

THE DESERT WIND

Editor: Bruce Behnke © 2010

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Dean's Notes



Southern Nevada Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Dear Colleagues This year is an election year for our chapter. Every 2 years we elect officers and members-at-large to the executive board. About a week after receiving this newsletter, you will be receiving a ballot with stamped envelope to be returned to Doris Francis within the month. There is an article within this newsletter with more detailed information. Please be sure to return your completed ballot soon after receiving it.

Something we've all been aware of for some time is that there aren't enough of us out here in the trenches of church music work to fill the need. Should we try to attract younger children to begin organ lessons earlier than what is usually thought of as the appropriate age of a student who has 5+ years of piano?

When I was 5 years old my parents took me down to O'Neill's Department store in downtown Akron. Up on the 5th floor was a music department with small studios

available for piano lessons. There I developed a way of reading music that had nothing to do with music theory, but got the job done; I could play rather difficult pieces. No one, including me ever considered the organ until I entered the convent at 16 years of age. The nun who played the organ for the services took ill, and I was told to take over. I was expected to play this rather large but not maintained pipe organ. Not having a clue, I spent many an hour experimenting with sounds and pedals until I could get the community through a Mass or other services. They sent me to Alverno College, where I met Sister Theophane and began the study of organ in earnest.

Some of you have met my student Charles West, who taught himself to play the piano before I got him as a student. We worked together on piano repertoire for almost a year. He's performed for the Guild and for the LVMTA at ensemble festival, Silver State and Bolognini

competitions, and now has decided he wants to be a professional performing and church organist. He has successfully auditioned in Phoenix for CAZAGO members for a scholarship for organ lessons with Devon Howard, a PhD candidate under Kimberly Marshall. We are awarding him a scholarship to attend the Pipe Organ Encounter of Orange County this summer at Concordia University in Irvine, CA in July.

I believe we need to find more of these talented young people early, and encourage them every way we can to join our ranks and discover the wonder, satisfaction and blessings of a career in music, specifically as an organist. Receiving the proper training early enough with a solid technical foundation, along with studies in style periods and history, will allow a successful future in music arrived at through planned study rather than trial by fire! The board will be discussing our education budget again in the near future. Shireen

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DR. PICKERING RECITAL AND WORKSHOP REPORT

Dr. David Pickering of Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa played a recital of works by Bach, Franck, Hindemith and Daniel Gawthrop on Friday evening, February 26 in the Doc Rando Recital Hall on the Maurine Jackson Smith Organ built by the Rudolf von Beckerath Orgelbau. About 140 people enjoyed the program. Thanks to Doris Francis and friends for providing a lovely reception following the recital. On Saturday morning, Dr. Pickering presented an informative workshop on the organ works of Iowa composer Alice Jordan, Leroy Robertson and Daniel Gawthrop. About twenty people attended. Many thanks also to David and Jane Dye for hosting Dr. Pickering during his time in Las Vegas. If you didn't hear Dr. Pickering's KNPR interview on "State of Nevada" Friday morning, it can be heard by accessing it from the KNPR website:

<http://www.KNPR.org/son/archive/detail.cfm?programid=1893>



The results of the evaluations turned in after the recital may be of interest. A total of 86 evaluations completed represented a 61.4% response.

27 (31.4%) were attending an AGO recital for the first time
37 (43%) attending had been to five or more AGO recitals
14 (16.3%) were visiting Doc Rando Hall for the first time
21 (24.4%) were hearing the Maurine Jackson Smith Organ for the first time

How did people hear about the recital:

34 – e-mail 14 – flyer 7 – newspaper 7 – radio 11 – previous program
29 – from a friend 9 – other

Selections particularly enjoyed:

7 – said "all" 18 – Bach 26 – Franck 8 – Hindemith 47 – Gawthrop

How people felt about the program:

35 – "I loved it" 38 – "Liked it a lot" 10 – "Found it interesting"

Overall rating:

39 – superb 41 – excellent 1 – average 7 – did not rate

Of those responding, 99% rated the program either "superb" or "excellent"

We gathered 19 new e-mail addresses to add to the e-mail notification list.

Words of Albert Schweitzer and the Music of Bach

A Multimedia Musical Dramatization presented by the Southern Nevada Chapter of the
American Guild of Organists
In Celebration of the 325th Birthday of Johann Sebastian Bach

*Seven local organists will perform the music of Bach, three actors will tell the story,
and 275 visual images will be projected on a large screen.*



**March 22, 2010 – 7:00 P.M.
Christ Church Episcopal
2000 E. Maryland Parkway**

FREE

A free-will offering will be received to help defray expenses.



The drama, through a sustained narrative, interspersed with first-person recollections takes the audience through Dr. Schweitzer's legendary life and his devotion to the music of Bach. Premiered in 1995, it is an impressive testimonial to the enormous research done by its author, Thurston Moore. Philosophy, the music of Bach played on the organ, 275 images on the screen, and narration by the three readers are matched in a powerful way and holds the audience spellbound.

There are few people today who have not heard the name Albert Schweitzer. Now we will have the opportunity to remember and honor one of the world's greatest humanitarians and philosophers.

Dr. Schweitzer as a deep thinker, an accomplished musician, a sensitive doctor and a generous soul. Giving came naturally to him. To some it may look as if he made the ultimate sacrifice. He gave himself to those who needed him the most, the neglected and exploited people of Africa. He served the poorest of the poor and his life became a stirring example of what it means to be truly human. He heeded the advice and admonition of the Christ, his teacher and mentor: "He that loses his life shall find it."

The paradox, once examined, hides the secret of his great success. He rose to spiritual heights, yet remained humble. Schweitzer was born in 1875, the son of a pastor. He became a theologian and later a professor of philosophy. He searched and allowed his desire for truth to guide him on his path. His deep faith supported him during the times of struggle and hardship and it was his compass at all times. Albert Schweitzer would grieve today, knowing that intolerance, greed, war and prejudice continue throughout the world.

Remembering and honoring his spirit brings sunshine into a troubled world of conflict and challenges. His philosophy, Reverence for Life, is timeless. Deep contemplation and observation of self and nature reveal its secret and deeper meaning. He came to inspire us. He came to show us another way. He came to show what it means to become truly human.

Come and help us keep Dr. Schweitzer's spirit alive as we allow his words to penetrate our heart. Come and hear the timeless music of Johann Sebastian Bach.

Birthday Celebration reception following

DR. HEATHER HERNANDEZ TO PRESENT APRIL 16 RECITAL

Friday, April 16, 2010

7:30 P.M.

Doc Rando Recital Hall

University of Nevada, Las Vegas



Heather Marie Harrington-Hernandez is Director of Parish Music at Lutheran Church of the Master in Phoenix, Arizona and an Accompanist for the Phoenix Girls Chorus. She was the recipient of the 8th Annual Verna Ross Orndorff Career Performance Grant awarded by Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity and the 3rd Annual Eva Christensen fellowship from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She participated in the Third Mikael Tariverdiev International Organ Competition in Kaliningrad, Russia in October 2003. She was Cathedral Organ Scholar at St. Cecilia's Cathedral in Omaha, Nebraska from 2001-2004. Prior to that appointment, she was a student of Marie-Louise Langlais at the Conservatoire National de Région in Paris, France for two years. She was assistant organist at St. George's Anglican Church in Paris. Ms. Hernandez earned the Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music degrees in organ performance at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in organ performance with a sacred music minor from Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas. She has studied organ with David Eaton, Quentin Faulkner, Sharon Hettinger, Marie-Louise Langlais,

George Ritchie, and Pamela Ruiter-Feenstra. In August 1999, she participated in the International Organ and Clavichord Improvisation Academy in Smarano, Italy. In March 2000, she was awarded 3rd prize at the 6th International Lorraine organ competition (superior division) in Freyming-Merlebach, France. In March 2001, she was awarded first prize at the 71st International U.F.A.M. organ competition (superior division) in Antony, France. She has performed in venues throughout the United States and Europe. She is a member of the American Guild of Organists, Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society, and Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity.

Dr. Hernandez's program will include works by Stephen Best, Mozart, Weckmann, Bach, Couperin, Franck, Brahms and Naji Hakim.

For Sale

Rogers 751 Series, 2 manual, full pedalboard, Remote speakers, PR 300 Midi System
Stoplist available upon request. \$6500.00 obo Further information call 837-3820

Internet Knick-Knacks

The complete organ works of Johann Sebastian Bach, recorded by James Kibbie on original baroque organs in Germany, are now available as free internet downloads. The University of Michigan's Block M Records label is offering free downloads of all 270 Bach works in MP3 and high audio-quality formats at www.blockmrecords.org/bach. James Kibbie recorded the series on seven historic organs by Silbermann, Schnitger, Trost, Bielfeldt, and Hildebrandt. To date, there have been approximately half a million downloads from the site.

Dr. James Kibbie, Professor of Organ
The University of Michigan

International Music Score Library Project (IMSLP) Portal

<http://imslp.org/wiki/>

This site is a wonderful source of free, out of print, scores of older music. It can be searched by composer name from a complete alphabetical list or alphabetical list by musical era. Scores are in PDF format and can be downloaded or printed.

Youtube Movies

<http://www.youtube.com/>

Tacoma organ builder Paul Fritts is currently finishing up a large 3 manual instrument in St. Philip Presbyterian Church in Houston Texas. There are more than 25 videos of the installation of this instrument that can be viewed. Many of them are taken from the inside of the instrument. The videographer frequently asks the installers about what they are currently working on. These are very entertaining and educational videos about organ building and voicing. Start by searching "SPPC4807 Day". Days range from 00 when the congregation helps unload the truck to the 27-28 when the initial phase of the install is complete.

Darron Walsh

Southern Nevada Chapter member, Darron Walsh, died after a lengthy battle with cancer. He had studied piano in a class taught by member Alice Hohenthauer at UNLV and subsequently studied organ with Dr. Paul Hesselink at UNLV and more recently through Nevada School of the Arts.



Darron Scott Walsh, 42, passed away Thursday, Feb. 11, 2010. He was born Aug. 19, 1967, in Las Vegas, where he was a lifelong resident, but he spent several years in the state of Oregon, which he dearly loved. Darron was a graduate of UNLV, with a BS degree in engineering and minors in physics and chemistry. He was a member of the American Guild of Organists. Services were held at noon Monday, February 15, at First Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 301 S. Maryland Parkway. Interment followed at Palm Valley View Memorial Park.

An additional funeral mass will be held on Saturday, April 10 at 10:00 A.M. at the Shrine on the Strip. A contribution in Darron's memory was made to our Recital Series Patrons

Fund.

ELECTION PROCEDURES FOR OUR CHAPTER:

As required by National, our Nominating committee has developed a roster on which we are to vote, and according to the National by-laws, Article VIII, is to be published in the newsletter. This is Not the ballot, which will be prepared and distributed by the committee by mail. You should be receiving those in the mail by March 15; they should be returned in the envelope provided by April 15, 2010.

The Roster is as follows:

OFFICERS:

DEAN: Shireen Beaudry-Johnson

SUB-DEAN: Jan Bigler

SECRETARY: Cherrill Hoeft

TREASURER: David Dorway

From the by-laws: The election of officers shall take place via U.S. mail by April 1. Ballots shall be unsigned, and shall be returned in an envelope with the member's signature on the outside. A plurality of votes cast shall be sufficient for election. The officers who are elected shall be installed in May, and the 2 year term of office shall begin July 1.

When chapter elections are held every 2 years, the duly elected members of the Executive Committee shall be divided into 2 classes, the number in each class depending on the size of the chapter. The members of Class I shall be elected to hold office for a term of 2 years; the members of Class II shall be elected to hold office for a term of 4 years. Elected members of the Executive Committee shall hold office only for the term for which they were elected and shall serve until their successors are elected and officially installed.

Our Roster for Our Members-at-Large for the Executive Committee (Board) is as follows:

CLASS I

Marilyn Curtis

Alice Hohenthauer

Carla Swift

CLASS II

Jane Dye

Doris Francis

Margaret Hannah

We will each vote for 2 out of the 3 in each Class.

You will be receiving your ballot in the mail soon; please return it promptly.

Thanks, Shireen

Substitutes Needed

The First Church of Christ Scientist, Las Vegas is looking for professional quality substitute organists. The service is from 10:00-11:00 a.m. and pays \$80.00 per service. The church is located at 300 South Seventh Street . An audition is required since it is a paid job. For more details please contact Ruth Lombardo at 254-4398 or 630-6814.

Kenneth Eugene Saunders

News has been received that Kenneth Eugene Saunders, 69, co-founding member of our AGO Chapter with Raymond Barnes, died on February 6, 2010 in Tucson. Ken died in Hospice from Adenocarcinoma, a lung cancer common to non-smokers.

Ken was the first Treasurer of our chapter, a position he held until he and Edith and their two sons moved to Seattle where he became active in the AGO Chapter there. In recent years, he and Edith “wintered” in Green Valley near Tucson. Ken was a member of both the Seattle and the Southern Arizona AGO Chapters. He served as the Registrar of the Tucson Regional Conclave held in 2008. While resident in Seattle, Ken served as the chair of the organ committee at First Presbyterian Church, Bellevue; in 1995 the work of that committee resulted in the installation of a fine and substantial Casavant organ.

Condolences may be sent to the family: Edith Saunders, 244 N. Crocodile Rock Drive, Green Valley, AZ 85614-5948. A memorial service for Ken was held on March 4, 2010, at Valley Presbyterian Church, Green Valley. A memorial service will be held in Seattle at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family has suggested a donation to a youth or music program in your own church; a donation to a charity of your choice; or to Haiti relief. A contribution to our Organ Recital Patrons Fund was made in Ken’s memory.

Hoopernacle Organ



Member Richard Wallace writes, “I visited the Hoopernacle for the first time in 2004. Hal and Joyce Stoddard asked me to make suggestions to improve the organ’s performance. We decided to rebuild the windchests (including the releathering of the Aeolian pneumatic action), and build a new great division using an independent Reisner relay. I designed a contemporary tonal specification using pipes found on site, and added several ranks from the Oakland Tabernacle Organ. We created complete principal choruses on the great, swell and pedal divisions; the choir and solo manuals have color and solo stops. The completed specification comprises 27 ranks (1800) pipes) which I voiced and tuned to blend together. I am grateful to all who helped in the four year project, to create an instrument of beauty and variety.”

Chapter members had a chance to visit this organ several years ago when a trip was made to visit Salt Lake City organs and the Bigelow workshop. Richard has made a CD of this organ and has asked me to let the membership know that if they are interested in getting a copy of the CD they just need to contact Richard Wallace at: rdwallace9@aol.com or 896-8303



Your Spirits Will Soar!
Gospel~Praise~Spiritual Concert

Presented by the Choirs of
The First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
101 South Rancho Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89106
(one block south of 95 on Rancho)

WHAT: The Annual Gospel~Praise~Spiritual Concert

DATE: Sunday, April 18th, 2010

TIME: 3:30 pm Doors Open
3:45 pm Drumming Prelude
4:00 pm THE CONCERT BEGINS

WHERE: The First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Nursery Provided.

The 40-voice Sanctuary Choir with Brass, Clarinets, Violin, Percussion,
String Bass, Guitar, Drums and Soloists under the Direction of Maxine Deacon,
Dorothy Riess at the Keyboard;
Chalice Ringers, Chalice Chimers and Young Bell Choir!
Mark Daigle, Master of Ceremonies.

*Music is a wonderful gift!
Let's come together and be blessed!*

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!

