

# THE DESERT WIND

Editor: Bruce Behnke © 2012

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Southern Nevada Chapter  
American Guild of Organists

## Dean's Notes

Dear Colleagues,

The Christmas Season is rapidly moving forward toward the New Year with much sharing of music at concerts and recital, retirement homes, a special festival of lessons and carols and on toward the bell-ringers' 20th anniversary 12th Night Concert in January (14th-15th). Just being able to be part of all this makes me smile with gratitude, defined by Jean Baptiste Massieu as the "memory of the heart."

My heart holds special gratitude today for the members and friends of the Guild who were so generous at our December 4th Members' Recital, that over \$500 was given for our education fund: \$400 in cash donations and \$100 in organ book sales. This money will be used for a cause dear to my heart -- the education of young people in organ performance: to find those with the hidden ability to master and perform organ repertoire and

bring that ability to the light for the future, of church music and the continued realization of the amazing collection of organ repertoire. Melody Beattie says, "Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow." My vision is that many more of our young piano students in Las Vegas, in Nevada and in America will consider making the playing of the "merrie organ" as the Christmas song says, a life's work and pleasure..

That's what the Pipe Organ Encounters are all about. Held every summer in sites all over the country, these events are planned to encourage young keyboardists to join us in service to God and the playing of the King of Instruments. Our Advent/Christmas Members' Recital will continue to be our yearly effort to replenish the monies in our education fund to continue to send kids to Pipe Organ Encounters and eventually give out scholarships

for lessons.

"To say thank you is in recognition of humanity", says Toni Mont. I would like to say thanks:

1. To our new membership who show faith in the organization by signing up and participating in a group who can help meet their professional and musical needs.

2. To our present members, many of whom donate multiple hours so that our events run smooth and actually do enhance the professional and musical lives of all our members. Special mention goes to Paul Hesselink who spent multiple hours making sure that the performers for the recital had several practice opportunities. Every written program that is presented to the public is Paul's work.

Very special mention of thanks to Doris Francis and her friend Tammi Spotts, who for two years has  
(continued on page 6)

In this Issue	Page	Page	
Dean's Message .....	1	World Premier .....	6
Advent Christmas Recital .....	2	Important Dates .....	7
New Members .....	4	Green Valley Pres Serises.....	10
Positions Available .....	4	Christ Church Epis. Series .....	10

## Members Advent and Christmas Recital



Performers: Allison Stewart, Guest Oboist; Bruce Behnke; Shireen Beaudry; David Dorway; Paul Hesselink; Matthew Estes; Dorothy Young Riess; Cherrill Hoeft; Susan Lasher. Missing are Kym Cushing and Ronald D. Richardson. Photo by Dorothy Young Riess

### Members' Recital 2011 Garners Positive Reviews

The 2011 Members' Advent-Christmas Organ Recital was presented on Sunday, December 4 at 4:00 P.M. at Christ Church Episcopal at 2000 S. Maryland Parkway. The organ at the church is a 2010 four-manual instrument of 54 ranks designed and installed by the Schantz Organ Company of Orrville, Ohio.

Performing on the recital were AGO members Dorothy Young Riess, Matthew Estes, Kym Cushing, Susan Lasher, Ronald Richardson, Cherrill Hoeft, Bruce Behnke (assisted by oboist Allison Stewart), Shireen Beaudry, David Dorway and Paul Hesselink. Attending the recital were over 160 listeners.

Returning the survey included with the printed program were 70 people. Below is the statistical summary:

- First time visiting Christ Church - 19 (27%)
- First hearing of the Schantz organ - 25 (36%)
- First time attending an AGO recital - 22 (32%)

Number of AGO recitals attended in the past:

1-3 = 12      4-5 = 4      more than 5 = 31

How did they hear of the recital?

e-mail notification - 26

flyer - 12

previous program - 15

from a friend - 33

other – 10 (church bulletin, newspaper, Facebook)

Statement best describing feelings about program and performers:

I loved it! 43

I liked it a lot. 22

I found it interesting. 2

I wouldn't come again. 1

Overall rating of the recital:

Superb 25 (36.8%)

Excellent 38 (55.9%)

Average 5 (7.4%)

Fair 0

Poor 0

No response 2

Some observations about the figures: (1) nearly one-third of the audience had never attended an AGO recital before, (2) more than two-thirds attending were repeat attendees, (3) 92.7% of respondents rated the recital as either "Superb" or "Excellent." We had 17 attendees who asked to be placed on our e-mail notification list for future recitals.

A lovely reception followed in the Parish Hall of the church. Thanks to Doris Francis for again putting it together and to those who contributed to the goodies and helped in any way. I believe the surveys indicate we are doing some things right. You might note that the best means of advertising still is word-of-mouth and personal invitation. The broad range of literature and its eclecticism seemed to please most people at the program, and every selection on the program was mentioned specifically in the reviews.

Our thanks goes to AGO member Kathi Colman, Music Director at Christ Church, for making the arrangements, and to the church for providing the venue for the recital and reception.

Those attending the recital were given an opportunity to contribute to the Raymond Barnes Scholarship Fund so our chapter could continue to send young students to Pipe Organ Encounters in the summers. The audience generously gave \$430 and we additionally sold \$93 in used organ music at the reception following the recital. Those amounts have been credited to the Scholarship Fund.

Paul Hesselink  
Recital Series Chairman

## New Members

**Dr. Matthew Estes** has been active church organist over 30 years since age 11. He has served at numerous churches and has a very diverse background. He moved to Vegas recently from Columbus, Ohio. There he served at St. Matthew Episcopal where the church had split over gay rights. He built the music program from the ground-up and the congregation grew from 30 to 200 in two years. Many people said that the music provided healing that words could not express. He also served as music director at Kenyon College, where he was music director for musicals, played regularly at college conferences and graduation, and did 15 to 20 weddings every year. In Atlanta, Georgia he served at St. Michael and All Angels playing for a large, 1200 people on a Sunday, with 5 services and 9 choirs. He also served at Absalom Jones on the college campus of Morehouse / Spellman as their first non African American organist in residence. Matt studied organ formally at the University of Illinois under Dr. Gerald Hamilton and later went onto Trinity Lutheran Seminary to get a



Master degree in Church Music. Matt moved to Vegas for one of the 40 brand new jobs at Olin. He is a Chemical Engineer making chemicals to keep drinking water safe to drink. In the short time here, he has substituted at over 14 churches in the area and helped lead a fledging music program at Epiphany Episcopal Church. He has picked up 9 piano students. Most came from his neighborhood in Henderson on Halloween night after playing Bach's prelude & fugue in d minor on a small Yamaha electronic organ at full volume with all the windows open. Watching the 200+ trick or treaters stop to hear live organ music was awe inspiring. Recently he has been called to serve at All Saints Episcopal in Las Vegas and is excited to be building a music program.

## Positions Available

**Green Valley Presbyterian Church** in Henderson, NV. is looking for a organist/pianist effective January 1, 2012. Duties include playing for 2 Sunday services, 1 Saturday evening service, a weekly rehearsal, and several special services, such as Christmas, New Year's Eve, Easter, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Thanksgiving Eve. The organist plays preludes, interludes, postludes, and accompanies the choir for anthems and the congregation for hymns. The church has a Yamaha grand piano, a harpsichord, and a 3-manual Rodgers organ.

Please send resume to Green Valley Presbyterian Church, 1798 Wigwam Parkway, Henderson, NV 89074, Attn: Keith Pakish, Personnel; or call Keith at 702-944-4946.

**St. Christopher's Episcopal Church** in Boulder City. The church will be losing its organist as of Jan.1, 2012. We are searching for someone who would like a paid position as an organist starting in Jan. This person will play the organ each Sunday and on a few special occasions. Please contact me by phone (293-4937) or e-mail (jett1965@gmail.com) We would appreciate any help you can give us. Jody Tilman Music committee for St. Christopher's Episcopal

**Susan Lasher** began study in organ with fellow guild member Dr. Paul S. Hesselink in 1973 at what was then Longwood College in Farmville, Virginia. Susan did not complete the program at Longwood but later went on to obtain her B.S. at Radford University(Radford, Virginia) and a M. Ed. and Counseling at Regent University in Virginia Beach, Virginia. She served as a public school guidance counselor from 1988 until 2010 at schools in North Carolina and Virginia.



Remaining active with music studies, she studied voice from 1978 until 2005 with Helen Robertson in Roanoke, Virginia, took music theory classes at Hollins College, and has sung and done solo work in various church and community choirs from her youth. In 2008 Susan decided to begin studying organ again after not having played any keyboard instrument

for 32 years. “It was hard and very much like completely starting over though my memories of playing spurred me onward. It was always quite amazing to me how much Dr. Hesselink was able to teach me in the 3 years or so that I was at Longwood. He’s an extraordinary teacher. I began reading the ‘Desert Wind’ online regularly back in 2007 and was delighted to become reacquainted reading about the people and activities.”

Desiring to attend the 2010 National AGO Convention in Washington, D.C., Susan had to put down a chapter affiliation on the registration forms. “I’ll just put down Southern Nevada,” she thought. “Why not?” Susan thoroughly enjoyed being a part of playing for the Advent Program presented by the SNCAGO this past December 4 at Christ Church Episcopal in Las Vegas. If this doesn’t become an annual event for Susan, she would certainly like to come and be a part of something the chapter is doing every year. With the coming of the Internet and e-mail, Susan has been able to regularly use her desktop publishing skills to help lay out the different SNCAGO concert programs, occasionally produce some advertising posters, and help put the concert statistics results in to graphical format which has helped with grant writing. “Despite the Waynesboro, Virginia address, I feel like I am a part of things and wish I could do more!”

## WORLD PREMIERE

The world premiere of “Meditation” for organ and violin by Oklahoma Composer, Callen Clarke, was performed by Dorothy Young Riess, M.D., Organist, and Kyle Dillingham, Violinist, on October 23, 2011, at Nichols Hills United Methodist Church, Oklahoma City OK. The work was commissioned by Oklahoma philanthropist, Dick Sias, specifically for the re-dedication of the refurbished Reuter pipe organ. Clarke, a professional composer, based the composition on Proverbs 3:5 “Put all your trust in the Lord, and do not rely on your own understanding.” Dillingham opened the piece with a haunting violin taqsim (improvisation) using half tones, trills and free-style rhythms, accompanied by a soft cymbelstern on the organ. Then followed a stately chorale, an energetic Allegretto building in intensity and sound volume to a crashing organ crescendo, and repeat of chorale motif. The closing taqsim and cymbelstern over a soft pedal point faded away to a whisper at the end creating a stunning moment of serenity. The audience rose to their feet in spontaneous applause as composer and performers took their bows. Pictured left to right: Callen Clarke, Dorothy Young Riess, M.D., Kyle Dillingham. Photo by Sandra Lynn Pulley



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Dean’s Note continued from page 1.

made sure that our events are ended with a lovely, well-organized and delicious reception. A professional caterer could not do better. Doris is feeling that she has done her share in this department, and rightly so. We need another member or two to come forward and step into those “big boots” and give Doris some relief. Please call me if you are willing and able. Gratitude will be yours. (645-6546)

3. My gratitude goes out to that growing group of humanity that has become our faithful audience. Our parties would be no fun if no one came to enjoy them with us. Over the past five years we’ve gone from 30 e-mails to over 300 e-mail. Thanks to those who come and who tell their friends, who then come.

“What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal.” (Albert Pike) This yearly growth of our Guild is accomplished only by the generous giving of time and talent of its members. Thanks to you all: “Gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder.” (G. K. Chesterton)

As ever,  
Shireen

## Important Upcoming Dates

Friday February 3, 2012 7:30 P.M. Doc Rando Hall

The third recital in the 2011-2012 Southern Nevada Chapter's Organ Recital Series will present **Millennia Too!** an intimate recital duo that performs repertoire from Renaissance to Modern, including numerous premieres by contemporary American composers. Their performances explore the varied timbres of oboe, oboe d'amore and English horn with the broad range of pipe organ colors featuring Susan Barrett and Alison J. Luedecke. Their Las Vegas program will include works by: John Karl Hirten, Josef Rheinberger, Craig Phillips, Felix Mendelssohn, Stephen Sturk, Mary Beth Bennett, Robert Jones and Jon Naples.

Alison Luedecke, organist and co-founder of the Millennia Too!, hails from Galveston, Texas. She is active across the US as a solo concert organist and has played in France, Canada, Mexico and Germany. She has been heard numerous times on the nationally syndicated radio show Pipedreams. As an ensemble musician she has performed with the Mainly Mozart Festival Orchestra, Symphony Silicon Valley, and other chamber



ensembles and symphonies. She is also the founder and organist with the highly acclaimed Millennia Consort. She earned the Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the Eastman School of Music as a student of David Craighead.

Susan Barrett (oboe, oboe d'amore and English horn), co-founder of the Millennia Too!, is a native of East Hartford, Connecticut. She has performed extensively as a solo and chamber musician in the United States and Europe, recording for radio in France, Israel, Austria and Yugoslavia. She is Principal Oboe of the San Diego Chamber Orchestra and Classics 4 Kids Philharmonic. She can be heard on two compact discs with guitarist Randy Pile in Duo Cantilena, and has recorded the music of Mark Dorian. Aside from Susan's musical activities, she practices a holistic self-healing method called "Reiki Tummo" under the guidance of Grand Master Irmansyah Effendi of Indonesia.

Friday March 16, 2012 7:30 P.M. Doc Rando Hall

**Schuyler Robinson**, DMA, has served as Professor of Organ and Harpsichord at the University of Kentucky since 1982. Prior to this he served as Professor and College Organist at Warren Wilson College, Asheville, N.C. for 13 years. He has served churches in Illinois, Michigan, North Carolina, and Kentucky as Organist and Organist/Choirmaster. He has appeared as adjudicator, recitalist, and clinician at numerous local chapter meetings and several regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists, several terms as Dean of AGO chapters in W. North Carolina and Lexington, Kentucky, and Service Organist / Organ Clinician at PAM Conferences at both Montreat, NC and New Wilmington, PA. Presently he is Kentucky State Convener for A.G.O. and State Church Music Chair for K.M.T.A.

Schuyler Robinson, resident organist at Lincoln Cathedral, England, during ten-day residency, July, 2009. As organ recitalist he has concertized extensively in the eastern U.S., in five countries in Europe, in Costa Rica and Taiwan. In a four decade career as Church Organist he served as Assistant Organist at Christ Church (Episcopal) Cathedral in Lexington, KY, from 1991 to 2009. This tenure has also incorporated performance residencies in the great cathedrals of England, including Westminster Abbey (two, and a solo recital) and St. Paul's, London; also Ely, Bristol, Lincoln, Peterborough, Norwich, and Gloucester. U.S. highlights have included Chicago, NYC, Washington, D.C. Atlanta, and San Francisco, as well as a CD recording with the Cathedral Choirs. His collaboration in the DiMartino-Robinson Trumpet-Organ Duo has taken performances to some 22 states and produced a CD recording, *The Art of the Transcription*, chosen as the International Trumpet Guild's CD of the year for its 7,000 members in 1995.

Dr. Robinson chairs the Master of Music in Sacred Music program at U.K. which merges music and seminary courses into an exciting new degree offering, which is already drawing regional interest from church musicians in voice, organ, piano, and choral conducting.





Friday May 11, 2012 7:30 P.M. Doc Rando Hall

**Isabelle Demers** at the organ is a force of nature—a “diminutive dynamo” to whom *La Presse* in Montreal attributed “vehement virtuosity.” A native of Québec, she is rapidly becoming recognized as one of North America’s most virtuosic organists.

She began piano study at age six and at age 11 began piano and organ study at the Montréal Conservatory of Music. After graduation in 2003 she studied on scholarship for a year in Paris at the *École Normale de Paris-Alfred Cortot*. She received her Master’s and Doctoral degrees from The Juilliard School in New York City, where she studied with Paul Jacobs. Her dissertation - an analysis of Bach’s *St. John Passion* - was awarded the Richard French Prize for best dissertation at commencement.



Isabelle Demers was a featured performer at the 2008 national convention of the American Guild of Organists, in Minneapolis, and her performance was later broadcast to a national radio audience. She was a featured artist at the 2009 national convention of the Royal Canadian College of Organists, in Toronto, and was a featured artist at the 2010 national convention of the American Guild of Organists, in Washington, D.C. She was also a featured artist at the 2010 joint convention of American Institute of Organbuilders and International Society of Organbuilders held in Montréal. She has been a prize-winner and finalist in several international performance competitions in the United States, Canada, and Europe, and performs widely in the United States and Canada. Highlights of her upcoming 2011-2012 season include her UK debut at Birmingham Town Hall in October 2011, as well as her Davies Hall and Disney Hall debuts in March 2012.

Her recent debut recording on British label Acis was met with critical acclaim. On a recent broadcast of *Pipedreams*, presenter Michael Barone featured the Fugue from Reger’s *Op. 73*, describing it as, “a masterful score, here masterfully played,” and Isabelle Demers as, “definitely a talent to watch, to hear...” The RSCM’s *Church Music Quarterly* awarded the “exciting, expressive and successful” recording its highest recommendation for its “profound and searching” performances. *Fanfare Magazine* proclaimed the “superbly produced” and “clear, tightly focused recording” with its “brilliantly played program.” Her second disc, which features the organ works of Rachel Laurin, was released in June 2011. Currently in production is a recording of Max Reger’s seven *Chorale Fantasies*, funded by a grant from the Theodore Presser Foundation.

## Events at Green Valley Presbyterian

January 21, 2012, Saturday, 7:30 P.M.  
MOUNTAIN TOP FAITH MINISTRIES  
The Spectacular Gospel Choir Returns

February 4, 2012, Saturday at 7:30 P.M.  
TROIKA FLUPICELLO  
C.P.E. Bach; Felix Mendelssohn; Andre Jolivet; Theobald Boehm

March 16, 2012, Friday, 7:30 P.M. - March 17, 2012, Saturday,  
2:30 P.M.

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL THEATER TRILOGY  
A Popular Family Afternoon Presentation



## Christ Church Episcopal Series

EVENT: Edward & Janet Kaizer in concert  
with special guest artists Laraine Kaizer-Viazovtsev, violin, and Alexander Viazovtsev, flute

DATE: January 6, 2012

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

PLACE: Christ Church Episcopal  
2000 South Maryland Parkway  
Las Vegas, NV 89104

TICKETS: \$15.00, available at the door

The second concert in this year's concert series will feature Janet and Edward Kaizer who will present a program of classical to jazz music performed on the 54-rank Schantz organ and the Yamaha grand piano.

Edward Kaizer holds his doctorate in piano performance from Indiana University and is a celebrated recital and orchestral soloist. He is presently is a professor of music at Bradley University and director of keyboard studies.

Janet Kaizer received her music degrees from the University of Illinois and Bradley University, and currently teaches music at Bradley University. She is well known for her keyboard performance and improvisational skills as the organist for the First United Methodist Church in Peoria.

Their daughter, Laraine Kaizer Viazovtsev, is the assistant principal violinist and Alexander Viazovtsev is the principal flautist in the Las Vegas Philharmonic Orchestra.

The Kaizers have performed nationally and internationally: solos, duets, chamber music and orchestral performances, lectures and classes offering unique programs of classical, ragtime, and jazz piano in two and four-handed styles. The Kaizers have performed in the U.S. and abroad annually for the past thirty five years. Their unique combination of classical and jazz music performed on the same program is educational, inspiring, and exciting to hear and watch.

Events hotline: (702) 684-7746