

THE DESERT WIND

Editor: Bruce Behnke © 2009

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Southern Nevada Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Dean's Notes

Dear Colleagues,
Season's Greetings to you all. As I write this, Christmas is ten days away and coming fast, whether we are ready or not. I'm guessing your life resembles mine at this point: daily rehearsals with one choir or another, frantic efforts to get the gift-shopping done, trying to find a few minutes to decorate and plan the menu for the feast, and just maybe, find a few minutes for your own personal practice at the instrument. We blink our eyes and these 10 days are gone.

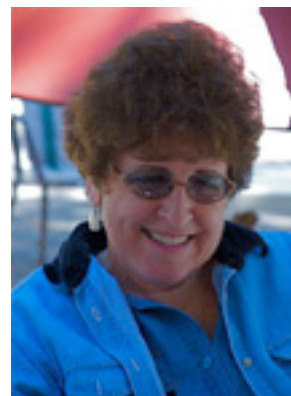
I'm hoping that you can take a few deep breaths and find time to remember the Christmases past of our youth, where the mysteries of the season were so real. I can still remember, as a child, how real and

present was the person of Santa Claus, how the sweet story of Bethlehem and the Child Jesus being worshipped by rich and poor alike filled my head and heart with wonder. Well, Santa Claus has become a wonderful symbol to embody how we should treat other people, giving to others whenever the opportunity presents itself.

The beautiful Bethlehem story is, however, the Reason for the Season, and one that is more vital today than ever. The Baby Jesus, drawing shepherd and king to His manger, is the unifying force of our spiritual world, and it's our job as organists/choir directors/bell fingers/cantors and soloists, to present Him to every element of our Society: rich and poor and all in-between. It is

our well-prepared music that can draw all those persons back to Jesus, back to the important spiritual things in our lives. Thank God for this glorious opportunity!

May you all have a blessed Christmas and a very happy and prosperous New Year. Shireen



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Advent - Christmas Recital December 2008

This years' member recital was very successful. We had a great audience, more than we've ever had for our Christmas recital. I think we can credit the great advertising that was done for the Felix Hell concert. All those people left with a list of our future events. Also because of that, our chapter got some air time with KNPR. Carla Swift, Dorothy Riess and I played a little bit and were interviewed previous to the recital. Several people indicated on the survey that they came to to the recital because they heard the interview on the radio.

And as for those surveys, everyone loved the recital and all the choices of music. Most of us are heavy-duty organ geeks but we have to remember that a lot, if not most, of our audiences will not be organ-educated and will enjoy lighter fare. If we want to attract bigger audiences of "everyday" people, we'll need to plan our programs accordingly. Anyway, all the comments on the surveys were positive. Thanks to everyone who played, all those who helped with publicity, to Haik for his never-ending "key service with a smile," Paul for helping with practice time, and to Doris for doing the refreshments! It was a great evening

FIFTH ANNUAL ADVENT / CHRISTMAS RECITAL

The Numbers are In!

Nearly 200 people attended the chapter's Fifth Annual Advent / Christmas Organ Recital on Sunday, December 7 in Doc Rando Hall on the UNLV campus. Here are some of the findings from the questionnaire members of the audience completed after the recital.

About half of the audience (97) attendees completed the questionnaire (48.7%) providing a healthy sample for survey. The data collected from the questionnaires after each recital provides valuable information which is helpful in preparing grant applications. Here are some of the results from this program:

For 52 respondents (53.6 %), this was their first attendance at one of our AGO recitals. Of those 52 attending an AGO recital for the first time, 35 were visiting Doc Rando for the first time, and 48 of them had never heard the Maurine Jackson Smith organ before.

How did people learn of the recital?

- 16 by e-mail notification (16.5%)

- 9 by seeing a flyer (9.3%)

- 8 from newspapers (8.2%)

- 10 from radio (10.3%)

- 4 from a previous program listing (4.1%)

- 32 from a friend (33%)

- 17 other---our website, online, from a teacher, cultural guide, church (17.5%)

Once again, "from a friend" continues to be the number 1 most effective way to get the word out about our recitals.

As to what works on the program the respondents particularly enjoyed, every performer was specifically mentioned, and quite a number indicated they enjoyed all the pieces. Here is the breakdown of how people felt about the program:

- 48 "I loved it!" (49.5%)

38 "I liked it a lot" (39.2%)
8 "I found it interesting" (8.2%)
3 "I might come back for another performance" (3.1%)
0 checked "I wasn't really interested," or "I wouldn't come again."

Overall rating of the recital:

34 Superb (35.1%)
54 Excellent (55.7%)
5 Average (5.2%)
2 Fair (2.1%)
2 no rating (2.1%)



We gathered 41 new e-mail addresses from respondents who wished to be notified / reminded of future organ recitals.

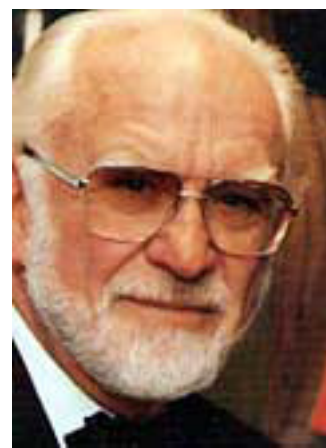
A reception followed the program (thanks to member Doris Francis who organized it). Thanks also to the performers: Richard Wallace, Jan Bigler, Carla Swift, Doug Lemmon, Bede Parry, Cherrill Hoeft, Dorothy Riess and Alice Hohenthanner. Appreciation also to those members who worked behind the scenes to make the recital happen.

The Life and Music of Paul Manz

Please join us for a 90th Birthday Celebration of Paul Manz at Saint Andrew Lutheran Church on Friday, January 23rd, 2009 at 7pm. AGO members will play his music, Dr. Paul Hesselink will briefly tell us about his life, and we will end with a mass choir singing, "E'en so, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come."

If you know this anthem and would like to sing with us, please arrive about 6:15pm to rehearse with Sharron Allanson, Music Director and Organist at St. Andrews. Please call David Dorway, 873-3655, if you or your choir would like to participate.

Saint Andrew Lutheran Church, 8901 Del Webb Boulevard, is in Sun City Summerlin on Del Webb, near Rampart. Refreshments will follow in the social hall.



Friday, February 20, 2009

Duo Majoya, organ and piano

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

Belated Bach Birthday Bash - Saturday, April 18, 6pm, potluck and birthday cake, at the Bigler's house. Call Jan 898-5455 if you'd like to play, and to sign up for potluck. It's a good opportunity to get friends to come and play different instruments with you.

Jan Bigler in Recital at the LDS Charleston chapel. Sunday, March 1, 5pm.



Phoenix Rising: Region IX Festival 2009

June 22-25

<http://www.agoinphoenix.com>

Plan now to be in the heart of the action for Phoenix Rising and stay at The Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa! The only existing hotel in the world with a Frank Lloyd Wright-influenced design, the Arizona Biltmore has been an Arizona landmark since its opening on February 23, 1929 when it was crowned The Jewel of the Desert. The resort's design was “inspired” by consulting architect Frank Lloyd Wright, who collaborated with former student Albert Chase McArthur. We have negotiated with the Biltmore Resort and locked our special Festival rate at \$139.00 (plus tax) per night, an outstanding rate for the world's Jewel of the Desert. This special rate will also be available for three nights both before and after the actual Festival dates-thus, from June 19 to 29. Go to our Phoenix Rising group page at the Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa to make your reservations - and for more Biltmore history, photos, and information. Please note that it is not necessary to use the group code “AGO” when booking your room via this special page. Local registrants are encouraged to purchase a transportation package, because of the limited parking available at some of the churches and because of the high cost of gasoline. Parking at the Biltmore is free in the covered garage, and, by using our transportation, you will have more opportunities to relax and visit with other Festival attendees.



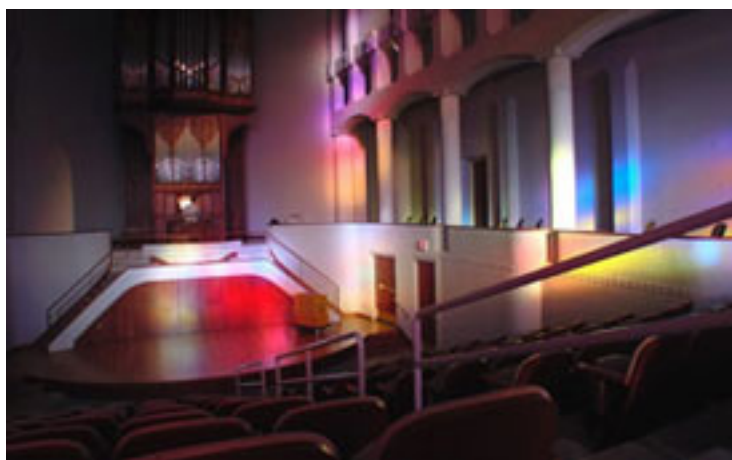
Carol Leslie (Benelisha) Trump was born June 13, 1941 in Rochester, NY to J. Leslie Benelisha and Janet Adelaide McMullen Benelilsha. She was raised in Pittsford, NY and attended Pittsford Sutherland High School, graduating in 1959. Carol learned to play the piano from her mother as a child and enjoyed and excelled in music making it a lifetime career. Carol was also active in high school tennis and continued her education and graduated with a music degree from Eureka College, Eureka, IL. She later received a master's degree in music education. It was at Eureka College that Carol met her first husband, John Edward Trump, Sr -deceased 1983. She met her second husband, Rev. Richard "Dick" Van Hoosen -deceased 2007, at a Eureka College class reunion. Carol had two children, Tamara Ann Hoskins of Illinois and John Edward Trump, Jr. of Utah. Her first and foremost love was teaching music, especially to children. Additionally, she enjoyed bowling, square dancing, china painting and most of all playing music. Carol was a substitute grade school teacher, teaching regular classes, as well as music and special education for many years. She taught both piano and organ lessons for over 40 years. She taught music classes at Illinois Central College, directing bands and various choirs, and also sang in a Barbershop quartet all the while performing as an organist/pianist for many church congregations. She was an active member of many music teachers associations and served as the Head of the Music Teachers Association of Alaska while living in Fairbanks from 1990 to 2001. Carol and Dick then moved to Las Vegas where Carol loved the excitement, playing video poker and the many opportunities for her music business. Everywhere she lived; she made long lasting friendships and shared her enthusiasm for life. She and Dick enjoyed various cultures and lands that they experienced in their travels around the world.



Carol leaves 2 sisters; Cheryl (Russell) Saccone of Ontario, NY and Chalice (Edward) Mattice of Gates, NY; children Tamara Ann Hoskins and John Edward Trump, Jr.; four grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews and cousins that will miss her outgoing personality and constant reminders to live life to its fullest every day. A memorial service was held at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Monday, December 15, 2008. Memorial gifts may be made to the Memorial Fund at Westminster Presbyterian Church or to the Music Fund at First Christian Church.

University of Kansas Sponsors North German Organ Study Tour

From July 28-August 10, 2009, the University of Kansas will sponsor KU European Organ Study Tour IV: North Germany, under the direction of professor Michael Bauer. This tour will include a significant number of the major Schnitger organs, as well as renaissance instruments, important 17th century organs by Scherer and Stellwagen, romantic organs by Ladegast and Sauer, and contemporary instruments by Ahrend and Metzler. We will also tour the Ahrend shop and have free time in Hamburg and Lübeck. For further information see www2.ku.edu/~organ, write mbauer@ku.edu, or call 785-964-9744





Organ Recital Dr. SCHUYLER ROBINSON

Professor of Organ-University of Kentucky
Assistant Organist- Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington
Sunday, January 4, 2009, 5:30 p.m.
All Saints Episcopal Church, Las Vegas, NV

Concerto in b minor
Allegro / Adagio / Allegro

Antonio Vivaldi / arr. J.G. Walther
(1678-1741) (1684-1748)

Seasonal Chorale Preludes

Wie schon leuchtet der Morgenstern
(# 497-Hymnal 1982)

Dieterich Buxtehude
(1637-1707)

Greensleeves
(#115-Hymnal 1982)

Richard Purvis
(1913- 1994)

Bossa Nova (Wunderbarer Konig)
In Thee is Joy

Johannes Mathias Michel
(b. 1962)

Les Bergers (The Shepherds)
from L'Navitite

Olivier Messiaen
(1908-1992)

..."having seen the infant lying in the cradle, the shepherds returned,
glorifying and praising God."

Prelude and Fugue in G Major (B.W.V. 541)

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

ORGAN RECITAL TO FEATURE DON HANNAH'S Variations on "Aberwystwyth"

On Sunday, February 8, 2009 at 4:00 P.M. at Doc Rando Recital Hall on the UNLV campus, member Paul Hesselink will present a Faculty Recital on the Maurine Jackson Smith Memorial Organ. The recital is free and open to the public.

Featured on the recital will be the World Premiere of Don Hannah's "Variations on Aberwystwyth." Don had been working on this composition during the last year of his life. It is his only work for the organ and was his last completed composition. The piece has four movements: Theme, Chaconne, Canonus Interruptus and Toccata. Don, a legend in his own time as arranger/composer par excellence, was married to chapter member Margaret Hannah and was a regular attendee at our chapter events.

The recital will also present Bernard Sander's "Ornament of Grace," the winner of the AGO's competition for a new work for organ and a C-instrument. The composition was chosen to celebrate the International Year of the Organ. An extremely lush and beautiful work, "Ornament of Grace" can be performed with violin, oboe, or B-flat clarinet and is a useful and welcome addition to the repertoire. An ensemble of advanced violin students from the Nevada School of the Arts will be featured as the soloists for this performance.

In addition, the program will include works by Nicolas Bruhns, François Couperin, Johannes Brahms and the contemporary Dutch composer, Bert Matter.

Position Available: Westminster Presbyterian Church, 4601 West Lake Mead Blvd., is desperately looking for an organist. Details and questions can be answered by Ron Slaughter: 373-3080

SAVE THIS DATE!

May 17, 2009 at 4:00 PM

Dr. Dorothy Young Riess

Performs her 77th Birthday Recital

at

First Christian Church

101 S. Rancho Drive, Las Vegas NV

Admission Free

Music by Buxtehude, Bach, Mendelssohn, Wagner, Reger,
and Dupre

ELISABETH ROLOFF, organist

by Paul S. Hesselink

Internationally acclaimed organist Elisabeth Roloff had been engaged to perform on our 2008-2009 Organ Recital Series on Thursday, March 26, 2009. Her appearance in Las Vegas was to have been after a performance at Arizona State University in Tempe on the previous Sunday and a performance at St. Thomas Church in New York City the following Sunday.

On December 2 we received notification from Ms. Roloff's manager, Monica Fallon, that Ms. Roloff had been diagnosed with cancer and the necessary treatments and recovery would necessitate the cancellation of her recital in Las Vegas and her tour to the U.S. I responded to Ms. Fallon:

We are sorry to hear of Ms. Roloff's illness. We had looked forward to her visit and recital in Las Vegas. Please express to her our deep concern and our prayers for her complete recovery.

On December 15 Monica Fallon informed us:

With sad heart I tell you that organist Elisabeth Roloff is no longer among us. She passed away yesterday, after struggling against forces much stronger than she could overcome. She had spent the last weeks with her family in Germany, who were at her side during the treatments. We will miss her joyful laughter, her beautiful music and her optimism. May the memory of her inspired energy always remain with us.

Born in Bielefeld, Germany in 1937, Elisabeth Roloff was recognized internationally as an outstanding concert organist. She performed in many important cathedrals, churches and concert halls in Europe, including the Royal Festival Hall in London and Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, as well as in the United States, South America and Mexico. She recorded several CD's: "Christmas Organ Music," "Bach Throughout the Liturgical Year," "Jerusalem, Thou High Built City," and "Organ Landscape Jerusalem" (a fascinating documentary of six organs in Jerusalem).

After graduating from the Hochschule für Musik in Cologne, Ms. Roloff continued her studies with Ralph Downes at the Royal College of Music in London. When she was based in Paris from 1974-1982, she was the "Organiste Titulaire" of the German Church and studied French music with Marie-Claire Alain.

Elisabeth Roloff performed in Israel regularly as a recitalist as well as with Israel's leading orchestras. At the time of her death, she was the organist and choir director at the Redeemer Church in the Old City, Jerusalem where she presided over a 1972 Karl Schuke (Berlin) of 21 stops in a clear and resonant acoustic setting. Organ recitals have been held at her church since the installation of the organ, and the church has gained renown as the church "where the music is." She was also a faculty member of the Jerusalem Rubin Academy of Music. She had lived in Israel for the last 30 years.

Music reviewer Pamela Hickman, in a recent issue of "Living in Harmony," the magazine for Cultural Events in Israel wrote:

Elisabeth Roloff passed away December 14th, after finally losing her brave battle with illness. I had the privilege of attending and reviewing Elisabeth's last recital in Jerusalem in May 2008 at the Redeemer Church. Before the concert, I went up to the organ loft to wish her a good evening and found her looking radiant and elegant. From the minute the concert began, the joy and brilliance she conveyed could only be matched by her choice of interesting works, her total control of the instrument and her good taste.

Despite failing health, Elisabeth played seven concerts in different European cities and towns this past summer. With her passion for music and fine performance, there was never any question of her giving up. She was so modest and quietly spoken when you met her, but at the organ she was inspiring in her control and sense of color.

Elisabeth will be sadly missed by so many. Her personality and musicianship have been a great inspiration to musicians, listeners and to her friends.

