

THE DESERT WIND

Editor: Bruce Behnke © 2019 Issue: March/April 2019

Dean's Notes



Southern Nevada Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Dear Southern Nevada organists,

Our musical lives continue to remain busy with church, recitals, rehearsing and other activities. As spring approaches, and our snowy Las Vegas winter transitions to the more customary heat, I hope you will take advantage of coming activities, workshops and events. Please take note of the following exciting opportunities:

March 16 - Choral Reading Workshop at Community Lutheran Church on East Tropicana. Kathi Colman and Marsha Borovicka will share choral literature with choir directors and other interested musicians from 9:00-12:00.

March 29 - Florence Jowers recital at Doc Rando Hall at 7:30 p.m. Another outstanding performance from our Recital Series.

April 26 - Tim Cooper, chapter member and Music Director at First Christian Church, has invited us to a Jewish Temple service, preceded by a brief lecture, regarding the role of organ and music in Jewish services.

June 7 - Organ and Choir Festival featuring local choirs and organists. We will have 3-4 choirs perform, using organ accompaniment. Interspersed with choir will be organ solos performed by each choir's accompanist.

These are just a few of the exciting musical opportunities awaiting us. I hope our members will take full advantage of these and other activities. Our membership in AGO is only useful to the degree we get involved in attending and participating. I strongly encourage you to

put these events on your calendar and participate with us. I look forward to seeing you there.

Warm regards,

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



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Jillian Gardner Presents Satisfying Recital in Doc Rando Recital Hall

Young organist Jillian Gardner presented a solid and satisfying organ recital on the Southern Nevada Chapter's 2018-2019 Recital Series on Friday, January 11, 2019 on the Maurine Jackson Smith Organ the 2004 Rudolf von Beckerath mechanical action organ in UNLV's Dr. Arturo Rando-Grillot Recital Hall. About 110 people attended the program, the third of the series in the season. Accented by Ms. Gardner's "hot pink" signature organ shoes, the program included works from the Baroque, Romantic and Contemporary style periods: Camille Saint-Saens, Rachel Laurin, J.S. Bach, Olivier Messiaen, Albert Lewis Barnes, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, and Josef Rheinberger. The relatively unknown *Prelude and Fugue in E-flat*, Op. 99, No. 3 by Saint Saens made a solid opening to the program. Also not well-



known were the two short delightful pieces from Rachel Laurin's *Douze Courtes Pièces*, Op. 68 – "Flight of the Hummingbird," and "Dialogue of the Mockingbird." These pieces were good "preludes" to the monumental Bach *Passacaglia and Fugue*, virtually known to everyone in the recital hall. The movement 5, "Force et agilité des Corps Glorieux" from Messiaen's *Les Corps Glorieux*, provided extreme contrast. It was followed by an unknown work, *Fugue in G Minor* (a triple fugue on the BACH motive) by Albert Lewis Barnes (1861-1906) who lived mainly in the Utica, New York area (Ms. Gardner's home), and had studied in New York City with the well-known organist Dudley Buck. Following the Barnes fugue were six excerpts from Tchaikovsky's ballet, *The Sleeping Beauty*, transcribed for organ by Ms. Gardner. Her program closed with an exciting performance of the "Passacaglia" from Josef Rheinberger's *Organ Sonata No. 8, Op. 132*. The program was carefully considered and well-performed; it had something for everyone—new pieces not well-known as well as favorite works known by everyone.

In May of 2020 Ms. Gardner will graduate from Baylor University with her Artist Diploma in Organ Performance where she has studied with Dr. Isabelle Demers. She has accepted a position as Director of Music at First United Methodist Church in Huntsville, Alabama where she will oversee a large and comprehensive music program.

Dr. Nancy Uscher, Dean of the College of Fine Arts, before the recital began, formally launched the campaign to raise funds for the Maurine Jackson Smith Organ Maintenance Endowment Fund established by the donors of the organ, the Edward D. Smith family, through the UNLV Foundation for the care and maintenance in perpetuity of the organ, a Nevada treasure.

Thanks to Christian Lentz for again doing his "tour" of the Maurine Jackson Smith von Beckerath organ for members of the audience after the recital, and thanks also to member David Zechman for coordinating the reception after the program.

Exactly 50% of those attending completed the audience evaluation survey. Here are the numbers:

First time visiting Doc Rando = 3 First time hearing the organ= 3

First time attending an AGO recital= 3
Attending 1-3 recitals=2 (4%) 4-5 recitals= 6 (11%) more than 5 recitals=42 (76%)

How did you hear about the recital?

e-mail=36 flyer=7 radio=1 previous program= 18 friend=18

Statement best describing feelings about the program:

Loved it=36 Liked it a lot=17 Interesting=1 Might come back=0 Not interested=0

Wouldn't come again=0 No response=1

Overall rating: Superb=38 (70.4%) Excellent=16 (29.6%) Average, Fair, and Poor=0

Combined Superb and Excellent ratings= 100%

The next program will be a Bach 334th Birthday Celebration, Friday, March 29 in Doc Rando Hall on the UNLV campus at 7:30 P.M. Our guest recitalist will be Florence Jowers who has played von Beckerath organs almost all of her life, starting when she was a teenager and studying at Stetson University in Deland, Florida where they have six von Beckerath instruments. Her Las Vegas program will be: "Bach: Student and Teacher." The program will include works by J.S. Bach, and by his teachers and by his students. Ms. Jowers is currently the Music Director and Organist at Christ Lutheran Church in Staunton, Virginia where she plays a Taylor & Boody tracker organ. George Taylor, founder of Taylor and Boody Organs in Staunton, Virginia, apprenticed with Rudolf von Beckerath in Hamburg, Germany. You won't want to miss our Bach Birthday Party!

Paul S. Hesselink, Chair

2019-2020 Organ Recital Series Committee

Florence Jowers, March 29th

Please join us on Friday, March 29, 2019 for the next recital in our series. Florence Jowers will appear in Doc Rando Hall, on the campus of UNLV, to play Bach and the music of his teachers and students on the Beckerath organ at 7:30 P.M.



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

Florence Jowers My dad was the pastor of the only church in our small town. I was 14 when the organist moved, and because I had a very good piano background, people in the church just assumed I would take over on the organ.

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

Jowers I was fortunate that some generous people in the church knew Paul Jenkins at Stetson University, which wasn't too far from where we lived. So, I started studying with him immediately at age 14.

Behnke
Jowers

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

Paul Jenkins, of course, since I continued on through college at Stetson University. He was the

best teacher I ever had! Another influential teacher at Stetson was Robert Fort, who didn't teach organ, but who directed choirs and taught church music courses. I studied for a while as an adult with Todd Wilson, and he was absolutely fantastic to study with. And, I can't forget Peter Planyavsky and Anton Heiller, with whom I studied in Vienna, Austria.

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

Jowers I played on the Trost organ in Altenburg, Germany, and was super excited when the organist told me that they were still using the original bench that Bach had sat on! I played a recital in the Riga Dom in Latvia with the resident organist registering my pieces, since I had no practice time on the instrument! And, I played some Bach and accompanied the Lenoir-Rhyme University Choir at the Rock Church in Helsinki, Finland. Playing a recital in Woolsey Hall during graduate school was an event to remember, and a 2000 recital in St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna took my education full circle!

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

Jowers In graduate school I wrote some short choral responses, but then I married a composer. I gave up trying to compose after that, just as he gave up playing the organ. We each stayed in our comfort zones, and if I ever needed a piece, I could just ask him! I always say I do not improvise, but one has to do a certain amount of that in church work, and I have gotten better over the years!

Behnke Who are some of your favorite modern composers?

Jowers I think Messiaen will be the best-remembered among 20th century composers for the organ. His work is amazingly well-crafted! I have become increasingly aware of and respectful of the music of Canadian composer Rachel Laurin. And, I just heard a piece by Thierry Eskach for the first time. I will definitely be looking up his music!

Behnke What pieces will you be playing for us

Jowers My recital theme is "Bach as Student and Teacher", so I will be playing Bach pieces, as well as Böhm, Buxtehude, Krebs, and Mendelssohn.

Robert Tall Demonstrates the Rodgers

-by Bruce Behnke

On Saturday, January 12, 2019, Robert Tall gave a demonstration of the new Rodgers Organ plus pipes at The



Shrine of the Most Holy Redeemer. About 15 people showed up for the presentation and heard Bob explain about the instrument and demonstrate its potential. First he demonstrated the six ranks of pipes, voiced by Christian Lentz, at the front of a very resonant room. Then he added the digital voices of the Rodgers Organ. The orchestral oboe was a remarkable sound. The midi playback function was used in a piece with sequenced orchestral accompaniment with and live organ performance all sounding as one. Most of us had never heard Bob play and were surprised by how well he actually played the instrument and impressed by his knowledge of all the bells and whistles the instrument possessed and how they could be employed for great musical effect.

David Hass at Saint Anthony of Padua

On Friday, February 22 and Saturday, February 23, St. Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Church presented its first ever concert featuring a national artist. David Haas who presented a concert to nearly 500 people and conducted a Saturday retreat as part of his “I Will Bring You Home Tour.” Attendees came from across the Las Vegas and nation to hear David perform.

Arguably the most influential liturgical composer of the post-Vatican II era, the music of David Haas is found in numerous Catholic, Evangelical Lutheran, and other Christian hymnals in the United States. He is the former composer-in-residence at the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity in St. Paul, Minnesota. Over the years, he has been a featured speaker at various conventions and conferences for NPM, The Los Angeles Religious Education Congress, The National Catholic Education Association, The National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, The National Conference for Catechetical Leadership, The Gathering Pastoral Ministry Conference, The National Association for Lay Ministry, The East Coast Religious Education Conference, the Mid-Atlantic Ministry Congress, the Big Island Liturgy and Arts Conference in Hawaii, and many other conferences and institutes.



David Hass and Paul Freeman, Sub Dean



Friend of the chapter, Fr. Bob Stoeckig, currently serving as Rector of Guardian Angel Cathedral and Chancellor/Vicar General of the Diocese of Las Vegas, sang a duet with Mr. Haas. David and Fr. Stoeckig go way back. David sang at Fr. Stoeckig's ordination Mass.

The concert featured many of David's most popular liturgical songs with stories on their meaning and composition including “You Are Mine,” “We Are Called,” “Now We Remain,” and “Blest Are They.” The concert also featured several recently published songs by GIA Publications, Inc. in Chicago.

Saint Anthony of Padua is one of the newest Catholic parishes in the Diocese of Las Vegas, and it is the fastest growing Catholic Church in the United States. Our chapter's very own Sub-Dean, William Paul Freeman, serves as the Director of Music at the parish.

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Mr. William Paul Freeman, Ed.M, MBA
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Bet Knesset BaMidbar Visit

The following event was originally scheduled for Friday evening, January 25th but because of scheduling conflicts and a few broken ribs, has had to be postponed until Friday evening, April 26th.

This past October I had the good fortune to have our chapter's Dean, Steven Wright substitute for me at First Christian Church. As we discussed music in our sanctuary I learned that Steven was a linguist—a subject near and dear to my heart. As the topic moved to my work with Hebrew transliterations and Jewish liturgies at my temples, Steven thought that our AGO chapter might find an interest in this subject.

We would like the opportunity to invite you to Temple Bet Knesset BaMidbar on Friday evening, April 26th for the 7:30 service. I would like to hand out some source materials and give a short 15 minute lecture promptly at 7:00, then will need to play for approximately 15 minutes before the service begins (as do all Jewish services) at 7:30. The brilliant Cantor, Jonathan Friedmann, who commutes from Los Angeles for each service, will lead the ceremony. I have worked with Cantor Friedmann for years and look forward to every opportunity I have to learn from him.

Bet Knesset BaMidbar is located in the Desert Vista Community Center, Sun City, Summerlin, 10360 Sun City Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89134.

When you enter into the temple area the men will see a basket with kippahs (or yarmulkes) to put onto their heads. You will also want to pick up a prayer book and a songbook so you can follow along with the service. Once everyone has assembled in a seating area a couple of rows back from the piano I will give you each a packet with the liturgy plan for that evening, an example of the music and a copy of a couple of my favorite portions of the service.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with Jewish services I can't imagine a friendlier, more joyful temple than Bet Knesset BaMidbar to familiarize yourselves with such a rich liturgical tradition.

I am including a YouTube link to an Adon Olam, based on the musical "Hamilton" I was recently asked to perform at a concert. You will hear another version of the Adon Olam sung towards the end of our service. The YouTube version, sung at the Park Avenue Synagogue in NYC, beautifully portrays the joy and humor inherent in every Jewish service I have ever participated in. It is worth watching to the end just to see the two little girls jump out of their seats and dance down the aisle.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R__G1XqjN98

Hope to see you all on Friday, April 26th. Please be in your seats promptly at 7:00. I promise you will be enriched from this experience.

Sincerely,

Timothy Cooper, 702-461-8290

Organ Dedication and BYU Organ Workshop

A newly installed organ at the Las Vegas Meadows LDS Stake Center, RN Ballantyne's Opus 30 (II 28), provided the setting for a Dedicatory Service on Friday, Feb. 22, 2019. Meadows Stake President, David Brady welcomed approximately 250 attendees to the dedicatory service featuring various organists and the 50-voice Choral Artists of Southern Nevada, under the direction of Marsha Borovicka, accompanied on the organ by Chad Myler, AGO member.

On Saturday, Feb. 23, Brigham Young University conducted an organ workshop at the same location for approximately 130 local organists. Coordinator for the workshop was Chad Myler. Instructors included Dr. Don Cook, chair of the BYU Organ Dept. and AGO National Counselor for Education. He was assisted by Nora Hess, BYU organ faculty member; Steven Wright, Dean of the Southern Nevada Chapter of the American Guild of Organists; Jane Dye and Laurie Swain, local organ instructors and AGO members.

Classes in hymn playing, registration, private instruction, and repertoire were provided during the four hour workshop to participants ranging from beginner to advanced.

This new Ballantyne instrument is a marvelous addition to the many pipe organs in Las Vegas, and the largest pipe organ in an LDS chapel in Las Vegas.

by Steven Wright



From left to Right:

Nora Hess, BYU Organ Faculty

Dr. Don Cook, BYU Chair Organ Dept.
and AGO National Counselor for Education

Ryan Ballantyne, Organ Builder

Chad Myler, Coordinator for the Dedicatory Service and Organ Workshop

Steve Wright, Dean, SNCAGO, Workshop Instructor

Laurie Swain, Workshop Instructor, SNCAGO Member

Jane Dye, Workshop Instructor, SNCAGO Member

American Guild of Organists – Southern Nevada Chapter

sncago.org

February 21, 2019

Dear Music Director,

The Southern Nevada Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is pleased to sponsor a free choral reading workshop for choir directors and other interested choir members and musicians of all denominations which will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2019, at Community Lutheran Church, 3720 E. Tropicana, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Under the direction of Kathi Colman and Marsha Borovicka, both seasoned choir directors, we will review and sing numerous anthems provided by various choral music publishers. Dr. Spencer Baker will be our featured accompanist. Bruce Ewing from Community Lutheran Church will serve as our host as we review exciting new literature.

The workshop will be presented in two sessions, with a break between for refreshments. There is no fee for this workshop, but we will accept a free will offering to support the Community Lutheran sponsorship of this event. As seating is limited for this function, please RSVP to our webmaster, Bruce Behnke, at sncago@cox.net to confirm your attendance. We ask that you list your name, church name, and how many people will be attending from your church.

Please join us for an exciting morning of choral fun.

Best regards,

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



Steven R. Wright, Dean
William Freeman, Sub Dean
Kathi Colman, Secretary
David Dorway, Treasurer

Executive Board Members:
Bruce Behnke, Webmaster
Dr. Paul Hesselink, Recital
David Zechman, Publicity
Christian Lentz, Member at Large
Jim Kasen, Advisor



“ A Few of my Favorite Things”

Organs

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Please come to a free Organ Concert

2:00 p.m.

March 3, 2019

Dr. David Dorway and Friends!

Grace Presbyterian Church

1515 W Charleston Blvd

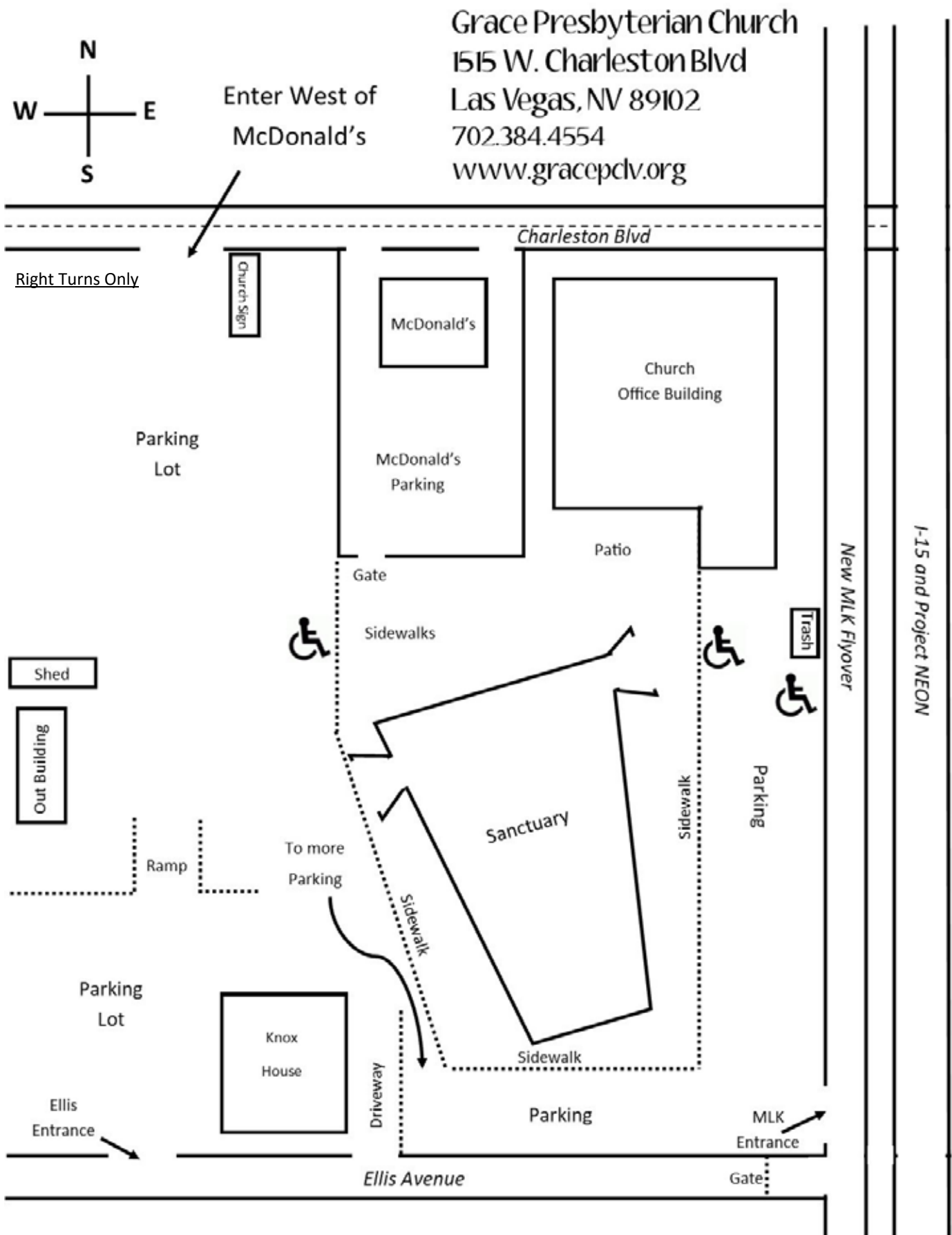
Las Vegas, NV 89102

There will be a free will offering with the proceeds donated
to the Organ Fund.



Join us for a reception in the Narthex after the concert!

Use protected turns at Shadow



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The Myron Heaton Chorale

Myron Heaton, Director

and

The Choir of Christ Church

David L. Deffner, Director



**Works of Brahms, Bach, Mozart,
Rutter, and more.**

Sunday, March 3rd, 3:00 p.m.

**Christ Church Episcopal
2000 S. Maryland Parkway**

~Free will offering~

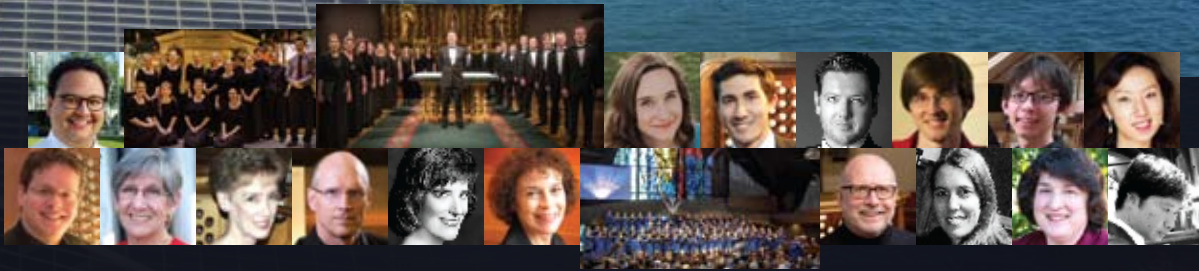
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JUNE 30–JULY 3 2019

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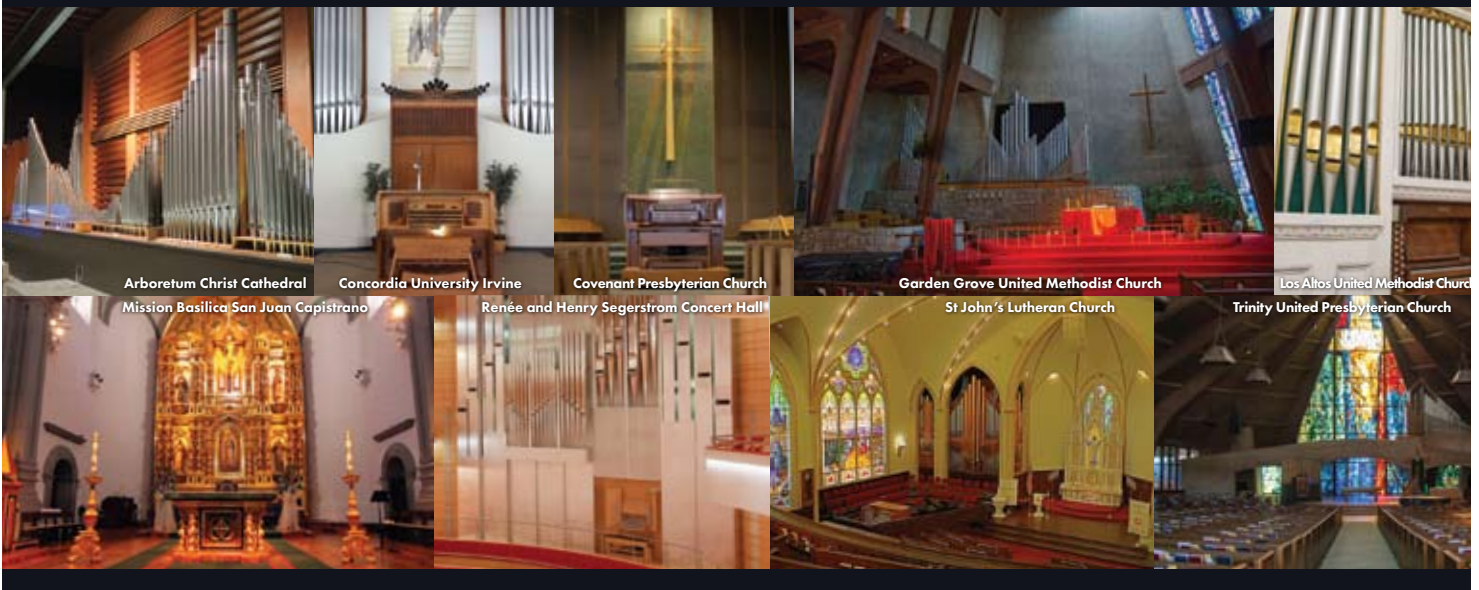


Featured artists & groups

David Ball • Cathedral Bells • de Angelis Vocal Ensemble • Katherine Dubke
Joseph Fala • Christopher Gravis • Christian Guebert • Ethan Haman • Jaebon
Hwang • Paul Jacobs • Frances Johnston • Patricia Murphy Lamb • Charles F.
Raasch • Cherry Rhodes • Carole Terry • Choir of Trinity United Presbyterian
Church • James Walker • Melissa Weidner • Hanan Yaqub • Weicheng Zhao



To be honored
Frederick Swann



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