

THE DESERT WIND

Editor: Bruce Behnke © 2011

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Southern Nevada Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Dean's Notes

Dear Colleagues,

Another season is upon us, and I welcome each of you back into a 9-month series of opportunities to increase your enjoyment and knowledge of the pipe organ.

Our first event is right away -- I hope this reaches you before the event: which is a field trip to Phil Maloof's house to see and hear the 2 theatres organs connected to 5 different consoles. John Ledwon, well-known in theatre-organ circles, will perform. Paul Hesselink has sent you a detailed e-mail concerning the event, including directions to the Maloof residence. He will repeat this e-mail just before that Saturday, but if you have any questions, feel free to call me at 645-6546. I hope to see all of you at Phil Maloof's house on Saturday, September 3, at 6:00 p.m.. The evening also includes a tour of some classic cars, which may be of interest to you. See you there!

Your concert Series Committee has come up with a truly

exciting year of events. Please refer to the list in this newsletter. The only recital that is not at UNLV Doc Rando Hall is our Advent-Christmas recital by our members, which will be held at Christ Church Episcopal at 4:00 p.m.. The other 4 events are at UNLV at 7:30 p.m..

This year's Advent-Christmas Recital will be the first time that we combine our members' recital with a fund-raising event: we're asking for donations of whatever amount to enhance our education fund. The Raymond Barnes Education Fund has remained in the bank untouched until 2 years ago, at which time we started awarding scholarships to two young piano students to go to a Pipe Organ Encounter. These encounters are week-long summer music camps that are designed to create an interest in the music student to study and play the organ. Two local students have attended POE, one in San Diego in 2009 and one in Colorado Springs in 2011. The excitement these

camps create in the young musician for playing the organ is inspiring. It's no secret that we need to develop more young organists, and our education fund is one way to make this happen.

Education for the young and the experienced is my goal as Dean. Some in the experienced, mature category may wish for a little help to conquer anxiety, before and during performance. To that end, I'm working with the Las Vegas Music Teachers Association to check out possibilities for bringing an experienced clinician in to address this very issue. There is room in our 9-month program in January or April to run a one-day event that might offer solutions to a well-known problem. I'll be contacting you, dear members, to see what the interest in such a workshop day would be. We want to be sure that the attendance factor will be worth the time and money spent. Let me know your feelings about such an event.

What a great year ahead of us! I hope to see all of you at each happening.

Warmly,
Shireen

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Fall Social Gathering

Our opening gathering of the season will be a very special event. Through the courtesy of Phil Maloof, our chapter is invited to his home for a tour and for a theatre organ performance by our own member, John Ledwon. The date is Saturday, September 3 at 6:00 P.M. It will be important that you arrive at the Maloof residence PRIOR to the 6:00 time since our visit will include a tour and a recital.

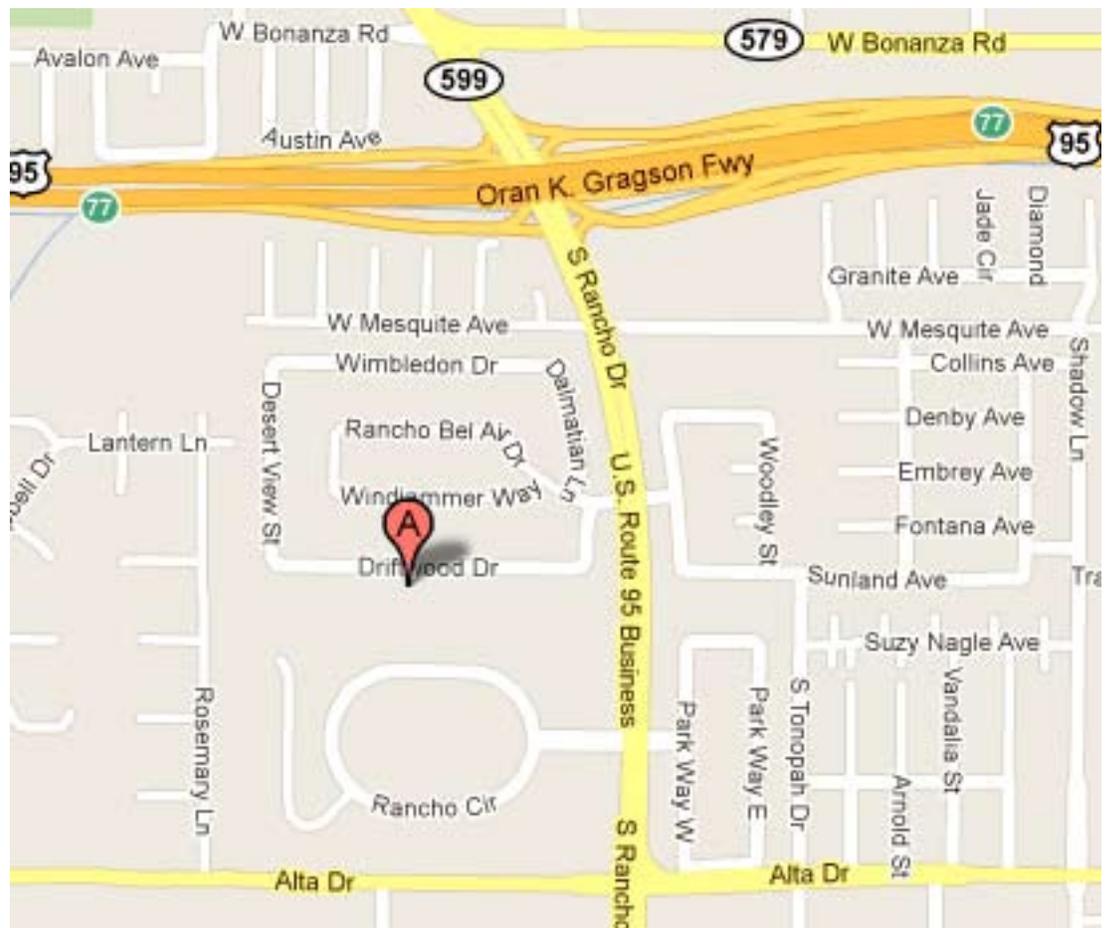
This event will not include refreshments or food, so come well-fed!

Directions to the Maloof residence: 2505 Driftwood Drive - Las Vegas 89017 located in Rancho Circle, accessed from S. Rancho Drive. (This is in the general neighborhood of First Christian Church (U.S. 95 and Rancho). The development is a gated community, so you will need to report in at the gatehouse---just identify yourself as a member of the Southern Nevada Chapter of the AGO and that our group is being hosted by Phil Maloof. Once past the gatehouse, take Rancho Circle drive to the left and the residence will be down the street a bit and on the left.

John Ledwon, a native Californian, has been playing the organ since he was 12 years old. His parents purchased him a 3 manual 11 rank Wurlitzer when he was 15 and he has been associated with the theatre pipe organ ever since. John has toured the United States and Europe on several occasions as a concert artist and at one time had his own weekly radio show where he played the 4 manual 61-rank Robert Morton Theatre/Concert organ in the old Elks Temple. After a 15-year hiatus from the concert circuit to pursue a career in education and to serve as a director and national president of the American Theatre Organ Society, he has returned to concertizing and recording. John moved to Las Vegas and joined our AGO chapter about three years ago.

One usually enjoys something more if one has done the “homework.” Learn more about the two organs, the auto collection, the house galleries and the Maloof family by going to: <http://unclephilmaloof.net>

You won't want to miss this “fun” event. Come (spouses and significant others welcome also) and be entertained. And if you are so inclined, there will be opportunity for you to play the two organs if you wish.



Come celebrate Schönberg's 137th birthday!
A Faculty and Friends Collaborative Lecture-Recital

Dr. Paul S. Hesselink
and
Duo Majoya

Schönberg's Op. 40: "Variations on a Recitative for organ"



Tuesday, September 13, 7:30 P.M.
Doc Rando Recital Hall

Dr. Hesselink's lecture will describe the difficult circumstances regarding the piece's birthing and the ten-year controversy which ensued. Learn how Schönberg's extreme triskaidekaphobia played a role. You will have an historic opportunity to hear the original Op. 40 composition performed on the organ by Dr. Marnie Giesbrecht as well as the Celius Daugherty two-piano transcription, performed by Dr. Giesbrecht and Dr. Joachim Segger.

The lecture-recital is co-sponsored by the Department of Music, UNLV and the Southern Nevada Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

This program is funded, in part, by a grant from the **Nevada Arts Council**, a division of the **Department of Cultural Affairs**, and the **National Endowment for the Arts**, a federal agency.



Organ Recital Series 2011-2012

Tuesday, September 13, 2011 – 7:30 P.M.

Duo Majoya and Paul S. Hesselink

Our series opens with “something different,” a collaborative lecture-recital focusing on Arnold Schönberg’s *Variations on a Recitative* for organ. Dr. Hesselink’s lecture will describe the difficult circumstances regarding the piece’s birthing and the ten-year controversy which ensued. Learn how Schönberg’s extreme triskaidekaphobia played a role. You will have an historic opportunity to hear the original Op. 40 composition performed on the organ by Dr. Giesbrecht as well as the Celius Daugherty two-piano transcription, performed by Dr. Giesbrecht and Dr. Joachim Segger.

The program is co-sponsored by the Department of Music, UNLV, celebrating Schönberg’s 137th birthday.

Sunday, December 4, 2011 – 4:00 P.M.

Advent-Christmas Recital

This year’s edition of the holiday recital will again be performed by members of the Southern Nevada Chapter. Being held at Christ Church Episcopal, the recital will showcase the church’s 4-manual and pedal, 54-rank Schantz pipe organ completed in January of 2010. Come and hear some of the local talent of the organ community. Get your holiday season off to a great start!

Friday, February 3, 2012 – 7:30 P.M.

Millennia Too!

Dr. Alison Ludecke, organ, and Susan Barrett, oboe, English horn and oboe d’amore, will present a unique program of historic and more recent literature. Their performances are marked by creativity and superb musicianship. *Millennia Too!* performed for the Region IX Mid-winter Conclave hosted by the Southern Nevada Chapter of the American Guild of Organists here in Las Vegas in January of 2006. We are pleased to present these two fine musicians for a return performance.

Friday, March 16, 2012 – 7:30 P.M.

Dr. Schuyler Robinson

Dr. Robinson has been Professor of Organ and Church Music at the University of Kentucky since 1982. He served as Assistant Organist at Christ Church (Episcopal) Cathedral in Lexington, Kentucky from 1991-2009. This tenure incorporated performance residencies in the great cathedrals of England, including Westminster Abbey and St. Paul’s, London; also Ely, Bristol, Lincoln, Peterborough, Norwich and Gloucester Cathedrals. Additionally, Dr. Robinson has performed extensively in the United States.

Friday, May 11, 2012 – 7:30 P.M.

Dr. Isabelle Demers

La Presse in Montreal described Isabelle Demers “at the organ a force of nature—a diminutive dynamo” with “vehement virtuosity.” A native of Quebec, she is rapidly becoming recognized as one of North America’s most virtuosic organists. You’ll want to be in attendance to hear this exciting young artist who is garnering rave reviews for her performances everywhere.

All recitals presented in Doc Rando Recital Hall in the Beam Music Center on the UNLV Campus, except for the Advent-Christmas Recital at Christ Church Episcopal (2000 S. Maryland Parkway at St. Louis).

All programs are open to the public at no charge.

The Organ Recital Series is supported through the generosity of patrons in the community. Contributions are tax-deductible. To become a patron, send your check made to “Southern Nevada Chapter, AGO” to Dr. David Dorway, Treasurer, 10613 Shoalhaven Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89134

This Organ Recital Series is funded, in part, by a grant from the **Nevada Arts Council**, a division of the **Department of Cultural Affairs**, and the **National Endowment for the Arts**, a federal agency.



AGO NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ORGAN PEDAGOGY
TO BE PRESENTED IN COOPERATION WITH
EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

EROI Festival 2011: Improvisation and Organ Pedagogy
November 10–13, 2011, Rochester, N.Y.



NEW YORK CITY—The American Guild of Organists (AGO) and the Eastman School of Music are partnering to produce the 16th biennial AGO National Conference on Organ Pedagogy, November 10–13, 2011, in Rochester, N.Y. The conference, designed in cooperation between the AGO Committee on Continuing Professional Education and the 10th annual Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative (EROI) Festival, will present the topic of organ improvisation through a variety of compositional techniques and styles. Complete information, including online registration, is available online. Early registration discounts are available through August 15.

“The goal of the AGO’s pedagogy conferences is to address various topics and issues pertaining to organ instruction in North America,” declared David Heller, director of the AGO Committee on Continuing Professional Education. “The City of Rochester and the Eastman School of Music, with its multiplicity of instruments and performing venues, will provide a superb setting in which to address the topic of improvisation from many different angles, providing information and resources that will be useful to all instructors of the organ at all levels of instruction.”

The four-day conference will present master classes featuring students at a variety of levels, panel discussions addressing the teaching of improvisation, and sessions that will provide attendees with resource material in the pedagogy of improvisation. The keynote address, *Why Is Improvisation So Difficult?*, will be given by Eastman faculty member William Porter.

A distinguished faculty of internationally renowned organists and teachers working in the discipline of organ improvisation will include Jeffrey Brillhart (Yale University), Tony Caramia (Eastman), Sophie-Veronique Cauchefeur-Choplin (Royal College of Music, London), Hans Davidsson (Eastman), Michael Dodds (University of North Carolina School of the Arts), Gerre Hancock (Butler School of Music, University of Texas), David Higgs (Eastman), Denise Lanning (Denver Chapter, AGO), Rudolf Lutz (Schola Cantorum Basiliensis), William Marvin (Eastman), Bruce Neswick (Indiana University), David Peckham (Horseheads United Methodist Church, Horseheads, N.Y.), McNeil Robinson (Manhattan School of Music), Pamela Ruiten-Feenstra (author of *Bach and the Art of Improvisation*), John R. Shannon (Sweet Briar College), and Daniel Zager (Eastman).

For further information, please contact please contact EROI Festival Coordinator Annie Laver at 585-274-1564 or e-mail anne.laver@rochester.edu.

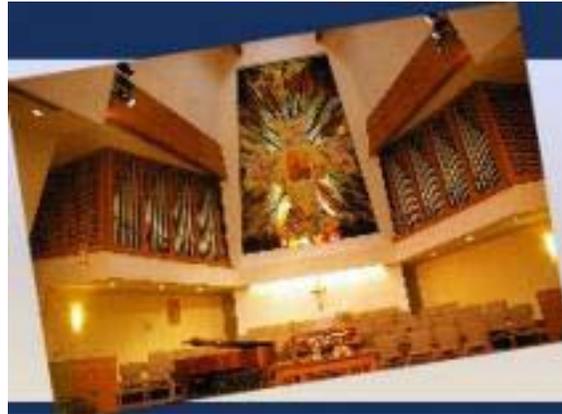
10th Year Commemoration of 9/11 attacks

You are invited on Sunday, September 11, 2011 to a service presented by the First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir and The Desert Chorale of Las Vegas, under the direction of Mr. David Sherman. There will be hymns, readings, anthems and the Faure Requiem accompanied by orchestra and organ, plus featuring organists Dr. David Dorway, First Presbyterian Church and Dr. Richard Elliott, Mormon Tabernacle.

Join us at 3pm as choirs across the nation present Requiems in commemoration of the 9/11 attacks.

A free-will offering will be accepted.

First Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas
1515 W. Charleston Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89102
702-384-4554



9.11.01 Commemoration/Evening of Reflection -

A Presentation of the Brahms Requiem –
by Peoples Valley Chorus & Green Valley Presbyterian Church
on Saturday, September 10, 2011, 7:30pm
at Green Valley Presbyterian Church

What: Brahms Requiem – 9.11.01 Commemoration. The public is welcome.
Free admission – Free will offering will be received.

Who: Presented by Peoples Valley Chorus & Green Valley Presbyterian Church.
Michelle Latour, soprano and Christopher Reames, baritone; Marek Rachelski, conductor

When: Performance Saturday, September 10, 2011 at 7:30 pm.

Where: Green Valley Presbyterian Church, 1798 Wigwam Parkway, Henderson, NV 89074
(NE corner of Wigwam at Valle Verde, 2 lights north of I-215).
For further information regarding this event, contact Green Valley Presbyterian Church (702) 454-8484.

This year we mark the 10th Commemoration of 9.11.01 - Evening of Reflection with an ecumenical Community Choral Singing, under the direction of Marek Rachelski, of the Brahms German Requiem – sung in English.



Recital Series Needs Your Support

Your Organ Recital Series Committee has planned an exciting series for the coming season. You will find the schedule and description of the programs to be presented elsewhere in this newsletter.

Through careful programming choices and frugal management, we have been able to offer our programs “free and open to the public.” We were successful again this year to apply for and receive a small grant of support for the 2011-2012 season from the Nevada Arts Council, even though available funds were severely cut by the legislature.

Producing each season involves many expenses: the rental of Doc Rando Hall; artists’ fees; transportation of recitalists; producing printed programs and flyers; receptions and occasionally unexpected expenses. We have been able to economize by hosting guest performers in Guild members’ homes, and many members have taken guests to meals and acted as taxi their service. To date, we have managed to produce each season within the budget and remain “in the black.”

Our solvency is due to the generosity of our patrons. If you have supported the series in previous years, we thank you for your help. We now need your assistance for the current season. Won’t you again join the “ranks” of Patrons? We invite you to become a Patron in underwriting the 2011-2012 Organ Recital Series. Choose as “loud” or “soft” a category as is comfortable for you.

ff – fortissimo (\$250 and above)
f – forte (\$200 to \$249)
mf – mezzo forte (\$150 to \$199)
mp – mezzo piano (\$100 to \$149)
p – piano (\$50 to \$99)
pp – pianissimo (\$25 to \$49)

Donations are tax-deductible, and checks made to “Southern Nevada Chapter AGO” should be sent to: Dr. David Dorway, Treasurer, 10613 Shoalhaven Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89134.



Photography by Dorothy Young Riess M. D.