

THE DESERT WIND

Editor: Bruce Behnke © 2015

Issue: Jan/Feb 2015

Dean's Notes

Dear AGO colleagues and friends,

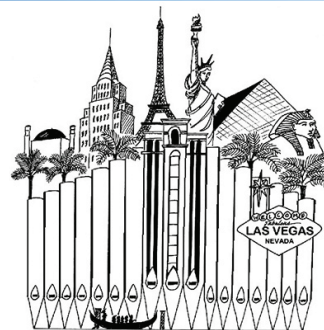
Another year is gone just like "that." I hope you can look back with satisfaction with the things you've done, the progress you've made, and the music you have learned and offered to those for whom you play. I know November and December are hectic, and sometimes not too enjoyable when you're running around to rehearsals and trying to prepare music for all the services. But hopefully, as musicians, our offerings are appreciated and help to improve the Spirit of Christmas for those we serve, even if we end up exhausted at the end of the season.

We've had some great recitals this past year. We are lucky, for such a small chapter in somewhat of a cultural wasteland, to be able to have top-notch performers. Next week the Program committee will meet to plan and choose artists for the 2015-2016 recital series. We try to get it done early because our grant application is due the middle of February. I think most of

you know that each year we apply for a grant from the Nevada Arts Council. The writing and preparation process takes HOURS! Shireen is our grants specialist. She coordinates the work to be done. I do most of the computer input. Paul helps us with proof-reading, and Dorothy submits all the pictures and sound samples of each of the artists. Each year we receive approximately \$2,500. Not much, but enough to pay for the fee of one guest. The rest of our funding comes from Patron donors. We couldn't do anything without those donations.

Don't stress over the traditional but unrealistic New Year's Resolutions. Continue the work you are doing on the organ, and for your physical, emotional, and spiritual growth. Get out some new music to learn. If you haven't practiced or played the organ in a while, sit down at that bench! Let's have a good year.

Jan



Southern Nevada Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Chapter Performance Opportunity

The Open Bench Recitals provide an opportunity for our members to perform in a casual, non-threatening environment where we can share our talents and invite feedback if desired. We encourage all members to participate, whether you have an instrument at home or not. Please contact Steve Wright with questions. His email is steverw822@gmail.com and his cell phone is 801 554-5458.

Friday, Jan. 23 at 7:00 p.m.

at Carla Swift's Home

Friday, Feb. 20 at 7:00 p.m.

at Steve Wright's Home.

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Advent-Christmas Members' Recital 2014

An attentive and appreciative audience of about 180 people attended the Southern Nevada AGO Chapter's annual Advent-Christmas Members' Recital on Sunday, December 7 at 4:00 P.M. at Christ Church Episcopal. This year's program featured seasonal musical selections for organ plus an additional solo instrument. Members of the chapter who performed on the program were Jan Bigler, Dr. Eugenie Burkett, Kathi Colman, Dr. David Dorway, Dr. Paul Hesselink, and Carla Swift. They were joined by guest artists Brian Burns (mandolin), Katharine Jensen (flute), Dr. Janis McKay (bassoon), Isadora Trinkle (viola and voice), and Jeremy Wolstenhume (cello). The program included a rich variety of works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Paul Manz, Wilbur Held, Craig Phillips, Adolph Adam, Pietro Yon and Norman Dello Joio. The especially elegant printed program for the recital was designed by chapter member Susan Lasher.

Enhancing the presentations were four video cameras which made it possible for the audience to "see" the performers on a large screen at the front of the church. Thanks to Kathi and Jeff Colman for setting up the system, and for doing the videography.

We are grateful to Christ Church Episcopal, Kathi Colman, Music Director, for hosting the program again this year. The organ at the church, installed in 2010 by the Schantz Organ Company of Orrville, Ohio, is 54 ranks of pipes distributed over four manuals and pedal, and is the largest pipe organ in Nevada.

People attending the program generously contributed to the Raymond Barnes Memorial Scholarship Fund which helps the chapter to send deserving young piano students to a summer Pipe Organ Encounter.

At the conclusion of the recital there was prolonged applause with the audience on its feet, and even a whistle or two! A reception followed in the church's Parish Hall.



Front row L-R: Paul Hesselink, Dr. Janis McKay, Jan Bigler,
Second row: Kathi Colman, Carla Swift, Isadora Trinkle, Dr. Eugenia Burkett,
Back row: Brian Burns, Jeremy Wolstenhume, Katharine Jensen, Dr. David Dorway.

First Recital in 2015 – Friday, January 9

The next program in our Southern Nevada Chapter's Organ Recital Series will be presented on Friday, January 9 at 7:30 P.M. in Dr. Rando-Grillot Hall in the Beam Music Center on the UNLV campus. Ample parking is available in the Performing Arts Complex parking garage; the recital is open to the public without charge. The program will include works by Vivaldi/Bach, J.S. Bach, Felix Mendelssohn, Frederick Chopin, Sir Arthur Sullivan, Daniel Gawthrop and Franz Liszt.

Our featured guest artist is Clayton Roberts, a former Las Vegas resident. He received his Bachelor of Music Degree from Utah State University where he studied with Dr. James Drake, and a Masters Degree from the University of Houston. While working on his Masters Degree he was under the tutelage of Dr. Robert Bates. He began developing his music talent by studying piano at the age of 8 and organ at the age of 15. Prior to undergraduate study, Clayton studied organ with Ethelyn Peterson and piano with Mallie Riecken, both of Las Vegas.

As a young emerging organist, Clayton has been featured in solo recitals throughout the United States and in Europe and has performed with orchestras at the Mormon Tabernacle on Temple Square and Abravanel Hall in Salt Lake City, Utah. He has been honored to compete in and earn accolades at various competitions such as the Albert Schweitzer Organ Competition (2nd place) and the Miami International Organ Competition (3rd place).

In addition to his duties at Saint John Vianney Catholic Church in Houston, Texas, where he is Associate Director of Music and Principal Organist, Mr. Roberts continues to develop his other musical interests in harpsichord, choral conducting, and composition. Before joining the staff at Saint John Vianney in May 2011, he was the organist at Zion Lutheran Church and held a similar position at Saint Michael's Catholic Church, both in Houston, Texas.

Plan to attend the recital to hear this exciting young performer. Bring your family and friends. There is no better concert bargain in Las Vegas than the programs in our chapter's Organ Recital Series! If you haven't already done so, we invite you to also become a patron for the series; for information contact Dr. David Dorway at daddocorg@cox.net



Paul S. Hesselink, Chair
Organ Recital Series Committee

Bruce Behnke

What first started your interest in the pipe organ?

Clayton Roberts

My interest in the organ first started with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir broadcasts and Diane Bish's The Joy of Music. The instrument was so majestic and complex, I wanted to know more.

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

Roberts I was 15 when I first started organ study. Mrs. Ethelyn Peterson graciously took me under her teachers wing and set me on a path which would turn into a career of music.

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

Roberts There have been 5 teachers who have been fundamental in my musical formation. They are Ethelyn Peterson(piano and organ), Mallie Riecken(piano), James Drake(organ), Matthew Dirst(harpsichord), and Robert Bates(organ).

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

Roberts The Tabernacle on Temple Square, Abbravanel Hall in Salt Lake City, The Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Houston, UNLV.

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

Roberts I enjoy improvisation which certainly comes in handy as a church organist. One of my improvisation experiences I will remember forever is a masterclass I was a part of led by the late Gerre Hancock. Hearing organists like him inspires and motivates me to keep working at it. Composition is something I have an interest in as well. I've written several choral pieces for church use and some small organ works. I plan to build a home music studio this year to help me start finishing composition projects.

Behnke Who are some of your favorite modern composers?

Roberts My favorite composer has to be Maurice Durufle. Second would have to be Sergei Rachmaninoff, Claude Debussy, J.S. Bach, Marcel Dupre, Cesar Franck, Franz Liszt. The list could go on and on! Wagner, Puccini, Beethoven, Handel, Gershwin, Cole Porter.

Behnke What pieces will you be playing for us?

Roberts The program I'm playing for you includes some well-known and lesser-known literature and some not commonly on the organ. I'll begin with Vivaldi's Concerto in D-Minor, transcribed for organ by Bach. Then Prelude and Fugue in G-Major by Bach. The Chopin's Waltz in C-sharp-minor for piano, followed by Mendelssohn's Sonata No. 1 in F-Minor. Then Sketchbook 1 by living composer Daniel Gawthrop. Next is Arthur Sullivan's The Lost Chord, and finally, Prelude and Fugue on B-A-C-H by Franz Liszt.



Organist Gail Archer to perform Friday, January 16



Photo by Stephanie Berger

GAIL ARCHER

In concert

January 16, 2015

7:30 P.M.

Christ Church Episcopal
2000 S. Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89104

New York organist Gail Archer will present a recital on Friday, January 16, 2015 at 7:30 P.M. at Christ Church Episcopal, 2000 S. Maryland Parkway. Her Las Vegas program will include works by Nicolaus Bruhns, Johann Sebastian Bach,

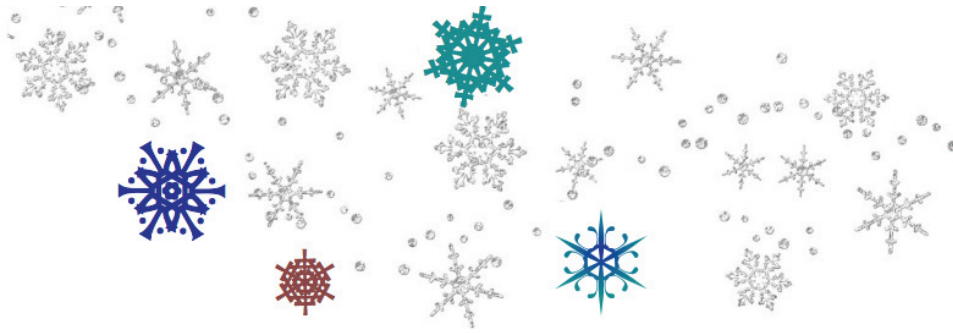
Johanna Senfter, Libby Larsen, Samuel Barber and Jeanne Demessieux.

Ms. Archer is a Grammy-nominated international concert organist, recording artist, choral conductor and lecturer. She is College Organist at Vassar College, and Director of the Music Program at Barnard College, Columbia University, where she conducts the Barnard-Columbia Chorus. She serves as Director of the Artist and Young Organ Artists Recitals at the historic Central Synagogue, New York City.

In spring 2010, she celebrated the 325th anniversary of the birth of Johann Sebastian Bach with six concerts around New York City, concluding with the Art of Fugue at Central Synagogue. Lucid Culture proclaimed, "Like the composers she chooses, Archer's playing spans the range of human emotions—with Bach, there's always plenty to communicate, but this time out it was mostly an irresistibly celebratory vibe." In 2009, her spring series, Mendelssohn in the Romantic Century was inspired by Mendelssohn's extraordinary versatility as composer, conductor, performer and scholar and included the organ music of his sister, Fanny Mendelssohn and Clara Schumann. The series was recorded live and is available online at Meyer-Media. Ms. Archer was the first American woman to play the complete works of Olivier Messiaen for the centennial of the composer's birth in 2008. The New York Times declared, "Ms. Archer's well-paced interpretation had a compelling authority. She played with a bracing physicality in the work's more driven passages and endowed humbler ruminations with a sense of vulnerability and awe." Time-Out New York recognized the Messiaen cycle as "Best of 2008" in Classical music and opera.

A reception to which all are welcome will be held in the Parish Hall of the church following the recital. Tickets for the program may be purchased at the door for \$15.00, and ample free parking is available adjacent to the church.

Tickets available at the door \$15.00



Looking for fresh ideas? New repertoire to learn?
Inspiration for your choirs? Help with the handbells?

Then January Jubilee is for you!

Join us Saturday, January 17, 2015, from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, at St. Maria Goretti Roman Catholic Church at, 6261 N Granite Reef Rd, Scottsdale. The registration fee is \$15 and includes continental breakfast, lunch, and workshops.

Our Keynote speaker is Matthew Burt, AGO West Region Councillor.

Workshops include:

- *Creative Use of Bells in Worship ~ Douglas J. Benton*
- *The Art of Accompanying: Two's Company, Three's a Trio ~ Kristin Holton Prouty*
- *Choral Reading Session ~ Music Mart, Inc.*
- *Clergy–Musician Relations and Conflict Resolution ~ Paul Tepker*
- *Engaging Congregations with the Earliest Music ~ Dr. Kimberly Marshall*
- *Creative Service Playing and Improvisation ~ Gordon Stevenson*
- *Ideas and Inspiration for the Small Choir ~ Dr. Karin Thomas*

You need not be a member of the AGO to attend! We are reaching out to organists and church music directors around the Valley who are interested in sharpening their skills and meeting fellow musicians.

Registration is easy!

Make your check payable to Central Arizona Chapter AGO. Your check is your registration.

Please mail to:

Dr. Skye Hart
C/O St. Maria Goretti Church
6261 N Granite Reef Rd Scottsdale, az 85250-5724

Questions? Email cazago January Jubilee Director, Dr. Skye Hart, sh2139@gmail.com.

Treasurer's Report

Southern Nevada AGO Chapter Statistics: We have 43 members, 17 Regular, 15 Special (65 or older), 3 Friends, 3 dual chapter members, 3 students, 1 honorary, and one lifetime. I hope that you found it relatively easy to register online in the new ONCARD system. Once the information is in the system, it should be easier for us all in future years. We are very fortunate to have 48 patrons contributing to our Concert Series. Each patron has received a thank you and IRS tax letter for 2014. David



All of Bach

by Bruce Behnke

My new absolute favorite web page is the All of Bach site out of the Netherlands. Their purpose is to present a new video recording of a Bach work every week until they have done all 1080 of the BWV. Every Friday morning they will present a new work. It gives an entirely new meaning to the saying, "Thank God it's Friday." So far they have done 13 cantatas, a motet and the Magnificat. All of them are done with top rated world renowned soloists, small choral ensembles and instrumental ensembles playing original instruments.

Organ works include Prelude and Fugue in G minor BWV 535, Toccata and Fugue in D minor, "Dorian" BWV 538, Prelude and Fugue in G major BWV 541, Fantasia and Fugue in G minor BWV 542, Toccata and Fugue in D minor BWV 535, Passacaglia in C minor BWV 582, several Chorale Preludes from the Orgelbüchlein, the Great 18 and some of the miscellaneous works. Dutch organists play on historic Dutch organs in wonderful acoustic settings.

There are also a few Preludes and Fugues from the Well-Tempered Clavier and a Cello Suite. As an organist, I hope you will check out these performances of the great organ works but I hope you will also watch the choral, instrumental and harpsichord pieces by Johann Sebastian Bach.

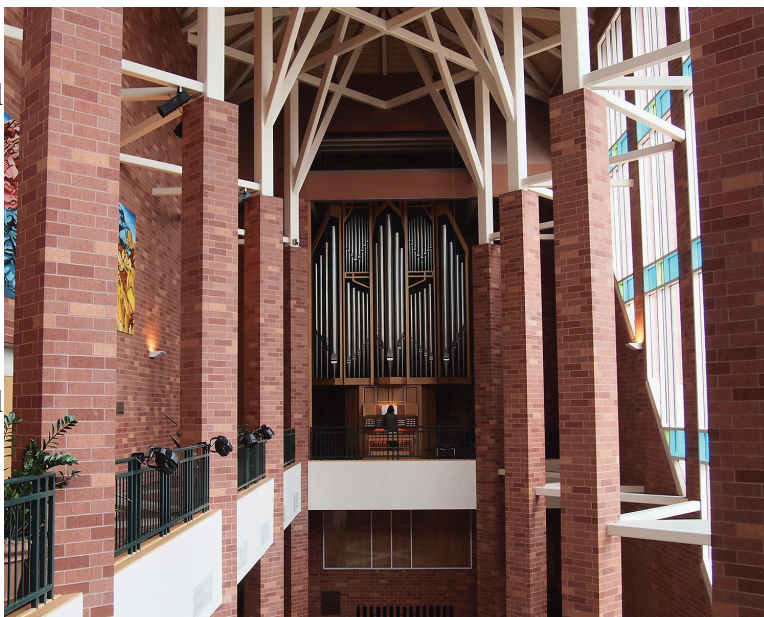
The web address is: <http://allofbach.com/en/> or you can google "All of Bach."

THREE ORGANS, THREE PERSONALITIES!

by Dorothy Young Riess, M.D.

This past fall I was fortunate to work on with three beautiful tracker organs, each with a distinct voice and “personality”. It is the organist’s job not only to find that unique voice, but to allow it expression. In other words, trying to impose one’s will on a fine tracker organ results in conflict!

Organ #1 – Fisk Opus 111 - Mildred Andrews Bogges Memorial Organ (III/45/1999), University of Oklahoma. I have played this organ many times and made a special trip in September just to work on it and refresh my knowledge about trackers. This is my favorite tracker organ for so many reasons, and the most important one is its beautiful musical voice! Aided by the 4.5 second reverb in the stone Grace Kerr Gothic Hall, Catlett Music Center, each rank is amplified and lifted up by the acoustic. I found quickly that one must think of the organ as three separate “orchestras” that do not play well together! Polyphonic music is ideal here. Orchestrating/registering music requires thinking of three separate sound categories. It was also important to get used to the shorter Fisk keys and straight pedal board.



Organ #2 – Fisk Opus 129 – Forbes Organ (III/47/2007), Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center, San Luis Obispo CA. I was delighted to be invited to play this grand organ in concert Nov 16, 2014. In contrast to the lyric and musical lines of the Fisk at OU, the Forbes organ has an enormous and powerful voice to fill the 1289-seat auditorium. The acoustic is a mere 1.5 seconds as the hall is primarily designed for shows and plays where sound control is essential. Again, any attempt to couple one manual to another was a disaster, because the sounds do not mix well, and of course, the key resistance increases. This big voice was as its best in Buxtehude, Reger and Stravinsky “Petrouchka”.

control is essential. Again, any attempt to couple one manual to another was a disaster, because the sounds do not mix well, and of course, the key resistance increases. This big voice was as its best in Buxtehude, Reger and Stravinsky “Petrouchka”.

Organ #3 – Visser-Rowland (III/29/1991), Mesa Presbyterian Church, Mesa AZ. My performance here, Dec 7, 2014, was part of the Church's 50-year celebration, but the room was too dry for the organ to sound well. The top manual has only one stop, a Spanish Trompet en chamade that can part your hair! Fortunately, key size is normal and pedal board is AGO. Reconfiguring works usually played on three manuals to fit on two took some thinking. Coupling was again a mistake except for a grand tutti. The horizontal trumpet blasted out for the Howells "Paeon", waking those who dared to doze.



Experience with these three interesting tracker organs reminded me that registering music requires understanding the organ's personality, and allowing it to speak out.



Dorothy Young Riess to play in Oklahoma City

Dorothy Young Riess, M.D. will perform an organ concert at Mayflower Congregational Church, Oklahoma City, Sunday, February 22, 2015 at 3:00 PM. Her program will include music by Buxtehude, Bach, Beethoven, Wagner, Howells, Langlais, Alain, as well as her transcriptions and original compositions. She will play the Sebastian Glück Opus 14 organ featured in *The Diapason* February 2013; and briefly played the instrument with the builder as it was being completed in June 2012. Dr. Dorothy was school organist at Classen HS Oklahoma City and graduated twice from The University of Oklahoma, BMus (study with Mildred Andrews) 1953, and M.D. 1969.

Letter from AGO Treasurer

As your newly elected treasurer on the AGO National Council, I am writing to ask if you would please reinforce the fundraising appeal that just appeared in the November issue of TAO Magazine. We would be grateful if you would make mention of it in your next chapter newsletter.

When I asked everyone to donate at least \$1 per month, or \$12 each year, I hoped that everyone would contribute this affordable amount, although many of our members already give more. If you calculate \$12 from each of 15,000 members, this annual revenue would total \$180,000!!! With our diminishing membership rolls, this revenue could help keep us in the black and able to continue our educational and outreach programs as well as the beneficial services we offer our members.

If you feel comfortable expanding a bit, you might remind your chapter members of some of the programs the Annual Fund makes possible, including:

Certification programs

Catalogue of educational materials

Support for POEs (Pipe Organ Encounters)

Support for January Jubilees

Travel for volunteer leaders' meetings and visits to chapters

Chapter Management Handbook

Website and job postings

National Online Collection and Remittal of Dues (ONCARD)

Please accept my thanks for using your newsletter--and perhaps offering a few words at your upcoming meetings--to emphasize the importance of each member's contribution to the Annual Fund. Just \$1 a month would help balance the books!

With sincere appreciation,

Barbara Adler
Treasurer/Councillor for Finance and Development
Barbara.Adler@gmail.com

