

THE DESERT WIND

Editor: Bruce Behnke © 2008

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Dean's Notes



Southern Nevada Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Dear Colleagues, As the summer temperatures linger around 108 degrees or so, I'm missing the cool, rainy 70's in Rome and Venice in June when my son Aleem, his girlfriend Haydee and I enjoyed the wonders of the ancient cities. Besides the thankfully cool weather, there was so much to see, and we walked miles daily to get everything in. I was able to play on the 44 rank pipe organ in Saint Paul Within the Walls where our Dorothy Riess used to play. We heard the organ in Saint Peter's Basilica twice, and saw a huge Tracker in St. Mary Queen of Angels and Martyrs -- just one block down from my hotel.

It was also grand this June to celebrate with our colleagues our 40th anniversary as a chapter, appreciating together that we are a vitally alive group of talented musicians who are doing better each year in reaching out to everyone in South-

ern Nevada to expand their musical horizons. We need to consider how to expand and improve that outreach even more. Ray Barnes was the shining example of having his ear to the ground for hearing about and welcoming new people, and making them feel totally accepted.

Homer Ferguson, Dean of CAZ-AGO, had a conversation on this topic at this year's National Convention with our new National President, Eileen Guenther. She feels that since we live in a global society, we should widen our world view and expand our outreach by exploring varied musical mediums. Also, there are many church musicians that do not play the organ. Should we be trying to reach them? What, as organists can we offer these fellow sacred musicians? Is this a good way to expand our numbers?

I look forward to celebrating the International Year of the Organ with you this year. We have five wonderful concerts planned for our recital series, starting on October 24th with Felix Hell's recital, one not to be missed. Stay tuned also for a special lecture being planned by Mr. Hell for the benefit of the UNLV music students as well as for our membership. Bring relatives, friends, neighbors, colleagues, everyone you can think of to this wonderful event. We want to pack the house! Our first outreach expansion should be to fill Doc Rando Hall to overflowing for each concert!

See you September 13 at our opening potluck -- in the cool of Mount Charleston at Joan Winter's home -- thank you Joan. I'm hoping for some surprise musical entertainment: to be announced.

See you there.
Shireen Beaudry-Johnson

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CALLING ALL SOUTHERN NEVADA CHAPTER MEMBERS

During the years since the establishment of our formally organized Organ Recital Series, we have tried very hard to manage the expenses of the series mainly through the support of our Patrons so that the programs can remain “open to the public without charge.” Last season, as in all previous seasons, we are pleased to report that we ended “in the black” again, thanks to the generosity of our Patrons! In order to maintain that record for the coming season, we are appealing for your help again. Every contribution is important, and we are grateful to those of you who can support the series with significant gifts. Perhaps more important than the size of your gift, however, is that you do make a contribution. In writing grant proposals for outside support, the percentage of members supporting the series is most important. Our rather incredible record of audience approval (last season 97.6% of those responding to our recital surveys rated the programs in the series as either “superb” or “excellent”) surely helped us to gain our grant of support from the Nevada Arts Council for the coming year. As we plan for the next season, 2009-2010, we will certainly need to consider rather carefully the ever increasing costs of transportation. We will likely feel the effects of increased airfares this year although everything possible has already been done to lock in airfares for our guest performers. You are invited to become a Recital Series Patron. Your gift will help maintain this quality series. Choose as “loud” or “soft” a category below as is comfortable for you.

ff – fortissimo (\$250 and above)
f – forte (\$200 to \$249)
mf – mezzo forte (\$150 to \$199)
mp – mezzo piano (\$100 to \$149)
p – piano (\$50 to \$99)
pp – pianissimo (\$25 to \$49)

Donations are tax-deductible, and checks made to “Southern Nevada Chapter AGO” should be sent to Dr. David Dorway, Treasurer – 10613 Shoalhaven Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89134

There are many ways you can contribute to help insure the success of the series. Here are a few suggestions:

- Support the season by your attendance at the recitals and workshops
- Actively invite your friends to attend the recitals with you
- Promote each program in your church or workplace by posting and distributing flyers (we will provide the flyers if you ask)
- Talk up the programs---word of mouth is one of the best methods of advertising
- E-mail those in your address book who might be interested to attend
- Invite your students and their families
- Volunteer to usher, collect surveys, help with receptions after the recitals
- Let our Dean know if you are able and willing to help with hosting or entertaining our guest performers

At the end of last season we began an e-mail distribution list which informs anyone who wishes to be included on the list of the events in the series. At the beginning of the season, the entire list of events is sent via e-mail, and a week before each individual event, an e-mail reminder is sent. E-mail addresses can be added to the list at any time by sending an e-mail to paulshesselink@peoplepc.com with “AGO Recital Series List” in the subject line.

Finally, as we look toward the planning of subsequent seasons, we’d like to know of performers who you might like us to consider as artists. We already have a number of performers under consideration for next season and beyond.

We look forward to a musically rewarding and exciting series for 2008-2009.

Paul S. Hesselink
Organ Recital Series Chair

The Southern Nevada Chapter, American Guild of Organists

Organ Recital Series – 2008-2009

Friday, October 24, 2008

Felix Hell, organ

At age 23, this German “wunderkind” continues to awe and inspire the organ world. He has performed more than 750 organ recitals world-wide.

Sunday, December 7, 2008

Annual Members’ Advent – Christmas Recital

Enjoy the music of the season presented by local talent.

Friday, February 20, 2009

Duo Majoya, organ and piano

Marnie Giesbrect and Joachim Seeger, as a husband and wife duo from Edmonton, Canada has garnered “rave” reviews wherever they perform.

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Elizabeth Roloff, organ

An internationally established concert organist, Ms. Roloff lives and teaches in Israel.

Saturday, May 2, 2009

Dr. John Walker, organ

This program will feature the music of distinguished American composer Bruce Saylor. Handbells, voices and brass will be heard with organ.

Recitals in Doc Rando Hall - UNLV - 7:30 P.M.

The Maurine Jackson Smith organ (53-ranks, 38 stops and three manuals and pedal) was completed by the Rudolf von Beckerath of Hamburg Germany in 2004. The organ is the largest pipe organ in Nevada and was a gift to the University and the community by the Edward D. Smith family.

ORGANIST NEEDED

First Church of Christ Scientist is looking for an organist to play their Wednesday evening services at the church located downtown across from the Las Vegas Academy. If interested, contact Ruth Lombardo at 702 630-6814.

SOUTHERN NEVADA CHAPTER ORGAN RECITAL SERIES 2008-2009

Our Organ Recital Series this season is one of the most ambitious presentations of programs the Chapter has undertaken. The five recitals, beginning October 24 with a spectacular performance with world-renowned Felix Hell will be the chapter's kick-off event in our celebration of the International Year of the Organ. The final event in the series will feature Professor John Walker of the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore in a program of works for organ, choir, brass and percussion and handbells. The opening and closing recitals represent a sort of "coming full circle" since Felix Hell recently completed his Master of Music degree at Peabody with Professor Walker. Our annual Advent / Christmas program in December will feature the talents of local organists. In February we will experience the unique performance of Duo Major in an intriguing program of works for organ and piano, and in March organist Elisabeth Roloff from Israel will present a recital which we hope will include several works from a repertoire new to us. Go to our own website :

<http://members.cox.net/snc-ago>

and click on each of the performers to read more about each of them. Be sure to mark each of the recital dates in your schedule---you won't want to miss any of the programs.

CHAPTER MEMBERS ATTEND CONVENTIONS DURING THE SUMMER

Three members of the chapter attended organ conventions during the summer months. Those attending the National Convention in Minneapolis – St. Paul from June 22-26 were Michael Link, Alice Hohenthanner and Paul Hesselink. There was some concern about the slightly lower registration than conventions of the past (just slightly more than 1,700) and about the financial impact this might have. At the last report due to the convention presenters having secured solid financial funding for commissions and support in advance, the convention closed out in the black. In general, the week was filled with fine performers on incredible organs in impressive places. Ask any of the three members who attended for more details.

Two members of the chapter, Bruce Behnke and Paul Hesselink, attended the National Convention of the Organ Historical Society held in Seattle from July 13 to July 18. These events are always much smaller than National AGO Conventions and more intimate with opportunities to meet and visit with other conventioners---on the buses, before recitals and at meals. All meals for the week were provided in the registration fee, including an evening dinner cruise in the Seattle harbor). This convention, "A Young Yet Vibrant History," featured organs historic and also more modern examples of the Pacific Northwest school of organ building. Several major and active builders, notably Martin Pasi and Paul Fritts (a visit to the Fritts shop was part of the convention schedule), have shops located in the area. Originally, the convention planners envisioned 250 registrants, but registrations continued to pour in and were accepted until the convention had to be declared "Sold Out" at 325 people (some were turned away!) because several of the convention venues could not accommodate more bodies. Fine instruments (several spectacular) with solid and interesting performances were presented in Seattle, Tacoma and Olympia. The weather for the week cooperated making magnificent views of Mt. Rainier and the beauty of the land and seascapes a daily feature of the convention. Dr. David Dahl, coordinator of the convention, deserves accolades for the detailed planning and the clockwork execution of this memorable event.

NEW REGION IX "BLOG"

Dr. Frances Nobert, our Region IX Councillor, is bringing our region into the 21st century. She recently established a new "blog" for the region which she hopes will be another vehicle for information sharing. Check it out! The website can be found at <http://www.agor9.blogspot.com> . You'll note that even though the site is under construction, the link to our own chapter website is up and running. Bookmark it so you can easily return from time to time.

The Chapter's 40th Anniversary

The Southern Nevada Chapter of the AGO celebrated its 40th Anniversary on 6/13/08 at the First Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas. The tables were decorated with gold napkins, plates, cups and centerpieces of white vinca. Our Chaplain, The Reverend Bede Parry led our invocation. The festivities began with a catered dinner of Chicken in Champagne Sauce, Roast Loin of Pork, homemade gravy, etc. and ended with a delicious cake from Freed's bakery. We were very pleased to have 42 in attendance at our banquet, including 2 of our founding members: Joan Winters and Arthur Nelson. We were sorry that Margaret Hannah and Ethelyn Pe-



terson were out of town. We were delighted that Steve Wright and Richard Davenport drove from Salt Lake City to be with us. We were also so happy to have Inga-Britt Barnes as one of our most special guests.

Dr. Paul Hesselink, District Convener of the Grand Canyon District led the installation of Officers for 2008-2009 before we moved to the sanctuary for our member's organ recital by Richard Wallace, Dr. David Dorway, and Dr. Dorothy Young Riess on the 32 rank Abbott and Sieker pipe organ.

Our theme was Friday the 13th and during the Toccata and Fugue in D Minor by Bach, candelabra appeared, the church lights were extinguished, and Dr.

Dorway played while wearing a black cape. Dr. Riess ended the concert with her own exciting improvisation on Down By the Riverside.

A wonderful souvenir group picture was taken by Dr. Riess after the recital and it is available for purchase at: www.jdotpro.com.



SNC-AGO Fall Round-Up Potluck

Sat., Sept. 13, 08 11:00 am at
“Winterwood”
Don & Joan Winter, Lee Canyon

Bring a Dish to Share BBQ Available if you want to bring your choice of meat to grill. Beverages -
Table Service - Condiments Provided You may also bring your beverage of choice plus ice.

Bring directions – cells won't work once you turn up the canyon.
Watch your speed - Drive carefully May wish to toss in a jacket

Don & Joan invite you to come early and stay into the evening –
Enjoy a campfire – always plenty of food left to snack on.

Please RSVP A.S.A.P.
Cherrill Hoeft – 492-1775 (best after 5:00 pm) Or
Joan - 648-5838 (leave message)

Car Pool: meet at Shireen's home at 10:00am to car pool 645-6546

DIRECTIONS: Take Hwy 95 North to Lee Canyon
(13 miles past Kyle Canyon)
Turn Left up Lee Canyon, Hwy 156
14 miles to Deer Creek, Hwy 158
Pass Deer Creek, Whispering Pines, Summer Home Area
Pass the “2 Mile Marker”
Turn Left at “Lady of Snow”, go through the gate. Take 1st right to Don & Joan's cabin.

Discovery Channel Presents - Some Assembly Required

Tim Mann of Schantz Organs writes: I am excited to share the news that the Discovery Channel has announced air dates for the show “Some Assembly Required” on which we are being featured. The show will air on August 21, 2008 at 8PM. Hope you all have a chance to tune in.

Brian Unger travels to Easton, Pennsylvania to make...washable crayons, the much-loved tool of young artists. Then, he heads to Orrville, Ohio to build the breath-taking pipe organs that Schantz installs in churches nationwide. The creation of the new 3-39 pipe organ in the workshop of the Schantz Organ Company in Orrville, Ohio, for Camp Hill (PA) Presbyterian Church (near Harrisburg) will be featured on the Discovery TV Channel (on cable or satellite in most localities) in a national broadcast on Thursday, August 21, at 8 p.m. during the “Some Assembly Required” program.

The “Some Assembly Required” website now has a brief slideshow about pipe organs available at:
<http://dsc.discovery.com/tv/some-assembly-required/slideshow/slideshow.html>

The program is based on video shot at the Schantz workshop during fabrication of the organ. Thereafter, the instrument was installed in April, 2008, voiced in May, and played for the first service on June 1.