

THE DESERT WIND

Editor: Bruce Behnke © 2017

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Southern Nevada Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Dean's Notes

Greetings from the Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Guild of Organists! The Chapter has just celebrated its 80th anniversary on April 28-30th. They invited the Dean and Sub-Dean of our chapter to attend this event. Since Steve Wright could not go, Secretary Kathi Colman graciously attended. It was truly an awesome event.

The highlight of the celebration was a special members' recital focused on local Tucson organ composers. One of their early chapter founders, Camil van Hulse (1897-1988), was a prolific composer, and several students and students of his students (grand-students) who studied composition with him, now hold prominent organ positions within the community. As a result, we had a concert of mostly original works composed over the last 80 years. Other performers selected pieces that showcased other composers they admired within the community. Being recognized by your colleagues for your

original composition was a high compliment; several composers were delightfully surprised at what their peers had selected. Several deceased SAAGO members were remembered by having their pieces resurrected for current members as well as for the composer's children and grandchildren.

The organization of the anniversary celebration as a whole was produced by one of the healthiest local chapters I have seen. There were several past Tucson deans present. They share the leadership with several people and when their time as dean is over the retiring deans remain active in the chapter. Most of the events were well-planned by wonderful sub-committees. The worship service and concert mentioned above were well executed. The food was American with a divine flare. They had exactly the right amount of food – they knew exactly who was coming. The flower arrangements were gorgeous, and made by a local SAAGO member. One

member deliberately went around and talked with all new people at the events. She said it was her calling to welcome everyone to all AGO events in Tucson. The concert and the well-organized celebration made it feel like a carefully planned regional AGO convention.

This summer we have the opportunity to attend the regional AGO convention in Salt Lake City. Though they had a late start in registering people, they have as of this writing over 300 registrants. It promises to be the largest regional convention in 2017. Kimberly Marshall from Arizona is playing a concert at a key event. A cadre of her students in Tucson was hyping her concert at the event. Though I have not heard her perform, I appreciate such excitement, and most of all the PASSION to encourage people to come hear the grandeur of the organ at its finest. I am attending the convention this year, and I would encourage more of our chapter members to attend as well!

Matt

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Bach Birthday Celebration Draws Appreciative Audience

The third recital in the 2016-2017 Southern Nevada Chapter's Organ Recital Series was presented in Doc Rando Hall in the Beam Music Center on the UNLV campus on Friday, March 24, 2017 at 7:30 P.M. An appreciative audience of 225 people came to hear an unusual all-Bach program, The presenters were Dr. Mykola Suk, world-renowned pianist and Head of the Keyboard Department at UNLV, and guest organist, Dr. Stephen Ackert, recently retired Head of Music Activities at National Gallery in Washington, D.C. The two artists had met when Dr. Suk played a recital at National Gallery. They developed their concept of the evening's program some years ago when Dr. Suk said he enjoyed playing the preludes from Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier, but he wasn't quite so comfortable with the fugues. Dr. Ackert suggested that perhaps the fugues should be played on the harpsichord or organ. Thus, the concept for the evening's program format was conceived.

Most organists are not as familiar with the 48 Preludes and Fugues of the two books of the Well-Tempered Clavier as they are with the standard Bach organ repertoire, so in some cases it seemed like "new Bach" to many ears. Admittedly, hearing Bach on the Steinway piano was not exactly designed for the "purist," but Dr. Suk's sympathetic and expressive playing was most enjoyable. Of all composers who ever lived, Bach's music seems to survive any medium in which it is performed. I recall hearing the Bach double violin concerto being performed by two buskers outside in Boston some summers ago, delivered by a marimba and harmonica to wonderful effect! Hearing some of the fugues played on the organ also brought new insights—several of them just seemed to have "organ" written all over them. Of course, hearing them on the Maurine Jackson Smith Organ (built in 2004 by the Rudolf von Beckerath firm of Hamburg, Germany) allowed them to come alive.

The numbers gathered from the audience evaluations: (82 respondents = 36.4%)

- First visit to Doc Rando Hall 13
- First time hearing the von Beckerath organ 21
- First time at an AGO recital 24
- Attending more than 5 previous organ recitals 46
- How did they hear of the recital?
 - e-mail notification 47
 - flyer 7
 - radio 2
 - previous program 12
 - from a friend 25
 - other 8
- Feelings about the program
 - Loved it 56 (71.8%)
 - Liked it 16 (20.5%)
 - Found it interesting 6 (7.6%)
- Overall rating of the program
 - Superb 54 (69.2%)
 - Excellent 22 (28.2%)
 - Average 2 (2.5%)



Photo by Dorothy Riess

The combined rating of both "superb" and "excellent" 97.4%
New e-mail addresses for the notification list: 21

Paul S. Hesselink, Chair
2016-2017 Organ Recital Series Committee

Baroque Organ Recital Well-Received

About 150 people attended the 4:00 P.M. recital on Sunday, April 23 in Dr. Rando-Grillot Hall in the Beam Music Center on the UNLV campus to hear distinguished organist Craig Cramer in a recital of works drawn from the French and Germanic organ literature of the Baroque Period. The recital was an event in the First Annual Las Vegas Baroque Festival, and was co-sponsored by the UNLV School of Music and the Southern Nevada Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Dr. Cramer is Professor of Organ and Artist in Residence at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.



Photo by Dorothy Riess

Dr. Cramer opened his program with a strong and fanciful performance of Dieterich Buxtehude's Toccata in D, BuxWV 155. This was followed by five dances from the Linz Organ Tabulature. While essentially late "Renaissance" dances, Dr. Cramer's imaginative and colorful registrations showed off the organ to wonderful advantage. Equally colorful were the twelve variations in Partita on "Freu dich sehr, O meine Seele" by Georg Böhm, Bach's organ teacher. A change of style was exhibited in the three selected Noëls by the French composer, Jean-François Dandrieu. The program concluded with the monumental Passacaglia and Fugue in C Minor, BWV 582 by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Dr. Cramer's playing was technically impeccable as well as ultimately exciting and musical. It was an immensely satisfying recital.

Here are the numbers as tabulated from the 64 completed evaluations (42.67%):

First time visiting Dr. Rando-Grillot Hall = 2

First time hearing the Maurine Jackson Smith von Beckerath Organ = 6

First time attending an AGO organ recital = 12

For returning attendees, how many recitals attended?

1-3 recitals=4 4-5 recitals=2 more than 5 recitals=44

How did attendees hear about the recital?

e-mail=28 flyer=13 radio=5 previous program=16 from a friend=20

other=6 (various media outlets, from music teachers, UNLV, websites)

Feelings about program and performer:

Loved it=47 Liked it=13 Found interesting=3 Might return=0 Not interested=0

Overall rating for the program:

Superb=46 Excellent=13 Average=1 Fair=0 Poor=0 No rating=4

Combined rating for "Superb" and "Excellent" = 98.3%

E-mail addresses gathered = 23

Paul S. Hesselink, Chair- 2016-17 Recital Series Committee

The Chenaults

World's Premiere Duo Organists

Friday, June 2, 2017 7:30 P.M.
Doc Rando Hall - UNLV



Elizabeth and Raymond Chenault, duo-organists, have concertized extensively throughout the United States and in Europe. Specializing in works written for two performers, the Chenaults have commissioned and premiered over forty organ duets, thereby making a significant historical contribution to this slighted area of organ literature. Because of their unique and refreshing repertoire, combined with their exciting and sensitive artistry, the Chenaults are in demand as recitalists and have established themselves as America's leading duo-organists.



The Chenault's duet career began in 1979 when Arthur Wills of England's Ely Cathedral composed *Toccata for Two* for them, followed by John Rutter's *Variations on An Easter Theme* in 1982. Both duets were premiered by the Chenaults at Washington Cathedral and are published. They have been featured recitalists at numerous national and regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists, the Association of Anglican Musicians, the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, the International Summer Organ Festival at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion in San Diego, Helzberg Hall (Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, Kansas City, MO), as well as the Crystal Cathedral, the Mormon Tabernacle, Washington National Cathedral, St. Paul's Cathedral (London), York Minster Cathedral (England) and the Piccolo Spoleto Festival. The Chenaults also have commissioned duets from Ronald Arnatt, David Briggs, Charles Callahan, Melinda Clark, Pamela Decker, Alan Gibbs, Naji Hakim, Gerre Hancock, Gaston Litaize, Douglas Major, Jefferson McConnaughey, Philip Moore, Bruce Neswick, Dorothy Papadakos, Stephen Paulus, Craig Phillips, Daniel Pinkham, Robert Powell, Myron Roberts, Richard Shephard, Conrad Susa, Paul Lindsley Thomas and Nicholas White. Additionally, the Chenaults have arranged several pieces for organ duet, including

several popular Christmas carols, Sousa's *The Stars and Stripes Forever*, and a medley of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Phantom of the Opera*.

Mr. and Mrs. Chenault, natives of Virginia, completed their Bachelor of Music degrees from Virginia Commonwealth University studying organ with Lawrence Robinson. Mr. Chenault received his Master of Music degree in organ performance from the Cincinnati College- Conservatory of Music where he and Mrs. Chenault studied organ with Wayne Fisher. Upon graduation, Mr. Chenault became a Fellow in Church Music at Washington Cathedral studying with Dr. Paul Callaway. Other organ teachers include Harold Abmyer, Arthur Poister and John Fenstermaker.

In 1975, Mr. and Mrs. Chenault became Organists and Choirmasters of All Saints' Episcopal Church in Atlanta, directing the music program and concert series. The Chenaults taught choral music at The Lovett School

in Atlanta for 31 years, where Mr. Chenault was the Director of Fine Arts and Choral Director of the Upper School. Mrs. Chenault was Choral Director of the Middle School. Their choirs won many national competitions, and were featured at American Choral Director's Conventions, Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, Washington Cathedral, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and the Piccolo Spoleto Festival USA in Charleston, South Carolina. The Choir of All Saints' has recorded two CDs for Towerhill Records, Inc. featuring Christmas music, *A Christmas Alleluia* (TH-71996) and spirituals, *Promised Land* (TH-71997) www.towerhill-recordings.com (1-860-560-7800). Mr. Chenault made his Carnegie Hall debut in 1996 conducting Mozart's Coronation Mass featuring a 220-voice choir, soloists and orchestra. Additionally, Mr. Chenault is a frequent adjudicator for many choral festivals and is a published composer of choral and organ works. He is a member of ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers).



Recitals by the Chenaults have been critically acclaimed by audiences and critics alike. They have been featured on "Pipedreams" (a weekly series of the American Public Radio network) and record on the Gothic Record Label (1-800-735-4720) www.gothicrecords.com. Their premiere recording *20th Century Organ Music for Two* (CD 49043) was recorded at Roswell United Methodist Church (Georgia), *20th Century Organ Music for Two, Volume II* (CD 49073) was recorded at Washington Cathedral, and their third CD, *Christmas at Spivey Hall* (CD 49084), was recorded on the 79 rank Ruffatti organ at Clayton State College, Morrow, Georgia. Their CDs have been on the best-selling list nationally and have received rave reviews. Several volumes of *The Chenault Organ Duet Library Collection* have been published by Warner Bros. Pub., Inc. and may be purchased directly from the Chenaults by using the order form on the Chenaults website www.ChenaultDuo.com or via email at ray@chenaultduo.com

The Chenaults were featured at the 1992 AGO Convention in Atlanta, premiering organ duets by Gaston Litaize and Naji Hakim, and on "Performance Today," National Public Radio's daily classical music program, which was broadcasted live from Spivey Hall in Morrow, Georgia. The Chenaults also premiered an organ duet by Stephen Paulus for the Conference of Anglican Musicians in Norfolk, Virginia, and were named "Organists of the Year" by the National Music Director Magazine, *Sacred Music USA*. The Chenault duo's most recent duet premieres include *An American Suite* by Melinda Clark for the Georgia Music Teachers' Association Conference (2012) at Young Harris College (GA), and *Conditor Alme Siderum* by Pamela Decker for the Region IV AGO Convention (2013) in Columbia, SC. The Chenaults are represented by Phillip Truckenbrod Concert Artists www.concertartists.com.

Their Las Vegas program promises to be an attractive one with works by Gaston Litaize, Richard Shephard, Philip Moore, Gerre Hancock and David Briggs--all composed between 1987 and 2012. The program will also present a setting of *Londonderry Air* by Charles Callahan, a setting of the folk melody *Shenandoah* by Nicholas White, and their own arrangement of a medley of pieces from Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Phantom of the Opera*. All of the pieces to be performed on the program were commissioned by Mr. and Mrs. Chenault and have been widely performed by them.

Organ Workshop - Creating the Worship Experience: Even When It Seems No One is Listening

We will discuss repertoire for preludes and postludes, interpretation, registrations, and principles of inspiring hymn playing. Come ready to play some of your favorite repertoire, to "talk shop" about anxiety at the console, to take notes, and to have a great time making music

-- Great Music!!

Saturday, May 20, 2017

9:00 A.M. to noon

Las Vegas LDS Center

3400 West Charleston Boulevard

FREE - no pre-registration

Sponsored by

Southern Nevada Chapter
American Guild of Organists



James "Jim" Kasen graduated from Brigham Young University in 1986 with a Bachelor's degree in music performance and returned to receive his master's degree in performance and pedagogy in 1999. In 2008, Kasen received BYU's Ben E. Lewis Management Award. Kasen currently serves as BYU Director of Public Affairs and Guest Relations.

The Organ Workshop originally scheduled for April 8 has been rescheduled for May 20, from 9-12 at the same venue, LDS Las Vegas Stake Center on West Charleston. Please contact Steve Wright if you have any questions regarding details at steverw822@gmail.com, or call at 801 554-5458. Invite your organist friends to join us for a stimulating discussion regarding the role of the organ in worship and much more.

Instruments for Sale

I just received a call from a Bob McIntosh who has a Rodgers 360 theatre organ. This is the last theatre organ Rodgers made and is probably 30 years old. It originally sold for over \$65,000 and was the top of the line for Rodgers theatre organs. He says it plays well and has all 8 speakers. He is willing to donate it to a school, church or someplace where it will get used... probably as a practice organ. It has 3 manuals and a full 32 note pedal board. He would also sell it to an individual at a very reasonable price. The organ is located in southwest Las Vegas. I talked to the designer for Rodgers digital organs and he said it will do a respectable job in reference to classical organ sounds... but that it is first a theatre organ.

Please pass this on to anyone who you think might be interested.

Bob's phone number is 702-224-2286 and his email is mcintosh@hay.net



Pipe organ for sale: 3-rank pipe organ looking for a new home. Somewhat unusual specification: diapason, salicional and vox humana plus chimes. Owner is downsizing to a smaller residence. Price is negotiable. To make an appointment to view / play the instrument, contact Rhea Miner at (702)-540-9366 or e-mail: rrminer10@gmail.com

The present owner has supplied the following history of the instrument:

This pipe organ was built by the B. F. Pullman Company around 1930. It was purchased by Ernest Albert Strong Sr. and installed by him into his home at 343 South Main Street in Springville, Utah in 1937. He also installed four other organs into churches in the Springville area.

When Ernest Albert Strong Sr. was called to serve as a missionary in the LDS German Austria Mission, he was called to play the piano so he taught himself how to play. He also learned to play and love organ music. His occupation was a home builder so having an organ in his own home became very important to him. He built a special room for the pipes. It was moved from that home in Springville to its present home in Las Vegas in 1979.

AGO Dues:

After several years of paying the same dues, National AGO has increased our dues by \$5. However, if you would like to receive TAO Online, you can save \$8 per year. You will be given this choice when you pay online.

Remember when you pay your dues, this is an ideal time to also contribute as one of our valuable patrons to our local concert series. All of your donation goes directly into our bank account.

You might like to know that our chapter has to fill out paperwork to be a legal non-profit organization. We file an electronic tax return each year and thankfully don't have to pay taxes, but the filing is essential. Also, we are registered with the Nevada Secretary of State, and have to file an annual list of officers and directors form, a declaration of Eligibility for State Business License Exception form, and a charitable solicitation registration statement. We do have to pay \$50 per year for this, but we don't have to pay any state business taxes.

If you have any questions about paying your dues online, please call me and I will help you.

David Dorway, treasurer

702-468-1371

End of the year Social

Our end of the year social event will be a potluck on Sunday, May 21st at 6:00 P.M., at the home of Doris Francis, 381 Kenya Rd. Las Vegas 89123. Doris will be providing a main dish and all are expected to provide salads, sides, or desserts. You will be contacted by Doris to find out who is coming and to balance out the food. If you would like to contact her, her phone number is 702 459-7734.

All Saints' Update

The first phase of the additions to the Steven Cook Opus 7 organ at All Saints' Episcopal is about to begin. On May 1, the eighteen bottom pipes of the "new" 16' Subbass will be arriving and installation of them will commence. Manuel Rosales expects the completion of this first phase to take about four days.

The Subbass pipes are originally from a small instrument from 1941 contracted by the Aeolian company and installed into what is now the Chapel of St. Edmond's Episcopal Church in San Marino, California. There were a number of these smaller instruments known as "Marie Antoinettes" that were designed specifically for residences, but they found their way into some churches as well. Skinner Organ Company merged with Aeolian shortly after these contracts were signed, and therefore bear the Aeolian-Skinner name.



As the church in San Marino grew and a larger building was constructed, and a three manual Aeolian-Skinner was installed, the small organ fell into disuse and eventually was vandalized. Only two ranks of pipes were salvageable: The 8' (manual) Open Diapason and the 16' (pedal) Subbass. The Diapason found its way into another rebuild, and the Subbass comes to All Saints'.

Rosales Organ Builders has completely re-voiced and refurbished all of the pipes and their offset chests. They have been painted gray to blend with the color of the block wall. Their new home will be to immediately adjacent to the right side of the organ case.

Following installation, they will patiently await the remaining new pipes to arrive, hopefully in early summer when the remaining work will be performed in earnest.

Mark S. Towne

The Southern Nevada Chapter of the American Guild of Organists



2017-2018 Recital Series

September 22, 2017
7:30 p.m.

Stephen Buzard

Organist and Choirmaster at St. James Episcopal Cathedral, Chicago



November 17, 2017
7:30 p.m.

Monica Czausz

Cathedral Organist, Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral, Houston



January 26, 2018
7:30 p.m.

Dexter Kennedy

A recent winner of the prestigious 2014 Chartres Competition



May 18, 2018
7:30 p.m.

Members' Organ Plus



The Recital Series funded in part by a grant from the Nevada Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

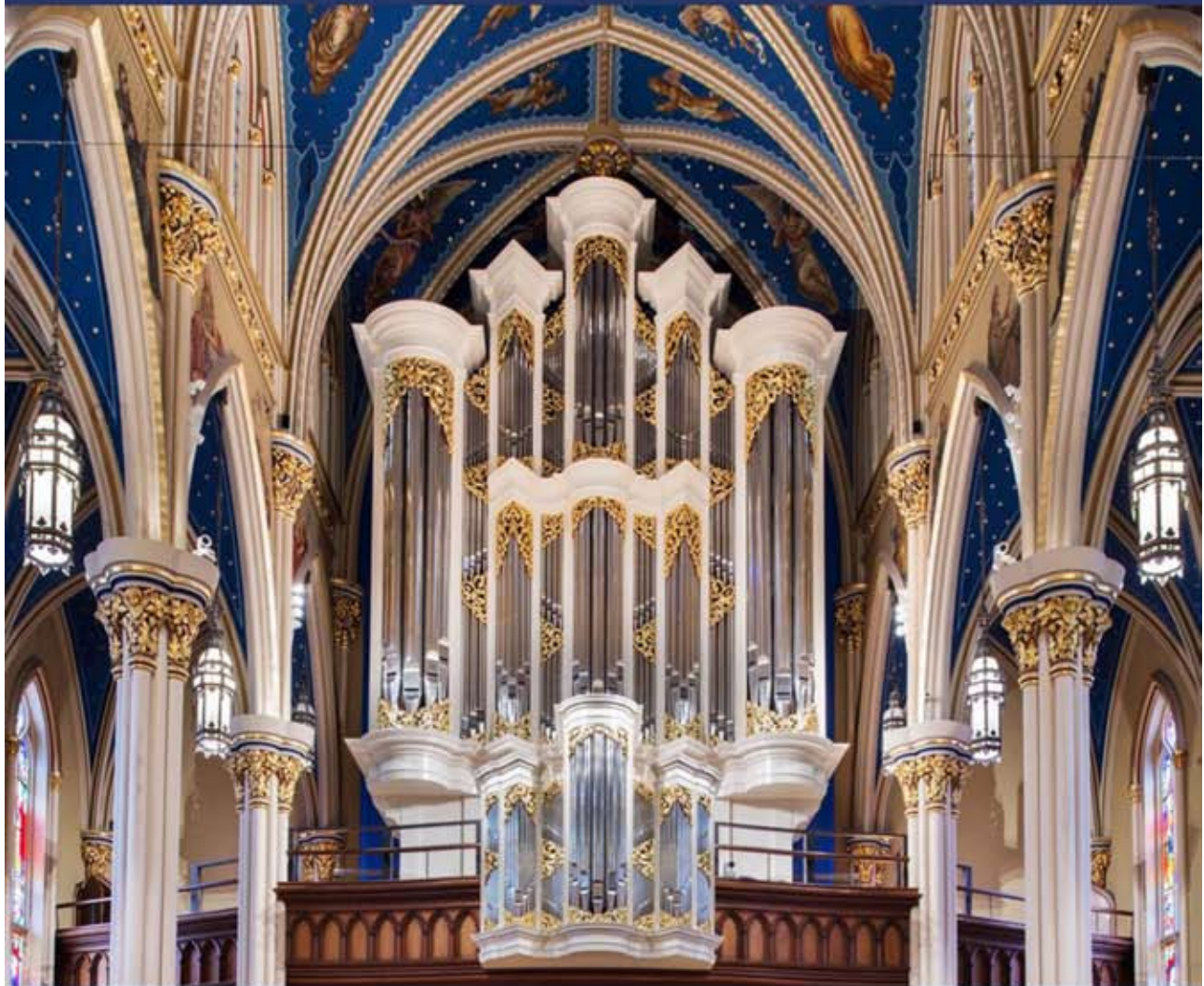
All Recitals to be held in Doc Rando-Grillot Hall on the Maurine Jackson Smith Memorial Organ in the Beam Music Center, UNLV. Open to the public without charge.



University of Notre Dame presents

Reformations and the Organ, 1517–2017

September 10–13



The University of Notre Dame and the Westfield Center for Historical Keyboard Studies will host a conference to celebrate the new organ by Paul Fritts.

Learn more: sacredmusic.nd.edu/organ-conference

WESTFIELD CENTER
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