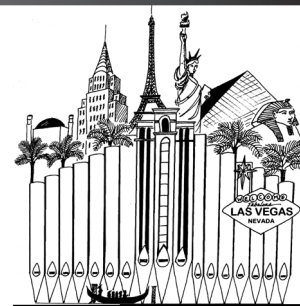


THE DESERT WIND

Editor: Bruce Behnke © 2008

Issue: November/December 2008

Dean's Notes



Southern Nevada Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Dear Colleagues,
Because of the disconcerting, perhaps even agonizing, economic news of the past few weeks, I've been waking up thankful that I have a job(s) and can pay my bills. During these hard economic times during which it is easy to be discouraged as people rearrange their priorities to meet their financial responsibilities, my studio continues to be a joy. Parents have, in the majority, discovered the value of the arts and the value of playing an instrument in their children's lives. Music study and performance does seem to improve the health and working efficiency of the brain for young and old. So, instead of cutting back, the parents are adding siblings to my roster.

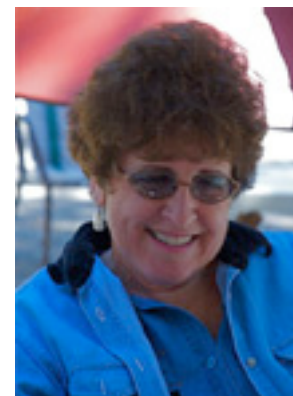
Because of the stock market turmoil, many worried investors have been tracking the daily trajectory

of the Dow Jones Industrial Average like never before, leaving little time or money to track recreational endeavors and arts events. In fact, many folks are cutting back on attending those events to help make ends meet.

Now, my fellow AGO members, this is where we come in. Our guild chapter has an exciting line-up of artistic, cultural and entertaining events, all of which are FREE. Now is the time to beat the bushes, go out to the high-ways and by-ways, and bring in new and old friends, family members, colleagues and acquaintances, and get them to our events, making many new converts, I'm sure. Our opening program, Felix Hell's concert, was a brilliant, awe-inspiring and entertaining event that even a novice to the organ world, or the most savvy concert-goer, could appreciate and love.

Our other offerings for this 2008-09 concert season hold great promise, also. So, let's be exceptionally good ambassadors of our Chapter and bring in the crowds to our special brand of entertainment for their special edification and enjoyment.

Sincerely,
Shireen



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2008-2009 has been designated by the American Guild of Organists as the International Year of the Organ. The Guild has invited organizations throughout the world to participate with us in this celebration. This celebration, kicked off with events at the National AGO convention in Minneapolis in June 2008, will conclude with the regional conventions in summer of 2009.

Our Southern Nevada Chapter's celebration of the International Year of the Organ began with a spectacular organ recital performed by German "Wunderkind" Felix Hell on Friday, October 24, 2008 at 7:30 P.M. in Doc Rando Hall at UNLV. Felix Hell, at age 23, has already performed more than 750 recitals world-wide and to rave reviews. His opening of the 2008-2009 Organ Recital Series marks Mr. Hell's first performance in Nevada.



Felix Hell Recital a Success on Many Levels

Friday, October 24's first recital on the 2008-2009 Organ Recital Series in Doc Rando Hall at UNLV was a stunning success in many different ways. Mr. Hell played with style, clarity, emotion and passion employing a flawless technique. If you missed it, you unfortunately missed a "highlight" and spectacular event. His program included works by J.S. Bach, Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, Enjott Schneider, Franck, Duruflé, and Liszt. As an encore he played the "Final" from Vierne's Symphonie No. 1.

There were several reasons why we attracted a near-capacity house---280 people! Publicity for the event included a 30-minute interview on KNPR's "State of Nevada." The interview was recorded at Doc Rando Hall with Ian Mylchreest on Tuesday and aired on Thursday morning and again on Thursday evening. Also, Kristen Peterson of the Las Vegas Sun wrote an article appearing in the Thursday morning edition of the newspaper which featured a large color photo of Felix.

Our evaluation survey was filled out by 152 of the attendees. Here are some of the results from those respondents:

First time attending an AGO Recital:	84 (55%)
First time visiting Doc Rando Hall:	53 (35%)
First time hearing the Maurine Jackson Smith organ	72 (47%)
Rating of the recital:	
"Superb" 120 (79%)	
"Excellent" 29 (19%)	
Didn't rate 3 (2%)	

For this program, the largest number of people said they had heard of the recital through the newspaper, but second in number were those who heard of the recital through a friend. Thus, word of mouth advertising is still very important and a way we can all participate in building an audience. We gathered 83 new e-mail addresses from people who want to be notified by e-mail for future recitals.

We had a few people who became Patrons after the concert, and we hope others will follow by sending in their checks to our treasurer, David Dorway. If you as a member of the Southern Nevada Chapter have not sent in your contribution, we encourage you to do so. Bringing in high quality artists for the series means higher fees, and airfares have escalated as well. Contributions from Patrons are much needed in order to cover the expenses of the series.

KNPR interview at: <http://www.knpr.org/son/archive/detail.cfm?programid=1448>

LV Sun article at: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2008/oct/23/his-medium-organ-his-message/>

2009 REGION IX FESTIVAL

The 2009 Region IX Festival will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, on June 22-25. Please take a moment to look at the Festival schedule, which boasts outstanding presenters and venues: <http://www.AGOinPhoenix.com>. Our Festival hotel, the Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa, is an historic resort of great beauty and majesty. The Biltmore has hosted numerous U.S. Presidents and celebrities and boasts the architectural inspiration of Frank Lloyd Wright. During next summer's Festival, take advantage of all that our event will have to offer and stay at the heart of the action, The Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa. In addition to the majestic Biltmore, our Festival will also showcase the architectural excellence of Grady Gammage Memorial Auditorium, which represents Wright's final public commission, and we'll worship together at Ascension Lutheran Church, which was designed by Wright's son.



If you are able to stay at the Biltmore Resort, visit <http://www.AGOinPhoenix.com> to make reservations online. Use the menubar link "Accommodations/Info & Booking" to go to our special group reservations page. This will secure the \$139 room rate (per room, per night) and ensure that your reservations are credited toward the AGO account.

It is highly recommended that you purchase the transportation package, because of limited parking available at some of the venues and because of the high cost of gasoline! Parking at the Biltmore is free in the covered garage, and, by using Festival transportation, you will have more opportunities to relax and visit with other Festival attendees. We look forward to having you join us for this wonderful event.

Phoenix Rising: The Hottest Time You'll Ever Have!

Jan Bigler in Saint George

On September 26, Jan Bigler played a recital at the St. George, Utah Tabernacle. The LDS visitor's center coordinates the weekly recitals and other events that are held in the Tabernacle.

The organ in the Tabernacle was designed and built by Ron Poll in 1993. It is a 2 manual, 11 rank organ, with both the great and swell under expression. The Tabernacle has great acoustics that enhance the smallness of the organ.

The recital included works by Jeremiah Clarke, Johann Walther, Bach, Kenneth Leighton and Leon Boellmann, as well as Jan's own arrangement of Londonerry Aire.



CHRISTMAS WILL BE HERE SOON! GET READY FOR OUR ANNUAL MEMBER RECITAL, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 AT DOC RANDO HALL

I will be coordinating the recital this year. I would like for lots of us to play and to offer our audience an easily digestible and listener-friendly program. I'd like to have about 10 people play. Playing time will be limited to one piece or 5 minutes each. Think about giving a gift to the audience instead of self-aggrandizement :) I would really like to encourage those of you who rarely play to consider doing so for this recital. You can offer your best, even if you don't think you're "good enough" to play with all the intimidating AGO organists! If you don't volunteer I will be making phone calls.

First come, first choice in carols/songs. I've already chosen an arrangement of "What is this Lovely Fragrance." I would also like someone who will help set up tables for refreshments and be in charge of them that evening. We'll need some of you to help bring treats, too, homemade being preferable.

Thanks! Jan Bigler



Chapter Pot-Luck

On Saturday, September 13th, the chapter membership met up on Mount Charleston at "Winterwood." We had a delightful barbeque and potluck and then enjoyed the talents of "Amici Della Musica" a local early music group.

Don Hannah

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Don Hannah, husband of member Margaret Hannah, on Sunday, October 19th. Don was a long time composer and arranger in the Las Vegas area and will be missed. His very last composition was "Variations on Aberystwyth" for organ---his only composition for our instrument. Some of our members heard a "preliminary" version of the variations at our John Karl Hirten workshop this past January. Paul Hesselink will be performing the World Premiere of the work on his Faculty Organ Recital scheduled for Sunday, February 8 at 4:00 P.M. in Doc Rando Hall.

THOMAS H. TROEGER APPOINTED CHAPLAIN OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

AGO President Eileen Guenther Appoints Celebrated Liturgist, Hymn Writer, and Scholar to Honorary National Office

NEW YORK CITY — The American Guild of Organists (AGO) announces the appointment of the Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Troeger as AGO Chaplain for a term of two years, 2008–2010. The chaplain is an honorary national officer appointed to serve the diverse pastoral needs of the AGO National Council and the international membership of the Guild. Dr. Troeger will also contribute an editorial column to *The American Organist Magazine*. The appointment was made by AGO President Eileen Guenther and ratified by the AGO National Council on September 3, 2008. In speaking of his appointment, Dr. Guenther remarked:

“I have long appreciated the hymn texts Tom Troeger has written—texts that are perceptive, sensitive, artful, and that help us see and feel something new with every subject he addresses. Tom is an avid supporter of music in worship and as a writer, liturgist, and preacher will bring an important perspective to our work as musicians.”

In response, Dr. Troeger spoke of his long association with church musicians and how the role of music in worship has been influential in his life:

“I am profoundly honored to become the chaplain to the AGO. All my life, I have attended churches where fine organists have helped to lead the congregation into prayer and a livelier sense of the Spirit through their musical artistry and the wonder of all the varied sounds coming from pipes of metal and wood. Also, I remember the organist of my home church when I was growing up in Cooperstown, N.Y. Not only did I relish his playing of preludes, hymns, anthems, service music, and postludes, but I also am thankful for how he encouraged my serious study of the flute, and often invited me to play in services in which he accompanied me at the organ as I played the music of Bach, Handel, Glück, Gounod, and others. And later in my professional life, it was organists who worked so creatively with me in planning sermons and services built around major works for organ and choir. All of this would have been impossible without them. Looking back over all of that music, I can see now that organists have been a major influence in my spiritual formation: the beauty of their playing has given me an ever-deepening and expanding vision of the beauty of God. Thus, I am praying that my being chaplain of the AGO may be a way of my repaying and thanking the great company of organists, as well as a way of encouraging them in their inspiring ministry and art.”

THOMAS H. TROEGER is the J. Edward and Ruth Cox Lantz Professor of Christian Communication at the Yale Divinity School and Institute of Sacred Music. Ordained in the Presbyterian Church in 1970 and in the Episcopal Church in 1999, he is dually aligned with both traditions. He is also a flutist and a poet whose work appears in the hymnals of most denominations as well as in choral anthems.

Dr. Troeger has authored more than fifteen books in the fields of preaching, poetry, hymnody, and worship, and is a frequent contributor to journals dedicated to these topics. His most recent books include *So That All Might Know: Preaching That Engages the Whole Congregation*; *Preaching and Worship*; *Preaching While the Church Is Under Reconstruction*; and *Above the Moon Earth Rises: Hymn Texts, Anthems, and Poems for a New Creation*.

For three years, Dr. Troeger hosted the Season of Worship broadcast for Cokesbury. He has led conferences and lectureships in worship and preaching throughout North America, as well as in Denmark, Holland, Australia, Japan, and Africa. He is a former president of the Academy of Homiletics and currently serves on the board of *Societas Homiletica*—the international guild of scholars in homiletics.

His education includes a B.A. from Yale University ; a B.D. from Colgate Rochester Divinity School; an S.T.D. from Dickinson College; and a D.D. from Virginia Theological Seminary.

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
4201 West Washington Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada 89107
702-878-2373
The Rev. Eldwin Lovelady, Rector
The Rev. Bede Parry, Music Director/Assisting Priest

MUSIC AT ALL SAINTS' 2008-2009
Sundays at 5:30 pm

NOVEMBER 30 CHORAL EVENSONG
ORGAN RECITAL – BEDE PARRY, Organist

DECEMBER 21 ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS (10:30 am)

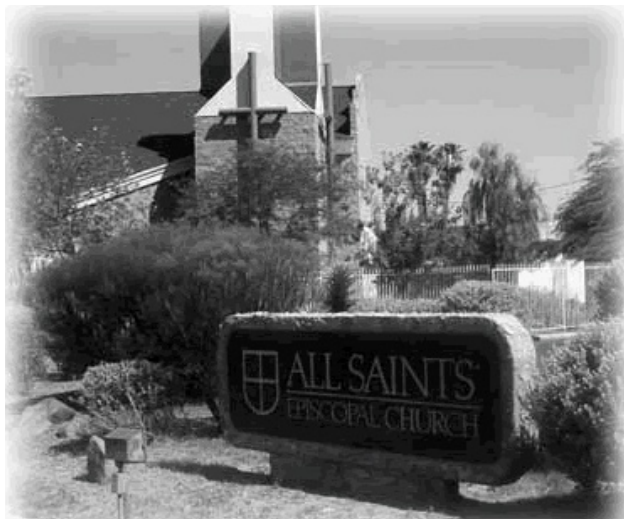
DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS MUSIC (10:30 pm)

JANUARY 4 CHORAL EVENSONG
ORGAN RECITAL – SCHUYLER ROBINSON, Organist

FEBRUARY 25 ASH WEDNESDAY

MARCH 8 CHORAL EVENSONG
ORGAN RECITAL – DOUGLAS BRUCE, Organist

MARCH 29 FAURÉ REQUIEM





Craighead Saunders Organ

Report on EROI Conference at Eastman School of Music October 16-20, 2008

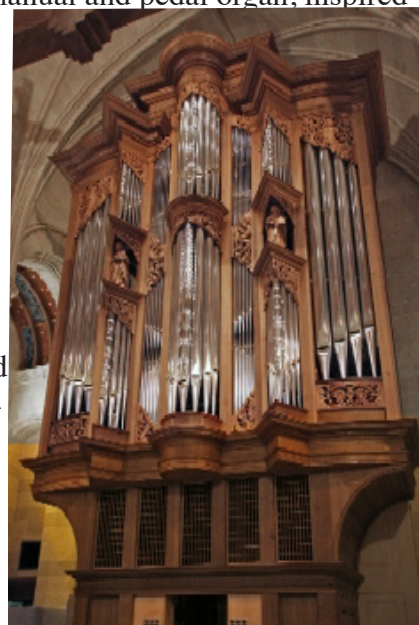
More than 400 registrants convened in Rochester, New York for the seventh annual Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative Festival featuring the long-awaited inauguration of the Craighead-Saunders Organ. The festival was a dynamic gathering of international performers, scholars and instrument builders joined by people from all over the U.S. and several European and Asian countries.

During the six days of the Festival, some 25 scholarly papers were presented, a major address by the Bach scholar Christoph Wolff of Harvard University, nine organ recitals and concerts of concerted music, and four lively “roundtable” (actually, the table was rectangular!) discussions, kept those attending the festival on their toes and stimulated. Organ performers during the Festival included the three Eastman School of Music Professors---Hans Davidsson, William Porter and David Higgs; two Eastman distinguished alumni---Roberta Gary (Cincinnati Conservatory) and Larry Smith (Indiana University); American recitalists Matthew Dirst and Craig Cramer; three Eastman doctoral candidates; and German and Dutch recitalists---Harald Vogel, Ludger Lohmann and Jacques van Oortmersen. The concerted music concerts included the performance of three Bach cantatas performed with orchestra and soloists of the Boston Early Music Chamber Ensemble and the Eastman Collegium Musicum. On two programs, organ works were interpreted by members of the Rochester City Ballet.

The real star of the Festival was the new Craighead-Saunders Organ, dedicated to the honor and memory of two iconic Eastman organ faculty members. David Craighead, now 84, was present; Russell Saunders died unexpectedly in 1992. The new organ is the result of a long collaborative effort among Eastman School of Music, Christ Episcopal Church (where the organ is installed), and the Göteborg (Sweden) Organ Art Center at the University of Göteborg. The project undertaken was to “reproduce” in Christ Church the 1776 Adam Gottlob Casparini, a well-preserved and documented instrument, representative of the late baroque style, in Holy Ghost Church in Vilnius, Lithuania. The original organ is still in the process of being restored. A “reference group” of five American organ builders was formed to oversee and guide the project: Steve Dieck (Fisk), Paul Fritts, Bruce Fowkes (Fowkes & Richards), Martin Pasi, and George Taylor (Taylor & Boody). Completed at a cost of \$2.8 million, the two-manual and pedal instrument of 32 stops is intended to teach us many things about temperament (modified Neidhardt 1732, “Village”), pitch (A4=465 Hz---about ½ step above our concert pitch), how the organ would have been used in ensembles; it is considered a reasonable solution for the performance of the organ works of J.S. Bach. The manual compass is 51 notes and the pedal compass is 27 notes.

Two other new organs in Rochester were also heard---a splendid new 53-stop Paul Fritts organ of three manuals and pedal at Sacred Heart Cathedral, and a new 24-stop Taylor & Boody two-manual and pedal organ, inspired by the work of American organ builder David Tannenberg and at the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford.

Next year’s EROI Festival is scheduled for October 29 to November 1, 2009 and will focus on Mendelssohn and the Contrapuntal Tradition. Paul S. Hesselink



Fritts Organ