

THE DESERT WIND

Editor: Bruce Behnke © 2016

Issue: Jan/Feb 2016

Dean's Notes



Southern Nevada Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Dear Southern Nevada AGO
Chapter colleagues and friends,

The end of a year and the beginning of a new one is always a good time to take stock of the past and to look ahead to the future. In these Notes I want to focus on the chapter's Organ Recital Series---its past and future.

2015 saw a successful completion of the 2014-2015 recital series and the beginning of the 2015-2016 series with a total of seven AGO recitals during the 2015 calendar year: Clayton Roberts (January 9), a Bach 330th Birthday Celebration with choreography (March 20), Dr. Angela Craft Cross (April 10), James David Christie (June 5), Christopher Houlihan (October 9), Thomas Strauss with the Trinkle Brass Works (November 1), and our annual Advent-Christmas Members' Recital (December 6). One of our recent visiting artists asked when looking at the Recital Series flyer, "How large is the

Southern Nevada Chapter?" When informed that we had fewer than 50 members, the questioner, who comes from a chapter with more than 400 members, was absolutely astounded and confessed that the "big" chapter had nothing remotely of the scope or quality of our recital series. Our grant writers (Jan Bigler, Shireen Beaudry and David Dorway) were successful this year in achieving the largest grant amount from the Nevada Arts Council in recent memory.

I hadn't totally realized what our organ recital series had accomplished over the years until we began anticipating the coming of our 10th anniversary season, 2016-2017. The Executive Board authorized the writing of a grant proposal for significant additional funding from a possible additional revenue source, which, if granted would allow the planning of an extra-special celebratory season.

We expect to hear the result of the

grant proposal by mid-January, after which we will have to move quickly to complete our Nevada Arts Council grant due February 15. In preparing the grant proposal for extra funding, we compiled a list of all the recitals hosted during the nine years of the series; it is printed elsewhere in this edition of the newsletter. I encourage you to read through the list carefully. The series presented a total of 53 recitals including 11 "international" artists from five different countries: Poland, Germany, Canada, Korea and The Netherlands. It also included nine members' Advent-Christmas Recitals, a members' Organ-Plus recital, and six solo programs presented by chapter members in addition to recitals by leading organists of our time from around the country.

None of this would have been possible without the generous support of members and patrons. Every season has been accomplished "in the black," and we have never had an (continued on page 2)

In this Issue	Page
Dean's Notes	1
Advent-Christmas Members' Recital	2
Strauss & Trinkle Brass Works	3
Chelsea Chen Recital	4
Alice Howenthaner	6
Adam Brakel Recital	7
Recital Series History.....	8

(continued from page 1)

invited performer to turn us down. We have had to cancel performances only twice in the nine years: Israeli organist Elizabeth Roloff died in 2008 before her scheduled recital in 2009, and Pamela Decker's 2014 recital had to be rescheduled because she became ill the day of the recital.

I believe it is safe to say that the chapter's Organ Recital Series has transformed the "organ scene" in The Valley over the past years, and we hope that through it we can significantly continue to fulfill three of the six stated objectives of the Mission of the American Guild of Organists: To enrich lives through organ and choral music.

- Encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music;
- Promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles; and
- Engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.

In my next edition of Dean's Notes, I will plan to address the other three objectives of the Guild's Mission Statement.

I wish for each of you a well-deserved rest from the heightened responsibilities of the Advent-Christmas season, and I hope that 2016 will be a productive and Happy New Year.

Cordially,

Paul

Advent-Christmas Members' Recital Well Received



Pictured are L. to R. front, Paul Hesselink, Eugenia Burkett, Lisa Elliott, back, Ron Richardson, Kathi Colman, David Dorway, Steven Trinkle and Bruce Behnke. Photo by Dorothy Young Riess.

The annual Advent-Christmas Members' Recital on Sunday, December 6 at 4:00 P.M. was presented at Christ Church Episcopal for an enthusiastic audience of about 160 people. Members and guests presenting the program were: Ronald Richardson, Dr. David Dorway and Lisa Elliott (soprano), Dr. Paul Hesselink, Dr. Eugenie Burkett and husband Steven Trinkle (trumpet), Bruce Behnke, and Kathi Colman and Paul Hesselink (organ duet). Works presented were by Louis Claude Daquin, George Frederick Handel, Diane Bish, Johann Sebastian Bach, Leo Sowerby, John Ludwig Krebs, Mark Hayes, Denis Bédard and Norman Dello Joio. The organ at the

church is a 2010 54-rank, four-manual and pedal instrument built by the Schantz Organ Company of Orrville, Ohio. It is the largest pipe organ in Nevada.

Sixty-four audience members completed the evaluation forms:

First time visiting Christ Church = 14

First time hearing the Schantz organ = 16

First time at an AGO organ recital = 15

How people found out about the recital

e-mail = 23 flyer = 8 radio = 3 previous program = 17

from a friend = 26 other = 9 (online, newspaper, church)

Every selection on the program was cited as “particularly enjoyed”

Feelings about the program: Loved it = 39 Liked a lot = 19

Found interesting = 3 Wasn’t interested = 0

Wouldn’t come again = 0

Overall rating: Superb = 28 Excellent = 32 Average = 1

Fair = 0 Poor = 0

A combined 98% of respondents rated the program as Superb or excellent.

Thirteen attendees requested they be added to the recital series e-mail notification list.

A big “thank you” to all the performers, to Christ Church Episcopal for the use of their facilities, to Jeff and Kathi Colman for engineering the video projection, to Susan Lasher for her beautiful program design, and to Doris Frances for arranging the lovely reception following the recital.

Audience members contributed to the Raymond Barnes Memorial Scholarship Fund, an educational outreach project of the Southern Nevada Chapter. The fund supports local young pianists and organists who want to attend a summer Pipe Organ Encounter or who pursue organ study at the collegiate level at UNLV.

Paul Hesselink

Thomas Strauss & Trinkle Brass Works Attracts Enthusiastic Audience

Sunday afternoon at 4:00 P.M. on November 1 was the second recital on the Southern Nevada Chapter’s 2015-2016 Organ Recital Series at Dr. Rando-Grillot Recital all in the Beam Music Center on the UNLV campus. The recital featured German organist, Thomas Strauss who was joined by members of the Trinkle Brass Works—four trumpets and percussion. A large enthusiastic audience of about 225 people turned out to hear the program of works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Henry Purcell, Georg Frederic Handel, Gaspar Cassado, Giuseppi Torelli, and Jean Françaix.

Thomas Strauss has been the cantor and organist/choir director of St. John the Baptist Church in Oppenau (Black Forest region) in Germany since 1993. In 1995 he founded the Bach Consortium and the Bach Chor-Ortenau, which presents larger oratorios and choral works as well as contemporary a cappella works. He has performed in numerous radio and television broadcasts throughout Europe and has presented organ recitals in Germany, France, Norway, Italy, Switzerland, and in the United States.

Members of the Trinkle Brass Works joining in the program were Steven Trinkle, trumpet, founder of the ensemble; Dr. Gary Malvern, trumpet professor at Furman University in South Carolina; Bruce Barrie, trumpet, on the faculty at Colorado Northern University; Kevin Tague, trumpet, currently pursuing a Doctorate of Musical Arts at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; and timpanist, Dr. Eugenie Burkett, co-founder of Trinkle Brass



From left to right: Genie Burkett, Bruce Barrie, Kevin Tague, Gary Malvern, Steven Trinkle and Thomas Strauß.

Works, and music education specialist on the Music Faculty at UNLV.

The exceedingly well-performed program had “flash and dash” galore for everyone! We are grateful to AGO chapter member Genie Burkett and husband Steve Trinkle for arranging the program and for performing on it.

As always, we are grateful to Doris Frances for putting together the lovely reception following the recital and to all of our Patrons who support the series and who make the recital series financially possible.

Chelsea Chen Recital

Our next chapter recital will be Chelsea Chen, who will appear on Friday, February 26 at 7:30 P.M. in Doc Rando Hall on the campus of UNLV.

Organist and composer Chelsea Chen (b. 1983) is internationally renowned for her concerts of “rare musicality” and “lovely lyrical grandeur,” and a compositional style that is “charming” and “irresistible” (Los Angeles Times).

One of the most promising organists of her generation, Chelsea Chen has electrified audiences throughout the United States, Europe, Australia, and Asia in venues such as Singapore’s Esplanade, Hong Kong’s Cultural Centre, Kishinev’s National Organ Hall, and Philadelphia’s Kimmel Center. As a composer she is broadening the classical organ repertoire with her own works based on Asian folksongs.

Ms. Chen has soloed with orchestras throughout the world including the Wuhan Philharmonic in China, the Jakarta Simfonia in Indonesia, and the Juilliard Percussion Orchestra in Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully Hall. Committed to new music, she has premiered works by composers throughout the world including Teddy Niedermaier (USA) and Ola Gjeilo (Norway/USA), Jordan Kuspa (USA), Yui Kitamura (Japan/USA), Paul Desenne (Venezuela), Roderick Gorby (USA), and Andreas Kleinert (Germany).

Ms. Chen has received acclaim as a composer since she premiered her own “Taiwanese Suite” (2003) and “Taiwan Tableaux” (2007) at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion. Recently her solo organ pieces have been performed in





Canada and Taiwan, and her most recent concerto, “Jasmine Fantasy” (for violin, organ, and strings), has been performed by orchestras in the United States, China, and Indonesia. Her solo organ works were featured at the 2011 Region I/II and IV Conventions of the American Guild of Organists.

The recipient of the 2009 Lili Boulanger Memorial Award and winner of the 2005 Augustana/Reuter National Organ Competition, Ms. Chen is a graduate of Juilliard, where she received both her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees. She was also a full scholarship recipient at Yale University, where she earned an Artist Diploma. Her major organ teachers include Thomas Murray, John Weaver, Paul Jacobs, Monte Maxwell and Leslie Robb, and her primary piano teachers include Baruch Arnon, Jane Bastien and Lori Bastien Vickers.

Ms. Chen has recorded multiple CDs: *Reveries* (2011) at Bethel University, *Live at Heinz Chapel* at the 2005 Convention of the American Institute of Organbuilders, and *Eastern Treasures* with violinist Lewis Wong in 2010. Her playing has been aired on CNN.com, “Pipedreams” from American Public Media, Hawaii Public Radio, and Taiwan’s Good News Radio. Her compositions are exclusively available from Wayne Leupold Editions, Inc. She performs regularly with German violinist Viviane Waschbüsch (VivaChe Duo) and harpist and designer Arielle (Duo Mango).

In 2014 she became Organist and Artist-in-Residence at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. She splits her time between Florida and New York, where she is also Artist-in-Residence at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in Manhattan.

Bruce Behnke What first started your interest in the pipe organ?

Chelsea Chen I was invited to a POE (Pipe Organ Encounter) camp in San Diego when I was thirteen. I met Leslie Wolf Robb, who two years later became my first organ teacher. It was on account of people like Leslie and Monte Maxwell, the organist from the U.S. Naval Academy that I was inspired to learn the organ.

Behnke How old were you when you first started studying the organ seriously?

Chen I was fifteen when I began taking organ lessons, and right away I was a very serious student. I’d had ten years of piano training already, and was able to make the transition to organ quite quickly. I auditioned for Juilliard when I was seventeen and moved later that year to NYC.

Behnke Who are some of the most influential teachers with whom you studied?

Chen In addition to Leslie Robb and Monte Maxwell, I studied with John Weaver and Paul Jacobs at Juilliard, where I earned my Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees. I studied with Thomas Murray at Yale, where I earned my Artist Diploma.

Behnke What are some of the more interesting venues in which you have played?

Chen Some of my favorite venues in the U.S. have been Disney Hall in Los Angeles, Methuen Music Hall in Massachusetts, the Spreckels Organ Pavilion in San Diego, and the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia. Overseas I've performed in several concert halls in Asia and large, old churches in Vienna, Paris, and Saarbrücken, Germany.

Behnke Do you do any improvisation and or have you ever composed music?

Chen I improvise when I'm working on compositions. I've been writing music for the last twelve years starting with my Taiwanese Suite in 2003, and most recently a chorale-prelude that will be premiered at the 2016 AGO National Convention in Houston.

Behnke Who are some of your favorite modern composers?

Chen I enjoy 20th century French and American music the most - Duruflé, Dupré, Messiaen, Barber, and Calvin Hampton are some of my favorites.

Behnke What pieces will you be playing for us?

Chen I will perform one of my own pieces based on Taiwanese folksongs as well as works by Bach, Ad Wammes, Dupré, and others.



Alice Hohenthauer

Some of you may be interested in contact information for Alice, longtime member of the Southern Nevada AGO Chapter and organist at Christ Church Episcopal for eighteen years. She celebrated a birthday recently (early December), and now is in her upper 80's. Her family moved her to assisted living since she had a fall and was no longer able to live safely by herself. Here is contact information for her:

Willow Creek Assisted Living
3890 N. Buffalo Drive, #267
Las Vegas, NV 89129

Telephone: 702 541-6975

According to Mary Ziegler, her daughter, Alice loves to receive mail, and she can leave the facility, if you wanted to take her out for coffee. Mary said you might have to tell her who you are, since she is experiencing some memory failure.

SAVE THE DATE!

EVENT: Adam Brakel in concert

DATE: January 8, 2016

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

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

SUGGESTED DONATION: \$15.00

The third concert in the Christ Church Episcopal 2015-2016 concert series will feature Mr. Adam Brakel.



National Public Radio in Florida hailed him as “An absolute organ prodigy, with the technique and virtuosity that most concert pianists could only dream of, and having the potential to be the leading organist of his generation...” The Chicago Tribune recognized Brakel as “One of the most talented organists in the world.” A recent graduate of the Peabody Conservatory, Adam J. Brakel has already embarked on a highly successful concert career, playing from coast to coast in the United States, and concert tours which have taken him to England, Germany, and Hong Kong.

Adam Brakel currently serves as Director of Music at St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Parish in the Diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida. This appointment follows two years as Director of Music and Organist at St. Ignatius Roman Catholic Cathedral in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, a position to which he was appointed at age 25, making him at the time one of the youngest directors appointed to a cathedral in the United States.

A reception will be held in the Parish Hall after the concert where you will be able to meet Mr. Brakel.

You won't want to miss this rising star in concert on the 54-rank Schantz pipe organ at Christ Church!

We hope to see you there!

Southern Nevada Chapter Recital Series

2005-2006

Members' Advent-Christmas Recital – December 4, 2005

Region IX Far West Midwinter Conclave – January 8-12, 2006

This Regional Convention was planned and executed by the Southern Nevada AGO Chapter. Featured were numerous performers and workshop presenters from the chapter, the region and the entire U.S. They included; Douglas C. Wilson; Dr. Ann Labounsky; Dr. Emma Lou Diemer; Dr. Frances Nobert; Dr. Paul Hesselink; Dr. Mary Beth Bennett; Bruce Behnke; Wayne Leupold; Douglas J. Benton; The Harmony Ringers of Las Vegas (Janet Ty, director); Las Vegas Master Singers (Jocelyn Jenson, director); Chelsea Chen; John Thomas Brobeck; Michael Barone in a "Pipe Dreams Live" with Melody Steed, Nancy Metzger, Mark Ramsey, Martin Green, John Karl Hirten, Dorothy Young Riess, Linda Margetts and Jeffrey Campbell; Christopher Cook; Judy Riden; James E. Thomashower; Murray/Lohuis Duo; Jane Dye; Holger Redlick and Rolf Miehl of the Rudolf von Beckerath Orgelbau, Hamburg, Germany; Nevada School of the Arts Advanced Violin Ensemble; Millennia Too!; University Children's Chorale (Jeff Kiske and Elizabeth Goodman, directors); Gilbert Magnet School Select Chorus and Orff Instrumental Ensemble (Kay Lehto, director); Kevin Kwan; Alice Hohenthauer.

Dorothy Young Riess – April 2, 2006

Merek Kudlicki (Poland) – May 7, 2006

2006-2007

Dr. Jeffrey Campbell – October 13, 2006

Members' Advent Christmas Recital – December 3, 2006

Dr. Paul Hesselink – April 15, 2007

2007-2008

Members' Advent-Christmas Recital – December 2, 2007

John Karl Hirten – January 18, 2008

Dr. Frances Nobert – February 22, 2008

"Music She Wrote: Organ Compositions by Women"

Watanabe Organ Duo – April 11, 2008

2008 -2009

Felix Hell (Germany) – October 24, 2008

Members' Advent-Christmas Recital – December 7, 2008

Duo Majoya (Canada) (Marnie Giesbrecht & Joachim Seeger) – February 20, 2009

Elizabeth Roloff (Israel) – March 26, 2009

Ms. Roloff died on December 14, 2008 before her scheduled recital.

Dr. John Walker – May 2, 2009

Dr. Walker became ill and was unable to perform. His former graduate student, Steven Harouff came instead to perform in this recital in memory of Dr. James Ty. Composer Bruce Saylor was present for the performance of several of his pieces, earlier commissioned by Dr. James Ty before his death.

2009-2010

Sietze DeVries (The Netherlands)– October 25, 2009

David H. Brock – November 15, 2009

Members' Advent-Christmas Recital – December 6, 2009

Dr. David C. Pickering – February 26, 2010

Dr. Heather Hernandez – April 16, 2010

Organ Plus Members' Recital – May 16, 2010

2010-2011

Dr. Kenneth Udy – October 1, 2010

Marek Kudelicki (Poland) – November 7, 2010

Members' Advent-Christmas Recital – December 5, 2010

Hosted by Christ Church Episcopal

Fantini Feste II – February 26, 2011 (Organ & Trumpets)

Hans V. Hielscher (Germany) – April 10, 2011

Dr. Dorothy Young Riess – May 6, 2011

2011-2012

Duo Majoya (Canada) with Dr. Paul Hesselink – September 13, 2011

A lecture-recital detailing the commissioning, composition and publication of Arnold Schoenberg's only work for organ, *Variations on a Recitative for Organ, Op. 40*

Members' Advent-Christmas Recital – December 4, 2011

Millennia Too! – February 3, 2012

Alison Luedeke, organ - Susan Barrett, oboe d'amore/English horn

Dr. Schuyler Robinson – March 16, 2012

Isabelle Demers (Canada) – May 11, 2012

On May 24, 2012 a sprinkler head on the stage in Doc Rando Hall at UNLV failed and water rained down on the von Beckerath organ for 20 minutes causing severe damage. The instrument was out of service for more than a year before the extensive repairs needed could be completed in July, 2013. The Recital Series was graciously hosted for the 2012-2013 season by Christ Church Episcopal on their 2010 4-manual Schantz, 54-rank organ.

2012-2013

Dr. Richard Elliott – October 26, 2012

Members' Advent-Christmas Recital – December 2, 2012

Dr. Joyce Jones – January 18, 2013

Dr. James Kibbie – March 15, 2013

Dr. Dongho Lee (Korea) – April 19, 2013

2013-2014

Dr. Isabelle Demers (Canada) – October 1, 2013

Inaugural recital of restored Maurine Jackson Smith Organ

Members' Advent-Christmas Recital – December 1, 2013

Hosted by Christ Church Episcopal

Jonathan Dimmock – January 24, 2014

Dr. Pamela Decker – March 28, 2014

Due to illness, Dr. Decker was unable to perform on this date as planned.

Nathan Laube – May 23, 2014

2014-2015

Dr. Pamela Decker – October 3, 2014 (rescheduled)

Member's Advent-Christmas Recital – December 10, 2014

Hosted by Christ Church Episcopal

Clayton Roberts – January 9, 2015

Dr. Paul Hesselink – March 20, 2015

A 330th Bach Birthday Celebration with dance choreography.

Dr. Angela Kraft Cross – April 10, 2015

James David Christie – June 5, 2015

2015-2016

Christopher Houlihan – October 9, 2015

Thomas Strauss (Germany) – November 1, 2015

With Trinkle Brass Works– four trumpets and timpani

Members' Advent-Christmas Recital – December 6, 2015

Hosted by Christ Church Episcopal

Chelsea Chen – February 26, 2016

Dr. Jens Korndörfer (Germany) – April 8, 2016

Dr. Dorothy Young Riess – May 20, 2016

Dr. Dorothy's 85th Birthday Concert