

# DESERTWIND

SOUTHERN NEVADA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS



**TOP ROW:** Choir directors Joseph Cruz and Kaymen Carter. **BOTTOM:** Coreen Levin, Barbara Finn, Paul S. Hesselink, Amy Homer-Smith, and Dr. Dorothy Young Riess. **PHOTO CREDIT:** Dorothy Riess.

## ORGAN + CHOIR FESTIVAL: A NIGHT OF THANKS & CELEBRATION

### RECITAL REVIEW BY PAUL S. HESSELINK

The Southern Nevada Chapter of the American Guild of Organists closed out the 2018-2019 Organ Recital Series with an Organ and Choral Festival on Friday, June 7 at 7:30 P.M. in the Doctor Rando-Grillot Recital Hall in the Beam Music Center on the University of Nevada, Las Vegas campus. About 185 people were there to enjoy the program of organ and choral literature featuring two local choirs and four local AGO chapter members as organists.

Before the program began, Dean Steven R. Wright honored member Bruce Behnke for his twelve years of service as webmaster and editor of the chapter newsletter, The Desert Wind. Bruce was presented with a framed certificate acknowledging his contributions to the chapter, and a dining certificate to Flemings.

Diane Zapach, Director of Development for the College of Fine Arts at UNLV, gave the audience the good news that the Maurine Jackson Smith Endowment Fund for the Maintenance

of the Rudolf von Beckerath organ, named in Mrs. Smith's honor, has been fully subscribed, insuring that the instrument will be cared for in perpetuity. The endowment campaign will remain open until July 1 to allow anyone who wishes to be a part of the project to still be included on the plaque which will be hung at the entrance to the Doc Rando Recital Hall, and which will list the contributors to the endowment fund. (See story on Page 10... or the flier at the end of the newsletter... for information on how to donate and be included on the contributor's plaque.)

Dr. Dorothy Young Riess opened the program with two works from the modern French organ repertory. The first of the two works was the sixth movement, *Joie et clarté des Corps Glorieux*, of Olivier Messiaen's 1939 organ cycle in seven movements, *Les Corps Glorieux*, in which he draws upon elements of Indian classical music and Gregorian chant.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3: FESTIVAL



### PAGE 5 2019-20 RECITALISTS ANNOUNCED

You won't want to miss a single one of our recitals next season. Discover more about the artists & when they are performing.



### PAGE 7 SHRINE DEDICATION & CONCERT

Catholic Shrine hosts mass and recital to bless and dedicate new Rodgers hybrid instrument.



### PAGE 9 JOWERS CELEBRATES BACH'S 334<sup>TH</sup>

A review of Florence Jowers' masterful recital "Bach as Student and Teacher."



## Southern Nevada Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

**Steven R. Wright**  
Dean

**William "Bill" Freeman**  
Sub Dean

**Kathi Colman**  
Secretary

**Dr. David Dorway**  
Treasurer

**Board Members:**  
Bruce Behnke  
Paul Hesselink  
David Zechman  
Christian Lentz  
Jim Kasen

To learn more about the Chapter and our mission, please visit our website at [SNCAGO.org](http://SNCAGO.org). If you would like to learn even more, or be contacted about membership, please email us at [info@sncago.org](mailto:info@sncago.org)

DESERT WIND is the newsletter of the Southern Nevada Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. It publishes five times a year in email and pdf formats, distributed to members and friends of the chapter.

Current and past issues are available on the chapter's website at:  
<https://sncago.org/desert-wind>

To subscribe or for submissions, please email [info@sncago.org](mailto:info@sncago.org)

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 371893  
Las Vegas, NV 89137

# NOTES FROM THE DEAN...



Dear SNCAGO Members,

This edition of the Desert Wind marks the end of a long period of service from two members of our Executive Board.

Bruce Behnke has been our newsletter editor for the Desert Wind for the past 12 years. He has provided us with nearly 700 pages of timely information, news, history, concert reviews, photographs, recitalist interviews, and reports on organs. He has never missed an edition or failed to perform this vital communication

function in all these years. On behalf of myself and the Board I express my deep appreciation to Bruce for his dedication and work over these many years.

The second milestone marks the transition of management of our recital series from Dr. Paul Hesselink to Kevin Coney and Christian Lentz.

This chapter has a fifty-plus year history of concerts & recitals, making the SNC:AGO one of the oldest arts organizations in Las Vegas. Paul originated the recital series as it is today back in 2006, following the Region IX Conclave sponsored by our chapter that same year.

Our recital series has become well known among professional organists and their managers as one of the most sought-after concert opportunities, thanks to the exceptional work of Paul and his committee during the past 14 years. We express our deep gratitude to Paul for his dedicated and exceptional efforts. We have had incredible concerts on a world-class instrument. Thanks to the loyal support of our patrons and supporters, we anticipate carrying on with Paul's exceptional success. Please accept our deepest gratitude, Paul.

Sincerely,

Steven R. Wright, Dean  
Southern Nevada Chapter  
American Guild of the Organists

## CHAPTER HONORS BRUCE BEHNKE



At the opening of the June 7 Organ + Choir Festival, the chapter recognized Bruce Behnke for his commitment and service to the SNC:AGO as webmaster and as editor of the chapter's newsletter, the *Desert Wind*.

While serving on the board of the chapter, Bruce agreed to a "temporary" position writing, designing and editing the Desert Wind... that temporary position lasted twelve years.

Bruce is a retired music teacher. He has taught vocal and instrumental music in elementary, middle and high schools in Michigan, Colorado and Nevada. His last position was at the Las Vegas Academy where he taught music theory, modern music technology and beginning piano. He has also been a church choir director in each of these three states. While in Michigan he was associated with the Delta College Flute Choir. He has nine arrangements for flute and choir published by ALRY Publications. He will continue to serve on the SNC:AGO executive board.

The Desert Wind publishes five times a year and is distributed to chapter members, friends of the chapter, the national organization and various chapters around the region.



CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE:

# FESTIVAL ENDS RECITAL SEASON WITH ACCLAIM

The score was completed at the outbreak of World War II, and even though it has been a part of the organ repertoire for exactly 70 years, it still sounds “fresh,” and for the uninitiated, perhaps somewhat “difficult” to absorb.

This was followed by a more recent work by the French composer, Jacques Charpentier (1933-2017), *L'ange a la Trompette*, composed in 1954. In the prior three years to its composition, the composer had lived in India where he was influenced by Hindu music; he enrolled at the Paris Conservatory where he studied the philosophy of music with Olivier Messiaen. The style of Charpentier's composition played by Dr. Riess without interruption from the Messiaen work, has unmistakable stylistic qualities which are heard as a direct influence. While 25 years more recent than Messiaen's work, it is a slightly updated composition of Messiaen's ground-breaking style and worked well as paired with *Joie et clarté des Corps Glorieux*. Dr. Riess's performance of the two works was both powerful and stylish.

The recital continued with Barbara Finn's presentation of the first two movements of Paul Hindemith's *Organ Sonata II*, composed in 1937. While still 20th century in style, Hindemith's work seemed almost “traditional” compared to the Messiaen and Charpentier compositions. Identifiable melodies, less dissonant chord structures, and quartal harmonies (built on the interval of the 4th rather than the traditional triadic structures based on the interval of the 3rd) gave the sense of being more connected to traditional tonal harmonies of music's Common Practice Period. Ms. Finn's performance deftly highlighted a terraced dynamic plan in the first movement marked *Lebhaft* (lively), and the second movement, *Ruhig bewegt* (peacefully moving), was played with grace and calm.

The Hindemith was followed by two anthems sung by the Choir of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary; Ms. Finn accompanied at the organ. She has been the Music Director of the church since 2000; the choir was under the direction of Joseph Cruz. The first anthem was one of *Twelve Sacred Songs* by Dutch composer Jan Nieland (1903-1963). *Magnificat* was composed in 1941. The choir concluded with Hal Hopson's fine setting of Gustav Holst's hymn tune *Thaxted*, “O God Beyond All Praising.”

Amy Homer Smith, organist at Green Valley Presbyterian Church, presented the formidable *Fantaisie and Fugue in G Minor*, BWV 542 by Johann Sebastian Bach.



**TOP:** The Choir of Green Valley Presbyterian Church with organist Amy Homer Smith and director Kaymen Carter.

**BOTTOM:** The St. Joseph, Husband of Mary Choir with director Joseph Cruz and organist Barbara Finn.

**PHOTO CREDIT:** Dorothy Riess.

Some people think no organ recital should be without Bach, so this work satisfied those who wanted something more traditional from the organ literature. This work has a dramatic free fantasy beginning which returns throughout the composition, interspersed with more contrapuntal sections in a more strict and straight-forward style. The fugue has a “merry” theme (in spite of its minor mode) which the composer gives his usual extensive workout. Kudos go to Amy for tackling this challenging work.

Members of the Choir at Green Valley Presbyterian Church, under the direction of Kaymen Carter, followed with Mark Hayes' transcendent setting of the beloved hymn, “The Old Rugged Cross,” and Philip W. J. Stopford's arrangement of “Jesus Christ is Risen Again.” Both anthems were accompanied by Mrs. Smith.

The evening's program concluded with Mary Beth Bennet's lush *Chant Mystique* for English horn and organ. (Ms. Bennett was the commissioned composer of a new organ work, *Las Vegas Suite*, for the Chapter's 2006 Western Regional AGO Convention held in Las Vegas. That work was premiered on that occasion.) Written in 2000, *Chant Mystique*, brought the evening's program to an exceptionally peaceful close. The superb English horn performer was Coreen Levin, and she was accompanied by Paul S. Hesselink at the organ.

Following the program, our organ technician, Christian Lentz, hosted members of the audience on stage for an up close look and demonstration of the von Beckerath organ. This has been a popular feature of the last three recitals with about 20 to 25 audience members taking advantage of the opportunity.



# RECITAL SERIES NAMED FOR DR. HESSELINK



**ABOVE:** Dean Steve Wright presents Paul Hesselink with a plaque expressing the gratitude of the chapter for Paul's dedication and service to the organ recital series.

**RIGHT:** Hesselink and Linda Parker. During the presentation, Linda gave a touching tribute to Paul describing his desire and drive to make a difference.

**BELOW:** Hesselink and incoming programming co-chair and organ technician, Christian Lentz. Christian and co-chair Kevin Coney presented Paul with a Mayoral Proclamation declaring June 7, 2019, as Paul S. Hesselink day in the city of Las Vegas.

**PHOTO CREDIT:** Dorothy Riess



On June 7, during the Organ + Choir Festival, the chapter announced the naming of its annual concert series after long-term program director and concert organizer, Dr. Paul S. Hesselink.

The SNC:AGO has produced free fine arts concerts featuring the pipe organ for more than 50 years. During his fourteen-year tenure, Hesselink organized and produced 69 concerts: 13 by foreign artists, 35 by visiting American artists, and 21 recitals by chapter members. Under Hesselink's guidance, the series has grown in reputation and significance, attracting world renowned concert artists, as well as up-and-coming performers to Las Vegas.

Chapter Dean Steven R. Wright said, "Thanks to Paul's guidance and hard work, our concert series is one of the most sought after in the country. We don't have to work hard to recruit concert artists; they seek us out. They want to play Las Vegas, to be a part of what Paul has built here."

The adjunct professor of organ at UNLV since 1993, Hesselink played a major role in securing the university's Maurine Jackson Smith Organ in the Dr. Rando-Grillot Recital Hall within the Lee & Thomas Music Center. The instrument was completed in 2004 by Rudolf von Beckerath Orgelbau of Hamburg, Germany, and most of the concerts produced by Hesselink have been performed on this instrument.

After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in organ at Hope College, Hesselink studied musicology under a Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship at University of Michigan. He completed the Master of Arts in organ pedagogy at Ohio State University and earned the Doctor of Musical Arts in organ performance at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Dr. Hesselink studied harpsichord in Paris with Davitt Moroney.

Hesselink was on the faculty of Longwood University for 26 years. He received two National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Fellowships for postgraduate study: in music theory (Yale), and Schoenberg studies (USC). Moving to Las Vegas in 1993, Hesselink began an affiliation with the Nevada School of the Arts as a board member, and as its dean for twelve years. He is a past-dean of the SNC:AGO and continues to serve on the organization's executive board.

Wright continued, "The recital series is our most important, most visible service to Southern Nevada. It fits in perfect alignment with the mission of the AGO and Paul has done an incredible job. Our executive board voted unanimously to give him this tribute and to recognize him for his years of wonderful leadership and contributions to its success."



# CHAPTER ANNOUNCES LINEUP FOR 2019-20 SEASON

The Southern Nevada Chapter of the American Guild of Organists proudly announces its stellar lineup of recitalists for its 2019-2020 concert season.

For more than 50 years this chapter has presented free concerts, making the Paul S. Hesselink Recital Series one of... if not the oldest... fine arts concert series in Las Vegas. The chapter hosts some of the world's finest concert artists, as well as up-and-coming, rising star performers.

All performances are free to the public (no tickets required) and take place at the Dr.

Rando-Grillot Recital Hall in the Lee & Thomas Beam Music Center on the UNLV campus. For more concert information (like maps, parking and more) visit our website: <https://sncago.org/getting-there>

Guest artist recitals begin at 7:30 pm and last approximately 90 minutes. The Members Christmas recital will begin at 3:00 pm.

Each of the artists below has a profile page on the SNC:AGO website which includes more in-depth profiles, additional pictures, as well as performance videos. Click the link following their descriptions to navigate to these pages.

## SUPPORT THE RECITAL SERIES. BECOME A PATRON.

The SNC:AGO relies on the generosity of people who care about the fine arts and live musical performance... people like you.

Please considering giving to the recital series and joining our ranks of concert patrons. Giving is easy with levels to fit every budget. Patrons are recognized in concert programs, on our website and via concert email blasts.

Make your donation safely and securely by visiting our website at <https://sncago.org/sponsor>



## SEPTEMBER 6, 2019 DUO MUSART BARCELONA

**ORGAN + PIANO:** The husband and wife team of Maria Teresa Sierra, a noted concert pianist who trained at the Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory in St. Petersburg, Russia, and Raúl Prieto Ramírez, Spain's sensational concert organist who studied in France and Germany, bring to the stage Spanish and Russian flair in blazing, edge-of-the-seat virtuosity coupled with the precision, sensitivity, and clarity of a premier chamber ensemble.

<https://sncago.org/duo-musart-barcelona>



## FEBRUARY 14, 2020 SVYATI DUO

**ORGAN + CELLO:** Since forming Svyati Duo in 2009 Rebecca Hepplewhite (cello) and Julian Collings (organ) have gained international critical acclaim for concert performances and commercial CD releases (three albums on the Regent Records label). Heralded as 'exemplary' performers by Fanfare Magazine, their concert engagements have taken them to venues throughout Europe, the United States and Asia. Come spend Valentine's Day with the SNC:AGO, the Svyati Duo and some incredibly beautiful music. Don't miss this one.

<https://sncago.org/svyati-duo>



## OCTOBER 25, 2019 ADAM PAJAN

**ORGAN:** Dr. Adam Pajan is a faculty member at the University of Oklahoma's American Organ Institute. An award winning recitalist, Pajan has performed throughout the US and Germany and he is a frequent performer on NPR's program *Pipedreams*. Dr. Pajan is director of music at a church in OKC, conductor of the Oklahoma Master Chorale and an organ technician. Come hear why Michael Barone of *Pipedreams* called him "...a rising star definitely worth watching."

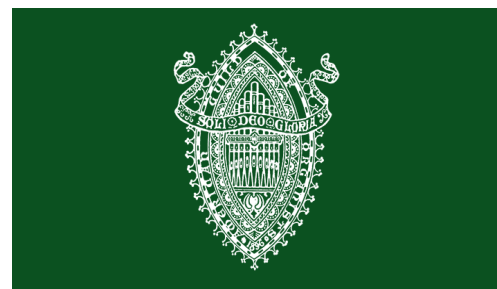
<https://sncago.org/adam-pajan>



## MARCH 27, 2020 MARGARET KVAMME

**ORGAN:** Canadian-born organist Margaret Martin Kvamme was named first-prize winner of the 1993 Naples International Organ Festival Competition in Florida. She has performed extensively throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, in Michigan, Ohio, New York, Arizona, and Ontario, Canada. She has appeared on the "Distinguished Women at the Console" series in Akron, Ohio, was featured as solo artist with the Santa Cruz Baroque Festival, and has been heard on numerous programs of the nationally syndicated radio program, *Pipedreams*.

<https://sncago.org/margaret-kvamme>



## DECEMBER 15, 2019 MEMBERS CHRISTMAS RECITAL

Join the members of the Southern Nevada Chapter of the AGO as they celebrate the holidays with their annual Advent & Christmas Recital. This special event includes classical, traditional, spiritual and familiar holiday favorites on the great organ at UNLV. The entertaining program features the organ, instrumentalists, vocalists and other surprises.

Get in the holiday spirit along with the SNC:AGO and this talented collection of church and concert organists and professional musicians.



## MAY 15, 2020 KEN COWAN

**ORGAN:** One of North America's finest concert organists, Ken is praised for his dazzling artistry, impeccable technique and imaginative programming. He maintains a rigorous performing schedule, touring major concert venues and churches throughout America, Canada, Europe, and Asia.

Mr. Cowan is a faculty member of the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University as Associate Professor and head of the organ program.

<https://sncago.org/ken-cowan>

## RAYMOND BARNES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

## FIVE 2019 RECIPIENTS PREP FOR SEATTLE P.O.E.



The SNC:AGO is proud to announce its 2019 recipients of the Raymond J. Barnes Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship, named for the chapter's long-time dean, helps to support young musicians interested in studying the organ by underwriting their attendance at an AGO Pipe Organ Experience (POE), a week long summer camp for the organ.

This year's recipients will attend the Seattle Chapter POE from July 14-19 which will include daily organ lessons (one teacher for

every two participants) as well as practice time. Other activities will include recitals, workshops, and master classes. Topics covered include registration, repertoire, hymn playing, choral accompanying, and improvisation. The faculty for the Seattle POE is made up of distinguished concert organists, university professors, and church musicians.

Students will stay at Seattle Pacific University and have access to and play these featured instruments: Fisk, III manuals, 62 ranks at Plymouth Congregational Church; Aeolian-Skinner, III manuals, 37 ranks at Seattle First Baptist Church; Wech Orgelbau, II manuals, 30 ranks at Queen Anne Lutheran Church; Fritts, II manuals, 36 ranks at Ascension Episcopal Church, and Bond, II manuals, 44 ranks at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.

The scholarship funds each student's POE costs (registration and event fees, lodging, and meals) as well as their air travel.

The SNC:AGO will soon present a Young Artists Concert featuring these musicians. Details to be announced very soon.

The Raymond J. Memorial Scholarship is funded through the generosity of concert goers, chapter members and people just like you. Please consider making a donation to support our next generation of church and concert organists, [CLICK HERE](#).

### The 2019 Raymond J. Barnes Memorial Scholarship recipients:

#### Sadie Williams

Las Vegas  
Piano Studies: 2.5 years  
Teacher: Wendy Anderson  
Hobbies: Legos, English, basketball, tennis and drawing

#### Sage McKendrick

Las Vegas  
Piano Studies: 5 years  
Teacher: Laurie Swain  
Hobbies: Family, school, swimming, camping, her puppy, Molly

#### Alyssa Tobler

Boulder City  
Piano Studies: 12 years  
Teacher: Elaine Hardy  
Hobbies: Piano, math, her parrot, hiking & family

#### Alaina Backes

Las Vegas  
Piano Studies: 4 years  
Teacher: Shireen Beaudry  
Hobbies: Rowing, reading, learning

#### Brenna Schelin

Las Vegas  
Piano Studies: 3 years  
Teacher: Laurie Swain  
Hobbies: English, reading, volleyball

## CHAPTER PAYS IT FORWARD WITH LOAN OF DIGITAL ORGAN

A number of years ago, SNC:AGO member Doris Francis donated a digital instrument to Epiphany Episcopal Church in southeast Las Vegas. Earlier this year, the church installed a Rodgers 940 3-manual organ in their sanctuary and with the suggestion and urging of assistant director of music and SNC:AGO secretary, Kathi Colman, the church donated the previous instrument to the chapter.

As part of its mission to foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ, the SNC:AGO loaned the instrument to an aspiring organist and one of our POE students, Brenna Schelin.

The loan allows Brenna to keep and practice on the instrument for five years, expiring at about the time that she will graduate from high school. Upon its return to the chapter, the SNC:AGO plans to once again lend the organ to another student organist.

Congratulations to Brenna and thank you to Doris. Cathi and to Epiphany Episcopal Church.



**ABOVE:** Pipe Organ Experience student organist Brenna Schelin practices on the instrument loaned to her by the Southern Nevada Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.



# SHRINE DEDICATES NEW ORGAN WITH MASS & CONCERT



During afternoon mass on Saturday, April 27, the Roman Catholic Shrine of the Most Holy Redeemer dedicated their new hybrid, digital organ with pipes.

Father Bob Stoeckig, Las Vegas Catholic Diocese Vicar General and Pastor of the Las Vegas Catholic Cathedral, presided with the assistance of Father Manuel Quintero, Rector of the Shrine.

The choir from St. Joseph Husband of Mary, directed by Joseph Cruz, joined with the Shrine choir, under the direction of Bob Grant, with Barbara Finn, organist. Barbara was the first organist to serve the Shrine when it opened in 1993.

Following the mass, the church presented an organ recital with William Vaughn, dean of the San Francisco chapter of the AGO. Vaughn is the Director of Music and School Music Teacher at Assumption Catholic Church in San Leandro, California.

William Vaughn's varied program was especially suited to showcasing the Rodgers digital & pipe hybrid instrument, including works registered specifically for the pipe work, to highlight the abilities of the digital voices and to demonstrate the power and grandeur of the pipes and digital voices in concert together.

In celebration of the day, Vaughn opened with the triumphant "Festival Alleluia" by Dan Miller, followed by Elgar's *Salut d'Amour*, the *Ronde Française* by Léon Boëllmann and *Marche-Sortie* by Théodore Dubois. He ended the first half of the recital with the *Adagio* from Mozart's Clarinet Concerto in A-Major.

One of the absolute highlights of the day occurred when Vaughn invited one of his students to the console. Twelve year old Tim Warncke performed an exuberant rendition of Bach's Prelude in C Major, S. 531... from memory. Warncke, a student at Assumption Catholic School, began his studies in organ about three years ago and also enjoys soccer, basketball, snowboarding and reading.

The second half of the recital included *Waltz* (Jazz Suite) by Shostakovich ...which was dedicated to the Shrine's operations director Merlyn Thompson, *Capriccio* (Sleeper's Awake) by Daniel Gawthrop and *Variations on St. Denio* (A Hymn Tune) by Hector Oliveria. This piece written for organ is a wonderful tour through the instrument's various voices. Vaughn concluded with *Lied* (Song) for *Lent* by James Aylward, based on a fitting Catholic theme, and finally *Festival Toccata on "St. Anne"* by Fred Swann.

**The Organ:** The instrument is a three manual Trillium Organ by Rodgers Instruments. It is the digital equivalent of 125 pipe ranks and includes 6 ranks of windblown pipe work: Montre 16' (TC), Principal 8', Gemshorn 8', Koppelflöte 8', Octave 4' and Flute 4'. The hybrid instrument has a specification of 131 organ voices and over 200 additional organ and non-organ samples both internally and externally through the MIDI system sound module, Rodgers MX200.

Design, installation and tonal finishing was accomplished by Dr. Robert Tall of Robert Tall and Associates (Palm Springs, CA); Robert Knight of Knight Pipe Organ Company (San Diego) and Christian Lentz of Christian Lentz Organ Services (Las Vegas).



**Above Left:** St. Joseph Husband of Mary choir with director Joseph Cruz and organist Barbara Finn

**Far Above:** Bob Grant, William Vaughn, Barbara Finn and Father Bob Stoeckig

**Middle:** The Rodgers 3-manual Trillium organ console along with its six ranks of pipe work

**Above:** Recitalists William Vaughn and Tim Warncke



# CHAPTER UNVEILS NEW WEBSITE, NEWSLETTER AND SOCIAL MEDIA

In April the chapter unveiled its new website at SNCAGO.org (and SNCAGO.com). The site is modeled like a newsmagazine and features a great deal of new and expanded content, an increased use of visuals and a host of new capabilities.

The new site makes use of new technologies and abilities to help us expand our audience and engagement and to move us forward in the digital age, but we didn't want to let go of our past. The site documents a great deal of the chapter's history and we will continue to record and document our activities.

Please spend some time with the new website and come back often. It will constantly change, add new content and photos. We'll do our best to keep it timely and updated.

We want your input. The site is a service for our members. If you would like added features, have a submission, correction or just to express your point of view, please reach out via email. (Send to [info@sncago.org](mailto:info@sncago.org))

## FEATURES OF THE NEW SITE:

- Online payments: A safe, convenient donation portal for sponsors, patrons and for giving to the chapter's scholarship fund. Payments of any size can be set up as a one time gift or as budget friendly monthly donations. (Please give generously! We can't produce great events without your support.)
- Chapter History Blog: a look back at some of the interesting events, members and stories of the SNC:AGO and of the organs in Las Vegas (If you have something to submit to the blog, we'd love it. Please send images, ideas, scans of clippings, programs to: [info@sncago.org](mailto:info@sncago.org))
- Fine Arts Calendar: as one of the oldest fine arts organization in Las Vegas, we are pleased to provide a calendar of a number of cultural offerings around the valley
- Promotion of our upcoming concerts with recitalist profiles that include photos, bios and performance videos.
- Community Concerts: concerts and events presented by our members and their churches and organizations. (List your events. Follow the link on <https://sncago.org/community-concerts>)
- Local Pipe organs with histories and stop lists
- Desert Wind: we continue to offer current and all past issues of the Desert Wind newsletter. New items are also shared on the website.
- Job Opportunities
- Available organ substitutes for churches and organists available for weddings, funerals and events
- Member links: An easy connection to start or renew your AGO membership
- Church Organ Directory: Digital and pipe organs with specs, stop lists and histories
- A convenient way to sign up for our concert newsletter
- Chapter Recital & Concerts: We've documented our 50 year history of events with recitalist profiles, program information and news clippings. (If you have information about a recital or concert that we don't have documented, please send us a program or other information Email: [info@sncago.org](mailto:info@sncago.org))
- Sponsor & Patron recruitment and recognition (again, please give generously!)
- Self promotion & marketing: As we work to increase our exposure in Las Vegas, the site is a great tool to communicate and explain our aims, vision and mission
- Links: The site lists and describes a multitude of interesting organ related websites: products, builders, music & entertainment



## MEMBER BENEFITS:

- Member Directory with contact information (locked page for members in good standing only)
- Chapter Calendar
- Chapter Announcements & Information
- Members only promotion and marketing of your recitals and events: online, social media (Facebook and Instagram) and newsletter. Submit your event information via email or form found on the site. [Info@sncago.org](mailto:Info@sncago.org)
- Free job postings for your organization
- Placement on Substitute and Available Organist lists available to members in good standing
- Submissions (Send to [info@sncago.org](mailto:info@sncago.org))

## GET SOCIAL WITH SNC:AGO



@SoNvAGO

341 Followers • 343 Likes

We post all chapter concerts as Events and promote chapter concerts and our member's events via our news feed.



@sncago

NEW! • 84 Followers

We post all chapter concerts and our member's events via our feed. Plus organs, composers, and related items that make us laugh or think.



SNCAGO  
CONCERT NEWS

[www.sncago.org](http://www.sncago.org)

Sign up at the bottom of page • 500+ Followers

Subscribe to our performance newsletter for news, updates & reminders about upcoming concerts & performances.

## PLEASE FOLLOW US AND LIKE US ON...





PHOTO CREDIT: Dorothy Riess

# JOWERS LEAVES CROWD WANTING TO GO BACH FOR MORE

## RECITAL REVIEW BY PAUL S. HESSELINK

On Friday, March 29, organist Florence Jowers presented the fourth recital in the Southern Nevada Chapter's 2018-2019 Organ Recital Series at 7:30 P.M. in Dr. Arturo Rando-Grillot Recital Hall in UNLV's Beam Music Center.

Her program was designed to highlight organ works by J.S. Bach and composers Georg Böhm and Dieterich Buxtehude who influenced Bach and from whom he learned, and by Bach's "best" student Johann Ludwig Krebs. Bach was known to have referred to his student as "Die beste Krebe (crab) in die Bache (brook)." Jowers also included by extension, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, who played a seminal role in reintroducing the works of Bach to the public after years of neglect. The 2004 von Beckerath Maurine Jackson Smith Organ in Doc Rando Hall was an ideal vehicle for presenting her carefully chosen program.

Of the four selections by Bach on the program, three were relatively unfamiliar and only rarely programmed. Her performance of the double pedal chorale prelude "An Wasserflüssen Babylon" BWV 653b, one of Bach's most challenging for the performer chorale preludes, was fluid and elegant.

The virtually unknown *Chorale Fantasy for Organ* on "Wo Gott der Herr nicht bei uns halt," BWV 1128 which followed, was rediscovered as recently as 2008 and is thought to have been composed between 1705 and 1710. The work "reflects the influence of the North German composers Buxtehude, Reinken, and Bruhns," thus neatly fitting into Ms. Jowers' recital theme, "Bach as Student and Teacher." (For a fascinating account of the rediscovery of this work, go to: <http://www.thediapason.com/bwv1128-recently-discovered-bach-work>).

The Bach *Prelude and Fugue in E Major*, BWV 566 is an early Bach work written between 1705-1706, probably during the time Bach made his famous

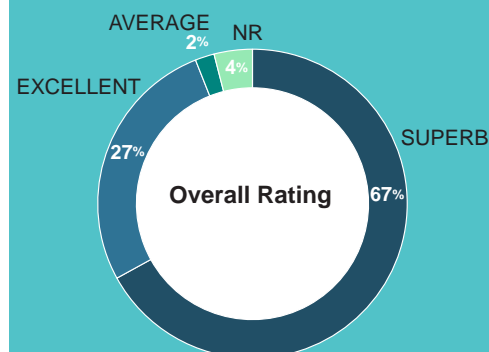
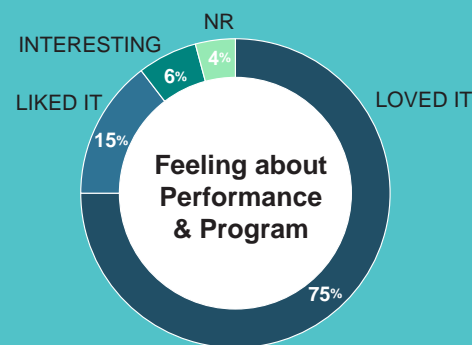
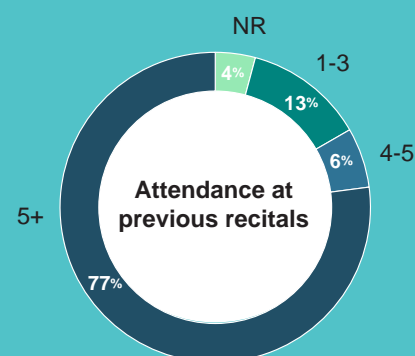
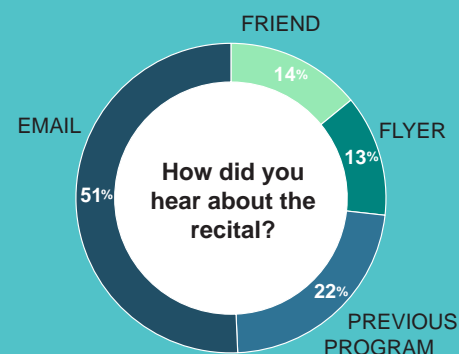
275-mile walk to hear Buxtehude in Lübeck. The work is in five sections and its compositional form resembles that of preludes by his mentor. The first section alternates manual or pedal cadenzas with dense suspended chords. The second is a charming fugue with much repetition following the circle of fifths. The third section is a brief flourish for manuals, ending with an even briefer pedal cadenza punctuated with nine-voice chords. The fourth section, in triple meter, is a second fugue with a rhythmic subject resembling the theme of the first fugue; it is immediately followed by the fifth and final section which opens with a virtuoso pedal-solo.

In the Buxtehude *Chaconne in E Minor*, BuxWV 160, Ms. Jowers showed off many colors of the organ by finding suitable but subtle secondary sounds for each repeat of the second four measures of the eight-measure theme. The Krebs *Trio in F Major* virtually sparkled, and including the Krebs *Fugue in B-flat Major*, based on the B-A-C-H motive, was an artful touch to underline the theme of the recital. While much of the literature on the recital was relatively "unknown" or less familiar than the usual Bach works we are accustomed to hearing, Ms. Jowers' performance of the final work on the program, the *Prelude and Fugue in B Minor*, BWV 544, was an electrifying and familiar conclusion to a thoughtfully-planned and extremely well-performed and satisfying program.

Ms. Jowers, currently the Director of Music at Christ Lutheran Church in Staunton, Virginia, has recently retired as Professor Emerita from Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, North Carolina, where she taught organ and church music for nineteen years. At her church in Virginia she plays each week an organ built by the Taylor-Boody Organbuilding firm; George Taylor apprenticed with the Rudolf von Beckerath Orgelbau of Hamburg, Germany, the firm which built the organ at UNLV. Ms. Jowers at age 14 began studying organ at and later attended Stetson University in DeLand, Florida where there are six von Beckerath organs on the campus.

## RECITAL SERIES AUDIENCE STATS

Artist: Florence Jowers  
Date: March 29, 2019  
Attendance: 135  
Completed Survey: 48 (36%)  
First Recital: 5 (10%)  
First Time Hearing Organ: 2 (4%)



## OUR CHAPTER

# EUGENE FEHER WAS WELL KNOWN PIANIST, ORGANIST, COMPOSER AND SNC:AGO CHARTER MEMBER



PHOTO CREDIT: LAS VEGAS SUN

Eugene Feher came to Las Vegas in 1962 for a quick gig at the Sultan's Table at The Dunes, but the unmatched beauty and potential of Southern Nevada helped him decide to make Las Vegas his home.

Feher was born into an esteemed musical family in Brooklyn, NY and quickly showed his prodigy-like abilities on the piano, winning interborough competitions by the age of nine. He was skilled at piano, organ, violin and even conducted. Feher graduated valedictorian of his high school and earned a fellowship and degree from Juilliard.

His postgraduate work at USC was interrupted by wartime service in the Army Air Corp. He served as a music arranger for a variety of military radio programs which put him in contact with a variety of Hollywood writers, stars and musicians.

After the war, Feher completed his masters in musicology at USC and then went to concertizing and working for the movie studios. Feher played extensive amounts of background piano (and some harpsichord) music in films and on scores and sound tracks. He even had a run as an

assistant director for Columbia Pictures. Feher was the pianist for a long list of Hollywood celebrities (James Darren, Shelley Winters, Ricardo Montalban, Burl Ives) and in a June 1969 feature story in the *Las Vegas Sun*, he reminisced about his time working with Rita Hayworth, Jean Peters (Mrs. Howard H. Hughes) and Marilyn Monroe.

While in Las Vegas, Feher served as the organist and musical director for Temple Beth Shalom. He continued to compose and arrange music, performed with the Las Vegas symphony and was a frequent recitalist and accompanist.

Eugene Feher passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, June 27, 1970. He was just 45 years old.

There are a few surviving recordings of Feher's playing: some movie scores (like the *Big Gamble/Treasure of the Golden Condor* and *Dr. Seuss's The 5,000 Fingers of Dr. T*) and a few LP recordings in the Library of Congress collection (example: *Joachim Chassman, violinist, with Eugene Feher at the piano. LB. no. 416*). A number of his compositions (including his U.S. Constitution set to music) survive as well.

## MAURINE JACKSON SMITH PIPE ORGAN ENDOWMENT FUND

## STILL TIME FOR DONATION & INCLUSION ON PLAQUE RECOGNIZING DONORS



Despite reaching its funding goal for the endowment of the Maurine Jackson Smith Memorial organ, the UNLV Foundation will continue to accept contributions until July 1.

This extension will allow additional contributors to be included on a plaque recognizing all those who donate to the fund. The plaque will be installed at the entrance of the Dr. Rando-Grillot Recital Hall, near the placard recognizing the Smith Family's original gift of the organ.

The purpose of the endowment is to provide the university the funds required to properly maintain, tune and repair this beautiful instrument throughout time.

The success of the campaign can be attributed to the partnership and efforts of the SNC:AGO, the UNLV Foundation, the College of Fine Arts, and the generosity of Edward Smith and contributors like you.

If you would like to include your name on this plaque, please contribute to the endowment fund. A donation form is included at the end of this newsletter. If you have questions, please contact Diane Zapach, Director of Development for the College of Fine Arts at (702) 895-4292 or via email, [CLICK HERE](#).

## CALLS TO ACTION

## WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR CHAPTER

### SUBSTITUTE ORGANISTS NEEDED

The chapter website includes a list of available organ substitutes and for-hire organists at weddings, funerals and special events. Churches and their music staffs are already using the service to seek out subs. Our listings are a bit lean and we could use more organists on the list. If you are a chapter member and would like to be contacted as a possible substitute organist or organist for hire, please email us your contact information and availability, [HERE](#).

### YOUR INPUT NEEDED

The executive board has planned a July retreat to discuss, plan and schedule chapter events for 2019-2020. The recital series is set to go, but we would like member input about social activities, workshops or other events and initiatives. Please share your ideas, comments and suggestions with the Dean, [HERE](#).

### RENEW OR BECOME A CONCERT PATRON

Our patron list renews with the new season in September. You can renew or become a patron with your national registration or via our safe & secure website, [CLICK HERE](#).



## MEMBER NEWS & INFORMATION

### POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

**All Saints Episcopal Church** is currently looking for an organist and pianist for Sunday worship services, and looking for a choir director who would serve during the program year (off from Memorial Day to Labor Day). The positions can be filled by one person as our Director of Music, or by two separate individuals.

The duties listed below are written for the combined position:

- Select and provide hymns and organ/piano music on Sunday mornings at the 8:00 and 10:00 A.M. services, and for other holy days. Select service music and choral music for the 10:00 AM services and other holy days.
- Be responsible for the purchase of all music and music supplies, arranging for organ and piano tuning, and the hiring of instrumental soloists.
- The musician will also provide music at weddings and funerals or provide permission for the services of other musicians. Honoraria received for these services will not be part of the employee's salary.
- An understanding of Episcopal liturgy is helpful, but not required.
- Pay will be dependent on experience and qualifications.

Please contact:

Rev. Michael Engfer  
702-467-6131  
[priest@allsaintslv.com](mailto:priest@allsaintslv.com)

### POSITION AVAILABLE:

#### Organist/Accompanist Position Mountain View Presbyterian Church

- Sunday Traditional Service at 8:30 a.m., including accompanying 30 voice choir
- Wed. Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 p.m.
- Requires competent and diverse accompanying skills in Blues, Jazz, Gospel and Traditional choral music
- Salary: \$1,000/month
- Funerals and Weddings pay an additional \$150 per service

Please contact:

Dr. Mark Wherry, Director of Music  
+17024613632  
[mark.wherry@csn.edu](mailto:mark.wherry@csn.edu)  
[theconductor@hotmail.com](mailto:theconductor@hotmail.com)



### ORGAN FOR SALE

**Allen ADC 420** digital organ. In excellent playing condition. Console and pedal built to American Guild of Organists specifications. Self contained speakers. Asking \$1,800 or best offer. Organ is located in Reno. Contact Brad at 775-636-2610 or [email here](#)



### ON TOUR:

Chapter member and concert recitalist **Dorothy Young Riess** recently completed two performance engagements. On May 22, Dr. Riess performed a well received program of French music on the Dobson pipe organ at the Cathedral of our Lady of Angels in Los Angeles.

Earlier in the month, on May 5th, Dr. Riess played a French music recital and presented her workshop, *How to Perform in the Golden Years - Just Survive or Really Thrive?* at St. John's United Church of Christ in Lansdale, PA on behalf of the Philadelphia Chapter: AGO.

### ARE YOU GETTING IT?

The chapter sent out several eblasts in the past few weeks. Did you get them? If not, please check your junk email folder and if not there, please email us to update or to change your contact information, [HERE](#).

### GET RECOGNIZED:

We love sharing good news... and we'd love to share some good news about you. If you are a chapter member and have an announcement, celebration, a recent accomplishment, job posting, or just something you'd like to share, please drop us a line at [info@sncago.org](mailto:info@sncago.org)



## CHAPTER CELEBRATED SHABBAT WITH BET KNESSET BAMIDBAR

Members of the SNC:AGO chapter attended services at Bet Kneset BaMidBar on Friday, April 26 as guests of the temple's music director and chapter member, Tim Cooper.

Tim prepared a short presentation about some of the prayers, songs and musical traditions of the Jewish faith that we experienced later in the service.

The congregation was friendly and welcoming. Several members approached to introduce themselves and to inquire about our group, including Cantor Jonathan Friedmann who travels from Los Angeles every two weeks to lead these services.

Our entire experience proved to be a fascinating, engaging learning experience. The service was warm and filled with joy.

Tim demonstrated great ability on the piano and as conductor. His skillful choir members have been singing these prayers for decades, but continue to serve and sing with great enthusiasm.

Bet Kneset BaMidBar, located in the Desert Vista Community Center in Sun City Summerlin, is the largest senior congregation in Las Vegas. Their services feature a 20 voice choir led by Tim and they are the only Jewish congregation in Las Vegas to have a choir at every service.

Thank you Tim and to Bet Kneset BaMidBar for this wonderful evening of prayer and learning. Special thanks to David and Barbara Dorway for their gracious hospitality in hosting the group at their home following the services for wine and dessert.

RUDOLF VON  
**BECKERATH**  
ORGELBAU GMBH



[www.beckerath.com](http://www.beckerath.com)

## SOUTHERN NEVADA MUSIC



350 N. Stephanie  
Henderson, NV 89014  
702-938-4646  
**Allen Organs**  
**Steinway & Sons**  
**Boston, Essex**  
**Roland**  
**Young Chang**  
**Sheet Music**  
**Lessons**

**CHRISTIAN LENTZ**  
PIPE ORGAN SERVICE & CONSULTATION

702-741-5240  
10269 KADUMBA STREET  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89178  
[CHRISTIAN@CHRISTIANLENTZ.COM](mailto:CHRISTIAN@CHRISTIANLENTZ.COM)  
[WWW.CHRISTIANLENTZ.COM](http://WWW.CHRISTIANLENTZ.COM)

**Robert Tall & Associates, Inc.**  
2310 North Hermosa Drive  
Palm Springs, California 82262-3372

**Robert Tall**  
**President**

Tel: (818) 497-3100  
[tallorg9@gmail.com](mailto:tallorg9@gmail.com)

[www.rodgersorganssanfrancisco.com](http://www.rodgersorganssanfrancisco.com)  
[www.rodgersorganslasvegas.com](http://www.rodgersorganslasvegas.com)

**CHARLES MILLER**  
*President*

**PHILLIP TRUCKENBROD**  
**CONCERT ARTISTS**

PO Box 6507, Detroit, MI 48206-6507  
PHONE 860.560.7800 • CELL 313.920.7825  
EMAIL [charlesmiller@concertartists.com](mailto:charlesmiller@concertartists.com)

[www.concertartists.com](http://www.concertartists.com)



416 Pine Street  
Highland, Illinois 62249

SCOTT M. WICK, President  
[scottw@wicks.com](mailto:scottw@wicks.com)

Phone: 618-654-2191  
Website: [www.wicksorgan.com](http://www.wicksorgan.com)  
[www.facebook.com/WicksOrganCo](https://www.facebook.com/WicksOrganCo)

Service, tuning, rebuilds, additions  
and new instruments



## Quimby Pipe Organs, Inc.

208 Marshall Street, P O Box 434  
Warrensburg, MO 64093

Phone: (660) 747-3066  
Fax: (660) 747-7920  
Email: [qp01@earthlink.net](mailto:qp01@earthlink.net)  
[www.quimbypipeorgans.com](http://www.quimbypipeorgans.com)

# KAC3L

DECORATING LAS VEGAS  
FOR THE HOLIDAYS & EVERY DAY

[KAC3L.COM](http://KAC3L.COM)

Please visit and patronize our corporate sponsors

To visit a sponsor's website, please click on their ad above

For information on becoming a corporate sponsor for our 2019-2020 season, [CLICK HERE](#)



**GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
IN BOULDER CITY PRESENTS

# THE KING'S BRASS



**TUESDAY, JUNE 18**

POTLUCK at 5 pm - CONCERT at 6 pm

All Are Welcome - No Admission Charge - Free Will Offering

**1150 Wyoming Street in Boulder City**

[bcgrace.org](http://bcgrace.org) - [kingsbrass.org](http://kingsbrass.org)

Dear Friends,

For nearly fifteen years, we have enjoyed the majestic music performed by faculty and guest artists on the awe-inspiring Maurine Jackson Smith Memorial Pipe Organ gracing Doc Rando Hall on the campus of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. This world-class instrument, given to the university and for the benefit of the community by the Edward D. Smith family, is a Nevada treasure. We need your help to ensure this magnificent instrument is maintained and that the quality of music continues.

Please consider a gift to the Maurine Jackson Smith Memorial Pipe Organ Maintenance Endowment Fund. Income generated from the endowed fund will help defray maintenance costs in perpetuity. There are many ways to contribute, including cash, securities, and property. Gifts may also be pledged through wills and estate plans.



Photo: Christian Lentz

Share the joy and help maintain the Maurine Jackson Smith Memorial Pipe Organ for generations to come. Please make your tax-deductible contribution today by completing the attached pledge card and returning in the enclosed envelope.

Thank you,

*Nancy J. Uscher*

Nancy J. Uscher, Ph.D.

Dean

**YES — I want to support the Maurine Jackson Smith Memorial Pipe Organ Maintenance Endowment Fund.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Pledge Information: (Payment information on reverse)**

I am making a commitment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be paid: \_\_\_\_\_ monthly \_\_\_\_\_ quarterly \_\_\_\_\_ annually

\_\_\_\_ I would like more information about making a planned gift through my estate.

Fund 3148



*Maurine Jackson Smith*  
Memorial Pipe Organ  
Maintenance Endowment Fund



**Payment Information:**

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please make checks payable to UNLV Foundation and  
note Organ Endowment in the memo). Gifts can be made  
online at <https://netcommunity.unlv.edu/givetofinearts>

**Acknowledgment Information:**

Please use the following name(s) in all acknowledgments:

Please charge my credit card for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The UNLV Foundation is a Nevada non-profit corporation organized for the purpose of encouraging voluntary private support of UNLV. A small portion of gifts designated through the UNLV Foundation may be used for operating expenses, travel, hosting, and university receptions to produce further gifts.  
TAX ID #94-2790134