

THE DESERT WIND

Editor: Bruce Behnke © 2011

Issue: November/December 2011

Dean's Notes



Southern Nevada Chapter
American Guild of Organists

My horse Hotshot is my true-blue buddy and my riding companion par-excellence. He simply asks where, when and how far, and wants to get me there. But his almost 25 years are catching up to him. The pain in his joints is causing him to collapse when I'm on him -- not a good thing for either of us. But it turns out that I have a caring equine vet who knows about some new horse meds to rejuvenate my riding partner and extend his active life a while yet. I really can't hope to turn back the clock for him or me, just forestall the inevitable a little while longer.

As performing, working musicians, we can't turn back the clock either. Can we extend our usefulness a little while longer as we struggle with arthritis, stenosis, macular degeneration, and other debilitating diseases of age? My orthopedic referral appointment after my knee injury in September was cancelled because the doctor I was scheduled

to see will no longer see patients with arthritis! I felt like someone being tossed off as useless. The medicine I am putting on my horse's sore joints gave some relief to me; and when I told that to the appointment girl, she found a doctor at the orthopedic center who would see me almost immediately.

Keeping up with the research is important to ease aching joints. Work done at Colorado State University for extending the performance horse's working time has trickled down to human medicine. One such product is a very expensive but very effective anti-inflammatory cream for joints: diclofenac sodium, which costs about \$100 a tube for the human product. My doctors have not offered me this solution to date.

So we've tried special prescriptions for the eyes, special meds for the joints. The very act of performing music is medicine for the brain.

And after all is done, will we know when to quit before someone tells us we have to? I personally am monitoring myself every week, attempting to get enough rest, working my relaxation and other exercises, taking the meds I can find that work, and ever striving for that elusive goal of playing the perfect service. God bless us all in our efforts.

As ever,
Shireen

Your editor would like to thank all of the people who contributed to this issue, Paul Hesselink, Dorothy Young Riess (photos and write ups) David Dorway, Jan Bigler and Carla Swift. It makes this a more interesting document. I hope the rest of you will consider submitting something for the next issue. I am still hoping to do the series on local pipe organs. There will also be more new members next time.

Bruce

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First Recital Series Event Held September 13

On Tuesday evening, September 13, the first recital in the 2011-2012 series was presented in Doc Rando Hall at 7:30

P.M... The event was something a “little different” in that it was a lecture-recital presented by our own member, Dr. Paul Hesselink in collaboration with Duo Majoya (Mar-nie Giesbrecht and Joachim Seeger) from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. You may recall that two years ago they presented a superb recital and workshop of organ and piano duets on our series. So it was indeed a pleasure to welcome them back.



This lecture-recital was jointly sponsored by the Southern Nevada Chapter of the AGO and the Department of Music at UNLV.

The first presentation of this program was given a year earlier on September 13 at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. The date chosen for that presentation was originally chosen because it worked into the performer's schedules; only later did they realize that the date was Schönberg's birthday!

Dr. Hesselink has done research and publication over the past 30 years on the commissioning, composition and publication of Schönberg's only work for the organ, “Variations on a Recitative,” Op. 40. The details of the story were pieced together from 135 germane letters found in the Schönberg Correspondence Legacy of some 18,000 items in the Library of Congress. Dr. Giesbrecht had performed the organ work on a doctoral recital at the University of Alberta, and her husband, Dr. Joachim Seeger, had long studied and performed the piano music of Schönberg and his disciples. A collaboration seemed inevitable.

Schönberg was commissioned to contribute the piece to the H. W. Gray Contemporary Organ Series, edited by William Strickland, in August of 1941. The manuscript was completed in mid-October of the same year but was not published until six years later in 1947 when it appeared as No. 13 in the series. A protracted controversy between the composer and the H. W. Gray Company over the published edition was resolved only by Schönberg's death on July 13, 1951.

About 75 people come to learn about the difficult birthing process of the Op. 40 and the ten-year

controversy which followed. The original organ version of the work was superbly performed by Dr. Giesbrecht and a second hearing of the work featured Duo Majoya delivering an exciting performance of the two-piano transcription of the work by American composer, Celius Daugherty. It was an historic occasion in that the two versions of the work have been performed on the same program only once before when the presentation was made a year earlier at University of Alberta. This performance celebrated the 137th birthday of the composer and was followed by a reception featuring a “Happy Birthday Arnold” cake with 13 candles!

42 surveys completed and returned after the recital revealed: (56%)

First time visiting Doc Rando Hall 6 (12%)

First time hearing the von Beckerath organ 8 (19%)

First time attending an AGO recital 8 (19%)

Of those having attended recitals before

1 to 3 times 8

4 to 5 times 3

more than 5 25

no response 1

How people heard about the program:

e-mail notification 25

flyer 3

previous program 1

from a friend 17

other 6



Statement of feelings about the presentation:

loved it 17 (46%)

liked it a lot 13 (31%)

found it interesting 11 (26%)

wasn't really interested 1 (2%)

Overall rating:

Superb 18 (43%)

Excellent 21 (50%)

Average 1 (2%)

No response 2 (5%)

Ratings of “Superb” and “Excellent” = 93%

Advent-Christmas Members' Recital

The next presentation in the Organ Recital Series will be our annual Advent-Christmas Members' Recital at Christ Church Episcopal (2000 S. Maryland Pkwy.) on Sunday, December 4 at 4:00 P.M. Plan to attend (and bring your friends) to start the holiday season.

First Chapter Event of the Season a Big Success

About 35 chapter members and guests met at the Phil Maloof residence to see and hear the two theatre organs in the music rooms amid a fantastic collection of unusual art, statuary and furniture on Saturday evening, September 3 at 6:00 P.M. Chapter member John Ledwon informally spoke about his career as a theatre organist, and demonstrated one of the organs in a delightful program. The other large organ was heard via the play-back system in a medley of the military service songs. Host Phil Maloof and organ curator Bob Maes were on hand to answer questions. Visiting Phil Maloof's unique house is an "experience" which will be remembered for years to come.



Dorothy Young Riess Recital

Dorothy Young Riess, M.D. rededicated the 1963 Reuter organ in a concert at Nichols Hills United Methodist Church, Oklahoma City OK on October 23, 2011. Dr. Riess played the original dedication recital of the new organ in 1963. To celebrate the recent refurbishing of the instrument, including new moveable Reuter console, addition of solid-state memories and other refinements, she will play the exact same program (see below) as in 1963 including a new commissioned composition for organ and violin by Oklahoma composer, Callen Clarke. At this time the church will recognize longtime members who attended the original dedication 48 years ago, and the instrument will be named in honor of Antone Godding, present organist at the church.

Jeremiah Clarke
(1674-1707)

Prince of Denmark March (c.1700)

Louis Claude Daquin Noël (c.1735)
(1694-1772)

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Prelude and Fugue in D Major BWV 532 (c.1710)

Franz Josef Haydn
(1732-1809)

The Musical Clocks (1792)

I. Minuet (Song of the Quail)

II. March

III. Andantino

Cesar Franck
 (1822-1890)
 Neal Callen Clarke
 (1961)
 Olivier Messiaen
 (1908-1992)

IV. Minuet (Allegretto)
 V. Minuet (Presto)
 VI. Vivace
 Chorale in A Minor (1890)

*Commissioned Composition for organ and violin (2011)
 Kyle Dillingham, Violinist
 The Ascension (1933)
 II. Serene Alleluias from a Soul longing for Heaven
 III. Outburst of Joy from a Soul before the Glory of Christ
 which is its own Glory
 *World Premiere



Dr. Riess studied with Mildred Andrews at the University of Oklahoma, and won the AGO Competition for Young Organists in 1952. She then studied with Marcel Dupré in France, served as organist at St Paul's Within the Walls American Church in Rome, Italy, played a Master's Recital at Woolsey Hall, Yale University, then entered medical school earning a Doctor of Medicine degree in 1969. After 40 years in medicine, she resumed organ playing and recently performed her eightieth birthday celebration concert at the University of Nevada Las Vegas May 2011. She was a featured soloist at the AGO Region IX Convention in San Francisco, July 2011, performing at First Congregational Church, Berkeley, where she played her winner's recital in 1952.

Jan Bigler Recital

Jan Bigler and former Desert Wind editor Steve Wright will present an organ recital at the St. George Tabernacle on Saturday, October 29. The concert starts at 12:15 PM and admission is free. It will be an all "Bach" program.



Marilyn B. Curtis, 78, of Henderson, passed away Sept. 11, 2011, in Las Vegas. She was born March 21, 1933, in Des Moines, Iowa, and lived most of her life in the Los Angeles area. She was a 16-year resident of Henderson, retired organist of 25 years from Lutheran Church of the Cross in Arcadia, Calif., and also retired from the County of Santa Cruz, Calif. Marilyn was a member of the Nevada Gypsies R.V. Club. She was also a member of the Southern Nevada Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Marilyn enjoyed RV traveling with her husband all over the United States. A classical music aficionado, she also enjoyed local Las Vegas art and culture events and attending operas, ballet and movies, and was a voracious reader. Marilyn was preceded in death by her husband, Richard W. Curtis in 2005. Marilyn is survived by her daughter, Janice and husband, Bob Davis of Whittier, Calif.; three stepdaughters, Shari, Carol and Barbara; three grandchildren, Justin, Aaron and Corinne; four great-grandchildren; a dear sister, Lois Kochian of Felton, Calif.; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. A celebration of her life was held at 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 23, at Palm Mortuary - Henderson, 800 S. Boulder Highway.



Regensburg Domorgel

Submitted by Carla Swift

3. August 2011. Regensburg Domorgel.

The organ in the cathedral in Regensburg, built by the Rieger company in 2009, is definitely eye-catching as the pipes (5,871) seem to hang on the wall, almost to the ceiling of the great dom. But perplexing to us was where the console was. Luckily, we were there for the last performance of the summer concert series and witnessed the ascent of the organist in the “lift” up to the pipes. The lift then slides in behind the pipes and apparently, the console is housed in the walls, or a small room, behind the pipes. The picture shows the lift half-way up the wall and the opening in the upper right hand side of the pipes is where the organist takes his bow after the concert.

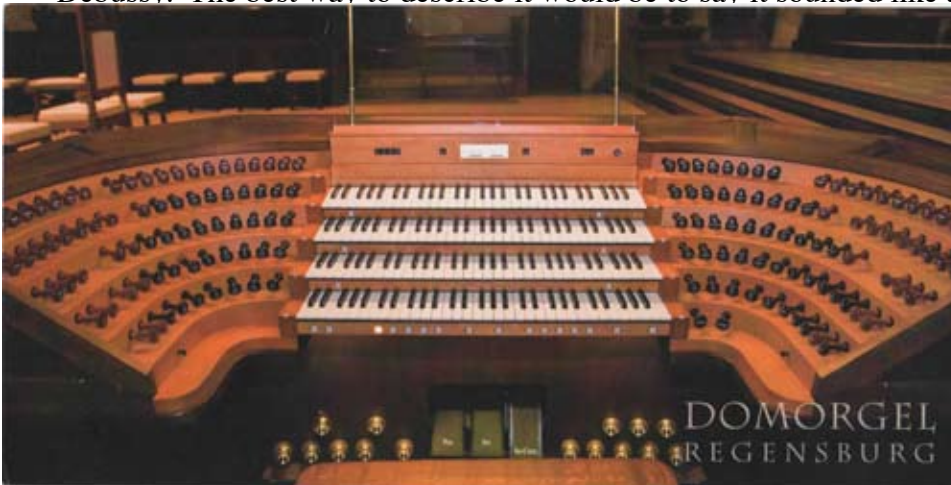
Unfortunately, the program was only in German, but the music was in the language of Nicolas de Grigny, Claude Debussy, Sigfrid Karg-Elert, Bach, Olivier Messiaen, and Max Reger. I say “in the language of” because it was all improvisation in the style of these outstanding composers. Again, all in German, so we weren’t sure what was happening, but before each selection, a man would give a small reading, perhaps poetry or perhaps a hymn text. Our assumption was, the reading was the words of a hymn, and the organist would then do the improvisation on that hymn tune in the style of the assigned composer.

Though none of the hymn tunes (or whatever they were) were familiar to us, the style of each composer was totally recognizable. One of the most interesting selections was in the style of Claude Debussy. The best way to describe it would be to say it sounded like an impressionistic water color,



soft shades of tone running into one another.

The organist was Prof. Franz Josef Stoiber, the cathedral organist. Other organists of the concert series were Dan Zerfass (Worms), Daniel Roth (St. Sulpice/Paris), Zsolt Gardonyi (Wurzburg), Wolfgang Kraus (Furth I. Wald), Hans Dieter Moller (Dusseldorf), and Olivier Latry (Notre Dame/Paris).



The following is the program we attended.

Suite Francaise (Hommage a' Nicolas de Grigny)
Zwei Impressionen (Hommage a' Claude Debussy)
Choralimprovisation (Hommage a' Sigfrid Karg-Elert)
Drei Chorale (Hommage a' Johann Sebastian Bach)
Zwei Meditationen (Hommage a' Olivier Messiaen)

New Member Pages

Ty Woodward is currently Staff Organist at Disney's El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood, playing the 4 manual, 37 rank Wurlitzer originally installed in the Fox Theatre in San Francisco. His infatuation with the Theatre Organ began with his first visit to Organ Stop Pizza where he was "wowed" by the sound of the Mighty Wurlitzer and fine music making of the staff organists. Ty became a regular substitute organist at Organ Stop during his college years and later was a staff organist at the Organ Power Restaurants in San Diego followed by a stint at the Captains Galley, Redwood City, California.



He has played both classical and theatre organ concerts throughout the U.S. Performances have ranged from Shea's Theatre, Buffalo; the Byrd Theatre, Richmond; the Paramount Theatre, Cedar Rapids; the Alabama Theatre, Birmingham and the outdoor pipe organ in Balboa Park, San Diego to Westminster Abbey, London; Trinity Church, New York; The National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C.; St. James Cathedral, Toronto and the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Los Angeles. He has played several major works with orchestra including the Symphonie Concertante of Joseph Jongen and Saint-Saens Symphony No. 3. His recording credits include a solo classical recording on the Aeolian-Skinner organ at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and a theatre organ recording on the Wurlitzer organ at the Auditorium Theatre in Rochester, N.Y. along with accompaniments for numerous choral recordings. Ty holds a Bachelor of Music Degree in Organ Performance and a Masters degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Southern California. He is a former Dean of the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, and has served on the Commission of Liturgy and Music for the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles.

As a pipe organ consultant, he has worked with numerous churches in the design and installation of their new pipe organs, and is the area representative for the Schantz Organ Company of Orrville, Ohio

John Ledwon started being involved with the organ by playing a Hammond beginning at 12 years of age. He was playing concerts in high school: his earliest paid job was at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles at age 16, performing on the 70 + rank Moeller there. Early on he took a job at a wedding chapel which job lasted for years and allowed him to build his first home. He had a 4 month stint as a piano player for the USO in Alaska and in Asia, including Viet Nam at the end of the war.



His education is a BA from CSU-Northridge, where Elfrieda Baum was his classic organ Teacher; a Masters in Education Administration from UCLA was followed by 20 years of teaching choral music and theatre in the high schools. In his home during that time he had the largest theatre organ in a residence in the country: a 4 manual 52 rank Wurlitzer Hybrid on which he practiced and made 6 CD's.

Ronald D. Richardson's musical studies started at an early age when he studied at the McCune School of Music at five years old. His musical studies continued through high school but mostly in local church settings where he spent several years studying, and conducting with the renowned choral conductor J. Spencer Cornwall.

During this time he studied piano with one of Utah's foremost teachers Mabel Bourg Jenkins. Ron continued his studies at BYU with Crawford Gates until he spent time in Germany on an LDS mission where he felt inspired to study church music. He continued his studies at BYU with E. Donnell Blackham and J. J. Keeler (for five years). He also studied voice with Dr. Ralph Woodward and his wife Margaret Woodward during this time.

He was a member of the BYU A Cappella Choir during which time they won first prize at the International Wells Music Festival. He also studied piano under a five-year scholarship with LeVar Jensen. Later he resumed his studies at the University of Utah and Germany. His vocal teachers and coaches consist of such noted people as: Naomi Farr, Lowell Farr, Jeffery Price and Blanch Christensen.

He has attended and played for master classes from Flor Peeters, Fernando Germani, Gerre Hancock and many others including Dr. Janette Fishell, Peter Richard Conti, and Bruce Neswick. Ron attends national workshops with The Association of Disciples of Christ Musicians (ADM). He is also a member of the National Music Teachers Association for over 25 years and was awarded an advanced professional rating. He is a member of the American Guild of Organists and has served on the local board (Salt Lake Chapter) for five years. He is a founding member of the Salt Lake Men's Choir and has inspired its growth and development. He has sung as a guest soloist with the Manti Pageant, Temple Square Concert Series, U. of U. Opera Theater, Utah Opera, St. Mark's Cathedral, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church, to mention only a few.

While on his European Tour in 1982, he played the organs at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Oslo, Norway; Passau, Austria; and Regensburg, Germany.

As Music Director for All Saint's Episcopal Church, Ron built an extensive music outreach program. In addition to the proceeds raised from this outreach program, Ron raised \$80,000 in pledges so that All Saints was able to procure a concert piano and large Rodgers combination pipe organ.

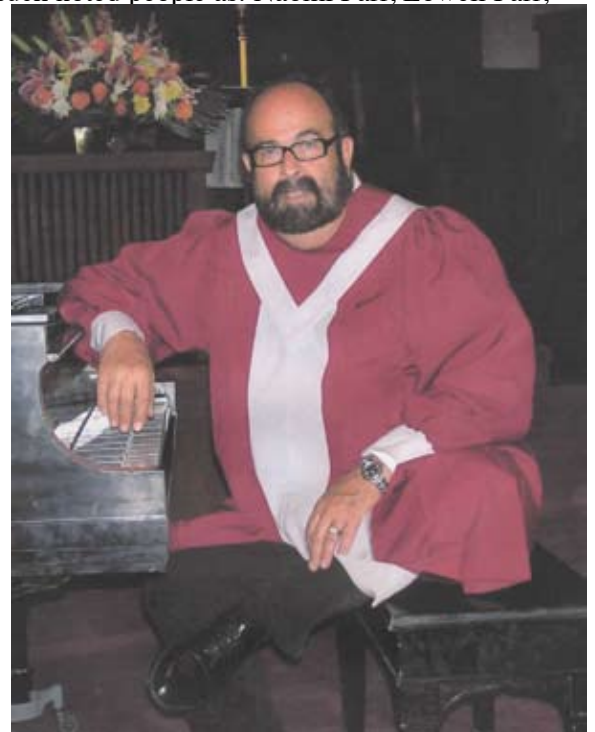
Ron was instrumental in bringing the Nova Series with Joseph Silverstein and the Paradigm Concert Series with Joel Rosenberg and many other concerts and music programs to All Saints Community Outreach Program.

As a guest soloist in July 15 2000, during a San Diego concert with the Salt Lake Men's Choir, Mr. Richardson was billed as "One of Utah's Foremost Musicians." While performing at St. Paul's Cathedral in San Diego, California, he received a standing ovation for playing the large Austin Organ.

He currently proudly holds a Degree in Theology from the University of the South, Sewanee, TN (Education for Ministry) and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Applied Organ from BYU.

Ron recently worked as music director at First United Methodist Church in SLC and also with Mount Olympus Presbyterian Church Music Department.

Ron is working on a Bach selection for the Members' Advent-Christmas Recital, as well as other Bach, Vivaldi, and Franck selections. Ron and his partner, Rex Nilsen, moved to Henderson recently. Ron counts Rex's three children as his, as he helped raise them. Ron also has a sister, Rolayne Wenger, in the Las Vegas area, and enjoys eight nieces and nephews. Ron's hobbies include gardening and Greek cooking.



SAVE THE DATE!

EVENT: *Christian Elliott, providing organ accompaniment to
“Phantom of the Opera”*

DATE: *October 28, 2011*

TIME: *7:30 p.m.*

PLACE: *Christ Church Episcopal
2000 South Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89104*

TICKETS: *\$15.00, available at the door*



The first concert of the 2011-2012 concert series will feature Mr. Christian Elliott of Santa Clara, California. Christian is one of today's prominent concert organists. Equally at home performing literature of the church or theatre, he is very much in demand scoring and accompanying silent films.

Mr. Elliott will be providing organ accompaniment for the 1925 film, “Phantom of the Opera” starring Lon Chaney, which will be shown on a large screen in the front of the church.

Come join us as we take you back to the era of the silent films as Christian plays the versatile 54-rank Schantz pipe organ in the theatre organ style.

Add to the Halloween fun by dressing up in your favorite costume (optional.) There will be a Halloween themed reception after the concert.

Don't miss this “spooktacular” night of fun!!

Events hotline: (702) 684-7746

www.organconcerts.org

Christmas Organ Concert!

You are invited on December 11th, at 1pm, to a concert of old and new organ music, plus piano, flute, vocals and an appearance of the strangest potbellied Christmas song leader. May not be appropriate for small children!

First Presbyterian Church, 1515 West Charleston Blvd, Las Vegas 89102.

David Dorway, organist 873-3655

2011-2012 ORGAN CONCERT SERIES

Featuring the 54-rank Schantz Pipe Organ
CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| October 28, 2011 | Christian Elliott
Organ accompaniment to the silent movie:
“Phantom of the Opera”
(Dress up in your favorite Halloween costume!) |
| January 6, 2012 | Ed and Janet Kaizer
Organ/Piano Duo with guest artist, Lorraine Kaizer, violinist
(Some classical, some jazz) |
| February 24, 2012 | Christopher O’Hara, trumpet
with Tim Cooper, organ and piano |
| March 2 or 9, 2011 | Hans Hielscher, organ
Kantor, Organist & Carillonneur
(recently retired from the Marketkirche in Weisbaden, Germany) |

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A JOYOUS MUSICAL PRESENTATION

~

**A GREAT CELEBRATION FOR THIS
CHRISTMAS SEASON!!!**

**Our 40- voice CHOIR with ORCHESTRA presents the
14TH ANNUAL CONCERT OF CHRISTMAS!
Tim Cooper at the organ and piano!
Dave Courvoisier as our Narrator!**

**WHEN: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 7PM
WHERE: FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
101 South Rancho Drive
Nursery Provided.**

***The Christmas Tree will be up ~
The Garlands will be hung!
You will enjoy the Nativity Scene, Choir,
Soloists, Handbells, Children singing,
Great Musicians!***

3 SEPTEMBER SATURDAY AT 7:30 PM

VIOLA RECITAL

Isadora Trinkle with Genie Burkett, Piano - Bach; Schumann; Brahms

10 SEPTEMBER SATURDAY AT 7:30 PM

9.11.01 COMMEMORATION AND EVENING OF REFLECTION BRAHMS: REQUIEM

Peoples Valley Chorus; Michelle Latour, Soprano; Christopher Reames, Baritone; Marek Rachelski, Conductor

15 OCTOBER SATURDAY AT 7:30 PM

DANNY WRIGHT, PIANIST

Popular Piano Stylings by an International Steinway Artist

5 NOVEMBER SATURDAY AT 7:30 PM

LAS VEGAS PEOPLES VALLEY CHORUS

Folk Sounds of the Moravian Highlands and the Uncompromising Brit's Best
Martinu: *Legend From the Smoke of Potato Fires*; Britten: *Rejoice in the Lamb* and *Jubilate Deo*

12 NOVEMBER SATURDAY AT 7:30 PM

MUSICA LUMINA CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

Ragtime and Turn of the Century Arrangements

7 DECEMBER WEDNESDAY AT 7:00 PM

6th ANNUAL DIY HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Peoples Valley Chorus Presents the St. Therese Center Fundraiser

18 DECEMBER SUNDAY AT 2:30 PM

5th ANNUAL HOLIDAY BRASS AND ORGAN

A Christmas Celebration, the Beloved Sing-a-Long including the GVPC Children's Choirs

21 JANUARY SATURDAY AT 7:30 PM

MOUNTAINTOP FAITH MINISTRIES

The Spectacular Gospel Choir Returns

4 FEBRUARY SATURDAY AT 7:30 PM

TROIKA FLUPICELLO

C.P.E. Bach; Felix Mendelssohn; Andre Jolivet; Theobald Boehm

10 MARCH SATURDAY AT 2:30 PM

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL THEATER TRILOGY

A Popular Family Afternoon Presentation

25 MARCH SUNDAY AT 9:00 & 10:30 AM

CANTATA SUNDAY

Lenten Cantata Presented at Both Services

21 APRIL SATURDAY AT 7:30 PM

JAMES D'LEÓN, PIANIST

Classical Program by an International Steinway Artist

19 MAY SATURDAY AT 7:30 PM

LILLIAN KOLLAR AND FRIENDS

Organ Plus a Variety of Vocal & Instrumental Fun

9 JUNE SATURDAY AT 7:30 PM

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