

THE DESERT WIND

Editor: Bruce Behnke © 2013

Issue: September-October 2013



Southern Nevada Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Dean's Notes

Greetings Organ Buddies!

I hope everyone had a good few months off from what you normally do and that you were able to do something fun. I know several went to conferences and conventions; there are a few reports about them in this newsletter. Jane Dye went to Europe and will be sharing pictures and music with us at our opening social. We'll have a chance to share our escapades with one another at the social which is Sept. 20. More on that in the newsletter.

This summer I took a hiatus from my monthly trips to Salt Lake City and stayed home. Our Virginia kids came and spent several weeks with us. And the Kingman kids came, too, several times. We all went to California to Huntington Beach

and Balboa Island where we had frozen bananas and Balboa Bars. We all visited grandparents who were excited to see the great-grandchildren! Our Texas kids couldn't come this summer so we have a trip planned to see them at Thanksgiving.

Now we are all looking forward (I hope!) to the coming months filled with church duties, recitals, holidays and lots of organ playing! Isabelle Demers is returning to play in October and we'll have our Christmas recital the first of December. Already time to put up the Christmas tree. The year has gone fast. I'm returning to Salt Lake this week to practice at the Tabernacle and to hear Nathan Laube at the Cathedral of the Madeleine. As

you know, he's coming here as part of this season's recital series. I'll let you know if he's any good!

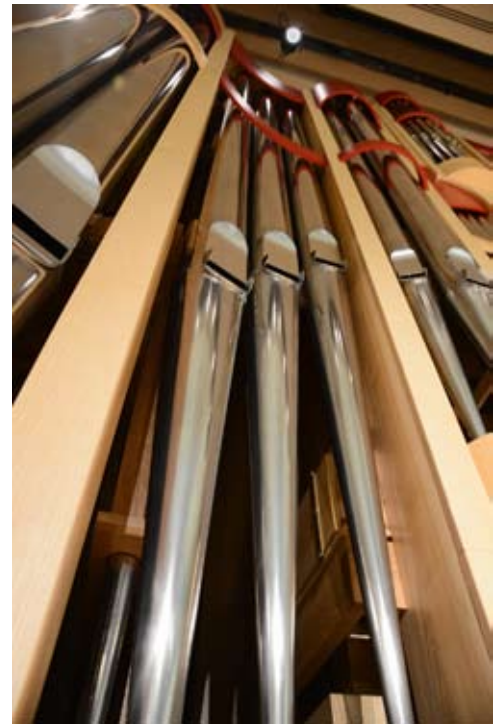
As we begin this new "organ year" let's all try to give just a little more to those we serve as organists, to practice more and learn some new music. Set a new goal for yourself. (We'll talk more about certification later!)

See you soon,

Jan

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Beckerath Restored



Restored von Beckerath organ at The University of Nevada Las Vegas.
Photos by Dorothy Young Riess M.D.

The Music Department at University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and the Rudolph von Beckerath Company of Hamburg, Germany, will celebrate the completion of the restoration of the 53-rank Maureen Jackson Smith Memorial Organ built by that firm in 2004 with a gala re-inauguration recital sponsored by the Southern Nevada Chapter of the American Guild of Organists on October 11, 2013 at 7:30 P.M. in Doc Rando Recital Hall on the university campus in Las Vegas. (see *The Diapason*, July 2007, for cover photo and article).

On May 24, 2012 a failed sprinkler head on the stage of Doc Rando Hall rained down water on the instrument for 20 minutes before the system could be shut off, causing extensive damage. Mr. Rolf Miehl of the Beckerath firm came the next week to make an evaluation of the damages and to plan and schedule the necessary work to be done to restore the instrument. The restoration work included replacement of Great, Positiv and Pedal chests, all trackers, the console, some wooden pipes and the entire façade of the instrument. The replacement parts were manufactured during the course of the year by clever scheduling in the Beckerath shop which was already operating on a full production schedule. A team from Beckerath, headed by Holger Redlich, manager of the company, came in January, 2013, to do preliminary work and prepare the instrument for the restoration work which would follow in May. The Recital Hall remained in full operation during the spring academic term.

Five artisans from the Beckerath firm arrived the end of May, 2013, and completed the work in early July. The restoration process involved many people from the university who devoted time to insure that the work would be facilitated. Jonathan Good, Chair of the Department of Music, coordinated that effort. The formal acceptance of the restored organ occurred at a meeting on July 4, 2013. Fortunately, the considerable cost to bring the instrument back to its former glory was covered by insurance.

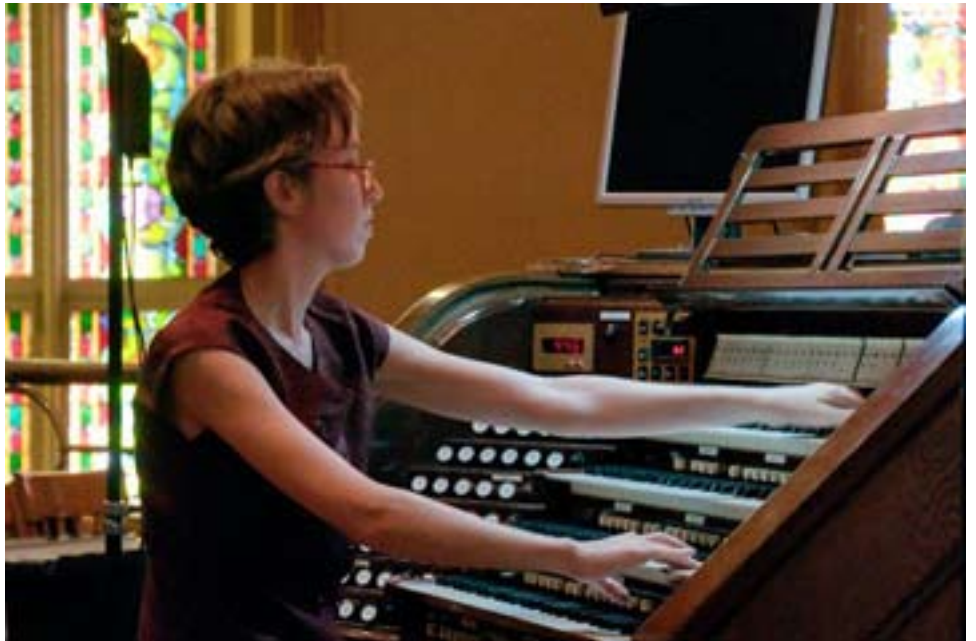
Dr. Isabelle Demers will be the featured artist at the October 11 gala. She had presented a stunning recital on the instrument just two weeks prior to the disaster, so it was decided she would be the right person to return to play the re-inaugural event. Her program will be the first in the Southern Nevada Chapter's Organ Recital Series 2013-2014. Other performers scheduled for the season are Jonathan Dimmock, Pamela Decker and Nathan Laube. For more information go to the chapter's website: www.sncago.org

-by Paul S. Hesselink

Isabelle Demers to Perform October 11, 2013

Bruce Behnke If our readers don't remember the previous interview, they can go to (<http://sncago.org/desertwind>) and click on the May-June 2012 issue. Since you played for us last on May 11, 2012 there has been a big change in your life. Can you tell us about your teaching position at Baylor, how many private students do you have and what other classes you teach?

Isabelle Demers I'm assistant-professor of organ at Baylor and head of the organ program, which means that in addition to teaching, I supervise all activities related to the organ. I currently have 10 organ students, and teach a service playing class as well as some music theory this semester. My position also involves coordinating a yearly conference in February as well as summer organ camps, making sure all instruments are working properly, and other such administrative duties.



Behnke Were any of your degrees in organ pedagogy?

Demers No. But I doubt that most organists teaching in colleges/universities have degrees in organ pedagogy nowadays.

Behnke Are you able to maintain your performance schedule or have you had to cut back a little on your concertizing?

Demers Actually academic positions (tenure-track positions) are always evaluated based on three components: teaching, research, and service. For applied music, performing is our main research activity, and it is thus a requirement of my position to perform as often as possible. That said, I have to be a bit more careful in scheduling concerts; for example, I try to perform on Sundays as much as possible, and keep important dates such as audition days, etc., open. I play about 25-30 concerts every year, without counting school engagements.

Being at a school also has advantages from a performing point of view, and next year brings many interesting projects with some of the school's ensembles, including a choir tour of the Southeastern States in March, and a trip to Europe for a recording.

Behnke Do you have a dedicated instrument for your practicing? What kind and how large is it?

Demers We're extremely fortunate at Baylor to have quite a few instruments, many of them located just across from my office! I especially enjoy practicing on our teaching instrument, a 3-manual Letourneau tracker that is simply stunning. We also have a variety of 2- and 3-manual practice instruments, both trackers and electric action, so that I never have to go very far regardless of what I need.

Behnke What is the biggest adjustment moving to Texas, the weather, the food or the culture?

Demers This week the answer would definitely be the weather, as it's rather hot! Baylor is such a friendly school - community matters much to the upper administration - that the move has been quite easy. I've been amazed to discover so many new animals, birds and insects (by now I've learned that they come in sizes slightly larger than in Canada!), and was quite thrilled to see my very first roadrunner a few days ago. Texas would be a much better place with some snow in winter, but otherwise, I'm very happy to be here.

Behnke What are you planning to play for us this time?

Demers Definitely some Bach; perhaps some Mendelssohn and Dupre as well, but I have to admit I have yet to finalize this program. The focus will be on variety, however, so that there is something for every audience member.

FINAL RECITAL OF THE 2012-2013 ORGAN RECITAL SERIES: DONGHO LEE

Prize-winning organist, Dongho Lee, presented the final recital of the Southern Nevada AGO Chapter's 2012-2013 Organ Recital Series on Friday, April 19 at 7:30 P.M. at Christ Church Episcopal on the 4-manual and pedal 54-rank Schantz organ installed in the church in 2010. Her varied program included works by Marcel Dupre, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Johann Sebastian Bach, Charles Ives, Percy Whitlock and Josef Rheinberger. Her playing exhibited first-rate technical control, musical sensibility and finesse. About 140 people enjoyed the performance.



The numbers from the survey:

Surveys completed: 75

First time hearing the Christ Church organ: 15 (20%)

First attendance at an AGO recital program 13 (17.3%)

Those attending recitals in the past:

1-3 = 14 (18.6%) 4-5 = 8 (10.7%) more than 5 = 41 (55%)

How they heard about the recital:

e-mail = 28 flyer = 11 previous program = 26 friend = 31

Feelings about the program:

loved it = 57 (80.3%) liked a lot = 12 (17%) interesting = 2 (3%)

Overall rating:

superb = 57 (77%) excellent = 16 (21.6%) no response = 1 (1.3%)

That's a remarkable 98.6% total of audience approval as either "superb" or "excellent!"

Requests to be added to e-mail notification list = 22

We are immensely indebted to Christ Church Episcopal, The Rev. Dr. J. Barry Vaughn, Rector; The Vestry of the Church; and Kathi Colman, Music Director, for their hospitality in hosting the 2012-2013 Recital Series while the organ in Doc Rando Hall at UNLV was out of service. Special thanks to Kathi and Jeff Colman for providing the excellent video images for each of the recitals. We are grateful also to all of our loyal patrons whose generous contributions helped make the 2012-2013 organ recital series financially successful.

Paul S. Hesselink, Chair
AGO Recital Series Committee

Chapter Board and Officers

Jan Bigler	Dean
Paul Hesselink	Sub Dean
Cherrill Hoeft	Secretary
Dr. David Dorway	Treasurer

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Available Substitutes

Genie Burkett	513-0868
John Ledwon	767-8772
Bede Parry	521-2746
Cheryl Sneed	293-3147
Dorothy Young Riess	575-1834
Steven Wright	801 554-5458

Calendar of Events

Laurie Swain, Master's Organ Recital, Doc Rando Hall, Sept. 14, 2013, 5:30 PM.

Spencer Baker, "Winterreise" Doctoral recital with Mark Thomsen, Doc Rando Hall, Oct. 10, 2013, 7:30 PM.

Isabelle Demers, Artist Organ Concert, Doc Rando Hall, Oct 11, 2013, 7:30 PM.

"A Night at the Opera" Christ Church Episcopal, Oct. 26, 2013, 7:30 P.M.

Pat Sue, Annual Birthday Concert, Christ Church Episcopal, Nov. 2, 2013 7:00 PM.

Paul Hesselink and NSA Chamber Orchestra, Christ Church Epsicopal, Nov 8, 2013 7:30 PM.

Mader Organ Competition, Claremont United Church of Christ, Nov 9, 2013, 7:00 PM.

Annual Advent and Christmas Recital, Christ Church Episcopal Las Vegas, Dec 1, 2013, 4:00 PM.

Alzheimer's Association Benefit Concert, First Christian Church Las Vegas, Feb 23, 2013, 4:00 PM.

Opening Fall Social

Our Opening Social will be here soon! Friday, Sept. 20th at 6:00 PM. It will be held at Steve Wright's house. His address is 3370 Mallard Nest St. Las Vegas, 89117. His phone is 801-554-5458. As usual it will be pot-luck. That means that everyone needs to call Doris Francis ASAP and tell her what you'll be bringing. Her number is 459-7734. Jane Dye will be reporting on her Europe organ trip and Shireen's organ student will report briefly on his experience at the POE. We also have a few new members to meet. See you there!

PHOTO OP for ALL OWNERS OF BECKERATH SHIRTS

In celebration of the re-inauguration of the von Beckerath organ in Doc Rando Hall, we'd like to gather everyone who purchased a Maurine Jackson Smith Memorial Organ shirt for a photo shoot with everyone wearing their shirts in front of the restored instrument on Friday evening, October 11, at 6:45 P.M. sharp. Our chapter official photographer, Dorothy Riess, will be there to capture the moment. We'd like to use the photo for publicity after the celebratory event for publication in *The American Organist* and *The Diapason* magazines. Please come, wearing your shirt, and enter by the stage door (the lobby doors will not be open at that time). It would be helpful if you could let us know whether or not you will be able to be there for the photo:
e-mail: paulshesselink@gmail.com or call 242-1940 and leave a message. The celebration will commence at 7:30 with brief ceremonies involving the UNLV Department of Music and Holger Redlich of the von Beckerath firm, followed by a recital by Dr. Isabelle Demers as the guest performer. Dr. Demers played the last guest recital 10 days before the "deluge" in May 2012.

Membership Report

We have had great response from our members in paying their dues and contributing to our recital patrons fund. I am still waiting for a few people! If you have misplaced your application, I will be glad to send you another one. David

Organ Wanted

Wanted: an electronic organ large enough to play in church, preferably with external speakers, an AGO specified pedal board, and stops that are more church-oriented, as opposed to theatre organ. Perhaps you know someone who has an organ in their home that is not being used, and is close to the above description. Please give Shireen a call (645-6546). I am now playing at the Shrine of the Most Holy Redeemer and we are in need of something that works ASAP. Thanks

DR. RIESS TO PRESENT WORKSHOP IN TENNESSEE

Dr. Dorothy Riess will present her popular workshop, "Performing in the Golden Years, Just Survive or Really Thrive" to the Knoxville, Tennessee AGO on October 7, 2013. The first presentation was to Southern Nevada Chapter AGO in June 2011, a "dress rehearsal" for Region IX convention in Phoenix later that month. Other presentations include Greater Columbia AGO, Columbia SC, 2011, San Diego AGO, 2012, AGO National Convention, Nashville 2012, and AGO Regional Convention, Bakersfield, 2013. Dr. Riess will fly to Chattanooga to spend a couple of days exploring the Civil War Battlefields at Chicamauga and Lookout Mountain before driving to Knoxville.

Steve Wright Returns

Hopefully many of you will remember Steve Wright. He was the dean of the chapter when the chapter did the Region IX Mid-Winter Conclave in 2006. He also did the newsletter for a while and was a real asset to the chapter.

Steve Wright hails from Montpelier, Idaho, a descendant of Mormon pioneers who settled the Bear Lake Valley in Idaho in 1863. He was born in 1950 and studied organ as a teenager with Lois Lee Hulme, accomplished local pianist and organist. He attended Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah from 1968 to 1976, with a two-year hiatus to serve an LDS Mission in Southern California in Spanish. During his years at BYU he studied organ with J.J. Keeler, Parley Belnap and others, but did not major in music. He has a B.A. in Spanish and M.A. in Linguistics from BYU. He was married in 1972 and is the father of 6 children and grandfather of 19. He was divorced in 1997.

Steve has worked for BYU as Director of Training at the Missionary Training Center, and subsequent jobs in high tech with WordPerfect Corp., Novell, Cisco Systems and Caldera. He moved to Las Vegas from California in 2003 and was an active member of AGO in the Southern Nevada Chapter, serving as Coordinator for the 2006 Region IX Conclave and later as Dean of the Southern Nevada Chapter. In addition to his activities in AGO Steve played for the First Church of Christ Scientist and substituted at a number of other congregations.



He moved from Las Vegas back to Utah to be closer to his children and mother, who was in failing health, in 2008. While in Utah he worked for Mity Lite as Sales Executive for Latin America, traveling throughout Latin America, Spain and Portugal in his assignment. He was also active in both the Salt Lake and Utah Valley chapters of AGO and assisted in teaching at the Super Saturday annual event in Provo, Utah.

Steve retired at the end of August and has returned to Las Vegas. He lives in the Summerlin area and is looking forward to reconnecting with his former AGO colleagues and getting involved again. He looks forward to contributing to the Chapter and substituting when the opportunity arises.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

“Sparkling” Benefit Concert for Alzheimer’s Association, First Christian Church, Las Vegas, Sunday Feb. 23, 2014, at 4:00 PM, by Dorothy Young Riess, M.D., organist, and guest artists. The purpose of this concert is not only to benefit the Association, but to provide an afternoon of uplifting and joyous music for families and caretakers of those with Alzheimer’s and other dementias who lose their “sparkle” after months and years of experience with this tragic disease. For further information, please contact Dr. Riess, dyriessmd@cox.net.

AGO Region IX Convention, Bakersfield CA

by Dorothy Young Riess

From the Pre-concert by Hector Olivera to the post-concert by Dorothy Young Riess, the American Guild of Organists Region IX Convention in Bakersfield CA, June 24-26, 2013, was a fun-filled success! The hard-working committee of just about every member of the Kern County AGO, coordinated by Convention Chair, Phil Dodson, had all details in place for a smooth event.

On Sunday afternoon, June 23, the AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists took place at St. Paul's Anglican Parish, Schantz organ (1996), and the winner was Chinar Merjanian, student of Margaret Kvamme. She will perform as "rising star" at AGO National in Boston, 2014.

Sunday evening was the gala pre-convention concert by Hector Olivera at First Presbyterian Church, Austin (1984) and Rodgers (2009) organ. He played with great skill and showmanship, using ALL the stops.

Monday morning was the official registration at Doubletree Hotel with music in the lobby by Christine Anderson, solo handbell artist, and Tea Rose String Quartet. Opening convocation at First Presbyterian featured a recital by Carey Coker Robertson, Reubke "Sonata on 94th Psalm", new commissioned music, "How can I keep from Singing?", an anthem by Howard Quilling, "Give Him Glory", a hymn with music by Richard Nichols, and words by Chris Anderson. The convocation ended with the stirring "Praise the Lord with Drum and Cymbals" by Karg-Elert.

After a relaxing break for Taco Fiesta and Mariachi Players, Christoph Bull, Professor of Organ and University Organist, UCLA, played a concert of nine Bach fugues and his composition, "Variations on B-A-C-H." The evening ended with an Ice Cream Social, laughter and friendship.

Tuesday opened with Organ recital by the Quimby winner, Chinar Merjanian, on the Schantz at St. Paul's Anglican Parish, followed by Introduction to the Organ for Children presented by Robert Ampt, Sydney Town Hall Organist, and Amy Johansen, Sydney University Organist from Australia. After lunch on your own, buses carried participants to St. John's Lutheran Church and a Hymn Festival, "In Praise of Pentecost" with S. Wayne Foster. An inspirational hour followed with "The Power of Music" by blind musician, Ken Medema. Workshops filled the next hour, then Dinner and Regional Meeting featuring Strolling Strings and solo handbell artist, Christine Anderson.

Hyunju Hwang, Korean virtuoso, played a concert that evening on the visually stunning Werner Bosch Organ, Opus 836 (1990). Assisted by percussionist, Tsugumi Shikano, she brought down the house with her rendition of "Drei Jazz-Preludien" by Johannes Michel.

Wednesday started with "Midi and the Organ" by Paul Rosas at First United Methodist Church, Schantz (1972), West (1980) and Rodgers (2011). Workshops filled the morning followed by luncheon "Hail to the Chief" with Fred Swann and Robert Tall, at Olive Drive Church. More workshops that afternoon at Olive Drive, then a special dinner at Wool Growers Restaurant. The evening concert was also at Olive Drive Church, Aeolian-Skinner, Opus 885, IV/133 (1932 Harvard University), Robert Turner (1988), by Robert and Amy Ampt, featuring the show-stopper piece by Robert "Waltzing Matilda for Four Feet"! Gala Reception at the hotel continued until midnight.

Thursday morning, after a complimentary breakfast at Olive Drive Church, Dorothy Young Riess, M.D., presented the post-convention concert with a program of Howells, Bach, Liszt, Ravel - her arrangement of "Five O' Clock Foxtrot for which she asked the audience to provide percussion - and ended the AGO Region IX Convention with the Karg-Elert show piece, "Vivace from Symphony Opus 143".

Congratulations to the Steering Committee, especially Paul Tepker, Program Chair, Kathie Riebe, Logistics chair, and Martin Goni, Treasurer, and the sponsors whose financial contributions helped make this convention a reality.

Paul Hesselink

During July and August I attended two organ conventions in the Eastern U. S.. I try to attend the Organ Historical Society's annual convention almost every year; this year the 58th annual convention was headquartered in Burlington, Vermont and we were kept on a very full schedule of visiting Northern Vermont organs from Monday, June 24 through Friday, June 29. We heard a wide variety of instruments dating from as early as 1833 to two more recent organs of 1973. Five of the instruments were by the E & G.G. Hook & Hastings firm, three were built by William B. D. Simmons and there were examples of the organ-building craft by other 19th century builders: Edward H. Smith, Geo. S. Hutchings, Ernest Desmarais, William Nutting Jr., Henry Erban, George Jardine, Geo. Stevens and the Estey Company. Two organs from 1973 were interesting instruments by C.B. Fisk at the University of Vermont in Burlington and a Karl Wilhelm instrument at the modern Episcopal Cathedral in Burlington. The organs ranged in size from three ranks to sizeable instruments, especially the Fisk and the Wilhelm. All told, we heard 23 organs and more than 23 performers in the five days of the convention. Many of the churches were in other places outside of Burlington, so we traveled to many small towns (there really aren't many large cities in Vermont!), many of which were unknown to me, but we did also get to Montpelier (the state capital), Cabot (known for Cabot cheese). We went past the Ben and Jerry's ice cream factory in Waterbury, but we didn't stop!

There were just under 300 people registered for the convention, and since we were doing a lot of bus travel (beautiful and rural green countryside) and to small out-of-the-way places, noon meals were often box lunches prepared by the churches we were visiting. Our convention hotel was the Sheraton Burlington Hotel which offered a buffet breakfast for the conventioners, and since it was about the only option, we ate well each morning. It was fun to see a lot of people I knew and to meet some new folks as well.

At the Tuesday evening concert we heard an excellent string ensemble with harmonium and they did the wonderful Dvorak "Bagatelles," Op. 47 (Estey Organ Company, a Vermont organ company, also manufactured reed organs and harmoniums, so it was appropriate that we heard a harmonium by the company in that program.) On Wednesday evening our convention took over the Spirit of Ethan Allen III for a lovely dinner cruise on Lake Champlain. Every program of the convention (an OHS tradition) includes the singing of a hymn. That is always one of the most thrilling aspects of each program and serves to demonstrate how each organ functioned in leading congregational singing.

OHS and AGO conventions are relatively "different" beasts. The OHS focuses more on the instruments since many of them are historic. Many of the recitalists are the ones who sort of play "perennially" but this convention did also feature Isabelle Demers, John Weaver and Paul Tegels (Pacific Lutheran University), as well as other lesser-known players.

AGO Hartford 2013 – (Regions I and II) began on Sunday, June 29 and concluded on Wednesday, July 3. The opening event on Sunday night at 5:00 P.M. was a "Bach Vespers" (for the Feast of Pentecost), and featured the Bach Choir from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in New York City. It was an excellent start to the week. The concert that evening was Isabelle Demers. I chatted with her a few minutes back at the hotel...she was surprised to see me. I told her we are looking forward to her return to Las Vegas in October. She graciously asked whether there was anything I would like her to include in her program...she now had some time to learn new pieces! What a talent! She played entirely different programs at the two conventions within four days of each other, both memorized and played masterfully.

The Opening Convocation was on Monday morning and had "eclectic" music. The address was by The Rev. Ellen Tillotson, an Episcopal priest, and her address was entitled "Chasing Bach and Brahms: Some Thoughts About Traditions Re-engaged." It was thought-provoking. She is concerned about how the face of the church is changing and the implications this may have to our profession. During the convention, I attended workshops on AGO Certification: More Than Just Exams!, Musician/Clergy Interaction (with Ellen Tillotson),

Managing A Successful Concert Series, Bridging the Digital Divide: Making Your Chapter Relevant in the Digital Age, and an Organ Reading Session. I am not sure that I learned all that much in any of them, but at least, the workshops were confirming. When you have attended as many workshops as I have over the years, one gets a bit jaded. We are doing most of what was recommended by the clinicians in use of digital tools for the chapter and in managing our recital series and I realized that I personally live in an ideal world when it comes to musician-clergy relations. The Organ Reading session was done by an Oberlin student---she was cute and personable, played well, and had some good things on the repertoire list, some of which were old to most of us but new to her! On Monday evening we heard a really fine choral concert by CONCORA, a Connecticut choral group with a 40-year history. The program celebrated the 100th birthday of Benjamin Britten and the 90th birthday of Ned Rorem; in addition there were works by Eric Whitacre, John Rutter and others. Our Convention Banquet on Tuesday night was held at Trinity College and was followed by a carillon concert outside on the Green which preceded Christopher Houlihan's organ recital in the Chapel. His recital included a commissioned work which I doubt (maybe "hope") will ever be performed again!! And he ended his program with the Liszt "Fantasy and Fugue on 'Ad nos, ad salutarem undam,'" which comes close to taking first prize in my book as my most disliked organ piece in the repertory! Still I have to admit that Houlihan's playing was pretty spectacular. A Wednesday recital by Todd Wilson (Dupre, Bach, Ives, Hancock and Widor) was satisfying in most regards. It also included a commissioned piece by Kenneth Fuchs which didn't really "send" me. The final recital of the convention on Wednesday was by Nathan Laube, and his playing of Bruhns, Alain, Jongen, Mozart and Reubke was impeccable.

Attending a convention outside your own AGO region can be exhilarating, a wonderful opportunity to meet new people and a profitable exchange of ideas. Both James Thomashower, our National Executive Director, and Lois Toepfner, our National Secretary, extend greetings to our chapter.

AGO Region IX Convention in Bakersfield, CA (June 24-26, 2013)

Kym Cushing

When one thinks of pipe organs, Bakersfield is usually not the first thing which comes to mind. However, surprisingly, Bakersfield is blessed with a number of first-class pipe organs--both old and new. The annual AGO Region IX Convention was held this year in Bakersfield, California. Only two members from our Southern Nevada Chapter attended: Kym Cushing and Dorothy Young Reiss, who performed at Olive Drive Church on June 27.

Some of the noteworthy organs which were showcased during the convention included: Schantz (1996), Werner Bosch (1990), Schantz/West/Rodgers combo (2011), and Aeolian-Skinner (1932 - restored 1988, IV/122). The Aeolian-Skinner was owned by Virgil Fox and was purchased by Fox from Memorial Church at Harvard University. It then sat in storage for decades until it eventually made it's way to Bakersfield. Unfortunately, the 4-manual console had to be totally replaced because all of the ivory stops had cracked due to moisture. On a personal note, this organ was my favorite. Aeolian-Skinners have such a distinctive, lush, gorgeous sound.

The pre-convention AGO/Quimby Regional Competition was held on June 22 and featured three performers--all female! They represented the winners from Palo Alto, Salt Lake City, and San Diego. Their performance was well-received and each of the organists played quite well. The Sunday June 23 evening convocation was performed by Hector Olivera. As always, his performance was riveting and thrilling. He final number "Toccata on 'Joyful, Joyful'" was absolutely incredible.

One of the surprises of the convention was the appearance of our National AGO president, Eileen Guenther,

who gave the keynote address at the Opening Convocation. She stayed for the entire convention. Another highlight was a lunchtime interview of Fred Swann. Robert Tall interviewed Fred for over an hour. It was very interesting (and humorous) to listen to these two old friends share war stories and tidbits of organ-playing history. Bob Tall did get Fred to finally admit that his favorite organ is still the Riverside organ in New York City.

Some of the memorable performances were: Christoph Bull's all Bach recital at First Presbyterian Church and S. Wayne Foster's performance of Maurice Durufle at St. John's Lutheran Church. Forster played on the new Werner Bosch tracker organ -- an all french program on a German organ!

There were a number of workshops, so many, that it became difficult to chose which one to attend. Dorothy Young Reiss was the final performer on the Aeolian-Skinner. Unfortunately, I had to leave early and I regret that I had to miss it.

The convention was well-planned and each event was well-organized. I have to admit that I had low expectations, but I was pleasantly surprised at the number of great organs, the great variety of organs, and the robust religious institutions which supported each of the recitals. Each venue was filled to capacity at each recital. Overall, I had great fun and only wish more of our members had attended.

2015's regional convention is in San Diego.

Stanford Pipe Organ Encounter 2013

- by Jonathan Bacalso

What a summer I have had! It was such an exciting experience to be a part of the 2013 Stanford Pipe Organ Encounter. This would not have been possible if not for the trust and teaching of my wonderful piano/organ instructor, Ms. Shireen Beaudry. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the Southern Nevada Chapter of the AGO for their generosity, as well as the Palo Alto Chapter who hosted the week long activities.

I've been playing the piano for over five years and decided that I wanted the challenge of learning to play the organ as well. After some encouragement from Ms. Shireen, I was learning my first piece, Prelude in G Minor by J.S. Bach. It was a bit confusing to have the pedals at first but I got the hang of it after a while. I practiced diligently throughout the coming months and was soon on my way to Stanford in July for my first Pipe Organ Encounter.

I was a bit apprehensive at first as I had never been away from home before, but also a bit thrilled at my sudden independence. After driving for more than 8 hours on a Sunday to get to Palo Alto, I was dropped off by my family at the Vallombrosa Center where my week long adventure began. There were numerous teachers and chaperones all of whom were very friendly and professional. It wasn't difficult making friends with the other kids as we all got along extremely well. The POE started with an introduction to the Memorial Church in Stanford by Dr. Robert Huw Morgan. I was amazed at how beautiful the church is and the magnificence of the organs. "Fabulous... just fabulous," as Dr. Robert would say. I learned that the church took quite a beating after two earthquakes hit the surrounding areas in the past. Luckily, the two organs, the Murray Harris and the Fisk-Nanney, survived with only dirt and dust inside the pipes. I had never seen anything so grand before!

The following days were such a whirlwind of lessons and activities. We learned the importance of improvisation by Mr. John Karl Hirten. Having the skill to improvise comes in very handy when you play for church, as last minute changes always take place during service. We also had a hymn-playing workshop, lessons on sound



and different kinds of organs, a class on the History of Organs and Organ Literature, just to name a few. We were treated to numerous recitals each day by brilliant organists and visited the most beautiful churches and pipe organs. We were able to see the Mighty Wurlitzer at the Stanford Theater where we were allowed to have open console and play. We even visited a factory in Benecia where organs are built. We toured a few places and even got to go on rides at the Santa Cruz Boardwalk. Of course lessons and practice were scheduled each day in preparation for our recital. My instructor for the week, Dr. Nicole Marane, is an excellent teacher with a unique teaching style. She helped me improve my piece and we had lots of fun. She taught me perfect baroque touch, which is a form of articulation. It was such a pleasure to work with her.

The night of the recital was abuzz with excitement. I'm used to playing for a large audience but this was my first time on a pipe organ so I was a little nervous. Everyone played wonderfully and it was a huge success. I felt so proud to be a part of this POE and could not stop smiling. The very next day, we had a little graduation ceremony and our group sang for our teachers and chaperones as a thank you for the wonderful week we've all had. It was a bittersweet moment. I will miss all of my new friends. I know that I will never forget this experience with all of the lessons I've learned and the fun I've had. I hope to attend more POEs in the future.

CONCERTS AT CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL

2000 S. Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89104
(702) 735-7655

OCTOBER 26, 2013

7:30 pm

“A Night at the Opera”

Arias and short scenes from well-known operas will be presented in concert style by “La Voce Totale,” a newly-formed group of opera singers from the Las Vegas area.

Produced and directed by Mr. Mark Thomsen, nationally known operatic tenor. Spencer Baker will accompany the singers.

A reception will be held in the Parish Hall after the concert.

A free will offering will be taken at the concert.

NOVEMBER 2

7:00 pm

Pat Sue, pianist, will present his annual Birthday Concert in the Parish Hall.

A free will offering will be taken at the concert.

NOVEMBER 8

7:30 pm

The first concert on the Christ Church Concert Series will be presented by the Nevada School of the Arts Chamber Orchestra, along with our parish organist, Dr. Paul Hesselink.

A reception will be held in the Parish Hall after the concert.

Tickets are \$15.00 and are available online at organconcerts.org or at the door.

DECEMBER 1

4:00 pm

The Annual Advent-Christmas Recital will be presented by local members of the American Guild of Organists.

A reception will be held in the Parish Hall after the concert.

A free will offering will be taken at the concert.

Organ Recital Series 2013-14



FRIDAY
OCT 11
7:30 pm

Isabelle Demers
Baylor University



SUNDAY
DEC 1
4:00 pm

Local Members
of AGO
Advent-Christmas
Recital



FRIDAY
JAN 24
7:30 pm

Jonathan Dimmock
San Francisco
University



FRIDAY
MAR 28
7:30 pm

Pamela Decker
University of
Arizona



FRIDAY
MAY 23
7:30 pm

Nathan Laube
Eastman School
of Music

DECEMBER CONCERT
Christ Church Episcopal
2000 S. Maryland Pkwy at St. Louis

ALL OTHER CONCERTS
UNLV Campus
Dr. Rando Grillot Recital Hall, Beam Music Center
For more information: www.sncago.org

