



The CYPHER

Newsletter of the Southern Arizona Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Volume 45, Number 9
May 2026

Chapter Website: www.saago.org

2025-26 calendar at a glance

St. Michael's Festival Choir
Saturday, May 2, 3 p.m. & 7 p.m.
St. Michael's and All Angels
Episcopal Church

**SAAGO—Organ
Exploration/Two Organ-Mini
Crawl, Open Console, and
lunch**

Saturday, May 9
9 a.m., Northminster
Presbyterian Church
10:30 a.m., Catalina United
Methodist Church

**Youth of St. Philip's
Fundraising Concert**
Saturday, May 9, 7 p.m.
Saint Philip's in the Hills
Episcopal Church

All the Bells and Whistles
Sunday, May 17, 3 p.m.
Christ Church United
Methodist

**SAAGO—Summer Social
Potluck & Business
Meeting**
Sunday June 7, 4 p.m.
Colonia Verde Clubhouse

In From the Heat Concerts
Catalina United Methodist
Church
Noon, followed by lunch
\$20 per person/\$30 for two

Jeffrey Campbell, Organ
Saturday, June 20,

Kristin Holton Prouty, Organ
Saturday, July 18

May Organ Exploration—mini crawl

Organ Exploration/Two organ-Mini Crawl, Open Console

Saturday, May 9

9 a.m., Northminster Presbyterian Church
2450 E. Ft. Lowell Rd.

10:30 a.m., Catalina United Methodist Church
2700 East Speedway Blvd.

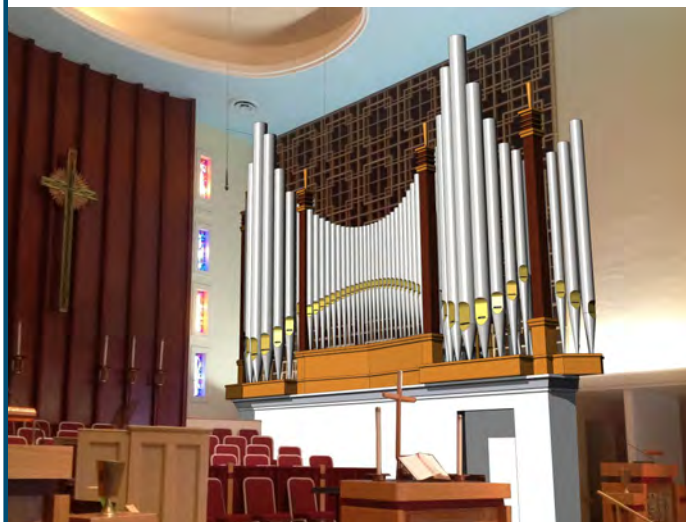
Lunch provided courtesy of the chapter

Join your colleagues to see, hear and play two notable Tucson instruments, both designed and built by Quimby Pipe Organs of Warrensburg, MO. The first stop is Northminster (Opus 51, 3 manuals, 46 ranks) where you will be greeted by John Brobeck, Director of Music and Organist. He'll share a little bit about the instrument and open the chambers to allow members to examine the layout of the pipes.

Members will have the opportunity to play the instrument before proceeding to Catalina.

Second stop is Catalina (Opus70, 4 manuals, 57 ranks). Dave Horr, SAAGO Secretary/Treasurer, will greet you and share a little bit about the instrument.

(Dave is filling in for Mariana Mevans who has a Mother's Day event with her son that morning.) Once again, members will have opportunity to play the instrument. However, the chambers are inaccessible to all except organ technicians. There will be handouts with the specs and some organ builder history.



Continued on page 4

**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 2025-2026 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

Full page, \$150
Half page (horizontal), \$100
Quarter page (vertical), \$75
Quarter page (horizontal) \$75
Business card size, \$75
Website, any size, \$50

A *as in an organ from one blast of wind
To many a row of pipes the soundboard breathes.*
Milton—*Paradise Lost*. Bk. I. L. 708.

AGO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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Message from the dean...

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

I don't know why I expected things to slow down as this spring progressed, but it has turned out to be even more busy than I had anticipated! Sonoran Bells did five concerts this spring, including one in Scottsdale at Casa de Cristo, which SAAGO members had visited on our Phoenix excursion in February. The performances are demanding enough, but we also act as our own 'roadies' setting up all of the tables, pads, bells, etc. prior to each performance, then tearing everything down and loading it up to be transported to the next venue. It's rewarding, but exhausting.

It now seems rather distant, but I wanted to share with you a highlight this spring that's not directly related to organ for me. As most of you know, I'm also a part of the Music Teachers National Association, as well as the state and local affiliates. In March, MTNA held its 175th anniversary convention in Chicago, and I felt obligated to attend, but for a very positive reason.

Each year, state associations can nominate members to become MTA Foundation Fellows. The Foundation helps students and teachers with a variety of grants, and raises funds from contributions towards Foundation Fellows. So being nominated is the first step towards that fund raising. Once contributions in the name of a particular nominee have reached \$1500, they are designated a

Foundation Fellow (contributions can continue after that threshold has been achieved).

There were thirty-three Foundation Fellows honored at the gala banquet during this year's convention. My colleague at Pima Community College, Kassandra Weleck, and I were both nominated for that honor this year. (I thought it was very diplomatic for the ASMTA Board to nominate both of us considering that we share the same office/teaching studio on West Campus). So it was an excellent reason to attend the convention (well, about half of it), and nice excuse to visit Chicago. Without rambling on too much, there were two exhibit halls, and AGO had a booth there. So Monday morning, before the gala that evening, I had a chance to chat with Valerie Harris, who was there with the Orgelkit.

This spring continues to be rather hectic, but I'm glad I like what I do, and grateful for friends and colleagues in AGO, in MTNA, and at Pima.

See you soon...

Raymond T. Ryder, Dean

"Music comes to me more readily than words."

— Ludwig van Beethoven

Chapter and Member Programs

Continued from the cover

Established in 1970, QPO began as a tuning and maintenance firm and developed into one of the premier organ building firms in the country. Its first comprehensive new pipe organ was built in 1987 and consisted of three-manuals and 42 ranks. Since that installation, QPO has built pipe organs of all sizes, from small two-manuals up to its current magnum opus of five-manuals and 155 ranks. A sampling of QPO installations follows: Cathedral of St. John the Divine (NYC, 151 ranks), Fourth Presbyterian Church (Chicago, 143 ranks), First Baptist Church (Jackson, MS, 155 ranks), St. Margaret's Episcopal Church (Palm Desert, CA, 71 ranks), Cathedral of St. Paul, MN (86 ranks), Jacoby Symphony Hall (Jacksonville, FL, 98 ranks), —and, of course, Tucson, AZ.

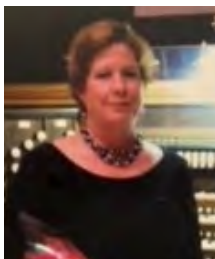
Please let Dee Schultz know that you plan to be there for lunch. Makes her planning much easier (adschul@yahoo.com or 520-343-5343).

St. Michael's Festival Choir Organ and Choir Concert

Saturday, May 2, 3 p.m. & 7 p.m.
St. Michael's and All Angels Episcopal Church
602 N Wilmot
Suggested donation: \$25

The St Michael's Festival Choir presents a program featuring the *Concerto for Organ, Timpani, and Strings* by Francis Poulenc performed by organist and choir member, Jessie Jewitt, accompanied by 17 string players and percussion. Following the concerto, the choir will perform two major works by Franz Joseph Haydn, again accompanied by orchestra and organ, directed by Chris Fresolone, St. Michael's Director of Music.

Jessie Jewett studied organ at Vassar College with Donald Pearson, with Jean Langlais in Paris and won the "Premier Prix" in the 1985 "Union des Femmes Artistes Musiciennes" international organ competition held at St. Augustin in Paris. She played regularly at the American Cathedral in Paris, performed recitals and she has held positions as organist in the San Francisco Bay area. Now retired, she sings in the choir at St. Michael's and assists Chris Fresolone when needed. She previously performed the Poulenc *Organ Concerto* with the Palo Alto Symphony in 2015 to benefit the children of Pacasse, Haiti, a cause dear to her heart.



All the Bells and Whistles

Sunday, May 17, 3 p.m.
Christ Church United Methodist
655 N. Craycroft Rd.
Free. Donations benefit the Christ Church Food Bank.



Christ Church's annual celebration of the music of the church features bells, organ, choir, singing, and lots more. Members Janet Tolman and John Neve direct and perform in the program.



**Summer Social and General
Membership Meeting, June 7, 4 p.m.
Including discussion of program ideas**

SAAGO—Summer Social and General Membership Meeting at Colonia Verde

Sunday, June 7, 4 p.m.
Colonia Verde Club House
2700 N. Camino Valle Verde

The annual members' meeting will take place at 4 p.m. followed by the potluck dinner and fellowship time, starting 5 p.m. Reservation deadline to Dee Schultz is Thursday, June 4. Contact her at 520-343-5343, or E-mail her at: adschul@yahoo.com, by Thursday, June 4.

Members' Input. As the chapter looks forward to and plans for the future, the Executive Committee is hoping that you can come prepared to share your ideas, goals, concerns for the chapter. The Program Committee has put forward a tentative program for the coming season, but would benefit from input by chapter members as to what they would find valuable and useful to them. So please think about it a bit and feel free to share your ideas.

See pages 7 and 8 for details and driving instructions.

Welcome to the following New Members

The A. F. Schultz Organ, St. Michael and All Angels

It's a pleasure to welcome the following new members to the SAAGO chapter. Our hope is that they find their membership fulfilling as well as enjoyable as they participate in the various SAAGO activities focusing on organ and choral music.

Welcome!

**Anne Cotten
Marsha Foxgrover
Lynn C. Haak
Deborah Osborn**

Contact information will be distributed to the membership soon.



**The A. F. Schultz Organ
St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church**

The Æolian-Skinner pipe organ at St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church is known as the A. F. Schultz Organ. The organ was originally built in 1959 as Opus 1352 for Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. It was purchased by St. Michael's in 1989, was restored and upgraded in 1998 and renamed the A. F. Schultz Organ in recognition of Alan F. Schultz's contributions to the church and community. It was rededicated in 2005 with a recital by organist Todd Wilson.

The organ is an example of the "American Classic" design. It has three manuals and 64 ranks.



Jeffrey Campbell
SATURDAY, JUNE 20



Kristin Holton Prouty
SATURDAY, JULY 18



Lunch at noon in the Fellowship Hall followed by an organ recital in the Sanctuary

Lunch & Concert: \$20 per person / \$30 for two

www.catalinamethodist.org/organ-festival/

Catalina United Methodist Church



Chaplain's Reflection



Dear SAAGO friends -

Summer is in view! We can see it coming already. For many churches, this is when the choir goes on a hiatus, vacations for musicians and organists come, and the intensity of the music is dialed back. But nonetheless, the song continues. For substitute organists and musicians, this might be a more busy time than the rest of the year! Whatever the situation in the congregations you serve, you have my prayers and blessings for a restful summer, and my thanks for your faithful service to God's people.

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



Four manual Casavant Organ (Opus 1715, 1943), First Methodist Church, Cleveland, Ohio. Built during WWII when restrictions and taxes were imposed on organ builders, which resulted in controversy and accusations that building the instrument was unpatriotic. (see Reuter ad on p. 10). The church is closed, the sanctuary a wedding banquet hall with organ

still in place. For decades, the annual concert series read like a "who's who" of organists—Coci, Crozier, Germani, Dupré, Peeters, etc.

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.

Encourage your students to apply!

Attend the St. Louis Convention for world-class performances, professional development workshops, and networking with over 1,000 colleagues



National Convention, July 6–10, 2026

St. Louis, MO

Hosted by the St. Louis Chapter

AGOSTL2026@agostlouis.org

YOU'RE INVITED!

To the Southern Arizona Chapter of the AGO's

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CHAPTER

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026, 4:00 P.M. 'TIL



At the beautiful club house
at Colonia Verde

*(David Wachter's and
David Horr's community)*

2700 N. Camino Valle Verde,
off Sabino Canyon Road,
north of Tanque Verde
*(driving directions are on
the following page).*

- ◆ *Come and enjoy visiting with your friends in the Chapter for a fun get-together to conclude the 2025-2026 season.*
- ◆ *Annual meeting of the Chapter Members is at 4 p.m. Share your thoughts on programming and the future. 2027 is our 90th anniversary. Supper follows at 5:00.*
- ◆ *Bring your favorite dish for the potluck supper. If you can't bring a dish or beverage, come anyway! There will be enough for everyone.*
- ◆ *Bring any organ music you no longer wish to keep.*
- ◆ *Get to know your colleagues better.*
- ◆ *If you need a ride, don't be shy to ask.*

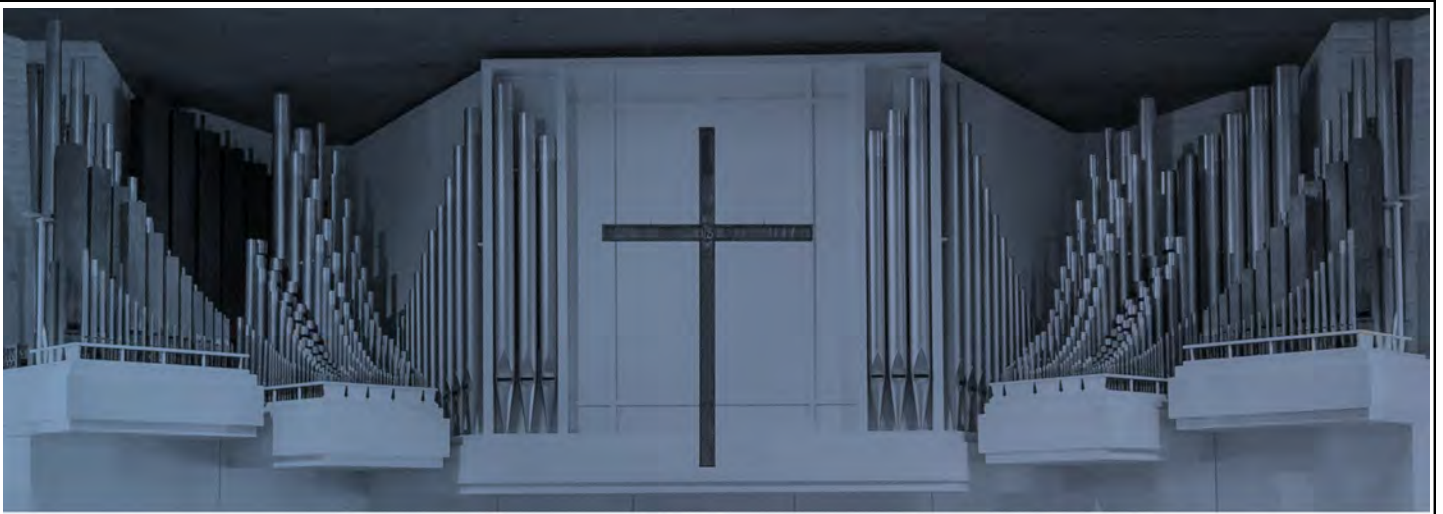
Contact Dee Schultz, 520-343-5343, or E-mail her at: adschul@yahoo.com, **by Thursday, June 4**, to let her know what dish you'll be bringing. Utensils and soft drinks will be provided.



Annual Meeting Directions: There are several ways to get to the Colonia Verde club house:

1. From the Foothills, drive south on Sabino Canyon Road, through the light at Cloud Road. After crossing Tanque Verde Wash, you will pass three HOA's and then Sabino Baptist Church on the left. Immediately beyond the church, take the next left turn (E. Portal Airosa) into Colonia Verde. Drive one block, cross Camino Valle Verde into the clubhouse parking lot, straight ahead.
2. Tanque Verde to Sabino Canyon Road. Turn north onto Sabino Canyon Road. Turn RIGHT at the second street on the right (E. Portal Airosa) into Colonia Verde. Drive one block, cross Camino Valle Verde into the clubhouse parking lot, straight ahead.
3. North on Kolb Road (north of Speedway Blvd.), turn right onto new Sabino Canyon Road, cross Pantano Wash, proceed through Tanque Verde, then turn right at the second street on the right (E. Portal Airosa) into Colonia Verde. Drive one block, cross Camino Valle Verde into the clubhouse parking lot, straight ahead.

*Please join your colleagues and friends on Sunday, June 7
at 4:00 p.m. for this delightful end-of-season event.*



Our pipe organ is *swell*
We're *positive* you'll want to *stop* and enjoy it



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Updated SAAGO & Member Programs May—July

St. Michael's Festival Choir Choral and Organ Concert

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St. Michael's and All Angels Episcopal Church

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All the Bells and Whistles

Sunday, May 17, 3 p.m.
Christ Church United Methodist

SAAGO—Social, Potluck & Business Meeting

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Colonia Verde Clubhouse

Looking Ahead to Summer

In From the Heat Summer Organ Series

Catalina United Methodist Church
Lunch at Noon, followed by the concert
\$20 per person/\$30 for two

Jeffrey Campbell, Organ
Saturday, June 20

Kristin Holton Prouty, Organ
Saturday, July 18

News items from the January 1, 1946, issue of
THE DIAPASON.

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It was three years ago that the last Reuter Organ was built. Now, after completing important war work in the Navy Rocket program which contributed so vitally to final victory, we turn again our efforts and skill to the building of fine organs. We do this with the same organization of outstanding craftsmen who built Reuter Organs before the war.

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May Composers' Birthdays

Brahms, Buxtehude,
Dupré, Fauré,
Froberger, Gottshalk,
Massenet, Monteverdi,
Scarlatti, Sweelinck,
Satie, Stamitz,
Tchaikovsky, Wagner,
Albéniz

News items from the January 1, 1956
THE DIAPASON

TUCSON CHAPTER—Our November meeting was held at the Hammond organ shop. After a short business meeting conducted by David McDowell, in the absence of Dean Andrew Buchhauser, our program chairman, Mrs. Dorothy Callahan, introduced a very interesting evening of organ music and vocal solos. Mrs. Paul Grimes sang three unusual numbers to be used at Christmas and Lenten services; Henry Dahms' vocal solos were especially suitable for weddings; Mrs. Henry Dahms accompanied both of the soloists. Modern anthems suitable for a variety of services were shown to us by Mrs. Dorothy Callahan. A lonely suite of Christmas organ music was played by Mrs. Helen Summers. After our program refreshments were served from a very attractive tea table by Andrew Baker of the Maestro Music Shop.—Mrs. WALTER FLEMING, Publicity Chairman.



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Dr. Pamela Decker

Professor of Organ and Harpsichord

pdecker@email.arizona.edu

520-204-5691

For more information please contact Christina

Beasley, Assistant Director, Student Success

Email: cswanson@arizona.edu



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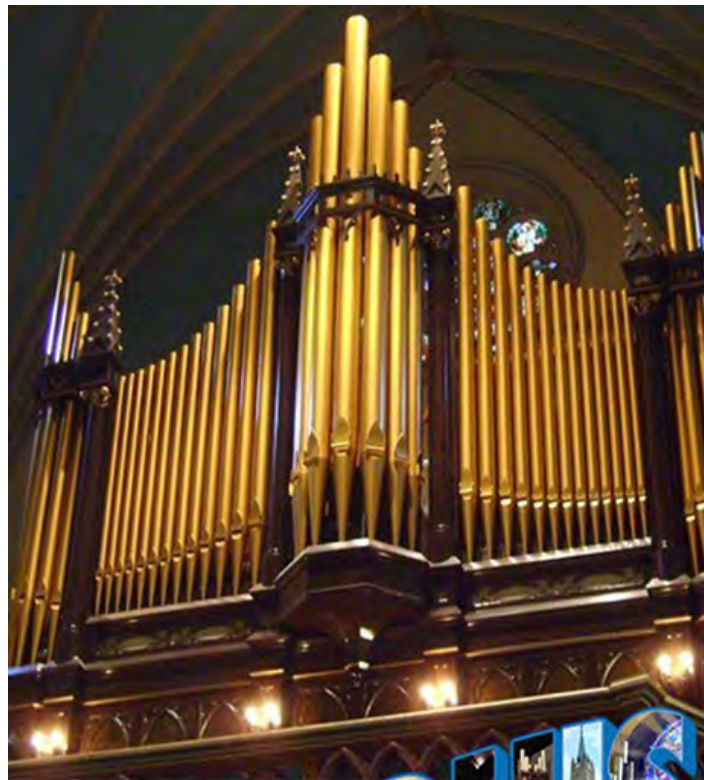


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Attend St. Louis Convention



Meet us in
ST. LOUIS
2026 AGO National Convention

Position Available

PIANIST/ORGANIST

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Tucson, Arizona

ABOUT ST. MARK'S

Moved by compassion and rooted in faith, we are a community actively engaged in ministries of peace, justice and reconciliation. Gospel-based hospitality and welcome form the heart of our congregation. We are LGBTQIA+ inclusive, committed to gender and racial equity, and honor the dignity of all persons. We are thoughtful; we are creative; we are joyful; we are persistent! Through worship, prayer, and action, we seek to become the Beloved Community reflecting the love and justice of Jesus Christ. Learn more about us at www.stmarksaz.org

POSITION OVERVIEW

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church is seeking a Pianist/Organist to provide instrumental music for worship services and serve as accompanist for our church choir. This is a part-time, salaried position averaging 10 hours per week annually. The Pianist/Organist reports to the Music Director with accountability to the Lead Pastor/Head of Staff.

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ARIZONA



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October 17-19, 2025

Voices of Immigrants

Folk Songs from the Irish, English, Scandinavian, Jewish, Mexican and Cuban traditions



November 21-23, 2025

Give Me Your Tired

SHAW *To the Hands*
LAURIDSEN *Lux Aeterna*
Stephen Paulus Emerging Composers Competition Winner

December 11-14, 2025

Lessons & Carols by Candlelight An American Christmas

December 17, 2025 Holiday Special

January 16 -18, 2026

Music of the Pioneers

COPLAND *Old American Songs*
Stephen Foster songs, hymns, African American Spirituals

February 27-March 1, 2026

I Dream a World

RUNESTAD *Dreams of the Fallen*
BOYER *Dreaming a World*

April 17-19, 2026

West Side Story & The Great American Songbook



THE AMERICAN DREAM

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Chronicling the American
Journey through Song

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal..."
—Preamble to the Declaration of Independence



TUCSON'S TWO-TIME GRAMMY-NOMINATED ENSEMBLE

THE 22ND SEASON 2025-2026

CLOSE-UP VOCAL RECITALS

January 20



Will Liverman

March 3



Filigree Ensemble

April 7



Jennifer Johnson Cano

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Altan: 40th Anniversary
Oct 13



**Mariachi Sol De Mexico
De Jose Hernandez
Merry-Achi Christmas**
Dec 19

...WHAT IF
YOU COULD STEP THROUGH A PORTAL
AND BE TRANSPORTED BACK
IN TIME TO THE 1960'S?

The Sixties Show
Nov 19



Asleep at the Wheel
Jun 11



Chris Botti
Oct 4



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Oct 28



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Consider underwriting a chapter program. Contact Dave Horr, treasurer, for information and possibilities...

DAVID A. HERR

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Support our chapter with a financial gift.

Consider underwriting a concert, making a contribution to the general fund or to the Johnson Scholarship Fund.

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www.ccumtucson.org

Organ Pipes: each pipe, whether metal or wood, is made by hand.



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.