

# ***THE DESERT WIND***

Editor: Bruce Behnke © 2010

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## *Dean's Notes*

Dear Colleagues,

After writing this, I'm aware that you will be receiving this just after the holidays. Maybe it can apply to any particularly busy time:

The most wonderful season of the year, and probably the most hectic, is upon us with a vengeance. I've already been through two concerts and a playathon for the piano students, and there's much more to come. Many pastors in our various churches are dusting off their sermons about the over-commercialism of Christmas, and I suppose we all literally buy in to some of that. It's such fun to buy gifts for the people you care about. The clergy exhort us to make the True Spirit of Christmas a reality by keeping Christ in Christmas, by giving service instead of things, by giving to those

less fortunate. I do believe that you, my dear fellow organists, go above and beyond in giving service at Christmas, service that is unpaid: extra Christmas concerts with hours of practice, usually without reimbursement, not to mention the juggling of our personal time to accommodate the various church communities.

The hardest gift to give while doing all of the above is not to allow stress to take over our personalities, becoming less patient as the work increases, less kind; but rather to keep a sense of humor about the demands of the season, to keep the tension down and the joy up at our practices; to allow our fellow musicians to enjoy the brightness and happiness of being so intimately involved in bringing the true Spirit of Christmas to our

congregations and audiences.

May the New Year find you carrying this Spirit through to next year's Christmas. And may the New Year be prosperous and Happy Shireen

Editor's Note,

This editor writes nothing, he simply collects information and pictures and assembles the newsletter. I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who contributes to this publication, especially Paul Hesselink for all of his articles and to Dorothy Young Riess for all of the photographs that she has submitted.



Southern Nevada Chapter  
American Guild of Organists

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## ADVENT-CHRISTMAS RECITAL DRAWS A RECORD CROWD FOR THIS ANNUAL EVENT



Pictured are Recitalists: Front: Jane Dye, Dorothy Young Riess. Back: Rod Gisick, Cherrill Hoeft, Bede Parry, Jan Bigler, Kym Cushing, Shireen Beaudry-Johnson (Dean) and Paul Hesselink.

Our December 6 Advent Christmas Recital drew an unexpected 250 people. We ran out of programs! Chapter member performers included: Rodney Gisick, Bede Parry, Paul Hesselink, Cherrill Hoeft, Jane Dye with flutist Vyonne Mendenhall, Jan Bigler, Kym Cushing, Shireen Beaudry-Johnson and Dorothy Riess. A lovely reception followed the program and was organized by member Doris Frances; Christmas cookie contributions were from Chapter members.

We had 98 evaluation survey forms completed and returned. Here are the results:

First attendance at one of our AGO Recital Programs - 32(33%)

First time in Doc Rando - 16(16%)

First time hearing the Maurine Jackson Smith organ - 31(32%)

How did you hear about this recital? Many checked more than one category which makes percentage calculation invalid.

e-mail - 35

flyer - 15

newspaper - 2

TV - 0

Radio - 1

Previous program - 11

From a friend - 26

Other - 26 Some identified themselves as AGO members, related to performer, google, websites. One person from North Dakota in town for a convention tried various media outlets and gratefully found us!

Composers particularly enjoyed--- every composer listed on the program had multiple mentions. Many said they enjoyed everything.

Statement describing their feelings:

I loved it! - 36 (37%)

I liked it a lot. - 41 (42%)

I found it interesting - 14 (14%)

I might come back for another performance – 3 (3%)

I wasn't really interested – 3 (3%)

I wouldn't come again - 0

Overall rating

Superb - 35 (36%)

Excellent - 51 (52%)

Average - 9 (9%)

Fair - 1 (1%)

Poor - 0

No rating - 2 (2%)

There were 22 people who wanted to be added to the e-mail notification list.

One always has to take surveys with a grain of salt! One respondent said it was “false advertising” because it wasn’t a Christmas program. (!!!!) Another said they wanted to hear something familiar. (The program included settings of “Hark the Herald Angels Sing,” “Angels We have Heard on High,” “What Child is This?” as well as four German chorale tunes. ) One person didn’t understand the connection of the Messiaen titles to Christmas (they didn’t recognize the phrase on the program “from La Nativite du Seigneur.”)

Oftentimes these comments reveal more about the comment writer than reflect on the programs. In a way, I guess, we are oftentimes asking opinions from listeners who have no tools or skills to answer the questions intelligently. Still, we do need to continue to ask. And the numbers do help us in making our case with the Nevada Arts Council. Eighty-eight percent rated the program either “superb” or “excellent.” Many programs would be hard-pressed to measure up to that.

## Music Ror Sale

One of our newer members and unfortunately, soon to be former members has a substantial amount of organ music for sale. Rod Gisick, who played on the Advent Christmas Recial will be leaving shortly. He can be contacted at [rodgis44@gmail.com](mailto:rodgis44@gmail.com) for a list of what is available.

## DR. DAVID PICKERING TO PRESENT RECITAL AND WORKHOP

The next program on our Southern Nevada Chapter Organ Recital Series will present Dr. David C. Pickering on Friday, February 26, 2010 at 7:30 P.M. in Doc Rando Recital Hall in the Beam Music Center on the University of Nevada, Las Vegas campus.

Dr. Pickering holds the Dwight and Ruth Vredenburg Endowed Chair in Music and serves as Chair of the Division of Fine Arts and Assistant Professor of Music at Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa. He is an active recitalist, having performed throughout the United States as well as in Canada. His performances have also been broadcast on Minnesota Public Radio's Pipedreams as well as organlive.com.

Dr. Pickering's three recordings, The Leroy Robertson Organ Legacy (Tantara Records), Like a Fire—David Pickering Plays Music of Daniel E. Gawthrop (Grace Notes Media), and Organ Music of Alice Jordan (private issue) highlight the organ music of those three composers. He is the editor of Leroy Robertson Organ Works, published by Wayne Leupold Editions and has authored three articles on these composers for The American Organist and Diapason. The Organ Historical Society Press will publish Pickering's first book, The Auditorium Organ of the Community of Christ in the summer of 2010.



He received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in organ performance and a Master's degree in organ performance and musicology from the University of Kansas as a student of James Higdon. He received his Bachelor of Music degree in organ performance from Brigham Young University as a student of Parley Belnap and J. J. Keeler.

Dr. Pickering's program will include works by J. S. Bach, Charles-Marie Widor, Paul Hindemith, and Daniel Gawthrop. He will present a workshop on the organ music of Leroy Robertson, Alice Jordan, and Daniel Gawthrop on stage at Doc Rando Hall on Saturday morning following the Friday evening recital from 10:00 A.M. to noon.

All are invited to attend both the recital and the workshop. Tell your friends---bring some of them along with you!



# New Schantz Organ to be Dedicated in Recital

The new pipe organ for Christ Church Episcopal (2000 E. Maryland Parkway –at Maryland Parkway and St. Louis) will be dedicated in a recital on Friday, February 5, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. The public is cordially invited to hear the new organ which will be played by three recitalists:, Ty Woodward, Paul Hesselink and Alice Hohenthauer

Ty Woodward is the Schantz Organ Company representative involved in the organ project at the church for the last fifteen years. He currently resides in Phoenix, Arizona. Paul Hesselink served on the Christ Church organ committee and will contribute works by Bach and Couperin to the recital program. Alice Hohenthauer was the organist at Christ Church for seventeen years before her retirement in November, 2008. She will perform works by Buxtehude, Bach, Brahms and Visser.

The Christ Church organ will become the largest pipe organ in Nevada with four manuals and 55 ranks distributed over Great, Swell, Choir, Antiphonal and Pedal divisions. At this writing (just before Christmas) the instrument is partially voiced; the organ will be completed by mid-January.

Come join with the congregation for this significant event in the life of Christ Church.



| <b>Great</b> (Man II, unenclosed)     |                        | <b>Swell</b> (Man III, expressive) |                    | <b>Choir</b> (Man I, expressive) |                          | <b>Pedal</b> (unenclosed) |                   |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 16                                    | Violone                | 16                                 | Chimney Bass       | 16                               | Violone                  | 32                        | Resultant         |
| 8                                     | Open Diapason          | 8                                  | English Diapason   | 8                                | Violone                  | 16                        | Contra Bass       |
| 8                                     | Harmonic Flute         | 8                                  | Chimney Flute      | 8                                | Vox Humana (tc)          | 16                        | Subbass           |
| 8                                     | Violone                | 8                                  | Viola              | 8                                | Holzgedeckt              | 16                        | Chimney Bass      |
| 8                                     | Bourdon                | 8                                  | Viola Celeste (CC) | 8                                | Silver Flute             | 8                         | Octavbe Bass      |
| 4                                     | Octave                 | 8                                  | Voix Celeste II    | 8                                | Flute Celeste (tc)       | 8                         | Bourdon           |
| 4                                     | Spire Flute            | 4                                  | Principal          | 4                                | Octave                   | 8                         | Violone           |
| 2-2/3                                 | Twelfth                | 4                                  | Open Flute         | 4                                | Koppelflote              | 8                         | Chimney Bass      |
| 2                                     | Fifteenth              | 2-2/3                              | Nazard             | 2                                | Super Octave             | 4                         | Choral Bass       |
| 1-3/5                                 | Seventeenth            | 2                                  | Octavin            | 1-1/3                            | Larigot                  | 4                         | Flute             |
| IV                                    | Mixture                | 1-3/5                              | Tierce             | IV                               | Full Mixture             | VII                       | Grand Cornet (32) |
| 8                                     | Trumpet                | IV                                 | Plein Jeu          | 8                                | Krummhorn                | 16                        | Trombone          |
| 8                                     | Festival Tuba          | 16                                 | Bassoon            | 8                                | Festival Tuba            | 16                        | Bassoon           |
|                                       | Cymbelstern and Chimes | 8                                  | Trumpet            |                                  |                          | 8                         | Tromba            |
|                                       |                        | 8                                  | Oboe               |                                  |                          | 4                         | Clarion           |
|                                       |                        | 4                                  | Rohrschalmel       |                                  | Prepared for Trumpet-en- | 4                         | Oboe              |
|                                       |                        |                                    |                    |                                  | chamade on all divisions |                           |                   |
| <b>Antiphonal</b> (Man IV unenclosed) |                        |                                    |                    |                                  |                          |                           |                   |
| 8                                     | Gedeckt                |                                    |                    |                                  |                          |                           |                   |
| 4                                     | Spitzprincipal         |                                    |                    |                                  |                          |                           |                   |
| 4                                     | Rohrflote              |                                    |                    |                                  |                          |                           |                   |
| 2                                     | Gemshorn               |                                    |                    |                                  |                          |                           |                   |

# ANNUAL 12th NIGHT HANDBELL FESTIVAL IN NEW VENUE

The annual 12th Night Handbell Festival will be heard in a new venue and on a different day than former events in years past. The Festival Concert is always a wonderful way to close out the Holiday Season. The Southern Nevada Chapter of the AGO is an official sponsor of the event. The Festival Concert is open to the public without charge. An offering will be taken to help defray the considerable costs of the event.

In years past, the festival has been in a number of different locations. This year's festival will be in the Grand Ballroom of the South Point Hotel and Casino. Please note the change of venue and that the Festival Concert will be on Saturday, January 9, 2010 at 7:00 P.M.

The new location provides ample and convenient parking. The South Point Hotel and Casino is located at 9777 S. Las Vegas Boulevard at the corner of Silverado Ranch.



Please help advertise this wonderful event and come and enjoy spectacular bell ringing...

## HANS U. HIELSCHER, German Organist

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH, Las Vegas, Nevada

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2010 - 7:30 pm

Free and open to the public

Since 1962, Hans Hielscher has appeared in more than 2,000 organ recitals worldwide, including 24 concert tours in 38 states throughout the United States. He has performed in festivals and major recitals at cathedrals in Germany, France, Italy, England, Switzerland, Spain, The Netherlands, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Iceland, Luxembourg, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Israel, South Africa, Australia, and Hong Kong. Since 1974, Hans has been organizer and organist for organ study tours throughout Europe.

He is a recording artist for the Motette, Organophon, and Wergo labels and has made various radio and television recordings in Germany, the United States, and Australia. His organ and chamber music compositions are published by Taverner Edition. Author of Alexandre Guilmant: Life and Work and The Organ at Wiesbaden Marktkirche, he also translated the German edition of Michael Murray's biography Marcel Dupré: The Life of a Master Organist.



In 1985, Hans Hielscher was organist for Immanuel Presbyterian in Los Angeles in an exchange program with Samuel John Swartz. He appeared as guest professor and lecturer/recitalist at the University of Redlands in 1986 and 1993, where his subject was 19th century French organ music.

Hans was awarded the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French government in 1985 for his worldwide promotion of French organ music.



Frances Nobert at Christ Church Anglican Church in Kapunda

## News from Down Under

Frances (Frankie) Nobert joined other organ enthusiasts in Adelaide and the Barossa Valley in October for a week-long conference of the Organ Historical Trust of Australia. The Valley, settled by German speakers from Prussia and Silesia, houses an abundance of churches... many Lutheran, most with one- or two-manual instruments and some with beautifully stenciled façade pipes. The conferees heard 35 organs representing builders from the mid-1800s through 2000. A high point was the glorious 1875 William Hill & Son Grand Organ, formerly in the Adelaide Town Hall and now being restored in its new home, Tanunda Soldiers' Memorial Hall. Frankie was invited to demonstrate an 1886, two-manual, fourteen-rank mechanical instrument by Fincham and Hobday at Christ Church Anglican Church in Kapunda. Her journey ended with playing ten Sydney area organs, including the instrument in the Opera House. Officers and other members of the active Region IX AGO Chapter (Sydney Organ Society) served as tour guides, taxi drivers and hosts for a delicious dinner at the end of her glorious stay in Australia.

## New CD

RAECD has released a recording of Dorothy Young Riess Organ Recital 2009, recorded live May 17, 2009, on the Allen Renaissance Organ at First Christian Church, Las Vegas, Nevada. The program includes works by Buxtehude, Bach, Mendelssohn-Bossart, Wagner-Liszt, Reger and Dupre. Special additions to the concert are Dr. Riess' arrangements of Bach-Gounod "Ave Maria", Fritz Kreisler "Liebesfreud", and Paganini "24th Caprice for Pedal Solo". The entire concert is dedicated to the memory of her father, Roy Wallace Young, on the fiftieth anniversary of his death and features the world premiere of his composition, "Canzonetta from First Symphony", arranged for organ by Dr. Riess from the original hand written orchestral manuscript. RAECD 50912 is available from [www.cdbaby.com](http://www.cdbaby.com), [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and [dyriessmd@cox.net](mailto:dyriessmd@cox.net).





## NEW MEMBER: Kathi Colman

Kathi Colman has recently joined the Southern Nevada Chapter of the AGO. Kathi moved to Las Vegas after graduating from Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona, with a Bachelor of Music Degree in Vocal Performance. While performing opposite Kenny Rogers at the Flamingo Hotel and Casino, Kathi was hand picked by Donn Arden, producer of “Hallelujah Hollywood” to perform at the MGM Hotel and Casino as a singer in the show. She was soon promoted to the operatic position of “Jeannette MacDonald,” a position she held until the show closed in 1980 just prior to the MGM fire. When the hotel reopened Kathi was the original principal singer in “Jubilee” performing in the “Prima Donna” position. Kathi retired from the show in 1984 and joined the choir at Christ Church Episcopal. Two years later she became the choir director and soon afterward was promoted to Director of Music.



Kathi has toured Europe twice as a soprano soloist in the Vienna Music Festival. She was the lead singer of “Glory,” a gospel-rock group, who did a USO tour to Thailand and Taiwan. Kathi won the Nevada State Metropolitan Opera Auditions and was the recipient of the Saunderson Award in the Western Regional Met Auditions. She was the featured soprano soloist with the Symphonic Association of Las Vegas, under the direction of Maestro Anthony Costa.

In 1994 Kathi organized an organ committee to research the possibility of securing a larger pipe organ for Christ Church Episcopal. The committee, after much research and study, unanimously chose the Schantz Organ Company, located in Orrville, Ohio. Unexpectedly, the project was placed on hold due to the untimely death of the priest. It became viable again when a contract was signed in May of 2008. Two of the committee members are Alice Hohenthanner, Christ Church’s organist of seventeen years, and Dr. Paul Hesselink, consultant.

Besides conducting the choir, Kathi has been the interim pianist at Christ Church while awaiting the new organ. She presently sings with the Las Vegas Master Singers and is their relief rehearsal accompanist.

Kathi is married to Jeff Colman, who is the Stage Manager for the Sahara Hotel. They are passionate animal lovers and have five dogs and three cats. Jeff & Kathi also enjoy traveling and spending time on their boat in Lake Havasu City, AZ.

## FACEBOOK GROUP “FRIENDS OF THE ORGAN AT UNLV”

As of this writing just before Christmas 2009, the Facebook Group “Friends of the Organ at UNLV–Doc Rando Recital Hall” has 105 members who have joined the group. Established as another medium for advertising Organ Events at Doc Rando (including our Southern Nevada Chapter’s Organ Recital Series) the site can be found under the “Music-Classical” category.

At the site one can find announcements about the SNC recitals and a photo history of organ performers. Many of the members of the Group are local folks, but also quite a number of people from around the world who have an interest in the 2004 von Beckerath organ have joined. Check it out!