

THE DESERT WIND

Editor: Bruce Behnke © 2013

Issue: January/February 2013

Dean's Notes

Dear Friends and Organ Colleagues,

Another holiday season has passed (except for Epiphany!). I hope that all of you had a good, peaceful, and spiritual few months. I hope your programs went well, that your time with family and friends was joyful, and that you ate a lot of great food!

I skipped out on our Sunday Christmas program this year to go to a family party that we've missed for a lot of years. It was actually quite a relief but it left poor Carla to do all the playing and accompanying! Our Arizona daughter and family came for about 5 days. It's always fun when little kids are around. Our other 2 daughters, unfortunately, are in Virginia.

We'll have a little break until it's time for Easter. While we're think-

ing of it, don't forget Joyce Jones is coming this month. For those of you with piano students, she will be giving a special presentation for kids at the organ. It will be at First Presbyterian at 4:30 on January 17th. Her recital is Friday, January 18th at 7:30 P.M. at Christ Church Episcopal(2000 S. Maryland Parkway).

Also, take time to go to the Bakersfield AGO website for our Regional Conference this summer and try to plan to go. There is more info on the conference in this newsletter. The conferences are always so fun and inspiring and you meet lots of new people.

Thanks to all of you for your membership and participation in our AGO chapter. A new year is upon us!

Jan



Southern Nevada Chapter
American Guild of Organists



New Paul Fritts Organ recently installed in St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Tucson, Arizona. This is a 2 manual and pedal instrument with 22 stops and was installed this past July

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Annual Advent-Christmas Recital Presented by Chapter Members

On Sunday, December 2 at 4:00 P.M. twelve members and one guest presented the 2012 edition of the annual Advent-Christmas Members' Recital at Christ Church Episcopal at 2000 S. Maryland Parkway in Las Vegas. Those participating in the program were organists: Shireen Beaudry-Johnson, Bruce Behnke, Eugenie Burkett, Kym Cushing, David D. Dorway, Matthew Estes, Paul S. Hesselink, Cherrill Hoeft, Dain Kleindienst, Susan C. Lasher, Bede Parry, Ronald D. Richardson and guest trumpeter



Front Row: Bede Parry, Cherrill Hoeft, Shireen Beaudry-Johnson, Bruce Behnke
Back Row: Matthew Estes, Ronald D. Richardson, Kym Cushing, David Dorway, Dain Kleindienst, Susan Lasher and Paul Hesselink Photo by Dorothy Riess Young.

Steven Trinkle. The program featured selections in a wide variety of styles and from most of the periods of organ literature---from Renaissance to 21st century. Slightly more than 200 people attended the program. A reception followed the recital in the Parish Hall.

The organ at Christ Church was designed and fabricated by the Schantz Organ Company of Orville, Ohio and was completed in January of 2010. The instrument consists of 54 ranks of pipes distributed over four manuals and pedal. It is Nevada's largest pipe organ. Since the instrument is installed in the rear gallery of the church, the audience could enjoy watching the performers on camera and screen at the front of the church, thanks to the efforts of Christ Church Music Director, Kathi Colman, and her husband Jeff Colman, who set up and ran the camera and projector for the recital. Many commented on how they enjoyed watching the performers' feet!

This was the second year the recital was designated as a benefit for the Raymond Barnes Memorial Scholarship Fund. Contributions made to the fund will provide the resources for the Southern Nevada AGO Chapter to send a young keyboard student to a Pipe Organ Encounter (a week-long summer camp focusing on the pipe organ).

Eighty-five attendees completed the evaluation form (42.5%). Here are a few of the statistics gleaned from the forms:

18 attending were visiting Christ Church for the first time

There seemed to be a wider variety of sources of how people found out about the recital: 26 by e-mail notification, 11 by flyer, 17 from a previous program, 28 by a friend, and 34 through other sources. Those "other" sources cited included our chapter website, church bulletins, several different news publications and online sources.

47 "loved" the program, 31 "liked it a lot," and 5 respondents "found it interesting."

36 rated the overall experience as "superb," 41 as "excellent," 5 as "average," 1 as "fair," 0 as "poor," and 2 made no response. 90.6% rated the recital as either "superb" or "excellent."

The chapter is indebted to Christ Church for hosting the 2012-2013 Organ Recital Series. The next recital in the series will be Dr. Joyce Jones on Friday, January 18, 2013 at 7:30 P.M. There is no admission charge, and secure parking is available in the parking lot at the church.

Interview with Dr. Joyce G. Jones.

This is the next interview in the series of our guest artists. Dr. Joyce G. Jones will appear in recital on Friday, January 18, 2013 at 7:30 P.M. at Christ Church Episcopal. In addition to her recital on Friday, Dr. Jones will present a free special session introducing young piano students in the community to the organ. This event will be held at 4:30 P.M. on Thursday afternoon, January 17, at First Presbyterian Church (Charleston and I-15). Please help advertise this to any young piano students and their parents you may know. For additional information contact Shireen Beaudry-Johnson at (702) 645-6546.



Bruce Behnke What first started your interest in the pipe organ?

Joyce Jones I had always hoped to be a concert pianist and when I entered the University of Texas at age 16, I had a memorized repertoire of 54 works, including 4 sonatas and the Grieg piano concerto. I had never heard a pipe organ until starting college. My home town, George West, Texas, had a population of 1500 and the only organ in town was a one manual Estey reed organ that had been purchased by my mother's Sunday School class holding bake sales and putting on plays to raise the necessary \$450 to purchase that.

Behnke How old were you when you first started studying the organ seriously?

Jones My piano teacher suggested that I take organ lessons, so I started at 16, learning from the Gleason organ method. That spring I hurt my hand and couldn't play for six weeks, so I

used the time to learn piano pieces for left hand and started working on the Ten Pedal Variations by Flor Peeters, which became the basis of my pedal technique. Some writers have called me the “accidental organist” because of that. By the time my hand was well, I had become fascinated with the organ and decided to change my major to organ.

Behnke Who are some of the most influential teachers with whom you have studied?

Jones I was honored by the national AGO with a gala in 2010 and at that time, was able to pay tribute to all my teachers who had such an influence in my life:

A. My first piano teacher Josephine Canfield, who urged me to develop a memorized repertoire

B. My first organ teacher, Arden Whitacre, who introduced me to the music of Flor Peeters. I studied with him for 2 years, until he left for a Fulbright. C. E. W. Doty, who was the dean of the UT School of Fine Arts and himself a student of Palmer Christian and Karl Straube. He was my teacher for all of my degrees from UT, including when I returned several years later to pursue the DMA. He became the one to whom I returned for a periodic check.

D. Claire Coci, with whom I studied two summers. She taught me the art of programming and the importance of including short pieces as well as “blockbusters.” She also taught me how to go to a new organ and be able to register a program quickly.

E. Nita Akin, with whom I studied after getting my second master’s degree. She arranged for my debut recital in New York City at the Riverside Church. She was incredibly generous and would never take a penny for the lessons. She urged me to think for myself and play the way I wanted to, not to just copy what someone else did.

F. Karl Richter, with whom I studied when we lived in Germany. Again, he would not accept any payment for the lessons. I treasure the memory of the Bach works that I studied with him.

I also studied briefly with Helmut Walcha in master classes in Frankfurt and Andre Marchal in Paris, from whom I had 5 lessons. It was difficult to arrange as we had three children under the age of two at the time and getting away to study was difficult.

I was fortunate to always have an electronic organ in our apartment, so that I could practice on silent organ while the children slept. Without that, I could never have continued to have a performing career.

Behnke What are some of the more interesting venues in which you have played?

Jones Probably the most important were being the first woman organist to play at the Crystal Cathedral during the inaugural season, being the only woman organist on the live telecast inaugurating the Ruffatti organ at Davies Symphony Hall, playing with the San Francisco Symphony, and then playing at the Riverside Church in NYC, the Mormon Tabernacle, and in France both Notre Dame and Chartres Cathedrals.

However, the most important thing that I have tried to do with my playing is to make friends for the organ. Having grown up in a small town, I appreciated organizations like Commu-

nity Concerts and Civic Music, which made it possible for small towns to have concerts. When I started playing concerts, I decided that I wanted to play for people and that making music for people was more important than just playing on the big organs. That is why for many years, I played sold out concert tours for Community Concerts on electronic instruments, taking good organ literature to small communities. Some people didn't understand, but it was fun to play for an audience of 2000 in Medford, Oregon and to introduce the people to organ music, even if it wasn't on a pipe organ.

Behnke Do you do any improvisation and or have you ever composed music?

Jones I actually wrote a book on Organ Improvisation, which is very basic and was well received. However, it has been out of print for many years. I've also written 18 books of organ music and continue to write as time permits. I wrote my first piece at age 6 and have a second master's degree with a major in composition.

Behnke Who are some of your favorite modern composers?

Jones The composers that I like would hardly be called modern composers: Marcel Dupré, Leo Sowerby, and Jean Langlais. I also love Liszt and Reger.

Behnke What are your plans as you enter retirement?

Jones My neighbor commented last month that I was "giving retirement a bad name", because this fall I have been so busy playing concerts. I plan to continue composing, playing concerts (although not every weekend, as I did for so many years), and to spend more time gardening, which is a passion, especially roses. I need to attend some sessions to reinstate my status as a consulting rosarian. My husband and I love to travel and hope to continue to go on cruises as well. Alaska and the Pacific Northwest are among our favorite places. I've also been asked to write my memoirs and hope to get down to that this summer, when it is too hot to work outside in the garden.

I also love to sew and have usually designed and made all my concert dresses. I hope to have a new one ready for Las Vegas.

Behnke Tell us a little about your intended workshop for pianists.

Jones Many piano teachers are afraid that if students study the organ, they might lose students. I plan to show how organ study can be a benefit to help a person be a better pianist. Also, I wrote a short method book "King of Instruments" which has been successful in helping a pianist learn to play the organ in the shortest time possible.

Behnke What pieces will you be playing for us?

Jones I'm still working on finalizing that, but will probably be playing Fete by Jean Langlais, the Bach Toccata in F Major, and Prelude and Fugue in B Major by Marcel Dupré.

The Southern Nevada Chapter American Guild of Organists

A 501(c) (3) non-profit organization

Website: sncago.org



presents

Dr. Joyce Jones Organist

One of the country's most popular organ recitalists, Joyce Jones has just recently retired as the Joyce Oliver Bowden Professor of Music at Baylor University.



FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2013

7:30 P.M.

CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL

2000 S. MARYLAND PARKWAY
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA



Free Admission

Update on our Organ Music Project

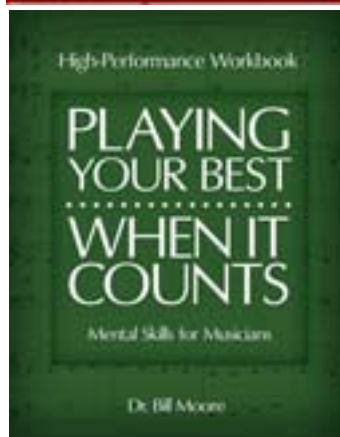
I have had my pleasure to accept organ and piano music from several members who have retired from playing. Mary Marook was our first major donor, giving away multiple file cabinets of music! Lea Kuijsten and other members have also contributed. We have displayed the music at various venues, and all contributions have gone to the Ray Barnes education fund. Our chapter uses this fund to sponsor students at Pipe Organ Encounters. So far, we have sponsored 3 students at a total cost of \$1,300!

We have donated one bankers box of piano music to a Las Vegas Boy Scout who is working on his Eagle Project. He is coordinating and shipping piano music to music teachers along the East Coast who have lost their music due to Hurricane Sandy.

We publicized that our final display of music was December 2nd. I am glad to say that more than half of the music in 12 boxes has found new homes. We are in contact with a man who sells only organ music on line. We will be shipping our remaining music to him and look forward to earning more money for the Barnes account.

Besides earning money, I view this as a mission to not have organ music thrown out.

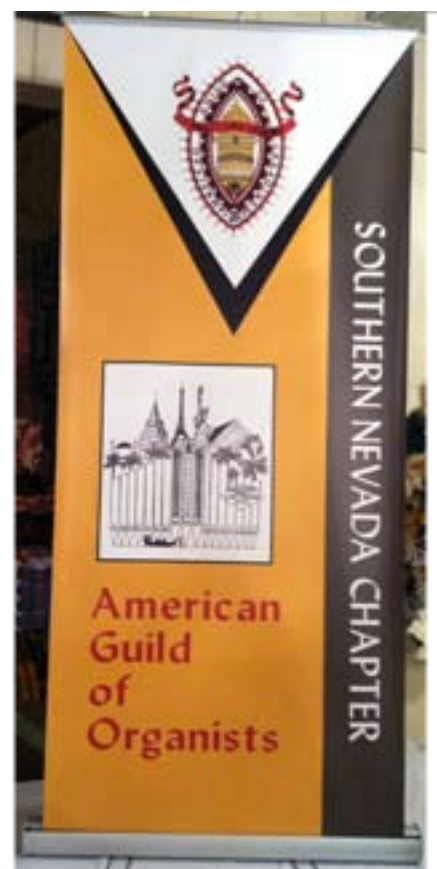
David Dorway



Bill Moore Workshop

Dr. Bill Moore gave an outstanding workshop Saturday, November 3rd, at the NMTA State Convention. His topic was "Playing Your Best When It Counts". His lectures, two in the morning, followed a logical progression about the culture of practice versus the culture of performance. It became very clear to me why performance for musicians at a high level is so difficult, because we do it infrequently, as opposed to sports folks, who perform on a much more regular basis, sometimes several times a week. We then moved on to the concepts of right brain vs. left brain usage -- the right brain being the source and center of good performance, after the left brain does its technical work. We will have available DVD's of these lectures very shortly for a minimal price. Contact me at 645-6546 if you're interested in obtaining one. Shireen Beaudry-Johnson.

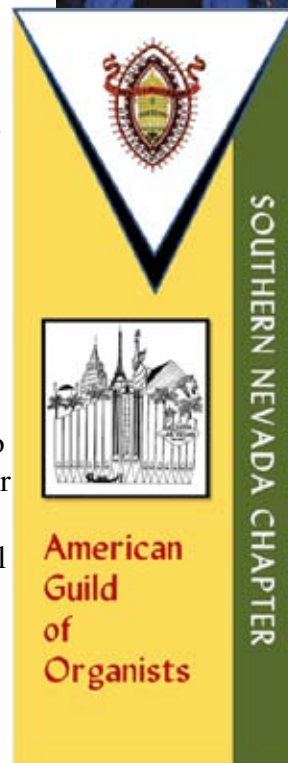
Chapter Banner



At the Advent-Christmas Members Recital last year we were introduced to one of our new members. She played on that recital as well as well as playing at this year's. She was featured as a new member in the January-February 2012 issue of the Desertwind. If you have not had the opportunity to meet her you have seen her work because she has become the graphic artist for our chapter. It is her design that is used for the recital programs and posters. Susan Lasher has outdone herself this year by designing and making the official banner for the Southern Nevada Chapter of the AGO. It was on display in the front of the church at the last recital and will continue to show up at future recitals and chapter events.

The image on the right is the original computer design and the one on the left is the finished product as it appeared at the last recital.

Thank you Susan, for everything that you have done behind the scenes to make our chapter look so much better and more professional.



James Kibbie is going to appear on March 15, 2013 at Christ Church Episcopal.

I strongly recommend that you visit his web site

<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~jkibbie/Site/Home.html>

and check out his online recordings.

There is a button for "Holiday Recordings." Every year Dr. Kibbie records a small piece on his own personal house organ and posts it online as his Christmas Card. The next tab down is "Bach Organ Works." This is a link to recordings of all of the major Bach Organ works as played on historical German instruments. These are excellent performances and well worth a listen. If you download these files and import them into a program like iTunes, all of the titles and BWV numbers are already included. There are additional links on the web pages to pictures of the instruments as well as stop lists and most interesting to me the actual stops that were used to record each piece. Do check it out.





**AGO REGION IX CONVENTION
BAKERSFIELD, CA
June 24-26, 2013**

**June 23 7PM - pre-convention concert
by Hector Olivera**

**June 27 10AM - post-convention concert
by Dorothy Young Riess**

bakersfieldAGO2013.org

On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love gave to me

- 12 bags of pistachio nuts***
- 11 exciting workshops**
- 10 Bakersfield event tickets: Symphony, Baseball, Music Theatre, Museums***
- 9 boxes of Dewar's candy chews***
- 8 world class organists: Hector Olivera, Cary Coker- Robertson, Christoph Bull, S. Wayne Foster, Hyunju Hwang, Robert Ampt and Amy Johansen, Dorothy Young Riess**
- 7 places to visit on your own: Historic Fox Theatre, CALM (local zoo), Kern County Museum, Tehachapi Loop, Historic Kernville, Sequoia National Park, Wine Country**
- 6 local Bakersfield performing groups: CSUB University Singers, Brass a la Carte, Westminster Choir, Masterworks Chorale, Tea Rose String Quartet, Strolling Strings**
- 5 magnificent Bakersfield organs: Aeolian Skinner, Austin Rodgers, Bosch, Schantz, Schantz Rodgers**
- 4 free meals with registration including meals from Hodel's fine dining**
- 3 memorable days of Convention concerts and workshops**
- 2 extra concerts – pre-convention and post-convention**
- 1 registration to the Region IX AGO 2013 Convention in Bakersfield, CA**

Registration begins December 1, 2012

*** Items not included in registration costs, but are available in Bakersfield.**

AGO REGION IX CONVENTION

We're nuts!*

*about organs!

everything you expect:

- ★ world-class artists and presenters
Robert Ampt & Amy Johansen
Christoph Bull
S. Wayne Foster
Hyunju Hwang
Hector Olivera
Dorothy Young Riess
Carey Coker Robertson

- ★ professional ensembles
- ★ AGO/QUIMBY
Region IX Competition
- ★ organs by Aeolian-Skinner
Austin-Rodgers
Bosch
Schantz

and lots you don't:

-  Dewar's Chews
(you'll be addicted)
-  Special Basque Dinner
World-Famous Restaurant
(you'll like it)
-  Pistachios
(dab)

You're gonna have a good time!
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
summer 2013

bakersfieldAGO2013.org

Hilton Double Tree Hotel All venues air-conditioned

