

THE DESERT WIND

Editor: Bruce Behnke © 2012

Issue: March/April 2012



Southern Nevada Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Dean's Notes

Dear Colleagues:

The next few months are going to be very busy for our chapter. Besides the two remaining wonderful offerings on our Recital Series: Dr. Schuyler Robinson on March 16, and Isabelle Demers on May 11, both in Doc Rando Hall, we are in an election year, a biennial event for our chapter. Included in this issue is the ballot with the new roster of names, and a section of sound-byte type information on new names that are on the ballot. You will receive a ballot in the mail with an addressed and stamped return envelope from our treasurer/registrar, David Dorway. Please enclose your filled-out ballot in the envelope, sign your name over the enclosed sealed flap and return promptly to David. We need to receive the ballots before April 1, 2012. All the directions above come from the National "Managing a Chapter" document. You may add names to the ballot if you

get a signature from a board member. All votes must be tallied by May 31st; Installation of officers will happen at our June end-of-the-year social, the date TBA.

My name is on the ballot to be considered as a member-at-large on the Board. After 5 years of serving as your Dean, I feel it's time to step down. It has been exciting to work with a Board membership who have developed exciting recital series, a growing audience, a larger group of contributing patrons, and a growing education fund to encourage future organists. The Chapter, because of the guidance of this Board, has kept the momentum of the 2006 Winter Conclave going. I see bigger and better things for the future. Thanks to all those who have worked so hard with me these last 5 years.

Another event coming up that we should participate in is World Organ Day: March 21, 2012, which,

of course, is the anniversary of J. S. Bach's birthday. This is the second yearly event planned by the Italian Organ Conference. Their idea is that on March 21st organists all over the world will hold some kind of celebration in honor of Bach - "The immortal god of harmony" - (Beethoven). The Board thought that perhaps our membership could each play as prelude or postlude your favorite Bach piece on Sunday the 18th or 25th of March: a continuing celebration in honor of the "supreme genius of music. . . who has reached the heart of every noble thought and has done it in the most perfect way" - (Pablo Casals). In this way, we can be united in spirit with organists all over the world.

A busy couple of months are coming our way. But then, we like it that way, don't we?

With warm regards,

Shireen

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Millennia Too! presents superb program on the Organ Recital Series

On Friday, February 3, Alison Luedecke, organ and Susan Barrett, oboe & oboe d'amore, presented a unique program of works probably not familiar to most of the 100 people who were in attendance. Exceedingly well performed, each work played a role in making for a beautiful and exciting program. The program included works by John Karl Hirten, Josef Rheinberger, Robert Jones, Craig Phillips, Mary Beth Bennett, Felix Mendelssohn and Jon Naples. Five of the seven composers, four of them living, are composers of the 20th and 21st centuries. If you missed this program, you missed a winner!

Some results from the 59 evaluation forms completed:



First time visiting Doc Rando Hall – 5

First time hearing the von Beckerath organ – 7

First time attending one of our AGO recitals - 7

People attending AGO recitals before:

1-3 recitals - 6 4-5 recitals - 3 5 or more recitals - 42

How did people hear of the recital:

e-mail - 36 flyer - 6 radio - 1 previous program - 15
from a friend - 21 other - 2

Feeling about the program and performers:

Loved it - 33 Liked it a lot - 22 Found it interesting - 4

Wasn't interested - 0 Wouldn't come again - 0

Overall rating:

Superb - 33 Excellent - 24 Average - 1 Fair - 0 Poor - 0

No rating - 1

Ten people asked to be added to the e-mail notification list.

The positive “approval rating” (total percentage of those who rated the recital as either “Superb” or “Excellent”) was 97% of respondents!

Paul S. Hesselink, Chair
2011-2012 Organ Recital Series Committee

Organist Wanted for Green Valley Presbyterian

Part-time organist/pianist with a Bachelors Degree in Music preferably in organ performance, and 2 - 3 years experience in a position as church organist. There are 3 weekend services with approximately 10 special services during the year. The organist plays preludes, interludes, postludes and accompanies the choir for anthems and congregational hymns. The organ is a Rodgers 3 manual (with midi). Please send a resume to Green Valley Presbyterian Church 1798 Wigwam Parkway, Henderson, Nevada 89074 by e-mail to Diane Schurr at do.schurr@yahoo.com.

Former Member Dies in the Philippines

Some of you may remember Rodney Gisick who lived in Las Vegas for about a year and during that time was a member of our Southern Nevada Chapter. He performed on our 2009 Advent-Christmas Recital held in Doc Rando Hall. When he left Las Vegas, he relocated to the Philippines where he played several recitals in churches with pipe organs. The following obituary appeared in the Daily Hampshire Gazette on February 11, 2012.

By *Daily Hampshire Gazette*

AMHERST - Rodney Gisick, a longtime voice teacher at area colleges and a former music director at First Congregational Church in Amherst, died unexpectedly Dec. 25, 2011, in the Philippines. He was 67.

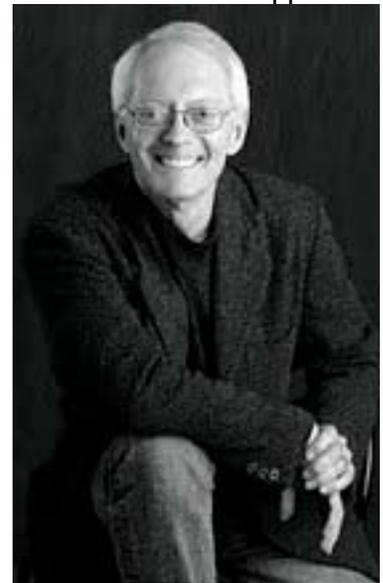
Mr. Gisick is survived by a son, Michael Gisick of Canberra, Australia; a daughter, Kathryn Ricker of Holden; a sister, Donita Goosen of Ellinwood, Kan.; and two grandchildren.

Born in Timken, Kan., Mr. Gisick earned a bachelor's degree in music from Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kan., and a master's degree in voice performance from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. He did post-graduate voice training with Oren L. Brown.

He was an active vocal performer and voice teacher for many years in New England, New York City and elsewhere, teaching at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst College and privately. He was organist and choir director at First Congregational Church from 1997 until his retirement in 2007.

Mr. Gisick served as subdean of the Springfield Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and was active with the National Association of Teachers of Singing. He was a certified master gardener and an avid landscape designer and writer.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Feb. 18, at 2 p.m. at the First Congregational Church in Amherst. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a scholarship fund for Jacob and Hannah, Rod's grandchildren, and sent to Kathryn Ricker, P.O. Box 145, Berlin, MA 01503.



Rod Gisick on Performance – [posted on his blog](#)

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2010

Performing and Friends

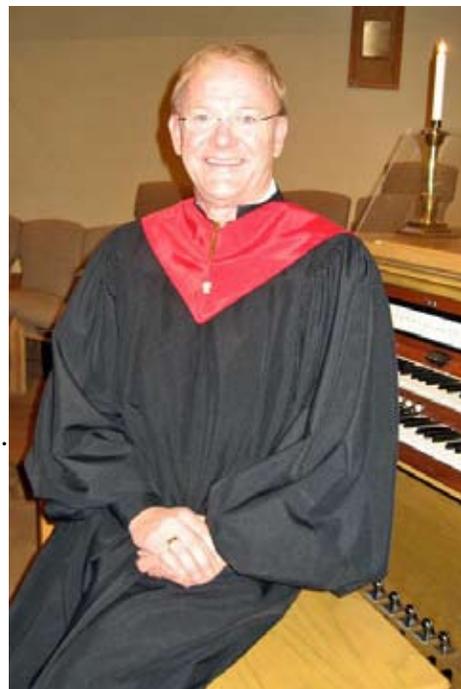
There is an issue I'd like to just throw out there about performers and their friends. This is something that always bugged me when I would perform. The issue is this: After months of preparation and hard work, and friends promising they'd be there, it is a real bummer when they don't show! As a performer, it is especially important to have our family and closest friends understand at least what we've put our heart and soul into. And they can only do that by being there at the BIG event, and for most solo performers who do only one performance of something, it IS a BIG EVENT, emotionally and artistically. Most of us at this level need some reinforcement and support, because much of our work in learning the music or dance, or whatever--trying so hard to perfect it (mostly in solitude) and finally presenting it-- is the only public face all of our work will have. So it takes over our life for a time!

So, if you have performer friends, please try your best to support them, and not just in words and empty promises! There, I've said it! I hope you will gratefully accept the next invitation you have and be there for them! They need that more than they'll ever say, and, believe me, it will fill their hearts with joy to have you there!

I can't tell you how many times I felt some devastation, when friends who said they would be there, found some reason not to be! And I know I am not alone here! I suppose the let-down is because we're exposing our souls and making ourselves so vulnerable in that act of performing. Is part of it also, due to the solitude of preparation, that there is no way to express what we love so much to our closest friends, and so we naturally want to let them into the intimate world that has enveloped us for so long? As a solo performer all you want to do is move someone as you have been moved. So if they are not present you feel terribly rejected because no one has accepted your invitation into your private world. Get it? Even if the outcome is not great, or you hate the medium, they still need you there, with your gratitude that they have put so much of themselves into this work.

New Members

Ken Wilson moved to Las Vegas from Wichita Kansas with over 40 years of experience being a church organist. He has played in Presbyterian, Methodist, Disciples of Christ and Lutheran churches and was an AGO member. His primary service was at Broadway Christian Church and First United Methodist Church. He began taking music lessons at 6 years of age on the piano and the organ at 8 when his feet barely touched the pedals. He actually started playing in church at 11 years of age in his small home town in Kansas. He earned a BME in Music Education and Organ Performance from Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg Kansas. He then earned another bachelors degree in Computer Science and a Masters in Management Information Systems. This allowed him to have a “day job” as Customer Support and Training Manager in Sedgwick County Information Technology. He is currently Associate Organist at First Presbyterian Church where his wife Cyndi works as director of Communication Resources. He and his wife are excellent bell ringers. He has one grown son and two dogs. Ken is available for being a substitute organist. We are glad to welcome him to the Southern Nevada Chapter of the AGO.



My name is Brandon Roberto Pilas Pagdanganan. I am currently fifteen years old and come from Filipino descent. I enjoy the musical arts, I am a practicing musician, and I am an excellent academic student. Piano, guitar, and ukulele are my primary instruments; however, I have had experience with pipe organs. The genres of music I adore the most are jazz, soul, and rhythm and blues. As I continue to prosper through life, I hope to achieve the goals and aspirations that I have come to set for myself. For my career, I wish to become a pharmacist, obtaining my degrees and licensures from the University of the Pacific or University of California, San Diego. I will continue to practice as a musician during my career, and hopefully by then I will have had more encounters and experiences with other instruments



Recently within my musical studies and endeavors, I had the opportunity to go on a Pipe Organ Encounter, or POE. I was sponsored by the Southern Nevada Chapter of the American Guild of Organists with the aid of my music instructor, Shireen Beaudry. At the encounter, I was graced with the opportunities of seeing and playing on some of the organs in Denver, Colorado, and was the apprentice of Joyce Shupe Kull. Ms. Kull taught me basics of the pipe organ and playing techniques that I would have to develop. I was taught how to adjust the organ bench to suit me, how to preset the stops for specific pieces, and some historical facts on the organs presented to us. During the week of the encounter, practices and other activities were conducted, and recitals of all the teachers were done for the students. As the penultimate days of the week approached, we, the students, prepared for our performances of the pieces that we chose under the supervision of our instructors. On the last day of our times together, we all performed our pieces, and said our last goodbyes.

ELECTION PROCEDURES FOR OUR CHAPTER:

As required by National, our Nominating Committee has developed a roster on which we are to vote, and according to the National by-laws, Article VIII, said roster is to be published in the Newsletter. This is NOT your official ballot, which will be prepared and distributed by the committee by mail. You should be receiving those in the mail by March 15; they should be returned in the envelope provided, with your signature written over the sealed flap, by April 15, 2012.

The roster for our main officers is as follows:

DEAN: Jan Bigler
SUB-DEAN: Paul Hesselink
SECRETARY: Cherrill Hoeft
TREASURER: David Dorway

From the by-laws: The election of officers shall take place via U.S. mail by April 1. Ballots shall be unsigned, and shall be returned in an envelope with the member's signature on the outside. A plurality of votes cast shall be sufficient for election. The officers who are elected shall be installed in May, and the 2 year term of office shall begin July 1.

When chapter elections are held every 2 years, the duly elected members of the Executive Committee shall be divided into 2 classes, the number in each class depending on the size of the chapter. The members of Class I shall be elected to hold office for a term of 2 years; the members of Class II shall be elected to hold office for a term of 4 years. Elected members of the Executive Committee shall hold office only for the term for which they were elected and shall serve until their successors are elected and officially installed.

Our roster for our members-at-large for the Executive Committee (Board) is as follows:

CLASS I	CLASS II
Eugenia Burkett	Shireen Beaudry
Doris Frances	Jane Dye
Ron Richardson	Matt Estes

We will each vote for 2 out of 3 in each class. A separate article has some details about some of these newer people. You will be receiving your ballot in the mail soon. Please return it promptly.
Thanks, Shireen

The following are a few sentences about candidates for the members-at-large for the Executive Board on the Ballot:

Shireen Beaudry: present Dean, organist and children's choir director at various churches.

Dr. Eugenia Burkett: has a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction and is the head of graduate studies in the Music Education Program at UNLV, and is an organist.

Jane Dye: Earned her Master of Music two years ago, is a member of the adjunct organ faculty at Dixie College; she is also the vocal coach and accompanist for the Clark High School Choirs

Matt Estes: currently the Organist/Choirmaster at All Saints' Episcopal Church is a new member with experience in Columbus, Ohio and Atlanta, Georgia would bring new ideas and a different perspective to the board.

Doris Frances: is a retired organist and has given much service to our Chapter, most recently as the hostess at our receptions.

Ron Richardson: Formerly on the Salt Lake Chapter Board in charge of professional concerns, Ron is MTNA certified and teaches organ and piano.

From your Region IX Councillor:

I had the opportunity to visit Nashville in October for AGO National Council meetings, and was dazzled by the organs, the city, and the people. I can't wait to go back for the convention this summer, and I hope all of you are planning to be there, too! My top 10 reasons for going to Nashville:

1. Inspiration – world class organ and choral performances make me want to practice 5 hours a day!
2. World-class organs and venues – can I take the Fisk at Covenant Presbyterian home with me (maybe the whole campus)? And move Schermerhorn Hall to San Diego?
3. Worship – there's nothing like having over 2,000 organists singing hymns together
4. Growth – workshops that give me new insights on literature, practicing, teaching, improvisation, and so much more
5. Fun – talking with friends, dinner with friends, talking with friends, helping others spend their money in the exhibit hall, talking with friends (we organists have to spend a lot of time being quiet in worship – conventions are our time to make up for that!)
6. Shopping – discovering new teaching materials and new literature to share in church and in concert, new CDs, and hopefully a fun t-shirt or two
7. Southern hospitality – it's the best!
8. Challenge – learning new ways to practice and improvise, build great working relationships, and promote the organ. Come to Nashville – go home smarter!
9. Exploring a fantastic city – Nashville is spectacular! Museums, plantations, history, and so much more. I can't wait to visit The Hermitage again!
10. All of the venues are air-conditioned. :)

Leslie Wolf Robb
Councillor, AGO Region IX
(858) 735-4338
lesliewolfrobb@mac.com



Register today for Nashville AGO 2012. Come to Nashville and experience a stellar roster of performers, spectacular venues, and more than 70 inspirational and informative workshops led by some of the nation's finest teachers and performers. <http://www.ago2012.org/> Home - AGO - American Guild of Organists 2012 National Convention www.ago2012.org The Nashville Chapter... See More Home - AGO - American Guild of Organists 2012 National Convention www.ago2012.org The Nashville Chapter of the American Guild of Organists invites you to Tennessee for a world-class convention, July 1-6, 2012.

SAVE THE DATE!

EVENT: *Hans Hielscher in concert*

DATE: *March 9, 2012*

TIME: *7:30 p.m.*

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



\$15.00 (suggested donation)

Hans U. Hielscher has been Director of Music and Carillonneur at Wiesbaden Marktkirche, Germany, since 1979. He is a graduate of Detmold Musikhochschule (Germany) and studied the carillon at the Nederlandse Beiaard School in Amersfoort (The Netherlands.) He has been active in teaching, composing for various media and recital performances on organs and carillons throughout Europe, U.S.A., Far East, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.

Since 1962, Hans Hielscher has appeared in more than 2200 organ recitals worldwide, including 31 concert tours in 39 states throughout the United States. He has performed in festivals and major recitals in cathedrals in Germany, France, Great Britain, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Luxembourg, Czech Republic, Hungary, Israel, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Canada, the Bahamas, and the United States.

With 14 organ solo CDs to his credit, he has made various radio and television recordings in Germany, the United States, and Australia. He is the author of *Alexandre Guilmant – Life and Work*, and *Famous Organs in America*. Hielscher was organist for Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles in an exchange program with Samuel John Swartz.

Since 1986, he has appeared frequently as a guest professor and lecturer/recitalist at the University of Redlands. He was awarded the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French government in 1985 for his worldwide promotion of French organ music. He is a longtime member of the AGO (American Guild of Organists), OHS (Organ Historical Society), and GCNA (Guild of Carillonneurs in North America).

Events hotline: (702) 684-7746

www.organconcerts.org

Albuquerque Workshop

On Saturday, January 28, Dr. Paul Hesselink was one of the presenters at the January Jubilee held at First Presbyterian Church in Albuquerque. Sponsored by the AGO's Committee on Musicians in Part-Time Employment (COMPTE), some 55 attendees participated in workshops designed to assist those who work part-time in church music positions. Dr. Hesselink presented ideas about how to expose and attract young piano students to the organ as we do in our chapter's "Organ-izing from the Piano" program. Because Dr. John Walker, Vice-President of the AGO was unable due to health issues to be present to give his workshop on service playing, three of the presenters "improvised" on that topic: Dr. Maxine Thévenot, Dr. James Yeager and Dr. Hesselink.



Next Recital

Friday, March 16, 2012, 7:30 P.M.
Doc Rando Hall
on the campus of UNLV

Schuyler Robinson

Works by Vivaldi, Sweelinck, Bach, Franck,
Barber, Michels, Brahms and Durufle.

