

THE DESERT WIND

Editor: Bruce Behnke © 2013

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Southern Nevada Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Dean's Notes

Dear Organ Colleagues and Friends,

You will be happy to know that your AGO dollars are hard at work! We have several things going on right now, most of which will be discussed further in the newsletter.

The Grants Committee is in the final stages of the application for grant money from the state of Nevada. We have applied for these grants every year since we started our recital series and each year we have been granted a modest sum of money that helps to pay for the artists who come to play. We've all decided that standing at the freeway off-ramps would gather more money in a lot less time, but we do have a certain amount of pride!

The Program Committee came up with a list of proposed artists to invite for next year's series. Yes, already. Isabelle Demers will return to do the first concert after the Beckerath organ is finished, since

she was the last one to perform before the rain came down on our organ. Our members' recital at Christmastime will be presented at Christ Church Episcopal on Sunday, December 1.

Keep saying your prayers for our UNLV organ. It's supposed to be done this summer so we can have next year's recital series back at "home."

I haven't heard about too many of us going to Bakersfield for the Regional Convention. Is anyone going? I would like to go but since money is somewhat of an issue, I was wondering if anyone wants to share gas and a hotel room? Dorothy Riess will be playing a recital at the convention.

A wonderful round of applause goes to Genie Burkett and Susan Lasher for all their hard work with advertising our recitals. Most of us have no idea how much work goes into the planning of chapter activities. Including this newsletter. Bruce al-

ways does a great job.

An idea has been proposed as a way to stretch our advertising budget for the Recital Series. Several levels of giving to Public Radio (KNPR and KCNV) include Day Sponsorships as incentives. Depending on the level (\$150 and up) of the gift, each Day Sponsorship gives the donor eight spot ads (4 on KNPR and 4 on KCNV) on a chosen date for a message. We already have two such Day Sponsorships contributed for advertising next season's recitals. Ideally it would be nice to have three more to cover the entire series. If you can help, please contact Paul Hesselink (242-1940).

Thanks to each of you for your membership and participation in our Chapter and especially to those of you working behind the scenes.

Happy organing!

Jan

In this Issue	Page		Page
Dean's Message	1	Publicity Help Request	7
Joyce Jones Recital	2	Beckerath Update	8
Piano/Organ Workshop	3	Dr. Riess to Take Tulsa	9
Barnes Fund Update	4	Marie-Louise Langlais visits Vegas.	9
Interview with James Kibbie	4	New Member	10
Alain Workshop	5	Bakersfield	11

Joyce Jones Recital – January 18, 2013

If you missed the third recital in the Southern Nevada AGO Chapter's 2012-2013 Recital Series, you missed a "great show!" Joyce Jones, recently retired after a distinguished 43-tenure at Baylor University, presented a varied program of works by Sigrid Karg-Elert, Joseph Clokey, J. S. Bach, William Wallond, Franz Liszt, Marcel Dupré, Jean Langlais, Richard Purvis and Leo Sowerby. She favored the audience with two encores---her own meditation on the hymn tune Lemmel ("Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus") and her signature version of "The Flight of the Bumblebee." There was something for everyone, and Dr. Jones exploited the many



colors of the Christ Church Episcopal 2010 four-manual, 54-rank organ designed and fabricated by the Schantz Organ Company of Orrville, Ohio. Being a veteran recitalist and performer, Dr. Jones' prodigious pedal technique and charming comments were enhanced by excellent video camera work for viewing of her performance on a large screen at the front of the church. Kudos to Jeff and Kathi Colman for the video set-up and camera work.

A total of 78 of the approximately 135 members of the audience completed the evaluation form. Here are the statistics:

66 audience members indicated they had visited Christ Church and heard the organ before.

12 audience members indicated this was their first visit to Christ Church and hearing of the organ.

39 of those responding indicated they had attended five or more AGO Series recitals.

How did people hear about the recital?

E-mail notification - 42 = 53.8%

Flyers - 13 = 16.7%

Previous program - 17 = 21.8%

From a friend - 23 = 29.5%

Other - 14 = 17.9%

Listed sources included newspaper, relatives, church newsletter, church bulletin
Statement best describing audience feelings about the program and performer:

"I loved it" - 60 = 80%

"I liked it a lot" - 13 = 17.3%

"I found it interesting" - 2 = 2.6%

Overall rating of the program:

Superb - 52 = 72.2%

Excellent - 19 = 26.4%

Average - 1 = 1.4%

Fair - 0

Poor – 0

No response – 6

Of all respondents, a total of 98.6% rated the event as either “Superb” or “Excellent.”

13 audience members asked to be added to our e-mail notification list.

The next recital in the series, Friday, March 15 at 7:30 P.M. at Christ Church (2000 S. Maryland Parkway) will feature Dr. James Kibbie, Professor of Organ at the University of Michigan. His program will include works by Dieterich Buxtehude, J. S. Bach, Jehan Alain, Charles-Marie Widor, and Petr Eben. Dr. Kibbie has recorded the complete organ works of Bach. In addition, Dr. Kibbie, is an authority on the works of Jehan Alain and will be performing three of them, Fantaisie I and Fantaisie II as well as the well-known Litanies on his recital. He will present a free and open-to-the-public workshop on the life and works of Alain on Saturday, March 16 at Christ Church from 10:00 A.M. to noon. You won't want to miss either his recital or the workshop, so mark the dates on your calendar.

Piano/Organ Workshop



Dr. Joyce Jones volunteered her time on Thursday January 17th to educate piano students from across the Las Vegas Valley about the many exciting virtues of the organ. The First Presbyterian Church opened their sanctuary for this event. Chairs were moved up near the Abbot and Sieker pipe organ console so that the kids could really see and hear. There were 32 students and 35 adults in attendance. Dr. Jones used her warm and nurturing style to win over the students and it was evident by their spell-bound attention. In addition to playing pieces by Bach and Widor, she made the sound of the cuckoo, of a train, plus the Flight of the Bumblebee! It was very

rewarding to see several of these young students attend the concert the following evening.

David Dorway.

Barnes Fund Update

I am pleased to report that we have made approximately \$420 for the Raymond Barnes Educational Fund from the sale of the donated organ music. This money will almost totally fund one student attending a Pipe Organ Encounter! The music is going to be used by other organists and not thrown out.

David

Interview with James Kibbie

This is my email interview with James Kibbie our next recitalist who will appear at Christ Episcopal Church on Friday, March 15, 2013 at 7:30 P.M. He will also do a lecture demonstration on the life and music of Jehan Alain at 10:00 A.M Saturday the 16th at the same location.



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

James Kibbie I got interested in the organ the way almost every organist does--by hearing it played in church. When I was a child, our church organist let me experiment with the organ and eventually play a small piece for a service. Giving children access to the organ is what creates the next generation of organists.

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

Kibbie My mother was a pianist, and when I was about five years old I begged her to teach me to play. She was a school teacher, and she knew kids pretty well. She was smart enough not to try to force me to practice. Instead, the rule was that either I practiced regularly, or I had to give up completely and never touch the piano. That was enough motivation (sometimes just barely). By the time I was in the third grade, though, I knew the organ is the instrument I love best.

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

Kibbie I was really lucky. I had two master teachers, Donald Willing and Marilyn Mason. They were very different as musicians and as people, but they were both exactly the right teacher for me at that particular time in my development.

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

Kibbie I love organs that belong to the time and place where they were built, like the Schnitger in Norden, the Silbermann in Dresden, or the Cavaillé-Coll in Toulouse. These builders didn't try to design an organ that would play everything, but if you have a beautiful instrument, it lends its beauty and its integrity to anything you play on it.

Behnke How is organ enrollment at the University of Michigan?

Kibbie Our organ enrollment continues to be very strong in both numbers and quality. Our current students, particularly the undergraduate students, are some of the finest talents we've ever had. Most of our students attended at least one AGO Pipe Organ Encounter as high school students. I'm enormously optimistic about the future of our instrument and profession.

Behnke Who are some of your favorite modern composers?

Kibbie I've been honored to serve on the faculty of the University of Michigan with two of the finest American organ composers, William Bolcom and the late William Albright. I also have a special affection for the work of contemporary Czech composers which began when I won the International Organ Competition of the Prague Spring Festival in 1979. I'll close my program in Las Vegas with two movements from "Sunday Music" by the Czech composer Petr Eben.

Behnke Between your personal Christmas recordings and the wonderful Bach series you have quite a presence on the internet. How did all that come about?

Kibbie In 2000, Orgues Létourneau built a beautiful 7-stop tracker house organ for me. I recorded a little partita Hugo Distler had composed for his own house organ and put it on my website (umich.edu/~jkibbie) as a free download at Christmas, like a proud parent posting a baby picture. That began what's now an annual tradition. I'm amazed by the number of people who month after month download these little house organ recordings—from Romania, China, western Europe, South Africa—all over the world. That's what alerted me to the importance of this field of internet downloads. When a generous donor, Dr. Barbara Sloat, approached me about recording the complete Bach organ works on baroque organs in Germany, we realized we could release them as free internet downloads. All 270 Bach organ works are available free to everyone at www.blockmrecords.org/bach.

Behnke What pieces will you be playing for us?

Kibbie I wanted to include something many of your chapter members have played themselves, so I'll begin with Buxtehude's Praeludium in C Major ("Prelude, Fugue and Chaconne"). I'll play Bach's third Trio Sonata, and then three works by Jehan Alain which I'll also discuss during our workshop on Saturday morning. I'll continue with two works by Widor, including "March of the Night Watchman," which we organists particularly enjoy. Then I'll close with two movements from Petr Eben's "Sunday Music."

Workshop on the Organ Works of Jehan Alain

Saturday, March 16 from 10:00 to noon, our Southern Nevada Chapter will present Dr. James Kibbie at Christ Church Episcopal (2000 S. Maryland Parkway) in a "not-to-be-missed" workshop on the life and organ works of French composer, Jehan Alain (1911-1940). Dr. Kibbie's presentation will begin with a PowerPoint survey of Alain's life and will be followed by live musical examples from the works written for organ. Dr. Kibbie is known as an authority on Alain, and his recital on Friday evening, March 15, will present three Alain works, including the well-known "Litanies."

One of the "bright lights" on the French organ composition scene, Alain was tragically killed at age 29 during World War II. One can only wonder what wonderful works he might have composed had he lived. Even though his organ works were promoted relentlessly by his sister Marie Claire Alain during her concert career, some of the organ works are still not known to the broader public.

Dr. Kibbie's recital on Friday and the workshop on Saturday are part of the 2012-2013 Organ Recital Series sponsored by our AGO chapter. Both events are free. You won't want to miss either Dr. Kibbie's recital or the Saturday morning workshop on Alain. Bring your family and friends.

The Southern Nevada Chapter American Guild of Organists

A 501© (3) non-profit organization

Website: sncago.org



presents

Dr. James Kibbie Organist

Professor of Organ at the University of Michigan, Dr. Kibbie is widely known and highly regarded as a recitalist and recording artist. A review in Le Monde in France said, "He unfolded a torrential virtuosity, revealed in a storm of light."

Presenting works by:

Dieterich Buxtehude, J.S. Bach, Jehan
Alain, Charles-Marie Widor and Petr Eben



FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2013

7:30 P.M.

CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL

2000 S. MARYLAND PARKWAY ♦ LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

DR. KIBBIE WILL PRESENT A WORKSHOP ON "THE LIFE AND WORKS OF JEHAN ALAIN," SATURDAY, MARCH 16
FROM 10:00 A.M. TO NOON. FREE - AT CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL. ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.



Free Admission

Help with Publicity for Dongho Lee's Recital, April 19



Your Organ Recital Series Committee is asking for your help in promoting our final recital of the season. Dongho Lee is a stellar performer and will bring our 2012-2013 recital series to an exciting close.

Dr. Lee is a native of Seoul, Korea, and your committee is asking for help in advertising and promoting her concert to the Korean-American community in Las Vegas. We are targeting the congregations of the more than 15 Korean churches in Las Vegas. We are in the process of developing a personal invitation to the event written by Ms. Lee in both English and Korean formats. These invitations will be available soon via e-mail attachment.

We believe that Dr. Lee's recital provides us with a special opportunity to reach a new audience in Las Vegas. If you have any Korean friends or have contacts with people in the Korean-American community in Las Vegas, we ask that you help make that personal contact for the chapter and in support of the recital April 19.

A native of Seoul, South Korea, Dongho Lee was awarded both the First Prize (the Lilian Murtagh Memorial Prize) and the Audience Prize in the 2010 American Guild of Organists National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance, which was held at the 50th national convention of the Guild in Washington, D.C. Ms. Lee earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from Yonsei University in Korea where she studied with Dr. Tong-Soon Kwak. During her studies in Korea, she also served as organist of Seoul Anglican Cathedral. In 2004, she moved to the United States to continue her studies with Dr. Martin Jean at Yale University and the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, from which institution she earned a second master's degree and was awarded the Julia R. Sherman Prize for excellence in organ playing. Ms. Lee is currently completing her doctoral studies at Indiana University (Jacobs School of Music) where she is a student of Dr. Christopher Young. At Indiana University she was a recipient of the inaugural Jacobs Scholarship and has also served as Associate Instructor of organ. Ms. Lee has played recitals throughout the United States, Europe, and South Korea. Her other competition credits include First Prize in the 2001 Klais Jang Cheon Organ Competition (Seoul) and Finalist standing in the 2008 Canadian International Organ Competition (Montreal). She now resides in Durham, North Carolina where she serves as Music Director and Organist at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Fayetteville, NC and plays weekly hour-long demonstrations of the organs of Duke University Chapel. Her first commercial recording is available on the Pro Organo label featuring 20th century organ music performed on the new C.B. Fisk organ at Indiana University. Ms. Lee is represented by Karen McFarlane Artists

Update on von Beckerath Restoration

Your editor of the Desert Wind asked me to provide an update on the restoration of the Rudolf von Beckerath organ in Doc Rando Recital Hall at UNLV. I am happy to report that the project is “on schedule.”

In early January a three member crew from the Beckerath firm came to accomplish the initial preparatory work for the organ’s restoration: Peter Timmann, the company’s expert who builds the casework for the organs; Michael Glück, the specialist building the new console; and Holger Redlich, Business Manager for Beckerath, who acted as the general supervisor. They began the dismantling work on Friday, January 4 and had efficiently completed all their work by Wednesday, January 16. Some alterations to their original plans were made. Initially they had planned to remove the pipes from the Great, Positiv and C-sharp Pedal chests, so that damaged chests could be removed for replacement during the summer. Since there is no secure storage space

available for the pipes, a new plan was developed. By leaving the damaged chests in place, all the pipes could remain inside the organ and secured. The entire console was essentially gutted with stop knobs and other undamaged parts salvaged for use in the new console. All of the pipe shades and pieces of red painted wood trim were removed and were packed for shipping back to Hamburg where they will be either refurbished or replaced. The three keyboards and the pedal board were declared totally ruined and will be replaced entirely. When it had been determined just what needed to be returned to the shop in Hamburg, two large crates (each approximately 8 feet x 4 feet x 4 feet) were constructed, packed and air freighted

to Germany. All the façade wood panels and facings of the case will be replaced in order to insure that all the visible wood would match; meanwhile the panels were kept in place to secure the inside contents of the instrument. Two temporary supports for six of the medium-sized façade pipes had to be devised so the pipes could remain in the façade in the interim even though the case pieces which support them had to be removed. While the instrument was left looking “somewhat sad,” the appearance of the organ is not as awful as anticipated. The hall will be fully functional for events in the Music Department for the Spring Term.

The numerous replacement parts---paneling, pipe shades, new chests, new console and other parts needing to be replaced will be shipped around April 1 by sea from Hamburg, through the Panama Canal to Los Angeles from where they will be trucked to Las Vegas for arrival in early May. In mid-May, after the University Spring Term is completed, the crew will return from Hamburg and begin the restoration and rebuilding work. Doc Rando Recital Hall will be out of service during much of the summer. The final step will be a thorough final regulation and re-voicing of the instrument. The target date for completion is mid July. Our first recital in our Organ Recital Series 2013-2014 will be a gala celebration in October of the return of this “voice” in the community so stay tuned!

Paul Hesselink



DR. RIESS TO PERFORM IN TULSA

Dorothy Young Riess, M.D., will play an organ recital for the St. Cecilia Concert Series at Trinity Episcopal, Tulsa OK, Sunday, April 28 at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$20, general admission, and \$10, students and seniors. Her program will include “Paeon” by Howells, “These are the Ten Commandments” by Bach, “Prometheus” by Liszt, arranged for organ by Jean Guillou, “Five O’ Clock Foxtrot” by Ravel, arranged for organ by Dr. Riess, and “Vivace” from Symphony Opus 143 by Karg-Elert. The organ is a 1961 Moeller, Opus 9606, IV manuals including a Trompette Fanfare!

MARIE-LOUISE LANGLAIS VISITS LAS VEGAS!

by Dorothy Young Riess, M.D.

On a beautiful October afternoon 2012, I was privileged to have lunch at the Bellagio with Sylvie Mallet and Marie-Louise Langlais! Sylvie is professor at the National Conservatoire in Paris and chancel organist at Sainte Clotilde, and Marie-Louise is the widow of Jean Langlais, exponent of his work, lecturer, and professor of organ and improvisation at the Paris Superior Conservatory (CNR). This all came about because I gave a copy of my new CD, “Music of Joy”, to James David Christie at his master class, First Presbyterian, Santa Fe NM, after a week of photography study there. [See Desert Wind Nov-Dec 2012 issue.] When he noted the opening track was “Fête” by Langlais, he was delighted and promised to take it to Mme. Langlais who was teaching at Oberlin the fall semester. Shortly after, I received a lovely e mail from her expressing appreciation for my rendition and requesting a copy to take back to France. I indicated a desire to meet her personally some day and she mentioned coming through Las Vegas on her way back from a concert in San Francisco. So, we set date and time and met for lunch followed by the Bellagio water ballet. We talked non-stop (in English at first) until I answered something in French and then came a barrage of Parisian which I had some difficulty following! We discussed the state of organ music and players today, Dupré as teacher, and finally Jean-Louis Florentz. She was pleased to know I had even heard of him plus having several recordings of his work. She knew him personally and wrote a book about him “Jean-Louis Florentz, l’oeuvre d’orgue”. She later sent me the score of “Laudes”, his phenomenal work for organ. It’s always amazing to me how one thing leads to another - all because I studied photography in Santa Fe NM!



Sylvie Mallet, Marie-Louise Langlais, Dorothy Riess

Welcome to New Member Barbara Buer

Barbara Buer serves as accompanist for The Las Vegas Master Singers. She is active in the Las Vegas area both as an accompanist and choral director. She is Organist and Director of Music for Grace in the Desert, Episcopal, in Summerlin. She also maintains a private studio teaching both piano and voice.

She has played for Nevada Middle School All-State Choir and Clark County High School Honor Choir and served as accompanist for The University Children's Chorale at UNLV. She also served as a conductor for the UCC.

Previously she taught at The Meadows School for several years where her duties included teaching middle school and high school choir, teaching kindergarten music and providing music direction for musical productions as well as accompanying the elementary level programs and choir.

Numerous tours have taken her to Norway, England, France, Germany, Switzerland, and Belgium as well as several U. S. cities. She has toured as soloist, duo-recitalist, conductor and accompanist.

Barbara has also had a great deal of orchestral experience performing as continuo or ensemble player for the San Fernando Symphony, Long Beach Symphony, Young Musician's Foundation Debut Orchestra, Los Angeles Baroque Society, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and the Las Vegas Philharmonic. She has been featured as soloist with the Dance Theater of Harlem performing the Poulenc Organ Concerto.

She has served as recital and choral accompanist for several institutions and choirs including Pasadena City College, Beverly Hills High School, Foothill Master Chorale, California State University at Northridge, and the University of Southern California.

Conductors that she has worked with include Jocelyn Jensen, David Weiller, Harold Weller, Joel Pressman, Donald Brinegar, James Vail, Daniel Lewis, Elmer Bernstein, Gerhard Samuel, Paul Polivnick, Paul Torkelson, Jo Ann Falletta, Rollo Dilworth and Iona Brown.





AGO REGION IX CONVENTION **June 24-26 in BAKERSFIELD, CA**

Pre-convention concert - June 23 7PM

Hector Olivera

Post-convention concert - June 27 10AM

Dorothy Young Riess

bakersfieldago2013.org

DEAR AGO FRIEND:

Welcome to the Region IX AGO Convention this summer in Bakersfield, California, from June 24 – 26, 2013. Click [here](http://bakersfieldago2013.org) to register online now. Early bird registration ends March 1, 2013.

Convention artists:



Robert Ampt and
Amy Johansen



Christoph Bull



S. Wayne Foster



Hyunju Hwang



Cary Coker-
Robertson

Special Guests:



Hector Olivera



Dorothy Young Riess



Fred Swann

Presenters:

Katherine Crosier, Angela Kraft Cross, Phil Dodson, Ruth Eldredge, Eileen Guenther, Allan Petker, Kristin Holton Prouty, Leslie Wolf Robb, Manuel Rosales and T. Paul Rosas

Convention Organs:

Werner Bosch (St. John's Lutheran Church), **Aeolian-Skinner** (Olive Drive Church), **Schantz** (St. Paul's Anglican Church), **Austin/Rodgers** (First Presbyterian Church), **Schantz/Rodgers** (First United Methodist Church)

Workshops:

Growing Your Chapter, Choral Reading Session for Adult Choirs, The Walt Disney Organ, The Art of Accompanying, The Secret to Staying Young, Making New Friends for the Organ, Choral Reading Session for Small Choirs and Children's Choirs, Performing in the Golden Years, New Organ Music, Rivals or a Team?, Teaching Little Fingers to Play, Tour of the Great Organ at Olive Drive.

Hotel reservations information:

Discount rooms at \$109 per night, plus tax, are available at the DoubleTree Hilton Hotel. You can call the hotel directly at 661-323-7111 and indicate group name **Organist**. When booking online through the website, be sure to use the group code **RIX**.

If you plan to come early and/or stay late, you must call the hotel to make your reservation. A special discount rate (subject to availability) extends to three days before and three days after the convention. **Call Rhea Odchigu of the DoubleTree Hotel at 661-632-2219, or Katie Camp at 661-632-2213 if you plan to arrive early or stay late.** Their office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30am - 5:00pm. The rooms cannot be booked through the website. It is strongly suggested to reserve rooms now because of the limited number available.

Visit our website: www.bakersfieldAGO2013.org and watch the Duffy video. Let Duffy give you the tour of Bakersfield and order your Convention T-shirt.

Visit local attractions during your stay in Bakersfield: Tehachapi Loop, Sequoia National Park, Bakersfield museums and more.

Come a day early for the pre-convention concert on June 23rd, at 7pm, with Hector Olivera and stay a day late for the post-convention concert on June 27th, at 10am, with Dorothy Young Riess.

Send a donation to help defray costs of the convention. Make checks payable to: KERN AGO 2013 and mail to: P.O. Box 573, Bakersfield, CA 93302. Any amount would be greatly appreciated.

To contact us, **Go To:** <http://www.bakersfieldago2013.org/contact>

Come on out and join us. You're gonna have a good time!