

THE DESERT WIND

Editor: Bruce Behnke © 2018 Issue: May/June 2018

Dean's Notes



Southern Nevada Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Dear Southern Nevada AGO Chapter Members,

As our season nears its conclusion, we anticipate two very important final events: the Members' Plus Recital, featuring our own Chapter Members, on May 18, and the 50th Anniversary celebration on June 15. These two events will showcase and involve many of our chapter members.

The greater involvement we have in any organization, the more committed we become to its success. I am impressed that so many of our members willingly contribute their time, talent, funds, food, resources, and much more, to ensure the success of this chapter.

So many of you have stepped up to assist with our activities over this

past year, for which the Board and I are extremely grateful.

As we conclude this season I express my heartfelt thanks to the Executive Board, the Chairs of all committees, and our membership, for all you have done. Please come and celebrate our 50th Anniversary on June 15, with a wonderful dinner program, followed by an excellent recital. It will be a great time to mingle, reminisce, and reflect on the past 50 years.

Kind regards,

Steven R. Wright, Dean
SNCAGO



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Members' Organ Plus

Friday, May 18, 2018, 7:30 P.M.
in Doc Rando Hall on the campus of UNLV



Photo by Dorothy Riess Young

On Friday, May 18, 2018, the Southern Nevada Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will present their annual members recital. This will be an organ plus recital. Bruce Behnke will be playing with oboist Coreen Levin. Shireen Beaudry and her student, Nebiyu Samuel, also a member, will be playing a piano and organ duet. Paul Hesselink will be playing a world premier with bassoonist flutist Janis McKay as well as a piece with Kevin Tague, trumpet. Jane Dye will be playing with Yvonne Mendenhall-Rohner. David Dorway will be appearing with percussionists Jim and Becky Aldreidge as well as with the Grace Presbyterian Choir, Lisa Elliott, director. This promises to be another interesting and diverse program for your musical enjoyment.

LET'S CELEBRATE!!!

We are less than two months away from the exciting 50th Anniversary Celebration of our Southern Nevada AGO Chapter which will be held on June 15, 2018. By now you should've received your invitation by email. The banquet and program will be held in the Foundation Room at UNLV. Our special guest of honor and keynote speaker will be Mr. Michael Bedford, National President of the AGO. Following the banquet guest organist James Kasen, assisted by Choral Artists of Southern Nevada under the direction of Marsha Borovicka, will present a celebration concert in adjacent Doc Rando Hall. The concert will be open to the public.

Since the banquet is being catered, we will need to receive your RSVP with the number of guests attending and payment no later than June 1, 2018. RSVP's with payment should be sent to our treasurer, Dr. David Dorway, 10613 Shoalhaven Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89134.

If you haven't received your email invitation or have any questions, please contact one of the members of the Celebration Planning Committee listed below. A copy of the invitation will be included at the end of this publication

We'll see you on June 15th!!

Kathi Colman, chair (702-289-3708)

Steven Wright

David Dorway

Carla Swift

David Zechman

Jim Kasen

James C. (Jim) Kasen earned a Bachelor of Music and a Master of Music degree from Brigham Young University. Throughout his life, Jim has held a deep and abiding love for church music. He began piano studies at the age of eight working with Lois Olsen, Shirley Rollins, and Barbara Lee. At the age of 16, he began organ studies with Ethelyn Peterson and continued working with her until leaving at age 19 for the Philippines where he served a mission for the LDS Church. Upon returning home, he earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Organ Performance and a double major in Interpersonal Communications from Brigham Young University



In 1988, he completed a Master's in Social Work (clinical) degree from the University of Utah. After working for a few years, he felt his formal music education was not complete and decided to return to Brigham Young University part-time to earn a Master's in Music degree in Choral Conducting, which he completed in 1999. His mentors have included Dr. Mack Wilberg, Dr. Ronald Staheli, Dr. John Longhurst, and many other accomplished musicians. He has served as a guest organist on Temple Square. He was one of the founders and conductors of the LDS Missionary Training Center Choir, and has been the assistant director of both the BYU Men's Chorus and the BYU Oratorio Choir. He has been involved in teaching and training church musicians and has directed choruses for various worship services including general conferences of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Mr. Kasen has served as a member of the LDS Church Music Committee and as singer with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir from 1990 to 1995. He has published 40 choral arrangements and in 2016 completed a seventh volume of organ works.

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

Jim Kasen That's a good question. From a very young age, I had developed a strong interest in church music. In March of 1965, when I saw the movie, *The Sound of Music*, and heard the glorious strains of the organ in Salzburg Cathedral as Maria walked down the aisle in her wedding gown, I was overcome! Seven years later, Ethelyn Peterson had overseen the purchase and installation of a pipe organ in a nearly completed LDS Chapel (Palora Chapel). A stake choir, directed by Nancy Helm, had been asked to sing for a fund raising dinner for the building. As we walked into the cultural hall, the curtains dividing the chapel from the hall were opened. The Great division and the Pedal division had been completed and the strains of Gordon Young's, *Prelude in Classical Style* came speaking from the organ. It was then and there that I knew I had to learn to play the organ. Shortly thereafter, I began studying with Ethelyn.

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

Kasen I was actually 16 at the time when I first began seriously studying the organ. Ethelyn had a Hammond A-100 in her home and my first lessons were on that organ. My parents purchased the same model for our home and organ studies became serious business. I wanted to play the organ in the stake center, but knew I needed to demonstrate that I was committed.

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

Kasen Ethelyn Peterson was the greatest influence in my studies. She was not only a tremendous teacher, but she modeled what she taught in her playing. I was in awe of her facility, her love of the organ, and her love of her students. Following a two year LDS mission to the Philippines, I continued my studies at Brigham Young University with Dr. John Longhurst. When he left the university for a full-time post at the Tabernacle in Salt Lake, I then studied with Parley Belnap and Douglas Bush, completing my undergraduate degree in Organ Performance with Dr. Brett Zumsteg. All of these mentors were a tremendous influence on my life and in my playing.

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

Kasen I have played in several wonderful venues including, the Salt Lake Tabernacle, the Salt Lake Assembly Hall, St. Florian (Anton Bruckner's Church) in Linz, Austria, other churches in Austria, and in various LDS Churches (on some wonderful organs as well as some rather ghastly types).

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

Kasen I decided early in my studies that I didn't want to be a concert organist or to teach in the "halls of higher learning." I wanted to be a church organist and to make a difference in the worship setting. I have spent nearly my entire life with that focus. As a result, I do some improvisation, but mostly I have focused on writing arrangement of well-loved hymns and some original compositions. Currently, I have 40 choral arrangements published and have also published seven organ volumes. (I'm working on number eight at present.)

Behnke Who are some of your favorite modern composers?

Kasen When you say "modern," that is a rather broad term. I am rather eclectic in my love of modern music. For example, I love the works of Vierne and Widor and have learned and performed Mushel's *Toccata*. I've also played the works of Flor Peeters. Many of the works of David Johnson have spoken deeply to me, given my "church music" focus.

Behnke What pieces will you be playing for us?

Kasen Permit me to preface the content of the program a bit.

This concert has been a difficult one to create. I have been so conscientious of the caliber of performers that the Southern Nevada AGO Chapter has brought to the stage both historically and of late. They are masters! True masters! I don't consider myself of that same caliber. To be asked to be on the same stage has been rather overwhelming; especially given the fact that professionally, I direct a university public relations office and have a master's in Clinical Social Work and a master's in Choral Conducting. While I have kept my organ skills commensurate with the demands of needing to provide a strong worship setting on Sundays and for other occasions, I have not worked to concertize for the past several years. Knowing all of this, my focus for this concert will be worship based. I believe this is important given that nearly all of the organists in this chapter, as in other chapters throughout the country, carry the responsibility of creating settings that produce a deep spiritual experience for congregants.

With that in mind, I will be assisted in the concert by Marsha Borovicka and the Choral Artists of Southern Nevada. They are a tremendous choral group that knows very well the demands of a stage and a choir loft. While I will be at the organ playing several solos, I will also be accompanying Marsha and her group as they sing various pieces to help create a wonderful evening of worshiping through organ and choral music.

This will truly be a wonderful evening of celebration as we honor a rather magnificent AGO chapter, filled with individuals who love and are dedicated to the "King of Instruments." In addition, it will be an opportunity to honor some very influential individuals who have given their lives to the organ community in Las Vegas.

The Program

"All Creatures of Our God and King" *Lasst uns Erfreuen* arr. Mack Wilberg
Choral Artists of Southern Nevada and Audience (b.1955)
Directed by Marsha Borovicka

Toccata in D Minor, BWV 565 Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Meditation, Op. 37, No. 7 Louis Vierne
(1870-1937)

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" *Lobe den Herren* arr. Jim Kasen
(b. 1956)

World Premiere Performance
Composed for the 50th Anniversary of the Southern Nevada Chapter, AGO
Mr. Kasen

"It is Well with My Soul" *Ville du Havre* arr. Mack Wilberg
Daniel, Servant of the Lord Undine Moore
(1904-1989)

"Come Thou Fount" (Nettleton) arr. Mack Wilberg
Choral Artists of Southern Nevada

Gabriel's Oboe (1986)

Ennio Morricone
(b. 1928)

Trumpet Tune in A-flat Major

Mr. Kasen

Jim Kasen

"Come, O Thou King of Kings"

arr. Jim Kasen

Choral Artists of Southern Nevada

Jim Kasen & Steven Wright, organ

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (Beecher)

arr. Jim Kasen

Choral Artists of Southern Nevada and Audience

Directed by Marsha Borovicka

Choral Artists of Southern Nevada was created in 2009. They have enjoyed a marvelous journey of beautiful choral music presentations, performing two seasons per year in Southern Nevada and Utah, and a 2017 performance in the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. Singers come from all walks of professional life and bring a marvelous season of experience to our rehearsal efforts. Singers interested in auditioning, call 702-327-5755.

Marsha Borovicka, as founder and conductor, brings four decades of experience in choral music education including 34 years with the Clark County School District. Since retiring she has served as Music Consultant for CCSD and presently is Area Coordinator of Student Teachers for BYU-



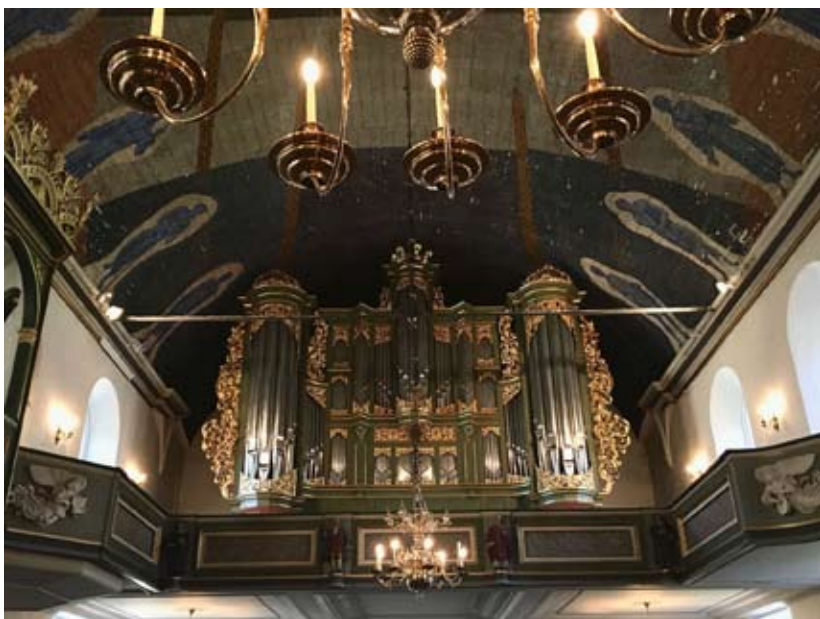
PIPE ORGANS OF SCANDINAVIA

Part Three - Norway

by

Dorothy Young Riess M.D.

Everywhere I travel I look for interesting pipe organs. On a cruise July 2017 to the North Cape of Norway aboard the Crystal Symphony, I was delighted to find so many fine organs and courteous organists who allowed me time on the instruments.



Oslo Cathedral, Kare Nordstoga, organist, Ryde & Borg organ (53/III/P,1998), baroque facade, Kastens 1727. I tried in vain to contact the organist prior to departure, and at the last minute put out a request on Facebook. Our ship was docked in Oslo for only a day and a half. A friend of a friend, organist, Bjorn Vidar Ulvedalen, responded and met me at the cathedral on Sunday morning. The Cathedral sponsors organ concerts each Sunday in July and August and we were fortunate to hear the British Organist, Stephen Farr, in a fine recital. Afterward, we went to the organ loft, met Stephen, and had some time on the instrument. The green and gold colors were stunning in the early afternoon light. The sound is warm and powerful in the building dating from 1694. A nice lunch with Bjorn in the church courtyard followed.



Stavanger Concert Hall, Nils Henrik Asheim, organist, Ryde & Borg organ (65/IV/P,2012), consultant, Kare Nordstoga, Oslo Cathedral. Our ship docked a stone's throw from the Concert Hall! Nils (also a Facebook friend) was unable to meet me in person, but arranged for the building manager to let me in and in less than three minutes from clearing the ship, I was following him to the organ! Lights on, and suddenly I was sitting at the console high on the wall. He said to take all the time I wanted, so

I did. Looking down from the console at the 1500 seat hall was almost vertiginous! I soon decided to play on the stage console instead and had a delightful hour. Note the lack of divisional pistons and the presence of a sequencer – typical of many Scandinavian and European organs. Because it is a concert hall and not a cathedral, the organ sound has little reverberation time. But it is a powerful instrument, and very easy to manage. I got lost in the corridors on the way out and finally found someone to ask, who led me to the outside door. Two minutes later, I was eating lunch aboard ship!



Bergen Cathedral, Sigurd Melvaer Ogaard, organist, Rieger organ (57/III/P, 1997), Hollenbach facade from 1891. After a long walk from the ship, the last part uphill, I arrived somewhat breathless at the Cathedral where Sigurd, also a Facebook friend, met me. The organ facade is spectacular and the Rieger organ, the largest in Bergen, is full of fire and power. The city sponsors the annual Bergen International Organ Festival in July and August of concerts at several venues by international artists. The walk downhill gave me a chance to enjoy the local scene despite hundreds of tourists. An afternoon trip to Grieg's home at Troldhaugen and a recital of his music by pianist, Marina Kan Selvik, concluded a beautiful and rare sunny day.



**Grace Classics Concert Series
Presents**

An Organ Concert

Sunday, June 3, 2018

3:00 p.m.

Grace Presbyterian Church Sanctuary



Featuring organist

Cheryl Van Ornam

from Richmond Virginia

“Poetry from the Pen of Martin Luther:
Psalms, Chorales and a Prayer”

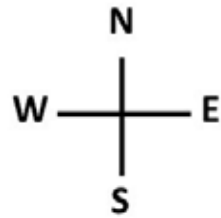
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Las Vegas, NV 89102

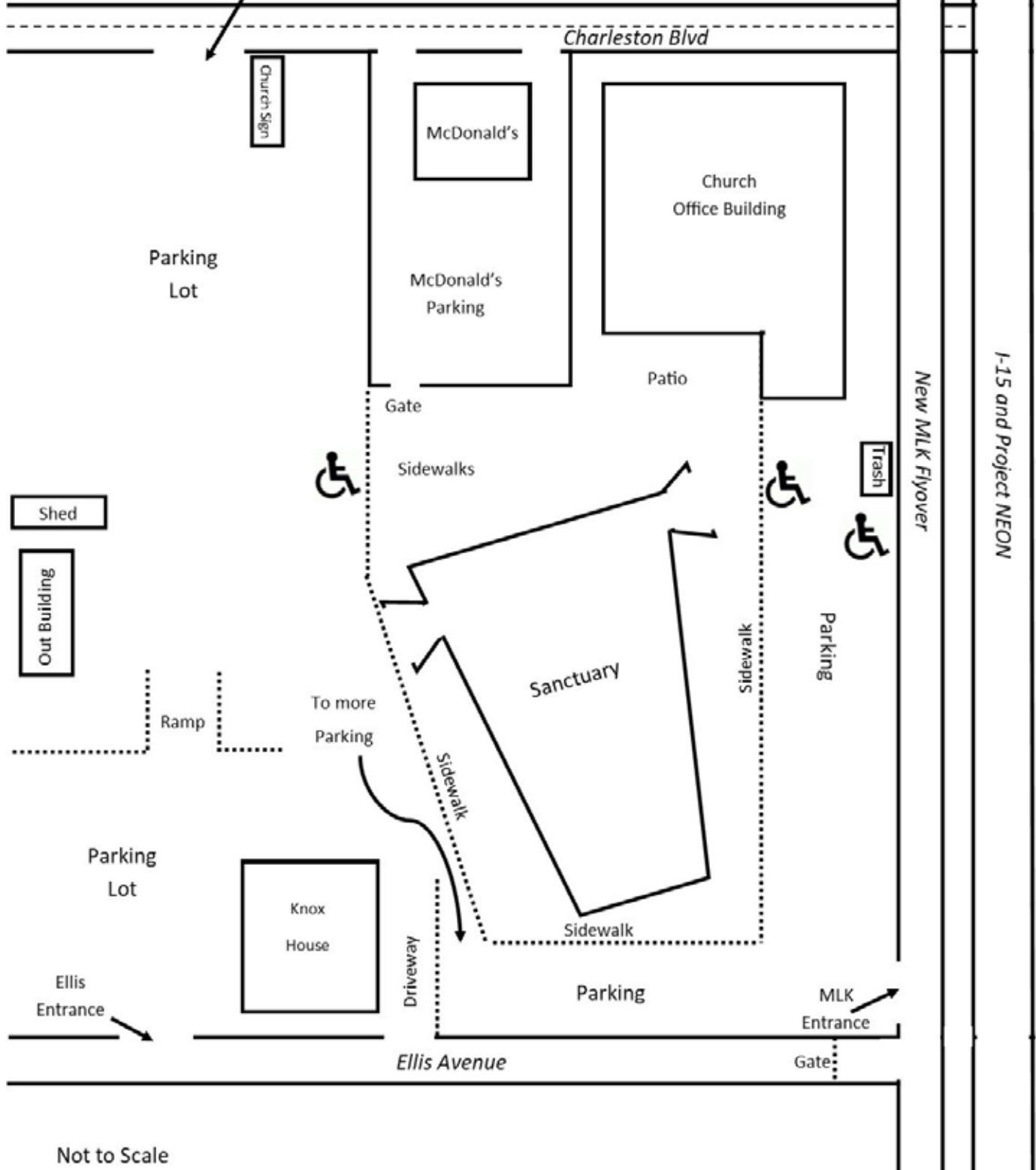
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Gedackt 4
Superoctave 2
Mixture IV
Cromorne 8
Chimes
Tremulant
SW to GT
Midi GT

SWELL

Borudon Doux 16
Bourdon 8
Gemshorn 8
Gemshorn Celeste II 8
Octave 4
Copula 4
Nazard 2-2/3
Flute a Bec 2
Tierce 1-3/5
Plein Jeu IV
Basson 16
Trompette 8
Oboe 8
Tremulant
Swell Unison Off
Midi SW

PEDAL

Principal 16
Subbass 16
Bourdon Doux 16 (SW)
Octave 8
Gedackt 8
Choralbass 4
Posaune 16
Cromorne 4 (GT)
GT to PED
SW to PED
Midi PED

This Rodgers 751I is located in Provo Utah. If anyone is interested please contact Steve Wright at
Phone: 801-554-5458 or email: steverw822@gmail.com



The Southern Nevada Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

invites you to join in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of its founding,
Friday, June 15, 2018.

CELEBRATION DINNER with honored guests and with
Michael Bedford, National President of the AGO
in the Foundation Room, UNLV (adjacent to Doc Rando Recital Hall)
5:30 to 7:00 P.M.

Cost for the dinner is \$25.00 per person.

A portion of the actual cost is being supplemented by the Chapter.

The recital is open to the public and free.

50th Anniversary Recital:
James Kasen, organist
and
The Choral Artists of Southern Nevada
7:30 P.M.

Doctor Rando-Grillot Recital Hall
in the

Beam Music Center, UNLV

**Convenient free parking is available adjacent to both the Foundation Building
and the Beam Music Center.**



Detach on the line

Name: _____ **Email or Telephone:** _____

Please reserve ____ places for me and guests at the dinner at \$25.00 per person.

Make your check payable to "Southern Nevada Chapter, AGO" and mail to:

Dr. David Dorway
10613 Shoalhaven Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89134