- "O Morning Star How Fair and Bright," Burkhardt;
- "Every Time I Feel the Spirit," Hailstork;
- *Nun komm, der Heidfen Heiland* BWV 659, Bach; and Toccata on "Antioch," Phillips

POSTPONED: Pamela Decker, Organ *Roy Johnson Memorial Organ Series*

Sunday, March 2, 3 p.m.

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

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

Registration to attend this workshop with Internationally renowned young British organist Anna Lapwood is filling up quickly with about 70 registered already. To ensure a seat at this event, it is necessary to register in advance.

To ensure a seat, please register at EVENTBRITE by Monday, March 31, as follows:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/introduction-to-organ-with-anna-lapwood-saago-and-young-students-tickets-1220638977039?aff=oddttdcreator>

Ms. 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 play a piece for her suggestions and comments. A limited number of slots will be available.

Pizza reception follows.

"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 Internationally Renowned British Organist



Anna Lapwood in Concert

Catalina Organ Festival

Monday, Apr. 7, 7 p.m.

Catalina United Methodist Church
\$30; \$25 seniors; \$10 students

Excitement is really building surrounding Anna Lapwood's concert as part of the Catalina Organ Festival. Ms. Lapwood is an organist, conductor, broadcaster, and Director of Music at Pembroke College, Cambridge. She is also an Associate Artist at the Royal Albert Hall, London, and an Artist in Association with the BBC Singers. And she has a 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.

Ticket sales are nearing capacity. Only a few remain. A 'full house' is anticipated! BUY YOUR TICKETS SOON!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/anna-lapwood-in-tucson-tickets-909466186847>

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers needed to serve in a variety of capacities for the Anna Lapwood Workshop on Sunday, April 6. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Laura Silva (laurasilva@aol.com) or Dusty Johnson (skj5@cox.net).

Chapter and Member Programs *continued*

Pamela Decker, Organ

Sunday, March 23, 2 p.m.

St. Andrew the Apostle Church
800 Taylor Drive, Sierra Vista
Free Will Offering

Dr. Decker's program will include works by Langlais, Near, and Smyth along with original compositions by the performer. There is no charge to attend the concert; however, a free will offering will be accepted. All donations go to the organ restoration fund.



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—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—Finzi and R. V. 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

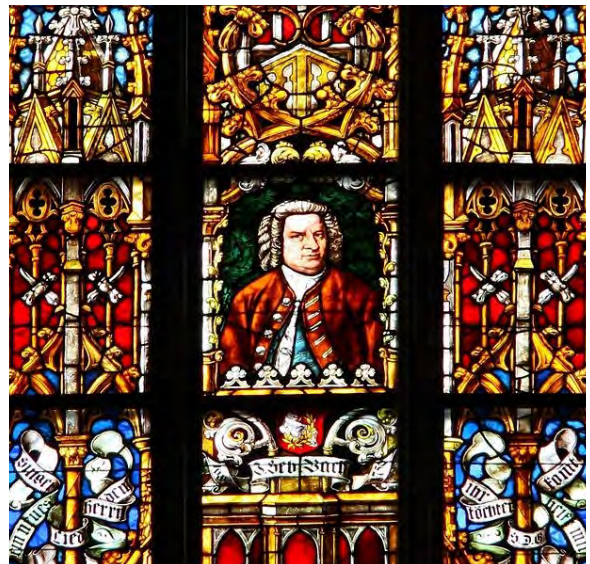
Sunday, May 25, 3 p.m.
St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church
4440 N. Campbell Ave.



SAAGO—Summer Social Potluck & Business Meeting

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

Johann Sebastian Bach
March 31, 1685-July 28, 1750
Bach Window Thomaskirche, Leipzig



Chapter and Member Programs *continued*—

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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Recap, Mid 20th Century Organ Culture presentation with Bill Kuhlman

Thanks to Bill Kuhlman, Professor Emeritus Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, for presenting a very interesting lecture on Mid-20th century organ culture, accompanied by great photos as well. About 20 SAAGO members thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and photos, feeling free to interject with questions. Following the lecture, members stayed to talk, ask questions and enjoy an exceptionally appetizing lunch prepared by Dee Schultz. A very enjoyable and informative meeting.

Thanks to Northminster for use of the space and particularly to Deon Hill, media technician.



Photos, Dee Schultz, M. Stockwell, Dusty Johnson



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Chaplain's Message



As the new year begins, my thanks go out to all of our hard-working congregational musicians who have worked so hard through the Advent and Christmas seasons. It's one of the highest-intensity parts of the year for choirs, organists, and other church musicians, and a time when you give so much time and energy so that others have a chance and a place to be still and know that God is God. We now stand in the Epiphany Season, when liturgical and lectionary based churches contemplate the arrival and manifestation of Jesus - the making-known of who Jesus is. Good church music does just that - helps make known and manifest the love and mercy of the Savior.

Due to the lateness of Easter this year, this season is long! I hope you have an opportunity to take some time for yourself and your own renewal before things get busy again toward Lent and Easter. My prayers for all of you in your ministry of music continue, as we walk the roads of Galilee with Jesus, before turning toward the Cross this Lent.

*Br. David Benedict Hedges, BSG
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 Albans 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.



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



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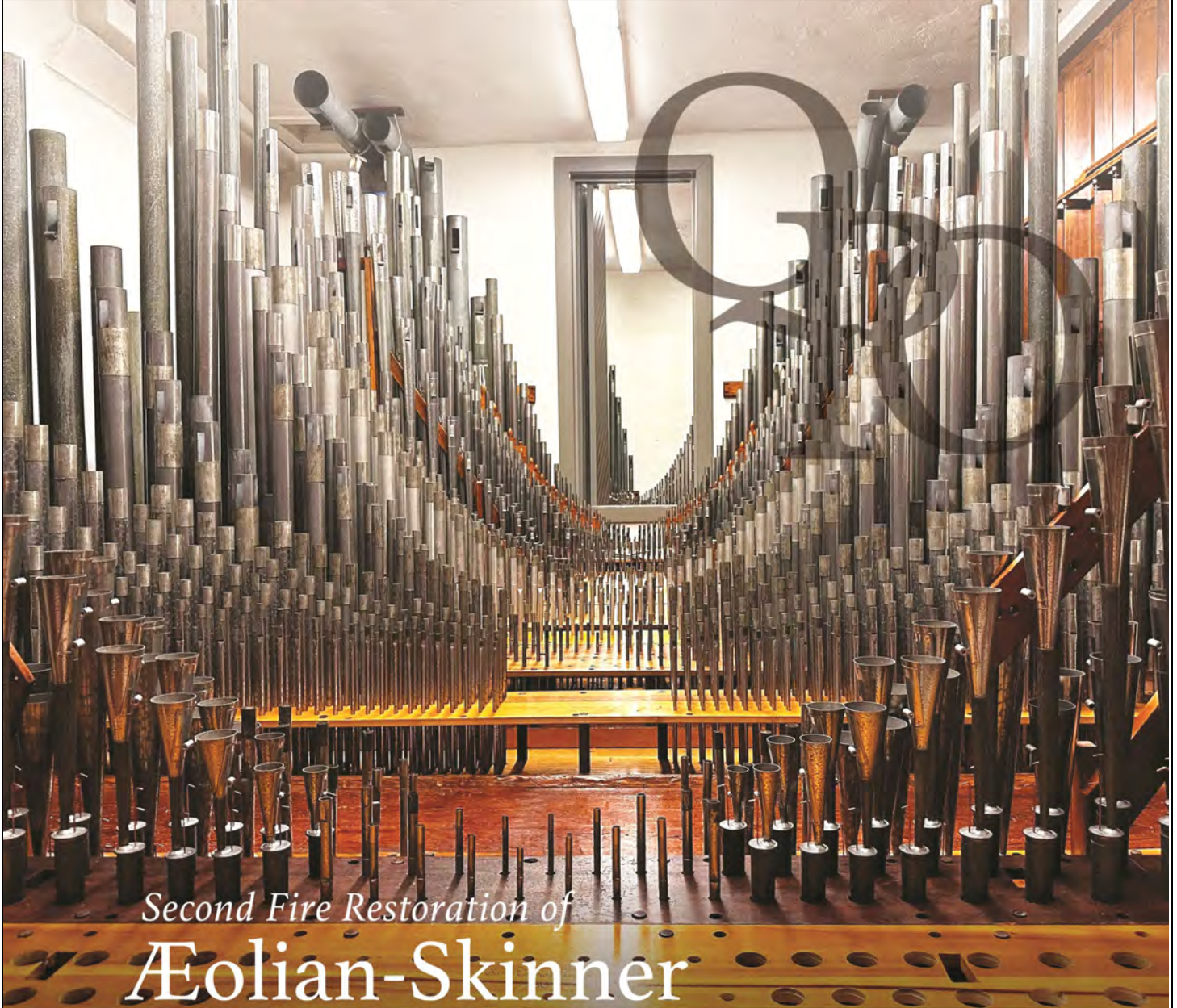
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**Mozart Requiem & Paulus
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February 18



**CHELSEA
HELM**
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April 1



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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

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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. Rescheduled to next season, 2025-2026

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Frederich Julius Reubke (1834-58), son of an organist and student of Liszt, composed two major works, the *Piano Sonata in B-flat minor*, and the *Sonata on the 94th Psalm in C minor* for organ, which is considered one of the great pieces for solo organ of the Romantic repertoire. He died from tuberculosis in June of 1858.

Thomaskirche



Bach statue at the Thomaskirche

Happy Birthday to Bach, Chopin, Vivaldi, Haydn, Ravel, Bartók, Rimsky-Korsakov, Mussorgsky, CPE Bach, Smetana, Telemann, Barber, Wolf, Reger, Strauss, Villa-Lobos, Gesualdo, Honneger, Reubke

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.

Hymn Festival

with Dr. Sam Eatherton

Sunday, March 30, at 3 p.m.
Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior
555 S. La Cañada Dr.
Green Valley, AZ

Everyone Welcome! Free-will Offering



Dr. Samuel Eatherton is Assistant Professor of Practical Theology, Kantor and the Kreft Professor for Music Arts at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. He received a Doctor of Musical Arts in church music from Baylor University and a Master of Church Music from Concordia University Chicago. He studied privately with Dr. Gerre Hancock and Dr. Larry Palmer, and has conducted and performed organ recitals, hymn festivals and choral concerts.