

THE DESERT WIND

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Southern Nevada Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Dean's Notes

Dear Colleagues,

Most everything I need to know in life I can learn from my horse. Back about 23 years ago (seems like another life ago), my daughter Sufia was actively showing her horse Stretta Bar, a bay Paint Brood Mare who knew how to steal the show. At one stadium-jumping class, however, the mare was refusing to go over the jumps. Sufia became angry, and the angrier she got the worse the mare performed. I asked her later if it wasn't true that when a horse messes up it's usually the rider's fault. And her answer was, "You're right: attitude is everything."

A patient can-do attitude is going to help me recover the use of the ring finger on my left hand, especially since therapy classes start today for it. I'm trying to keep my goal of playing in the members' recital on Sunday, Dec. 6th.

Sometimes the challenge of living

is so great that our own good attitude is not enough to produce saving results. That's where friends and fellow travelers along the way are needed to help support and uplift. Perhaps we need to establish a "caring and concerns" committee to send a card or message of support to members for whom life has taken a wrong or difficult turn.

Our Executive Board has shown very positive attitudes by going ahead with an exciting year of an ambitious recital series and programs, while at the same time having to watch our budget and the income of funds very carefully. We are hoping that more of our Guild members and audience will get into a giving attitude and become a patron of the Recital Series.

We are going to include in this year's programming the Words of Albert Schweitzer With the Music of J. S. Bach as a way to celebrate Bach's 325th birthday on Monday

March 22nd. Albert Schweitzer had positive attitude plus when it came to his philosophy of reverence for life, his perfecting of his organ technique under Widor, his careful study of organs and organ building, his study of the essence of Bach's music, and his in-depth study of theology and medicine. The script of this program is described by previous attendees as "wonderful, thoughtful, moving, funny, and ultimately very meaningful." (Joanne Nesti, Channel 30, NBC, West Hartford, CT.) It sounds like something not to be missed.

A bright outlook on life is a choice: we can choose to be positive and optimistic, or the opposite. For church musicians, this season of preparation for the holidays can be wearing, overwhelming and even a little depressing with all that has to be done. But adjusting to a positive attitude can make this our most Blessed Season.

See you all at the Concerts.
Warmly, Shireen

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First Organ Recital in 2009-2010 Series Sets High Standard

The first organ recital in the Southern Nevada AGO Chapter's 2009-2010 Recital Series was a spectacular program performed by Sietze deVries from the Netherlands on Sunday evening, October 25, 2009. The first section of the program featured works by Baroque composers Buxtehude, Hanff, Reinken and J.S. Bach. The program concluded with a twenty-minute improvisation (8 variations) on "A Mighty Fortress" in recognition of it being Reformation Sunday. The variations were intentionally in "Baroque" style and one could "guess" at composers being emulated---Sweelinck, Scheidemann, Bach and others. The audience was treated to a brief and lush improvisation on "Now Thank We All Our God" as an encore. It was the first and only time during the evening that we heard the strings of the organ and use of the Swell pedal!

A confident and immaculate player, Mr. de Vries's playing was marked by unique registrations and clean, crisp articulations with compelling rhythmic control and drive. His use of the 2004 Maurine Jackson Smith Organ, completed five years ago in October of 2004 by the Rudolf von Beckerath Orgelbau of Hamburg, Germany, made the instrument sound especially glorious. In his improvisations he demonstrated complete control and mind-boggling inventiveness.

This recital set a very high standard for the continuing series. It was a stellar performance.

About 120 people attended the recital. Following is a statistical breakdown of the 94 survey forms completed at the conclusion of the recital:



First time attending an AGO Recital Series event: 32 (34%)

First time visiting Doc Rando Hall: 16 (17%)

First time hearing the organ in Doc Rando Hall: 30 (32%)

How did they hear about the event? (Some respondents checked more than one category):

e-mail notification: 46 recital flyer: 11 newspaper: 3 radio: 15 previous program: 4

from a friend: 26 other: 16 (A significant number of "other" mentioned UNLV website, music department, professors and UNLV event lists.)

Which selections most enjoyed? 59 respondents mentioned the artist's improvisations, and every other composition on the program received many or several votes.

Categories checked for "What statement best describes your feelings about this program and Performer?" "I loved it:" 63 (67%) "I liked it a lot:" 19 (20%) "I found it interesting:" 7 (7%) "I might come back for another performance: 2 (2%)

Respondents rated the recital overall: Superb: 64 (68%) Excellent: 26 (28%)

Average: 3 (3%) Fair: 0 Poor: 0 No rating checked: 1 (1%)

Respondents rating the recital as either "superb" or "excellent" = 95.7%

Numerous members of the chapter are to be thanked for their efforts in making the program a success: Members of the Recital Series Committee---Shireen Beaudry-Johnson, Jan Bigler and Paul Hesselink. A big thank-you to Jan and Scott Bigler for hosting a lovely "Meet-the-Artist" dinner on Saturday evening before the recital. About twenty AGO members and guests attended and enjoyed fascinating conversations with Sietze and his lovely wife Sonja who is also an organist. The Biglers also kindly provided lodging for our guests. Thanks to Carla Swift for publicity. Thanks also to Doris Frances for coordinating the reception following the recital and to all who brought cookies. Both Sietze and Sonja were a bit over-whelmed at our "Western" chapter hospitality and expressed their gratitude for the experience. This was their first visit to Las Vegas!

New Schantz Organ to be Dedicated in Recital

The new pipe organ for Christ Church Episcopal (2000 E. Maryland Parkway – at Maryland Parkway and St. Louis) will be dedicated with a recital on Friday, February 5, 2010 at 7:30 P.M. The public is cordially invited to hear the new organ which will be played by three recitalists:

Alice Hohenthauer, Ty Woodward and Paul Hesselink.

Alice Hohenthauer was the organist at Christ Church for seventeen years before her retirement in November, 2008. She will perform works by Buxtehude, Bach, Brahms and Visser.

Ty Woodward was the Schantz Organ Company representative involved in the organ project at the church for the last fifteen years. He currently serves as the organist at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Phoenix, Arizona.

Paul Hesselink was peripherally involved in the Christ Church organ project and will contribute works by Bach and Couperin.

The Christ Church organ will become the largest pipe organ in Nevada with four manuals and 55 ranks distributed over Great, Swell, Choir, Antiphonal and Pedal divisions.

Come join the congregation in celebrating this significant in the life the parish.



For more pictures go to: <http://www.schantzorgan.com/ShopDetail.cfm?yJob=2294>

David H. Brock Next Guest Organist in Recital Series

Our second organist to perform in the Organ Recital Series will be David H. Brock from Lake Tahoe, Nevada. Mr. Brock was trained as a chorister at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. and maintains an active recital schedule across the United States. His program will be presented on Sunday, November 15 at 7:30 P.M. in Doc Rando Recital Hall on the UNLV campus. His program will include works by Handel, Bach, Mendelssohn, Howells, Utterback and Langlais. Please plan to attend and to bring a friend with you.

Annual Advent – Christmas Recital

Our annual members' Advent-Christmas Recital will be presented on Sunday, December 6 at 7:30 P.M. in Doc Rando Recital Hall on the UNLV campus. Performing on this "begin-the-holiday season" event will be members Bede Parry, Rodney Gisick, Cherrie Hoeft, Paul Hesselink, Jan Bigler, Kym Cushing, Shireen Beaudry-Johnson and Dorothy Riess. The program will include works by Buxtehude, J. S. Bach, Johann Pachelbel, Bert Matter, Janet Linker, Robert Powell and Olivier Messiaen. Come and catch the holiday spirit.

"Organ Plus" Recital May 16, 2010 Call for Performers

The Recital Series Committee invites chapter members to consider performing on the Organ Plus program planned for May 16 at Doc Rando Hall. The recital is being presented by the chapter members, but those performing other instruments with organ may be friends who are not members of the chapter. We would especially encourage any members who have friends who are flutists, oboists, brass or string players or other instruments to consider performing on this concert. At this point we have a string ensemble with organ and an organ and piano composition scheduled. While at this point May 16 seems to be far off in the future, we'd like to get the program set so that we can also do proper publicity. If you are interested in being on this program, please contact Paul Hesselink (242-1940).

Paul Manz Passes Away

Beloved composer, organist, and church musician Dr. Paul Manz passed away in St. Paul Minnesota on Wednesday evening, October 29, after several weeks of hospice care. He was 90 years old. He died surrounded by his family while they sang his famous motet "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come." Funeral services will be held in St. Paul on Sunday afternoon, November 8. Paul's many compositions, recordings, and hymn festivals have influenced the art and practice of church music in the United States since the 1960's. His playing and teaching has influenced untold numbers of organists throughout this country who considered him a mentor and friend.

DOROTHY YOUNG RIESS, M.D. PLAYS SHORT PROGRAM IN SANTA BARBARA



On a cold, foggy coastal morning in September, I boarded the train at Lompoc-Surf/Vandenberg AFB CA for Santa Barbara. Nelson Huber, organist at First Presbyterian Church, met me at the station and took me to the church where we spent two hours selecting registrations for a planned short program. The

complexities of the five manual 74 rank 58 stop Casavant (1974, Opus 3192) required intense concentration as well as much trial and error. With Nelson's expertise, I was able to refine registrations in time for the 1:00 PM performance. Local AGO members and friends including Emma Lou Diemer and Alejandro Planchart, were a very appreciative audience for the following program:

J.S. BACH – Clavierübung, “Wir glauben all’ an einen Gott”

MAX REGER – “Toccata in d Minor” Opus 59, #5

CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS - “Prelude in B Major” Opus 99, #2

OLIVIER MESSIAEN – Les Corps Glorieux,
“Joie et Clarté des Corps Glorieux”

JEAN LANGLAIS – Neuf Pièces pour Grand Orgue, “Chant de Joie”

Following lunch with Emma Lou and Alejandro, both fellow Yale alumni, I returned to the church for a recording session and then took the train to Lompoc-Surf/Vandenberg AFB while enjoying the setting sun over the Pacific Ocean. A CD of the 28 minute program is available upon request from dyriessmd@cox.net.

Handbell Festival

Eighteenth Annual Las Vegas
Twelfth Night Handbell Festival Concert
Saturday, January 9, 2010
7:00 PM
Tim Waugh, Festival Director

Tim Waugh of West Virginia is known nationally and internationally to performers of many mediums including choral music, handbell, theater and church music. He has established himself as a tireless champion of performing arts of all types. In recent years, Tim has developed a national and international reputation for conducting and composing for Choral and Handbell Festivals in the United States, Puerto Rico, England and Canada.



South Point Hotel and Casino, Convention Center
9777 Las Vegas Blvd South and Silverado Ranch
easy access on I 15

Patron Report – Organ Recital Series

At the time of this writing, our Organ Recital Series for 2009-2010 is partially underwritten by 45 Patrons. In addition, our series received a modest grant of support from the Nevada Arts Council. Because of the difficult economic times, our grant, which scored very well, was reduced significantly by the 43% across-the-board cuts experienced by the NAC as a result of the legislative efforts to balance the state budget.

We hope that if you have not contributed to the Patrons Fund, you will seriously consider doing so. We need your help to keep the series “in the black,” but almost as significant as your financial support to the series is the participation of our membership from a percentage viewpoint. Only eighteen of our 45 members have made a contribution for this year. That translates to an approximate 40% of our membership. It would be so much more effective in writing the grant proposals if that percentage was closer to 85-90%. The lowest suggested level of contribution starts at only \$25. Won't you consider joining the ranks?

Chapter Social

We had a great time at our chapter opening social on Sept. 19. We met again at the Bigler's (the official party house). The food was plentiful and delicious (as always) with a great assortment of desserts (our favorite). Several people played Jan's organ, including Shireen and her student Charlie West, who played an organ/piano duet of Larghetto from Organ Concerto #4 by Handel. We were happy to meet Rod Gisick, a new member from Massachusetts, and to have Kym and Wendy Cushing there, whom we haven't seen in a while. Those of you who didn't come missed another great party!



We need you!

*Please don't throw this away:
instead, please share this
invitation with another singer
or post it so others may see it.*

Dear Musical Friend!

Please seriously consider joining us in the schedule below for *Elijah*. We are truly in need of more singers, especially men. It's a great work and loads of fun to sing. It's Mendelssohn's birthday - do it for him! Thank you very much for considering.

Marek Rachelski

Saturday	10.31	10 am - Noon	
Wednesday	11.4	7 pm - 9 pm	
Saturday	11.7	10 am - Noon	
Tuesday	11.10	7 pm - 9 pm	
Wednesday	11.11	7 pm - 9 pm	
Saturday	11.14	9:30 am - 12:30 pm	DRESS
Sunday	10.15	2:15 CALL	3:00 pm CONCERT

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art live.
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Fourth Season
2009-2010

Celebrating Composers

Mendelssohn's 200th

Elijah

Sunday 3:00 pm
November 15 GVPC

REHEARSALS

WEDNESDAY
7-9 pm

SATURDAY
10 am -12 NOON

Green Valley
Presbyterian Church
1798 Wigwam Parkway
Henderson NV 89074

2 lights north of I-215
NE corner of Valle Verde and
Wigwam

4th Annual Charity DIY
Handel's *Messiah* rehearsals begin
Wednesday Nov. 18;
Wed. Dec. 9 DIY performance