

THE DESERT WIND

Editor: Bruce Behnke © 2016

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Southern Nevada Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Dean's Notes

What a concert! Gregory Zelek was truly amazing in a concert that was worth hearing! The programming was breath taking. The technical, all memorized pieces, was astounding. Every single stop on the organ was used. The colors from the registration showed different styles ranging from classical to theater organ. This was truly one of the best concerts that I have heard in a long time. The crowd was very enthusiastically in agreement with the performance.

Mr. Zelek started with *Carnival Overture* by Antonin Dvorak; not a typical choice for an opening piece. It showed off unique registration combinations with mixtures and tremolos at different speeds, creating the "carnival" atmosphere before your very ears. The concert ended with a masterpiece by Julius Reubke, the *Sonata on the 94th Psalm*. Most concerts put the

large work near the beginning, not at the end. The technical brilliance and sonority of the piece held the audience to the last note despite its complex, dense nature.

Gregory Zelek's commentaries between the pieces were humorous (entertaining to catch the listener) and educational. Many of his comments are now permanently stuck in my head, and I can't get them out. Gregory stated that "Max Reger was hated by the progressives for his use of classical form, and hated by the conservatives for his jazz like harmony." This phrase captures Reger in a single sentence that rings true to this listener. When playing "Liebestraum" by Franz Liszt he stated that women often declare their love for him. After the piece, I truly heard women shouting that they loved him. Agape love of music is a beautiful response at an organ concert.

This was truly an awesome concert in every sense. The Southern Nevada Chapter should be proud to host such a young rising star doing original work. I hope he explores more of his Cuban heritage like he showed in his encore piece!

Matt

Please Note!

The Chenault Recital that was originally scheduled for October had to be rescheduled and has been rescheduled for Friday, June 2, 2017 at 7:30 P.M.

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Greg Zelek Opens Recital Series with Exciting Performance

On Friday, September 23 at 7:30 P.M. in Doc Rando Recital Hall in the Beam Music Center on the UNLV campus, Greg Zelek opened the 2016-2017 Organ Recital Series sponsored by the Southern Nevada AGO Chapter with a vigorous and exciting performance. His program included works by Antonin Dvořák, J.S. Bach, Max Reger, Felix Mendelssohn, Franz Liszt and Julius Reubke. His playing was expressive, sensitive, and technically exciting and secure; he played entirely from memory. There was “something for everyone” on the program. In the



evaluations made by audience members, every work performed on the program was cited as “particularly enjoyed.” Especially impressive was how he managed to so effectively hold together and “sell” the extensive and complex Reubke *Sonata on the 94th Psalm*. Zelek was charming in the verbal comments he presented to assist the audience’s appreciation of the works on the program. Reflecting his Cuban-American heritage, Greg’s encore was his own arrangement of Ernesto Lacuona’s well-known *Malagueña*. Currently working to complete his Artist Diploma under Professor Paul Jacobs at the Juilliard School in New York, this 24-year old artist will certainly be an organist with a bright performing career ahead!

Slightly more than half of the 110 people attending the recital completed recital evaluations. Only two of the 56 respondents indicated they had never been to Doc Rando Hall before, and 44 (79%) of those returning the evaluation form indicated they had attended more than five organ recitals in the past. The remaining numbers are:

How did they hear about the recital?

e-mail = 33 flyer=9 radio=1 previous program= 15 from a friend=13 website=2 other=4

Feelings about program and performer:

Loved it=50 Liked it=6 All other categories (Found it interesting, Might come back, Wasn’t interested, Wouldn’t come again)=0

Overall rating:

Superb=49 (87.5%) Excellent=7 (12.5%) Average, Fair and Poor=0

Combined “superb” and “excellent” ratings equaled 100% of the respondents!

Eighteen people asked to be added to the e-mail reminder list.

The recital was an auspicious and satisfying opening to our 10th Anniversary Recital Series season.

Paul S. Hesselink, Chair

2016-2017 AGO Recital Series

Members' Advent-Christmas Recital "different" this year!



Our Chapter's annual Members' Advent-Christmas Recital will incorporate some changes from previous years. These recitals have been very popular in past years and have featured solo organ and organ plus instruments selections to usher in the holiday season. This year, the Recital Series Committee decided to feature choral groups which chapter members regularly accompany. The accompanists of each group (plus two AGO chapter members) will each also present a solo organ work.

The program will be presented on Sunday, December 4 at 4:00 P.M. in Doc Rando Recital Hall in the Beam Music Center on the UNLV campus. It is open to the public without charge, and ample free parking is available in adjacent parking lots and in the parking garage.

The four choral groups participating include the Green Valley LDS Stake Choir (Robert Orgill, director and Kym Cushing, accompanist), Grace Presbyterian Church Choir (Lisa Elliott, director and David Dorway, accompanist), St. Joseph, Husband of Mary Catholic Church Choir (Shireen Beaudry, director and Barbara Finn, accompanist), and Choral Artists of Southern Nevada (Marsha Borovicka, director and Jane Dye, accompanist). Members Bruce Behnke and Matthew Estes will round out the program with seasonal organ selections.

A memorable conclusion to the program is planned. Kathi Colman will direct and Paul Hesselink will accompany the four choirs and the audience in the singing of Handel's *Halleluiah Chorus* from *Messiah*.

You will not want to miss this program, Get your holiday season off to a good start! Since the choral groups consist of about 110 singers and will occupy the front seating of the hall, you may want to arrive a bit earlier than normally to assure yourself of one of the 189 remaining seats!

Paul S. Hesselink, Chair
2016-2017 Recital Series Committee



All Saints' Recital

All Saints is proud to sponsor an organ concert by Philip Manwell. Dr. Manwell is currently building a brand new organ program at University of Nevada in Reno. He is also the organist at Trinity Episcopal Church in Reno. The program will be the Glorious Baroque: Organ works by Muffat, Buxtehude, Walther, Sweelinck, Cabezon, and Bach. The concert will be on Sunday, November 20th at 4:00 PM.

Please check the next page for an article on the future work to be done by the Rosales firm on the All Saints' organ.

All Saints' Organ Project

When in our music, God is glorified..."

The History

This text of Fred Pratt Green set to the music of Charles Villiers Stanford (#420, Hymnal 1982) is a very familiar hymn sung in many congregations. It also has the distinction of being the (perhaps unofficial) the "National Anthem" of the American Guild of Organists.

The meaning of this text was realized at All Saints' Episcopal, here in Las Vegas in when Mrs. Janet Ty donated a 18-stop/17-rank tracker action pipe organ as a memorial to her husband and other family members.

It was crafted by Steven Cook (his Opus 7) in his shop in Seattle, Washington, and lovingly assembled and voiced by him on site at All Saints' in the Spring of 1999. It has been in regular use for most Sunday Services, special Holy Days and the occasional recital.

Over time, the instrument, being in a desert environment suffered some detrimental effects which would require Mr. Cook to come from time to time to correct. In the Autumn of 2015, Dr. Matthew Estes, Music Director and Dean of the Southern Nevada Chapter of the American Guild of Organists spoke to the Vestry about



the current state of the organ addressing in particular the lack of adequate winding to support the keyboard divisions and the larger bass pipes of the pedal division.

Dr. Estes, The Rev. Michael Link and Mark S.Towne were delegated to serve as the All Saints' Organ Task Force. For the remainder of 2015, the time was spent with exploring how to approach various builders to consult with on this issue. With a chance meeting between Mark Towne and organ builder Manuel Rosales at another church's recital, the investigation into the necessary maintenance proceeded. The Task Force met with Janet Ty, and after considerable prayer and discussion, with Janet's full support, and the approval of the Vestry, the work was awarded to Manuel Rosales.

The Work.

The All Saints' organ is a tracker (mechanical action) organ of two manuals and pedal, of a design that was common in organs built in northern Germany and similarly in the Netherlands. It was originally voiced in a historic temperament known as Kellner. In recent years, this temperament was modified to make the instrument more "friendly" to later styles of organ music and to the hymns played on Sunday mornings.

One of the current problems with the organ is the blower. As it was supplying wind to the pedal division as well as the manuals, playing complex chords became problematic, creating a sagging of the pitch effect. And when the pedals were added, the instrument would tend to lose a fair amount of wind. To remedy this, a separate blower and air reservoir will be added exclusively for the pedal pipes.

Another issue is the original placement of the 16' Subbass in the Pedal. It was mounted on an offset chest placed directly on the rear of the case, not allowing for the proper dissemination of tone. To correct this, those pipes will be placed on an independent wind chest against the wall behind the case. In addition, two additional 16 foot stops will be added: a new 16' wood Subbass (which will also be available as a 32' Resultant) and a 16' Contra Bassoon. Both of these stops will be extended with 12 additional pipes making them available at 8' pitch as well. These ranks will be fabricated by Organ Supply Industries. The existing 16' Subbass will be re-voiced into a Lieblich Gedeckt yielding a softer 16' option on the Pedal. This chest will be electric action. The 8' Clarinet on the Great will be removed, and will be replaced with a Moller Artiste style 8' Trompette.

There is a target date of Easter of 2017 for completion of this work. Manuel Rosales has already begun the procuring of materials. The organ will be unavailable for about a three week period at a yet undetermined time in the early part of next year. Once the additions and necessary work has been performed, the organ will undergo a full re-voicing.

All of the task force and the Vestry are very excited about this project to enhance an organ that has possessed great potential for the past 17 years. But most of all, we are thankful to Mrs. Janet Ty for her vision for a pipe organ at All Saints'. We are proud for her support of our building on that vision, and the anticipation of more opportunities to glorify God in our music!

Soli Deo Gloria!

Mark S.Towne, Chair of the All Saints' Organ Task Force

Trinity's Wicks Turns 40

Trinity United Methodist Church
6151 Charleston Blvd
Las Vegas, NV 89146



In 1972 the Worship Commission Chair of Trinity United Methodist Church reported to the charge conference that, "A Memorial Fund has been established with long-range plans for purchasing a small pipe organ to replace the present inadequate instrument."

A Pipe Organ Selection Committee was established in December 1974. Rev. James Stewart met with the committee and laid out the objectives. Garold Gardner, representing the Worship Committee was the chairperson. Other committee members were: Bob Beasley, Trustees; Paul Brooks, Finance; Carole Phillips, Choir; Charlene Elliot (now Rogerson) and the late J. Lynn Smith, At-Large; and Raymond Barnes, Director of Music, Ex-Officio.

A contract was signed in February 1975 with the Wicks Organ Company of Highland, IL, to custom build for Trinity UMC, a six-rank pipe organ for \$15,888.00. The pipe organ was delivered on Ash Wednesday, (March 3) 1976 at 6:00 A.M. Men of the church met at the church to unload boxes of pipes and other components. It was in-

stalled in March, 1976 by John R. (Dick) Mitchell of Salt Lake City and dedicated in a festive service on March 28, 1976. Garold Gardner, Chairperson of the Organ Selection Committee, insisted that no one hear the organ until the opening hymn. People came early to get seats; those who arrived late stood along the walls. There were many tears of joy and celebration during that very special event.

In February 1986, a three rank mixture stop was added to the Great manual. The pipes were a gift of Roy and Roslyn Collins. This addition was sent to the Wicks factory to be revoiced and to have a wind chest added before it could be installed. Money for the factory work and installation came from the J. Lynn Smith Memorial Fund and from other contributions. The addition, which includes the small pipes installed at the top of the organ cabinet, adds brightness and richness to the organ. With this installation the organ includes a total of nine ranks and 595 pipes. Three years ago the relay system was replaced with a Peterson 4000 system and today the instrument would be valued at \$350,000.

Many thanks to Melonie Card for finding this information in the church history, "Trinity United Methodist Church, Las Vegas, Nevada 1963-1988" edited by Richard W. Edmonson.

GREAT

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-----|
| 1. | Principal | 8 |
| 2. | Bourdon | 8 |
| 3. | Gemshorn | 8 |
| 4. | Gemshorn Celeste | 8 |
| 5. | Principal | 4 |
| 6. | Gedect | 4 |
| 7. | Principal | 2 |
| 8. | Mixture | III |
| 9. | Trompette | 8 |
| Swell to Great 16 | | |
| Swell to Great 8 | | |
| Swell to Great 4 | | |
| Cymbalstern | | |



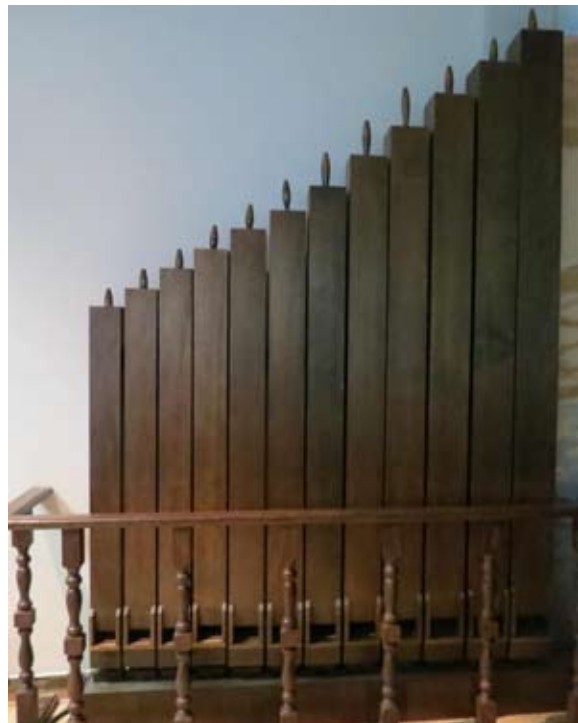
PEDAL

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------|----|
| 1. | Subbass | 16 |
| 2. | Principal | 8 |
| 3. | Rourdon | 8 |
| 4. | Chroal Bass | 4 |
| 5. | Gedeckt | 4 |
| 6. | Flute | 2 |
| 7. | Trompette | 8 |
| Great to Pedal | | |
| Swell to Pedal | | |
| Auto Pedal | | |



SWELL

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-------|
| 1. | Gedeckt | 8 |
| 2. | Gemshorn | 8 |
| 3. | Gemshorn Celeste | 8 |
| 4. | Nachthorn | 4 |
| 5. | Spitz Octave | 2 |
| 6. | Quinte | 1 1/3 |
| 7. | Trompette | 8 |
| Tremelo | | |
| Swell to Swell 16 | | |
| Unison Off | | |
| Swell to Swell 4 | | |





Boulder City United Methodist Church

P. O. Box 61075 ♦ Boulder City, NV 89006 ♦ 293-7240

Opportunity: Keyboardist Position

Where: 100 St. Jude's Street
 St. Jude's Ranch for Children
 Boulder City, NV 89005

When:	Worship Service	11:15 am - 12:15 pm
	Rehearsal (with choir)	9:45 am - 10:30 am

Compensation: \$25/hr = \$50/Sunday

Contact: Bruce Benke to arrange an audition
 702-293-7711 bcbenke@gmail.com

Requirements: Commitment to Sundays 9:45 am – 12:15 pm
 Sight-reading skills – all selections
 Play with choir, guitar and flute
 88-key electronic keyboard

The Southern
Nevada Chapter
of the
American Guild of
Organists

presents



Advent-Christmas Members' Recital

featuring seasonal organ and choral music

**Sunday, December 4, 2016
4:00 P.M.**

**DR. RANDO GRILLOT RECITAL HALL
BEAM MUSIC CENTER
UNLV, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA**

**The 2004 Rudolph von Beckerath
Maurine Jackson Smith Organ**



Series funded in part by a grant from the Nevada Arts Council and
the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

The program is open to the public without

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

with COMBINED CHOIRS, SOLOISTS and CHAMBER ORCHESTRA



The Eleventh Annual Charity Fundraiser Do-It-Yourself

A Charity Event for the HENDERSON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FOOD BANK ~ Free Will Offering
A raffle drawing for numerous Gift Baskets will also be held! Come early and see!

TWO PERFORMANCES

7:00pm Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Dr. Spencer Baker Conducts from the Harpsichord



Green Valley Presbyterian Church

1798 Wigwam Parkway, Henderson, Nevada 89074
Northeast corner of Valle Verde at Wigwam (just north of I-215)
(702) 454-8484 www.greenvalleypres.com

► Sing in the Audience Seats! ◀

Come and Sing! Scores are available for purchase

3:00pm Sunday, December 11, 2016

Dr. Mark Wherry, Conductor

Mountain View Presbyterian Church

8601 Del Webb Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89134
(702) 341-7800 www.mviewpc.org

www.diy-messiah-lasvegas.org

www.facebook.com/DIYmessiahlv