

SOUTHERN NEVADA CHAPTER
OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

THE DESERT WIND

Editor: Bruce Behnke © 2015

Issue: Sept/Oct 2015

Dean's Notes



Southern Nevada Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Dear colleagues,

We are indebted to Jan Biger for having guided our Southern Nevada Chapter as Dean for several terms. We are sorry that she has resigned as Dean in order to focus fully on her husband Scott's health and her family. We certainly understand and support her ordering of priorities, and we thank her for her years of placing our AGO chapter as one of her top concerns.

With Jan's need to resign as Dean, it becomes my responsibility as Sub-dean to get us through this year. Since it is well past the spring, when we would normally have an election, your Executive Board and I agreed that I would act as Dean until spring when we could have a regular election. I have resigned my position on one of the community boards on which I have served for many years in order to take on the added AGO chapter responsibilities. I solicit everyone's help in making this coming year a successful one.

The year ahead has fabulous events already scheduled. Our opening potluck, Friday, September 11 at the home of member John Ledwon promises to be one of them—an event you will not want to miss. You will find the specifics in this issue of *The Desert Wind*. If you haven't yet called Jan Bigler to tell her you are coming, please do so without delay. (702) 898-5455. She is coordinating the food for the potluck.

Our AGO Recital Series this year promises to be a stellar one. The schedule appears in this issue of the newsletter, and more information can be found on the chapter website: SNCAGO.org. Additionally, Christ Church Episcopal has planned an Organ Recital Series, details of which can also be found on our website. Our Advent/Christmas Members' Recital is being co-sponsored by the Chapter and the church, and will be held at the church on Sunday, December 6 at 4:00 P.M.. All told, between these two series of organ recitals, there are

ten opportunities to hear some of the "hottest" nationally and internationally known artists. And some people say Las Vegas has no culture!

There are two specific ways you can help: (1) become a Patron for our Recital Series. Our financial ability to bring quality artists depends on you and like-minded supporters in the community. Equally as important—(2) plan to attend the recitals—help us advertise, and bring your friends and family members to the events. Recently, one of our Patrons wondered (on our evaluation form), "Why is it that given the terrific quality of the recitals, there are empty seats?" If we each make it our personal mission to reach out and win a new friend or two for our recitals, maybe we can fill the house.

Let's have a great year!

Cordially,

Paul

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Final Recital in the 2014-2015 Series Immensely Satisfying

Southern Nevada, June 5, the chapter's Organ Recital Series concluded with a performance at The University of Nevada Las Vegas by James David Christie, chair and professor of organ at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. He presented a program of music from sixteenth century to present including his original composition, "Élégie" in memoriam: Jean Langlais." The Organ Recital Series will resume at UNLV October 9, 2015 with visiting artist, Christopher Houlihan.

-Dorothy Young Riess



About 110 people came to hear prize-winning organist James David Christie at Doc Rando Hall on Friday, June 5, 2015. Not only was Mr. Christie's chosen program well-balanced by selections of "early" music, Baroque, Romantic and modern periods, but each composition was thoughtfully and stylishly presented. One could sense that all of the accolades Mr. Christie has earned are well-deserved. The recital was a perfect ending to the Southern Nevada Chapter of the AGO's recital series season.

The results from the audience evaluations (58 completed) (52.7%):

First time visiting Doc Rando 4 (6.9%)

First hearing of the von Beckerath organ 4

First attendance at an AGO recital 4

Attendance at organ recitals before:

1-3 = 6 (10.3%) 4-5 + 3 (5.2%) more than 5 = 49 (84.5%)

How people heard about the recital:

e-mail notification=32 (55.2%) flyer=7 (12.1%)

radio=5 (8.6%) previous program=15 (25.95%)

from a friend=13 (22.4%) Internet=4 (6.9%)

Feelings about the program and performer:

Loved it! = 42 (72.4%) Liked it a lot = 16 (27.6%)

Overall rating:

Superb = 41 (70.7%) Excellent = 17 (29.3%)

Average =0 Fair = 0 Poor = 0

100% of reviewers rated the recital as "superb" or "excellent."

Paul S. Hesselink

Christopher Houlihan

The new Organ Recital Series of the Southern Nevada Chapter of the AGO begins with a recital by Christopher Houlihan on Friday October 9, 2015 at 8:30 P.M. playing the the Beckerath Organ in Doc Rando Hall on the campus of UNLV.

The young American musician Christopher Houlihan is widely acknowledged as one of the brightest stars in the new generation of organists, praised by the media as “gifted” (New York Times), “dazzling” (Wall Street Journal), and “eloquent” (Los Angeles Times). Houlihan has established an international reputation for his artistry with performances in celebrated venues in major cities across North America and Europe, as well as at numerous conventions of the American Guild of Organists and the Organ Historical Society.

In 2014, Houlihan made his Disney Hall debut, performing with principal brass of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, for which the Los Angeles Times raved, “Houlihan is the next big organ talent.” Also in 2014, Houlihan performed in a prime-time slot of WQXR’s All-Day Bach Organ Marathon in New York City. Spanning 18 hours, the marathon was webcast live and seen by thousands. Houlihan’s 2014-2015 recital season also includes performances in San Diego and Palos Verdes Estates, California, Tuscon, Albuquerque, Winnipeg, St. Louis, and Ocean Grove, New Jersey.

Highlights of the 2015-2016 season include Houlihan’s debut at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and the release of a new all-Bach organ CD. Recorded at Trinity College, the CD features Bach’s famous Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor and Houlihan’s own arrangement of Bach’s Italian Concerto, BWV 971. Houlihan will also perform recitals in Massachusetts, Florida, New Hampshire, and Nebraska.

Christopher Houlihan’s “Vierne2012” tour attracted international attention and critical acclaim for his marathon performances of the six organ symphonies of Louis Vierne in six major North American cities. The Los Angeles Times called his performance there “a major surprise of the summer, a true revelation.” Other recent seasons included performances in New York City, Dallas and San Francisco’s Davies Symphony Hall.

Houlihan studied with Grammy Award-winning organist Paul Jacobs at The Juilliard School, where he earned a master’s degree, with John Rose at Trinity College (Hartford), and Jean-Baptiste Robin at the French National Regional Conservatory in Versailles. Houlihan’s recordings include music of Maurice Durufle and Jehan Alain, and Organ Symphony No. 2 by Louis Vierne, both on Towerhill Records. Houlihan is Artist-in-Residence at St. Ignatius of Antioch Church in New York City and at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. More information, including photos and videos, can be found at christopherhoulihan.com.



Bruce Behnke How old were you when you first started studying the organ seriously and what first started your interest in the pipe organ?

Christopher Houlihan I had my first 'serious' organ lessons when I was twelve years old with John Rose at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, where I would eventually attend college, and where I now work as Artist-in-Residence. I had an interest in the organ from the age of 10, but did not have a teacher for a while. I was attending a Catholic school at

the time, and the church there had a pipe organ, but no one to play it! I was fascinated with the sight of the instrument. It was a completely mechanical action instrument, and I loved watching the keys pull down the other manuals when they were coupled together.



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

Houlihan I've been lucky to study with three extraordinary teachers: Paul Jacobs at The Juilliard School, Jean-Baptiste Robin and the Conservatoire de Versailles, and John Rose at Trinity College.

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

Houlihan Certainly playing at Disney Hall in Los Angeles last fall (with the Brass section of the LA Phil) was memorable. I love the music of Louis Vierne, so the chance to play at Notre-Dame de Paris was very special.

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

Houlihan Other than some student compositions, no. I regularly improvise when working in churches, but in concerts I stick to playing repertoire.

Behnke What pieces will you be playing for us?

Houlihan Toccata by Leo Sowerby,
Italian Concerto BWV 971 Bach Allegro – Andante – Presto, arr. Houlihan
Prelude and Fugue in A Minor, WoO 9 Johannes Brahms
O Welt, ich muss dich lassen, opus 122, no. 11 also by Brahms
Romance, from Symphony No. 4 in G Minor, opus 32 Louis Vierne
Fantasy in E-flat Camille Saint-Saens
Prelude and Fugue in E Minor, BWV 548 J.S. Bach

SAVE THE DATE!

EVENT: *Ty Woodward in concert*

DATE: *October 2, 2015*

TIME: *7:30 p.m.*

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



SUGGESTED DONATION: *\$15.00*

The first concert in this year's concert series will feature Mr. Ty Woodward who will present a program of selections from classical organ (Widor's famous "Toccata"), theatre organ ("Abba Dabba Honey-moon" and "Maple Leaf Rag"), orchestral transcriptions (Offenbach's "Can Can Dance") and popular music (the theme song from Disney's "Beauty and the Beast") repertoires performed on the 54-rank Schantz organ.



The audience will also be treated to a "Tonal Tour Through the Organ," a demonstration of the various sounds ("ranks" in organ-speak) that comprise the 4-keyboard (aka "manual"), 54-rank pipe organ built by the Schantz Organ Company of Orville, Ohio.

An internationally known concert artist and recording artist, Mr. Woodward 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. He is currently Organist at First United Methodist Church, Santa Monica, and a Staff Organist at Disney's El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood.

As a pipe organ consultant, he has worked with numerous churches, including Christ Church Episcopal, on the design and installation of their new pipe organs and is the area representative for the Schantz Organ Company.

Bring yourself, your family, and your friends to a thoroughly enjoyable evening of non-drowsy music on the spectacular pipe organ at Christ Church Episcopal.

Combined Recital Calendar for 2015-2016

Thomas Strauss

Sunday, November 1, 2015 7:30 P.M.
Doc Rando Recital Hall

German organist Thomas Strauss has won many competitions and performed organ recitals around the world.

Joint Recital on SNCAGO Series and CCE Series Annual Members' Advent/Christmas Recital

Sunday, December 6, 2015 4:00 P.M.
Christ Church Episcopal

Always a popular recital, this program features local talent from the Southern Nevada Chapter AGO membership. Get your holiday season off to a greeat start! Admission to this recital is free - There will be an opportunity to contriburte to the AGO's Raymond Barnes Scholarship Fund to support organ study for young piano studetns interested in the organ.

Adam J. Brakel

Friday, January 8, 2016 7:30 P.M.
Christ Church Episcopal

"Adam Brakel is quickly earning a well-deserved reputation as one of the finest young organists in the profession. His playing is distinguished for its energy, passion, transcendent virtuosity that serves the music without distracting, and most importantly, musical maturity and communicative power." (The American Organist, July 2015) A recent graduate of the Peabody Conservatory, Adam J. Brakel has already embarked on a highly successful concert career, playing from coast to coast in the United States, and concert tours which have taken him to England, Germany, and Hong Kong.

Hans Uwe Hielscher

Friday, February 5, 2016 7:30 P.M.
Christ Church Episcopal

Hans Uwe Hielscher is a German organist and composer, the organist and carillonneur at the Marktkirche in Wiesbaden since 1979, and internationally known as a concert organist. Hielscher studied church music at the Hochschule für Musik Detmold, and carillon in Utrecht. In Wiesbaden he created a series of weekly free recitals called Orgelmusik zur Marktzeit (organ music at market time) on Saturdays at 11:30 A.M. Hielscher is active as a concert organist and has played more than 2500 organ concerts worldwide. This is Mr. Hielscher's



second appearance on the Christ Church Recital Series. Prior to his recital Mr. Hielscher will present a lecture on the French composer and organist, Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911) at 6:00 P.M.

Chelsea Chen

Friday, February 26, 2016 7:30 P.M.
Doc Rando Recital Hall

Ms. Chen is having a successful international concert career and captivates her audiences with her playing. She was a featured performer on the Doc Rando organ during the Region IX AGO Convention in 2006.



Jens Korndörfer

Friday, April 8, 2016 7:30 P.M.
Doc Rando Recital Hall

In the past decade, German-born organist Dr. Jens Korndörfer has given more than 200 concerts at major venues around the world. Critics have called him a “prodigious technician” and have praised his “effortless, poetic,” “colorful and exciting playing.”



David Dorway

Friday, April 29, 2016 7:30 P.M.
Christ Church Episcopal

Dr. David Dorway received his medical degree in 1972 from the University of Illinois School of Medicine. After completing his Pediatric Residency and serving three years in the Air Force, he moved to Las Vegas in 1978. He retired in 2011 from Children’s Clinic after 33 years of practice. Dr. Dorway began playing the organ for youth Sunday School in 6th grade. He has been playing the pipe organ at Grace Presbyterian Church (formerly First Presbyterian) since January 1985. He is currently the Treasurer for the Southern Nevada Chapter of the AGO.



Dorothy Young Riess

Friday, May 20, 2016 7:30 P.M.
Doc Rando Recital Hall

Our own Dr. Dorothy will present this recital in celebration of her 85th birthday. You won't want to miss it.



Events on the SNCAGO Organ Recital Series (in red) are free while Christ Church Episcopal (in blue) have a Suggested Donation of \$15.00.

Second Annual Organ Institute of the Oregon Bach Festival

The second annual Organ Institute, June 29 through July 4, was held in Eugene, Oregon as part of the famed Oregon Bach Festival, June 25 through July 12. The Organ Institute was directed by organist Paul Jacobs, Chair of the Organ Department at The Juilliard School in New York. Eight organists from Iowa, Texas, Virginia, California, Nebraska and New York had been accepted as masterclass performers. Additionally, ten “auditors” from Montana, Oregon, Nevada, and Vancouver, British Columbia completed the Institute’s roster of participants. An early event of the Institute on Monday evening was a stunningly performed organ recital of works by Bach, Brahms and Reger by our leader, Paul Jacobs.

Paul Jacobs’ nearly twelve hours of masterclasses and teaching during the Institute showed insight, sensitivity, practicality, and a concern for musical communication and relationships. Discussions about employment as organists and the future of the organ profession were stimulating and sobering. Having people from many areas of the country and of all ages brought a wonderful depth to the discussions.

Venues and organs for the various sessions and concerts included First United Methodist Church (3- manuals and pedal, 41 ranks - Austin 1913, Lanny Hochhalter 1995, 2010); Central Lutheran Church (3-manuals and pedal, 38 stops, 65 ranks, John Brombaugh, Op. 19, 1972); the Hult Center for the Performing Arts (Soreng Theater and Silva Concert Hall), and Beall Concert Hall (3 manuals and pedal with 4th manual diskant cornett, 38 stops, 51 ranks - Jurgen Ahrends, Op. 76, 1974) at the School of Music at the University of Oregon. Both the Brombaugh and Ahrends organs were “landmark” instruments when installed.

In addition to organ masterclass sessions, participants could attend offerings of the Bach Festival: two lecture/concerts in the Discovery Series focusing on Parts I and II of Bach’s Christmas Oratorio, BWV 258; a concert of works featuring Bach’s Cantata No 150, the Bruckner Te Deum, and Brahms Symphony No. 4 in E Minor, Op. 98; an organ recital by University of Oregon faculty member Barbara Baird (works by Bruhns and Bach); and a program of Koto music. A special guest at one of the masterclasses was organ builder John Brombaugh whose shop in the later years until he closed it in 2005 to retire, was in Eugene. At 78 years old he is a fountain of knowledge and was a vital force at the forefront of the American Orgelbewegung. Thursday was devoted to an all-day field trip to Portland where organs by Richard Bond at Holy Rosary Catholic Church, an 1880 Hook organ which could still be hand-pumped at “The Old Church” (a spectacular Carpenter Gothic building), and the fantastic Manual Rosales organ, Op. 11 at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral (3 manuals and pedal, 54 stops, 87 ranks, 1987) were explored



Central Lutheran



First United Methodist Church

Two bonus recitals I was able to attend (complimentary tickets to Institute participants if concerts weren’t sold out) were a Chamber Music Northwest program of Beethoven’s Violin Sonatas Nos. 6, 7 and 8 plus Twelve Variations on a Theme from The Marriage of Figaro with acclaimed violinist Ida Kavafian and pianist Peter Serkin, and a program of orchestral works by Bach and Handel conducted by the renowned Masaaki Suzuki and featuring Monika Huggett, celebrated Baroque violinist, in the Concerto for Two Violins, Strings and Continuo in

D Minor, BWV 1043. The program also included the Brandenburg Concerto No. 1 in F Major, BWV 1046, Orchestral Suite No. 3 in D Major, BWV 1068 and Handel's Concerto Grosso in G Minor, Op. 6, No. 6. The orchestra was the Orchestra of the Berwick Academy for Historical Performance, a new program at the festival making its debut this season. It provides training for advanced students and young professionals in the field of early music, performing on period instruments. The final musical event of the Organ Institute was a fine recital at First United Methodist Church of works by John Weaver, Bach, Alain, Dupre, Messiaen and Reger, presented by the eight performers from the week's Organ Institute.

Aside from being rather toasty with higher than Las Vegas humidity (everyone said the weather was unusually warm), the week was a terrific financial bargain; tuition, including all concerts and classes, was a modest \$300. The musical rewards were many times that value--priceless!

Paul S. Hesselink

Classified Ads

1927 KNABE 5'1" PIANO. Was restrung in 2005. Has AMPICO Reproducer (needs work). Includes a number of Ampico rolls from classical to pop music of the day. \$3000.00 (buyer to move). Contact Mark at (702) 321-9398.

REUTER OPUS 655 (2 manual/3 rank) pipe organ with console, chests, regulator. Needs blower. 8' Salicional (61 pipes); 8' Dulciana (61 pipes, 6 Haskell pipes); 16' Flute (97 pipes; stopped). Will sell as a unit for \$400.00, or will sell as parts. Contact Mark at (702) 321-9398.

Call for Organists

The annual Advent-Christmas Members' Recital will again take place at Christ Church Episcopal on Sunday, December 6 at 4:00 P.M. Please be thinking about whether you would like to contribute a performance to the program. Always a popular event, the recital is an opportunity to showcase the talent of our own chapter members. The audience members are also given an opportunity to make a freewill donation to our Raymond Barnes Memorial Scholarship Fund to help young interested local piano students with attendance at summer Pipe Organ Encounters or for private organ study at the collegiate level.

Fall Social

Don't forget to mark your calendar for our opening of the year social event at the home of John Ledwon to see his newly installed Theater Organ. The date is Friday, September 11 starting at 6:00 P.M. Call Jan Bigler to find out what food to bring at 702-274-9495. Directions were included in the message sent out August 17, 2015. If you need to have your memory refreshed send an email to sncago@cox.net.

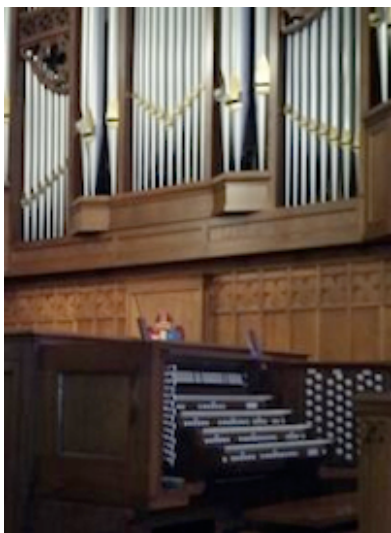
2015 AGO Western Regional Convention in San Diego

This year's regional convention was held in San Diego, California from June 28 to July 2. Two people from Las Vegas attended: Matt Estes and me. For those of you who didn't attend, you missed some world-class performances and missed hearing some incredible organs.

I had no idea San Diego had so many pipe organs: from the glorious Aeolian-Skinner organ (IV/115) at St. Paul's Cathedral, to the Paul Fritts tracker organ (III/34) at All Souls' Episcopal Church, to the magnificent 1915 Austin organ (IV/75) at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion. Because there were over twenty five concerts, master-

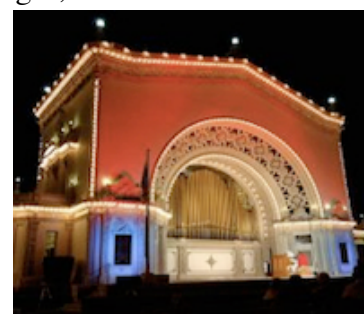
classes and even more workshops, I will highlight the more memorable ones -- yes, this is purely subjective on my part.

The first performance of the convention was Evensong at St. Paul's Cathedral. The large sanctuary was totally full. The magnificent Aeolian-Skinner organ had absolutely no problem supporting such a large crowd. This particular organ, recently rebuilt by Quimby Organ Builders in 2012 was my favorite. From the ethereal, heavenly celestes to the the silky smooth english reeds-- including a huge tuba mirabilis, this organ had everything. It was the most utilized instrument at the convention. St. Paul's looks like a classic European cathedral, and this organ was a perfect match. A one-hour organ concert ended the evening. Organist Douglas Cleveland played an all-modern program including works from Pamela Decker, J. Melvin Butler and finished with the Four Concert Etudes by David Briggs. If you ever need a "showy" piece to end a concert, Briggs' Fourth Etude is a great choice. Cleveland's performance was flawless, and when he finished all the crazy-fast pedal runs at the end of the piece, he received a spontaneous standing ovation which lasted at least five minutes. Cleveland's performance was simply incredible.



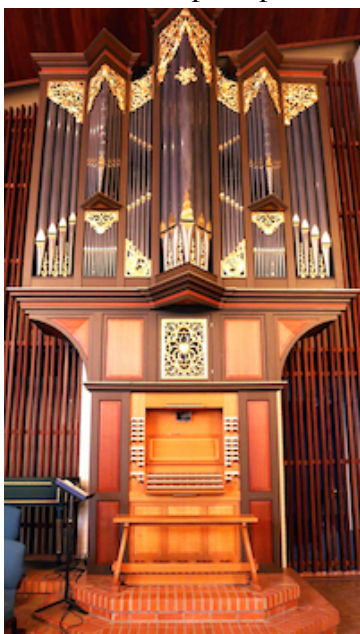
St. Paul's Cathedral

My next favorite performance was at Balboa Park's Spreckels Organ Pavilion. I had never heard an outdoor civic organ before. Waiting for the performance to begin, I couldn't understand how any organ could be "heard" in such a large, wide-open space. I expected to hear something weak and mushy. Was I ever wrong! Organist Robert Plimpton began his performance of the Star Spangled Banner with a trumpet fanfare using the organ's new english reed, the Centennial Tuba. I now know what 20 inches of wind pressure sounds like. I am sure that one stop by itself can be heard all the way to the Hotel del Coronado! Robert Plimpton was so entertaining and he had everyone laughing -- even while he was playing. His performance was pure entertainment.



Balboa Park Spreckels Organ

My next favorite performance was Christoph Bull's all-German performance on the Paul Fritts tracker organ at All Souls' Episcopal Church. That is, however, except for his opening number: Bull's own Vic I. That piece was simply torture - repetition beyond anything one can imagine. After about three minutes of hearing the same runs over and over and over again, the audience actually looked uncomfortable. Three minutes later, people were getting angry. I'm not sure if it was the heat (it was hot as hell inside that church) or if it was the piece, but some people actually got up and left before he even finished. After that, once he returned to the familiar Bach and Mendelssohn, things were great. The Fritts tracker organ is a beautiful organ with a gorgeous hand-crafted facade. The German pieces Bull performed on this organ truly sounded authentic. It was a rare treat to hear classic German organ pieces played on such an organ.



All Souls' Episcopal

The final convention concert was held again at St. Paul's Cathedral. Weicheng Chao played the organ and Fang Gao played the violin for the first half of the concert. It was a beautiful, lovely performance. You heard the complete range of the organ's strings division. But the second half was absolutely unforgettable. Chao played, from memory, Dupre's Variations sur noel. It was one of the most thrilling performances I have ever experienced. Besides his flawless technique, he played with such passion. He made extensive use of the organ's resources. The final two minutes of his performance was a master class on technique and registration. Just when

you thought the organ couldn't get any bigger or fuller, he would add a stop, then add another stop (all lightning fast) until it was almost more than you could bear. When he played that final chord, it was truly a religious experience. I was so emotionally moved -- thrilled -- by his performance, I couldn't speak. It was such a humbling experience to watch a master performer play a world-class instrument, and together, make heavenly music together. If I had just attended that single performance, I would have been completely satisfied. I am still in awe of his technique, and more importantly, his ability to truly master an instrument and create such beautiful music. This is one performance I will never forget.

There were other performers and other organs, some nice, some not so nice. But overall, we heard some great organs and got to watch some very talented performers. Even though no venue was air conditioned and we all perspired like crazy, and despite the ridiculously expensive and awful hotel accommodations, it was worth it. The only other standing ovation occurred when the spokesperson for next year's regional convention (in Houston, Texas) announced that every single venue at next year's convention had air conditioning - he got a hilariously loud two minute standing ovation!

Kym S. Cushing

AN ORGANIST'S VACATION IN MAINE

by

Dorothy Young Riess M.D.

Some people go on vacation to enjoy the scenery, peace and quiet of a new or well known place, and others go seeking pipe organs! I chose Maine because it was as far East as you can go, and offered several advantages of interest. First was an intensive photography course in Cushing ME, to stretch the visual mind to its limits! Not only did I meet wonderful new friends, but also realized that what I seek visually is "music" - of lines, and spaces and colors. The "music" of Acadia National Park and the rocky Maine coastline was extraordinary despite the hundreds of tourists.

I had read about two interesting pipe organs and went to see the first during a very wet and cold day. The tuners were finishing up as I entered the dark sanctuary of St Saviour's Parish on Mount Desert Street in Bar Harbor, Maine. The organ of 31 ranks, 25 stops, was completed by Visser-Rowland of Houston Texas in 1976 (Opus 6), specifically for this room, and has two unique characteristics. First, a Spanische Trompet (en chamade) with a fiery temperament but able to blend easily with full organ. Second, manual I is Great and Swell coupled together. II is the Great (Hauptwerk) and III is the Swell (Schwellwerk). Trompet en chamade may be drawn only on the Great. A Fagott 8' is present



Visser-Rowland organ at St. Saviour's Parish

on the Swell, extended into the pedal to 16'. A primary requisite was easy and infrequent tuning because of the church's location. The tuners told me they only do touch ups about twice a year and that the instrument is very stable despite external temperature changes in winter. Julia Morris-Myers, organist there since 2005, played a fine recital a few days later and selected repertoire especially suited for this instrument from lovely celestes and solo stops to raucous trumpet.



Console of the Kotzschmar Organ

The second organ was the Kotzschmar Organ in Portland Maine, built by Austin in 1912, Opus 323, and beautifully restored by Foley-Baker in 2014. It is one of only two city organs in America, the other being Spreckels in San Diego, California. I stayed a few days extra on my vacation just to see and hear this remarkable instrument of five manuals, 104 ranks and 7,000 pipes. Ray Cornils, celebrating twenty-five years as City Organist, showed me the organ and pointed out some of the details. The action is remarkably quick and all mechanisms are completely new. For

its size, it is easy to reach the manuals, and stops. The concert by Walt Strony, formerly of Las Vegas, was stunning musically and harmonically and showed his mastery of color, sound and percussion. It was also a delight to renew our friendship and have dinner with him and Mike Foley.

So the next time you're in Maine, take in the scenery of course, but don't miss these two beautiful instruments.



Flying over Mount Desert Island in a Cessna