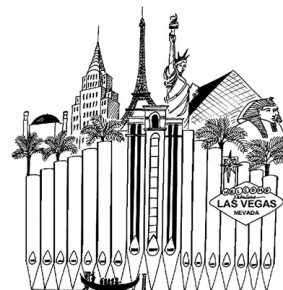


# THE DESERT WIND

Editor: Bruce Behnke © 2013

Issue: May/June 2013

## Dean's Notes



Southern Nevada Chapter  
American Guild of Organists

To my organ buddies and friends,

Welcome to April already! Half-way over even! All of our Easter programs are over and for some of you it's a downward slide into the summer now. I was talking to Ken Udy in Salt Lake City Saturday night about all the things that, for him, start to drop off for the summer: special programs at Wasatch Presbyterian and other churches, regular Thursday night choir practice, teaching at U of U, some private students. He does all this on top of a full-time job. Hopefully most of us can relax a little and do something fun for the summer! I'll be staying home and my kids will be coming here. I sure miss my grandkids!

We're having our closing social on June 15th at Ron Richardson's house. There is more info on this

event elsewhere in the newsletter. If you don't know Ron, you especially need to come. He's been a great addition to our chapter. He decided our dinner would be a Mediterranean theme, but please don't let that intimidate you into not coming. Ron will be making lamb and a few other dishes. Mediterranean is a wide, open field. But please come and bring whatever you want. Please RSVP to me 898-5455 or 274-9495 and tell me what you're bringing so we don't end up with all desserts!

We've had a wonderful recital series this year. Our last recital is this Friday night and it will be a great closing performance. Our thanks go out to Christ Church Episcopal for letting us hold our events at the church this year. I love how they set up the Parish Hall for our receptions with tables and linens!

And a special thanks to Kathi and Jeff Coleman for managing the camera for each performance. Thanks to everyone else that has helped make this year so great. There are a few people that do more than their share of the work and we appreciate it.

If you can help with treats for Friday night, please call Carla Swift at 431-4061.

I guess I'm obligated to promote myself a little since Bruce snagged a picture of me off Facebook. I think most of you know I've been going through a long, arduous process of becoming qualified to be a guest organist at the Tabernacle in Salt Lake City. They have 30 minute recitals at noon every day. Generally, the full-time organists play during the week and guest organists play on holidays and weekends. I'm in the process of preparing a second recording of my recital on the

continued on page 10.

In this Issue	Page		Page
Dean's Notes .....	1	Mary Marook Obituary .....	7
Kibbie Recital .....	2	2013-2014 Recital Series .....	8
Beckerath Update .....	3	Electronic Music .....	9
Dongho Lee Interview .....	4	Member Dues .....	10
Dr. Riess in Bakersfield .....	6	Phillip Fortenberry .....	10
Organist Workshop .....	6	End of Year Social .....	10
Patriotic Music Concert .....	6		

## Dr. James Kibbie Presents Exciting Recital

The fourth recital in the 2012-2013 Southern Nevada AGO Chapter's Recital Series on Friday, March 15 featured Dr. James Kibbie, Professor of Music from the University of Michigan. Known as an impeccable interpreter of the works of Johann Sebastian Bach (his recordings of the complete Bach organ works, recorded on historic organs in Germany, are available for free download on the Internet at [www.blockmrecords.org/Bach](http://www.blockmrecords.org/Bach)) and a specialist in the organ works of Jehan Alain (1911-1940). Dr. Kibbie's recital featured Bach's Trio Sonata III in D minor, BWV 527 and three signature works by Alain: Fantaisie I, Fantaisie II and Litanies. Works by Dieterich Buxtehude, Charles-Marie Widor and two movements from Petr Eben's Sunday Music rounded out the program. Dr. Kibbie's playing was expressive, clean and articulate and the program was securely played entirely from memory. The Ides of March seemed to have no effect on Dr. Kibbie's exiting performance!

A few more than 200 people came to hear the recital. About 50% of them completed the recital evaluation form. Sometimes we are asked why we do the evaluations; we continue to do so at the risk of our frequent at-

tendees getting weary of doing them. The information we learn from them is valuable to us, however, and is critical in preparing grant data for support of the series. On the evaluation form we ask whether this is the first time they have been to an AGO recital and if not, how many recitals they have attended in the past. On this occasion, 27 respondents indicated this was their first visit to Christ Church Episcopal and 32 indicated this was their first hearing of the Schantz organ. On this evaluation, more than 40 people responded that they had attended "more than 5" AGO recit-



Photo by Dorothy Young Riess

als which indicates that we have successfully cultivated a following for the series. We also ask them to tell us how they learned about the recital. The responses allow us to know which of our advertising efforts are most successful. Our e-mail notification program is the most cited source for learning about the recital (33 respondents---this set of evaluations yielded a near record 22 people who wished to be placed on the e-mail notification list), but followed closely by "from a friend" (26). Somewhat surprising were the 25 responses "from a previous program" indicating that this is important information we need to continue to include on the program each time. There were 19 responses indicating they had learned of the recital through the newspaper; this was a direct result of reporter Nolan Lister's feature article in the "View" editions of the Review Journal. A total of 96% of the people surveyed rated the recital overall as either "superb" or "excellent." That is simply a number that is indisputable in making the case that we are reaching our audience.

On Saturday morning from 10:00 to noon, Dr. Kibbie presented an interesting workshop on the life and work of Jehan Alain. The workshop, attended by 20 people, had become suddenly “on topic” with the death ten days earlier of the composer’s sister, the internationally known organist and recording artist, Marie-Claire Alain. She had been an indefatigable promoter of her brother’s compositions. Dr. Kibbie related interesting details of Jehan Alain’s tragic death at age 29 as a casualty of World War II, and showed some of the drawings which the young composer frequently added to his letters to friends. Dr. Kibbie also was able to relay first-hand knowledge about the restoration of the Alain family’s remarkable house organ. All in all, it was a very profitable two-hour session.

Many members of the chapter are due our appreciation for making Dr. Kibbie’s visit a success: the Recital Series Committee (Jan Bigler, Shireen Beaudry, David Dorway and Paul Hesselink), Jeff and Kathi Colman for their set up of audio and video systems and for their superb camera work projecting the artist’s performance on the large screen at the front of the church, Carla Swift and Barbara Giles for managing the reception, all the members who contributed goodies for the reception, and Jan and Scott Bigler for hosting the artist. We especially thank all of our Patrons who have generously supported the Recital Series financially and thus have made all of the performances of guest artists possible.

The final recital of the season will feature young prize-winning organist Dongho Lee, Friday, April 19 at 7:30 at Christ Church Episcopal (2000 S. Maryland Parkway – at St. Louis). You won’t want to miss her performance.

Paul Hesselink, Recital Series Committee Chair

## Final Update on UNLV von Beckerath Restoration

The latest news on plans for the restoration of the von Beckerath organ in Doc Rando Hall at UNLV is that everything seems to be “on track.” Replacement parts manufactured in the shop in Hamburg, Germany will be packed and ready for shipping on a vessel scheduled to leave Hamburg April 22. The 25-day trip will take the vessel through the Panama Canal, and the ship is scheduled to arrive in Los Angeles about May 17. The crew from the von Beckerath firm will arrive in Las Vegas during the following week, and work will commence. The voicing and tuning will not take as long as it did originally since not all of the pipes will have to be treated like new pipes would. The contract specifies the work is to be completed between May 20 and August 2. A gala celebration of the restored instrument will be a recital presented by Dr. Isabelle Demers of Baylor University on October 11, 2013 at 7:30 P.M. Dr. Demers was the last person to play a recital before the disaster to the organ struck, so it was decided that it would be appropriate to ask her to return to present the re-inaugural program. The recital will be sponsored by our Southern Nevada Chapter, the von Beckerath Company, and the UNLV Department of Music. Mark your calendars---you won’t want to miss it!



Photo by Dorothy Young Riess



# Interview with Dongho Lee

I am very pleased to be able to present to you the next installment of interviews with our recitalists. Dongho Lee will be playing at Christ Church Episcopal on Friday, April 19 at 7:30 P.M.



**Bruce Behnke** 1. What first started your interest in the pipe organ?

**Dongho Lee** I started piano when I was 4 years old. Even in that young age, if someone asked me what I want to be, I had always said ‘a pianist’ without hesitation. It was in my junior year in middle school when I was preparing for the Seoul Arts High School as a piano major when I first was interested in the organ. I had always been attracted the sound of the organ, but somehow I thought surely it would have been a very specialized talent to be an organist. While I was preparing the audition for the Arts High School, I was becoming more and more interested in the organ. One day my piano teacher asked me very unexpectedly, ‘Have you ever thought of learning the organ?’ I almost jumped off the piano bench saying ‘Yes!’ Luckily, that year was the Arts High School’s third year with an organ program, and that was why she asked me. I was accepted to the School as an organ major, and I met my first and most influential teacher, Tong-Soon Kwak.

**Behnke** 2. How old were you when you first started studying the organ seriously?

**Lee** It was in high school when I really started studying the organ. I was very fortunate to study with Dr. Tong-Soon Kwak. She probably never taught a real beginner in her life until she met me. I learned proper organ technique from the beginning thanks to her. Sometimes, it is much harder to fix bad technique than to learn the “right way” from the beginning. Since I was eager to learn the organ, even those tedious pedal exercises were so much fun for me! I couldn’t wait for the next step.

**Behnke** 3. Who are some of the most influential teachers with whom you have studied?

**Lee** I am very grateful to have studied with wonderful teachers. As I mentioned earlier, Dr. Tong-Soon Kwak was the one who led me to the organ world, and was my role model. I wanted to be her when I started the organ. It is impossible to underestimate her dedication to teaching and her contribution to the Korean organ world. Her detailed teaching helped me build

strong organ technique, and her musical performance always inspired me. She brought many internationally acclaimed organists to South Korea for concerts and masterclasses. I met both Dr. Martin Jean and Dr. Christopher Young in Korea when they came for concerts and masterclasses. I did my MM at Yale University where I studied with Dr. Martin Jean. Honestly, that was my first time living away from home, let alone in a foreign country. My English was not great, and every day was a fight for survival. I'm sure that Martin improved his patience through me. He was always very kind and understanding. I saw that some students are somewhat terrified of their lessons. Fortunately, that was not my case. I loved lessons with Martin. I especially learned how to play huge instruments in big acoustics. He is witty, inspiring, and creative. And, I met Christopher Young at IU where I'm pursuing DMA. When I started my DMA, I was interested in participating in organ competitions. Dr. Young's unending interests in music in different eras were simply astounding. With huge repertoire requirements in a wide range of eras when I was preparing competitions, he guided me to develop musical insights. Competitions are a long process, and it is a battle between you and yourself in a way. He not only taught me music and work ethic, but also he taught me how to relax, and to have fun. He is a great teacher, friend, and almost like family to me. I still go back to Bloomington sometimes to play for him.

**Behnke** 4. What are some of the more interesting venues in which you have played?

**Lee** Most recently, I played a recital at Duke University Chapel on the fully restored Aeolian organ. It was an unforgettable experience to play at such an incredible venue. Durham is where I reside and my husband is pursuing a PhD in Musicology at Duke. I'm most grateful to Dr. Robert Parkins and Dr. David Arcus for letting me participate organ demonstrations at the Chapel where they have three wonderful organs, and use their practice organs.

I had great fun playing the Lively-Fulcher at Christ Church, Cathedral in Nashville for the 2012 AGO Convention. And I must mention the Skinner organ in Woolsey Hall where I was fortunate enough to play many times.

When I was in college, Dr. Kwak led a tour in France when we got to play many historic Cavaillé-Coll organs as well as instruments from the 17th and 18th centuries. It was not the venue where I played solo recital, but I was deeply inspired by the organ at St. Sernin, Ste. Clotilde, and St. Sulpice.

**Behnke** 5. Who are some of your favorite modern composers?

**Lee** Although my program doesn't include any modern composer, I have played quite a bit. Some of my favorite modern works are by Thierry Escaich, Petr Eben, Jehan Alain, and Anton Heiler. In fact, my first commercial recording includes all 20th century organ music. However, the works span the entire 20th century, including works that sound more typical of the 19th century.

**Behnke** 6. What pieces will you be playing for us?

**Lee** At Christ Church, Las Vegas, I will be playing two chorale preludes by J.S. Bach, a less-frequently played work by Mozart, a raucous Prelude and Fugue by Marcel Dupré, and a beautiful little piece by Percy Whitlock. More familiar works include the massive "Introduction and Passacaglia" from Josef Rheinberger's eighth organ sonata, as well as the perennial favorite, Variations on 'America' by Charles Ives.

## Dr Riess to Perform for AGO Region IX Convention in Bakersfield

Bakersfield? What could possibly be in Bakersfield besides pistachio nuts? Several interesting organs exist there including a 133 rank Aeolian-Skinner (Robert Turner Organ Companies, Opus 885, 1932 / 1988, 4 manuals, originally from the Memorial Church, Harvard University), where Dr. Riess will play the post-convention concert on June 27 at 10 AM. Her program includes: "Paeon" by Howells, "These are the Ten Commandments" BWV 678 and 679 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. To encourage attendance a free breakfast will precede the concert. On Wednesday, June 26, Dr. Riess will present her workshop, "Performing in the Golden Years, Just Survive or Really Thrive?"



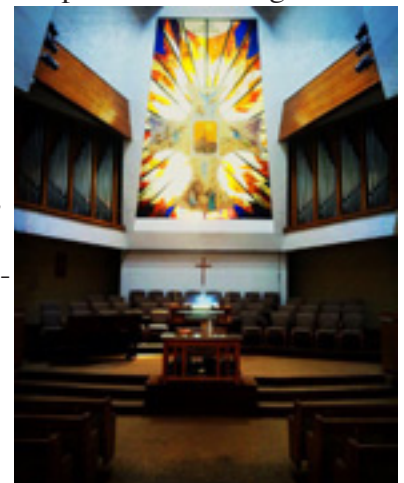
## Organist and Potential Organist Workshop



Kym S. Cushing is conducting a 2-hour beginner organist workshop for newer organists on Saturday, April 27 at the Green Valley Stake Center from 9:30 am - 11:30 am (corner of Warm Springs and Valle Verde in Henderson). There's about 40 people signed up so far. Although geared for LDS organists and potential organists, I will be going over the basics and will use hymns that are interdenominational. I am going to start doing these workshop twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall. All are welcome. Ethelyn Peterson used to do these all the time and Kym is reviving them. This is a wonderful resource for the Chapter and local organists.

## Patriotic Musical Concert!

Save the date: Sunday June 23, 2013 at 4pm. Featuring Dr. David Dorway, organ, Ken Wilson, organ and piano, and Dr. Jerry Reeves, piano. Enjoy some new organ arrangements of patriotic music, plus some favorite American popular music. First Presbyterian Church, 1515 West Charleston Blvd, Las Vegas, 89101 384-4554 Please join us for this free concert.





## Longtime Southern Nevada Chapter Member Mary Marook

Mary Francis Marook, 88, died peacefully at her Henderson residence on Wednesday, March 27, 2013, after a lengthy illness. Until the last three or four years, Mary was a member of the Southern Nevada AGO Chapter and was an active participant in chapter activities. Her gracious personality and ready smile were characteristics of her kind, caring and generous spirit.

Born in Burkburnett, Texas on November 5, 1924, Mary was the daughter of Cecil and Pauline Holler. She attended Texas Women's University in Denton, Texas graduating with a B.A. in business in 1945. While still in college she met her husband to be, Joseph Marook, a veteran of World War II, recently ended. After graduating from college she married Joseph, and the couple moved to Steubenville, Ohio, Joseph's home town, where they owned and operated the J.P. Marook Company, a plumbing business which eventually became a major and prominent mechanical contracting company in the region. In addition to helping with the business and raising her family of three children, she was much in demand as an accomplished organist, choir director and soloist in the area, serving churches of several denominations over the 35 years of her marriage. Her husband Joseph died in 1985.

In order to be nearer to her family in Henderson, Mary moved to Nevada in 1994. Shortly after arriving in Southern Nevada, she joined our AGO chapter. Many chapter members became her friends and shared wonderful times with her...Mary never met a



stranger. She sometimes assisted chapter member Richard Wallace by holding keys while he tuned local organs. Sometime shortly after she moved to Nevada, Mary enrolled in organ study at UNLV for several years, always intent on improving her keyboard skills. I recall that on the occasion of my giving a lecture-recital on the Op. 122 of Johannes Brahms, Mary appeared with one volume of the two-volume original Simrock edition of the Brahms choral preludes, and when I admired it, she characteristically insisted on giving it to me! She served as organist at Holy Family Catholic Church in Las Vegas, and was a frequent performer on chapter members' recitals. She was a focused and independent person who worried about others more than herself. Recently, Mary gave her considerable organ library to our AGO Chapter; many of her organ scores found their way into our members' libraries for continued use, and proceeds from sale and contributions have gone to the Raymond Barnes Memorial Scholarship Fund, which will assist young students to develop an interest in and skills at the organ.

A Service of Witness to the Resurrection was held on Wednesday, April 3 at Green Valley Presbyterian Church where Mary was a member. In his meditation, Dr. Kenneth Harper, pastor of the church, spoke about how prevalent references to music are in the Old Testament (Psalms) but that he could find just six references to music in the New Testament. Those New Testament references center on what we can expect to be doing in heaven. Of all of the things we do on earth, only making music will be necessary in heaven. He concluded that Mary had spent all of her life "rehearsing" for heaven.

Music at the service included three solos: "Amazing Grace," arranged by Jay Althouse and sung by Landa Cole; "It Is Well with My Soul," arranged by Laura Ann Page and sung by Dr. Kenneth Harper; and "The Lost Chord," by Arthur Sullivan, sung by Lana Cole. Jonathan Gorst, Music Director of the Church, was the organist for the service.

Paul Hesselink with assistance from Richard Wallace

## Organ Recital Series 2013-2014

The Recital Series Committee is pleased to announce the 2013-2014 Organ Recital Series.

Friday, October 11, 2013 – 7:30 P.M.

Doc Rando Recital Hall

### Dr. Isabelle Demers

Dr. Demers presented a stunning recital in her first visit to Las Vegas in May of 2012. Her return to perform the first organ recital on the restored UNLV organ will be “an event” and not to be missed. Please alert everyone who might be interested in attending. We hope to fill all 300 seats in Doc Rando!



Sunday, December 1, 2013 – 4:00 P.M.

Christ Church Episcopal

### Annual Members' Advent-Christmas Recital

Always a popular event, this recital will get your holiday season off to a good start.

Friday, January 24, 2014 – 7:30 P.M.

Doc Rando Recital Hall

### Jonathan Dimmock

Concert organist Jonathan Dimmock has distinguished himself through his dazzling and highly sensitive performances throughout the world. He has been lauded for his extensive repertoire and a distinctive “personalness” causing audiences to immediately warm to him.



Friday, March 28, 2014 – 7:30 P.M.

Doc Rando Recital Hall

### Dr. Pamela Decker

Dr. Decker is a member of the faculty of the Department of Music at the University of Arizona, Tucson where she teaches organ, music theory and composition. She has garnered a reputation for virtuosic performances, and her numerous organ compositions are considered a significant addition to the 21st century organ repertoire.





Friday, May 23, 2014 - 7:30 P.M.

Doc Rando Recital Hall

## Nathan Laube

One of the most exciting young organists performing today, Mr. Laube has recently been appointed to serve on the organ faculty at the Eastman School of Music. Last year he was a featured performer on the recently restored organ at Rockefeller Chapel at the University of Chicago for the National Convention of the Organ Historical Society. His entire elegant performance was streamed live to a world-wide audience.



Your committee is especially excited about the high quality of the performers contracted for next season's series. We have tried to use financial resources responsibly. As usual, however, our ability to successfully maintain a series financially is dependent on the generosity of our members and patrons who largely make the series possible. We ask again for your support.

Recital Series Committee:

Jan Bigler, Shireen Beaudry, David Dorway and Paul Hesselink, Chair

## Electronic Music and Organists

The electronic music world is moving fast. Years ago the Westwind Quintet began reading music from cumbersome music stands with page turning pedals. Only two weeks ago, local San Diego pianist Bryan Verhoye performed from an iPad with a bluetooth pedal, effortlessly. Uploading an iPad is as easy as transferring a .pdf file. My favorite program for this is unrealBook. E-files are now accepted at many contests, provided they have a copyright on them. Copyrighting your own music is as simple as adding your name, a copyright sign and the date at the bottom of your Finale sheet that you notate yourself. It's exciting. The e-world allows you to put your compositions online or on Youtube faster, perhaps to a directed audience of your choice, than a publishing company.

Some of us are tossed into this new world, some of us embrace it. Institutions are lost that we hold dear, music stores disappearing. Buying music online, downloading onto performance devices. If the soloist doesn't have time to physically get you the music for Sunday, he can send it to you via email. Soon orchestras will probably perform from iPads and the "other" violinist can turn the page with her foot. A lot of happy stand partners there!

I have noticed that most organist types, used to handling unwieldy instruments, tons of stops, pistons, out-of-tune pipes, pedals, and multiple keyboards take the electronic world in stride. Has the iPad and Android world come up with a page-turning pedal for us organists yet? What do you know about this? Sharing sessions at the chapter, regional, and national level can bring each other up to speed. Let's get together with our devices and see who has the best theory, notation, or invoice program, the best metronome. It's an exciting world!

Lea Schmidt-Rogers, Coordinator for Professional Development, Region IX

## DUES!

Please watch your mail boxes for dues to the AGO for 2013- 2014. National AGO is still working on its computer program for dues payment, so this year we will still be mailing out statements. David Dorway, treasurer

**Phillip Fortenberry**, one of our newest members had a very interesting article in the Las Vegas Sun, not too long ago, regarding his playing in the Liberace movie. It is available on the web at:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/blogs/kats-report/2013/apr/03/fortenberrys-hands-and-body-are-key-piano-scenes-c/>

If you don't want to type it all in, use your favorite search engine and look for "Fortenberry Las Vegas Sun."

## End of Year Social

We've set a date for a board meeting and closing social: Saturday, June 15. Board meeting at 4:00 and social at 5:00. It will be a Mediterranean themed party, to be held at the home of Ron Richardson 1833 Ruby Lane, Henderson, 89014. His cell is 801-864-7024.

### Dean's Notes

continued from page 1

Tabernacle organ. (The first one I did at CCE.) Then, when and if they like my recording, I will play the recital in person in front of the three full-time organists (lots of beta blockers!!). If I can do that to their satisfaction, then I will be scheduled to play for the public. So I've been making many trips to SLC to practice and to get each piece recorded. It is a beautiful, loving, organ and it is my honor to play it.

Have a great summer!

Jan

