

THE DESERT WIND

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Southern Nevada Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Dean's Notes

Dear Colleagues,

As an update, my cat Figaro made it to the week after Christmas. It's amazing how I feel her presence when I walk into the bedroom where she used to hang out on the big chair, a ghost of the recent past.

Then a ghost of long ago appeared in my e-mail when my sister Jan sent me a picture of a friend and myself as counselors in 1957 at the old CYO Camp Christopher. Over the years that group has kept track of each other. Now someone is doing research for a 50th anniversary book to celebrate the many fun years at this camp. How I used to love leading rousing sing-alongs in the mess hall, giving me horrible cases of laryngitis at the end of each summer. I guess that was my version of being a cheerleader.

And I'm still cheerleading, it seems, as the dean of our Southern Nevada Chapter, but won't get laryngitis this time. The cheerleading involves rousing our members to come share in the many wonderful cultural opportunities

that our city and the Guild provide. One of my friends said that she has to go back to New York periodically to attend some cultural events because Las Vegas doesn't have any. I let her know that that was not a true assessment. The grant committee noted that there is plenty of culture in Vegas, although some of it is a well-kept secret.

One example is the simulcast productions from the Metropolitan Opera from September through May, shown in our movie theatres here once or twice a month. I just saw a wonderful presentation of "Nixon in China" composed by John Adams, who also directed the Met orchestra. Other productions to be seen this season include Lucia Di Lammermoor by Donizetti (March 19), Le Comte Ory by Rossini (April 9), Capriccio by Richard Strauss (April 23), Il Trovatore by Verdi (April 30), and Die Walkure by Wagner (May 14). For more information go to Fathom Events.com.

But more importantly, there's our own Guild Recital Series. Yet to be en-

joyed for this season are:

Hans V. Hielsher from Germany who has appeared in 2200 organ recitals worldwide and will be here on Sunday April 10 in Doc Rando Hall at 7:30;

Dr. Dorothy Young Riess from our own guild who is offering this recital in celebration of her 80th birthday: on Friday, May 6 at 7:30 in Doc Rando.

I'm hoping to see more of our members at these last two recitals.

Your recital series committee just finished lining up next year's events. Among the offerings are performances by Duo Majora, Schuyler Robinson, and Isabelle Demers.

I sincerely hope you will allow yourself the pleasure of attending as many of these events as you can for your aesthetic growth and edification, so that your cheerleading Dean can say: Mission Accomplished -- without the laryngitis.

Fondly,

Shireen

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Next AGO Recital Series Workshop and Recital to Feature Internationally Known German Organist

The next recital in the 2010-2011 Organ Recital Series will showcase Hans U. Hielscher, renowned German organist from Wiesbaden, Germany. His recital will be presented in Doc Rando Hall in the Beam Music Center on **Sunday, April 10, 2011 at 7:30 P. M.** The program will celebrate the organ literature of the German Romantic Period and will include works by Josef Rheinberger, Alexandre Guilmant, Max Reger and a Suite for Organ written in "romantic style" by the evening's performer. The recital is open to the public without charge.

Hans U. Hielscher has been Director of Music and Carillonneur at Wiesbaden Marktkirche, Germany, since 1979. He is a graduate of Detmold Musikhochschule (Germany) and studied the carillon at the Nederlandse Beiaard School in Amersfoort (The Netherlands). He has been active in teaching, composing for various media and recital performance on organ and carillon throughout Europe, U.S.A., Far East, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

Since 1962, Hans Hielscher has appeared in more than 2200 organ recitals worldwide, including 31 concert tours in 39 states throughout the United States. He has performed in Festivals



and major recitals at Cathedrals in Germany, France, Great Britain, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Luxembourg, Czech Republic, Hungary, Israel, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Canada, The Bahamas and the United States. Since 1974, Hans has been organizer and organist for Organ Study Tours throughout Europe.

With 14 organ solo CDs to his credit, and has made various radio and television recordings in Germany, the United States, and Australia. His organ compositions are

published by Taverner (England), Butz (Germany) and FitzSimons Editions (U.S.). Author of *Alexandre Guilmant - Life and Work, History of the Organ* and the Musicians at *Wiesbaden Marktkirche and Famous Organs in America* (published by Edition Dohr, Cologne), he also translated the German edition of Michael Murray's biography Marcel Dupré - *The Life of a Master Organist* (published by Edition Lade, Vienna). In 1985, Hielscher was organist for Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles in an exchange program with Samuel John Swartz. Since 1986, he has appeared frequently as guest professor and lecturer/recitalist at the University of Redlands, where his subjects have been 19th century organ music and improvisation. He was awarded the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French government in 1985 for his worldwide promotion of French organ music. He is a longtime member of the AGO (American Guild of Organists), OHS (Organ Historical Society), and GCNA (Guild of Carillonneurs in North America).

Calling all AGO Members

(Please note: Mr. Hielscher's workshop is the day BEFORE his recital.)

Hans Hielscher's visit to Las Vegas affords a special opportunity for us to hear one of the world's experts discuss a part of the German Romantic organ literature. On Saturday, April 9, 2011 from

10:00 a.m. to noon on the Doc Rando stage, Mr. Hielscher will discuss and demonstrate Max Reger's collection of 52 Chorale Preludes, Op. 67, sometimes referred to as Reger's "Orgelbüchlein" (Little Organ Book). Our clinician has been the organist at The Marktkirche in Wiesbaden, Germany since 1979 and presides over the organ which was played by Max Reger between 1890 and 1898. Choralvorspeile Op.67 was written between the years of 1902 to 1903, only a few years following his tenure playing the 1863 E. F. Walcker organ installed in the Marktkirche. This collection of fifty-two Choralevorspiele on many well-known themes illustrates the approachable side of Reger. Many of the chorale preludes are one or two pages in length, and many of them are not of great difficulty. Mr. Hielscher's workshop will include a handout, a power-point presentation, recordings of some of the preludes on the organ Reger played, and a number of the preludes played live on the von Beckerath. Here is a real opportunity to become acquainted with some useful miniature gems of the organ literature and to learn from a world authority about this neglected set of pieces which are relatively unknown in this country. Come and be illuminated! We encourage you not to miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Come and hear about this collection of beautiful pieces.

The Final Recital on the 2010-2011 Organ Recital Series to Feature Our Own Dorothy Riess

On Friday, May 6, 2011 at 7:30 P.M. in Doc Rando Recital in Beam Music Center on the UNLV campus, Dorothy Young Riess, M.D. will close the 2010-2011 AGO Recital Series with a program in celebration of her 80th birthday. Her recital, "Music of Joy," will include works by Jean Langlais, Johann Sebastian Bach, Sigfrid Karg-Elert, Dmitri Shostakovich, Scott Joplin and Olivier Messiaen. The recital is free and open to the public.

In 1952 Dr. Riess won First Place in the American Guild of Organists National Young Artists Competition in San Francisco. She did her undergraduate study with Mildred Andrews at University of Oklahoma and completed the Masters degree with Frank Bozyan in organ at Yale University. After several years of a promising concertizing career, she decided and qualified to enter medical school at University of Oklahoma where she received her MD in 1969. After more than thirty years in private practice as a physician in Pasadena, California, she retired and moved to Las Vegas in 2000 and again took up practicing and playing the organ. A true Renaissance woman with experiences in ice-skating, obtaining her pilot's license, working on Wall Street, time in Rome and Paris studying the organ (among her teachers Marcel Dupré), she now makes her home here in Las Vegas with her husband Louis, a retired General in the Air Force. This coming July, Dr. Riess will perform a recital in the same church in San Francisco (but on a new organ) where she played her winner's recital in 1952, as part of the 2011 Region IX AGO Convention. You'll want to be at Dr. Riess's sure-to-be exciting recital on May 6 and to help her celebrate her 80th birthday.



Fantini Feste II Program a Resounding Success

About 200 attendees at the Saturday evening, February 26 organ and trumpet festival recital in Doc Rando Hall were treated to a program of spectacular music with fine performances by both professional and student trumpeters. At one time there were 22 trumpeters performing on stage! Our own AGO member, Dr. Eugenie Burkett, accompanied all of the pieces on the program and played with assurance and finesse using appropriate and interesting registrations. While the program included works that everyone knew, there were also wonderful works for organ and trumpets which were “new” to everyone. Two of those very successful works were the Jean Françaix “Marche Triomphale” for four trumpets and organ and the exciting final work on the program, “Hymn au Sacré-Coeur” by Lebanese-French organist-composer Naji Hakim for 7 trumpets and organ. We are greatly indebted to Steven Trinkle, adjunct trumpet instructor at UNLV, and his wife Genie Burkett, Music Education faculty member at UNLV, for organizing the festival and for inviting our AGO Chapter to be co-sponsors of this program as part of our Organ Recital Series. We are also grateful to Doris Francis for putting together and serving a lovely reception following the program.

Audience members completed and returned 82 evaluation forms. Following are the results:

First time visiting Doc Rando - 13

First time hearing the Maurine Jackson Smith organ – 23

First time attending an AGO organ recital – 21

Those who have attended an AGO recital previously:

1-3 = 11 4-5 = 7 more than 5 = 44

How did they hear of the concert?

E-mail - 42

Flyer – 4

Radio – 1

Previous program – 11

From a friend – 22

Other – 17 (included UNLV website, AGO website, Neon, etc.)

Statement best describing feelings about the program:

I loved it – 51 (62%)

Liked it – 22 (27%)

Found it interesting – 7 (9%)

Not interested – 1 (1%)

No response – 1 (1%)

Overall rating:

Superb – 30 (38%)

96% rated the program either “superb” or “excellent”

Excellent – 47 (59%)

Average – 2 (3%)

Fair – 0

Poor – 1 (1%)

No rating - 2



Genie Burkett and Chris O'Hara

Coming Events in 2011-2012 Organ Recital Series

Your AGO Recital Series Committee (Shireen Beaudry-Johnson, Jan Bigler, David Dorway and Paul Hesselink) has been working hard to line up an especially exciting season of artists for 2011-2012. We are still working on securing the exact performance dates in Doc Rando Hall, but we can let you know at this point who will be coming to perform on the series. The artists chosen and who all have agreed to be on the series are (in order of appearance as best we know at this point):

Duo Majoya with Paul Hesselink, a lecture-recital celebrating Arnold Schoenberg's only work for the organ, Variations on a Recitative for organ, Op. 40. This masterpiece of the 20th century is Schoenberg's longest work for a solo instrument and is rarely heard because of its great difficulty. Dr. Marnie Giesbrecht (University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada) will perform the original work as written for the organ, Dr. Paul Hesselink will provide an illuminating history of how the work was commissioned, composed, published and the ensuing 10-year controversy following. Dr. Giesbrecht and her husband Dr. Joachim Seeger (King's College, Edmonton) will close the program with a performance of the Celius Daugherty transcription of the work for two pianos. You may recall that Duo Majoya presented a wonderful program and workshop of literature for organ and piano for us several seasons ago. The Schoenberg lecture-recital was very well-received when first presented at University of Alberta in Edmonton, September 13, 2010 and was historic in that it is believed that it was the first time both the original organ work and the two-piano transcription were heard on the same program.



Our annual Members' Advent Christmas Recital. This popular recital will again be held at Christ Church Episcopal featuring the Schantz 4-manual organ completed in January of 2010. The date for this program at 4:00 P.M. is December 4, 2011. We will be calling for performers to play on this recital, so begin planning now about being on the recital.

Millennia Too!, organist Alison Luedeke and Susan Barrett, oboe, oboe d'amore and English horn. These consummate artists were part of the Region IX AGO Conclave which our Southern Nevada Chapter planned and hosted in January of 2006. Alison Luedeke has recorded a wonderful two-CD recording A Rudolf von Beckerath Retrospective: His First Instruments in North America. It is planned that Susan Barrett will also work with oboe students at UNLV during the visit.



Schuyler Robinson, Organ Professor at University of Kentucky. Some of you may know Dr. Robinson since he and his wife Linda come to Las Vegas frequently to visit their two children and three grandchildren who all live in Las Vegas. In 2008 Dr. Robinson released a fine recording, A Kentucky Organ Tour: Nine Historic and Modern Pipe Organs of the Bluegrass. He has

substituted as guest organist for several Las Vegas churches when visiting our city.

Isabelle Demers, one of the rising stars in the organ world. Ms. Demers is completing her DMA in organ performance at the Juilliard School in New York and is much in demand as a recitalist. She is under the management of Phillip Truckenbrod Concert Artists and was one of the featured artists in their ad in the July 2010 issue of *The American Organist*. Diminutive in stature, Ms. Demers is a dynamo unleashed at the organ. She first came to national attention when she performed on Michael Barone's "Pipe-dreams Live" at the 2008 AGO National Convention in Minneapolis. She was also a featured performer at the most recent AGO National Convention in Washington, D.C. this past July. She is a thrilling performer!



When all arrangements have been confirmed, the full details for the series will be released. The recital series is presented at considerable expense, and you, our chapter members, have been the major patrons making these programs possible. We encourage you to again participate by becoming a patron for the next season. This may be especially critical since grants through the Nevada Arts Council may be at a reduced level of funding due to the Nevada state budget challenges. Your committee worked hard and invested a huge number of hours in preparing our grant proposal to the Nevada Arts Council, and it was submitted on time (by February 15) with all of the necessary attendant support materials. A decision on grant funding won't happen until around June 1st.

Paul S. Hesselink, Chair, AGO Recital Series Committee



PAUL JACOBS WINS GRAMMY® AWARD FOR MESSIAEN RECORDING

First Organ Soloist Ever to Receive Coveted Prize from The Recording Academy®

NEW YORK CITY — The American Guild of Organists (AGO) celebrates with its distinguished member, PAUL JACOBS, winner of the 2011 GRAMMY® Award for Best Instrumental Soloist Performance (without Orchestra). The award was announced at the 53rd Annual GRAMMY Awards in Los Angeles on Sunday, February 13, and given in recognition of his CD recording of Olivier Messiaen's *Livre du Saint-Sacrement* (Naxos, 2010) made at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in New York City. Jacobs's recording of contemporary classical organ music shared the spotlight with such notable sensations as Lady Gaga, who won three GRAMMYS, herself, in the popular music genre. Paul Jacobs was unable to walk the red carpet to receive the award in person because he is performing with the Phoenix Symphony Orchestra this week.

"Jacobs is the first organist ever to receive a prestigious GRAMMY Award for a solo recording," declared AGO Executive Director James Thomashower. "For organists everywhere, the day has been made brighter by the light of Paul's stunning accomplishment."

“This is indeed an important occurrence for all of us associated with the art of organ playing,” added Jacobs. “It has been an ongoing passion of mine to build even a modest bridge from the organ profession to the broader world of music. Young organists must understand that enthusiasm alone—no matter how sincere—is not enough to garner the respect needed to be taken seriously as artists. We must be willing to work tirelessly. We must become wedded to the beauty of great organ music so that it drives us to intense devotion to our art; then we will reap golden rewards.”

Hailed for his prodigious technique, vivid interpretive imagination, and charismatic showmanship, Paul Jacobs is widely acknowledged for reinvigorating the American organ stage with a fresh performance style and “an unbridled joy of music-making” (Baltimore Sun). He has performed the complete organ works of Olivier Messiaen in nine-hour marathons in eight American cities. *Livre du Saint-Sacrement* (Book of the Blessed Sacrament) is Messiaen’s last and longest organ work, a thematic cycle based on the sacrament of Communion comprising eighteen movements, many based on the composer’s recorded improvisations, arranged into three thematic groups. Known for his “charismatic showmanship and unflagging exuberance” (Wall Street Journal), Paul Jacobs is chairman of the organ faculty at the Juilliard School and is a frequent featured performer at AGO Regional and National Conventions.



“We are extremely proud of Paul Jacobs, a dedicated and faithful member of the American Guild of Organists,” stated AGO President Eileen Guenther. “The AGO is the largest organization in the world devoted to a single musical instrument. Our mission mandates that we ‘promote the organ’ and ‘encourage excellence in the performance of organ music.’ Paul has embraced this mission as one of our youngest advocates, bringing excitement and enthusiasm to all his performances and engaging new audiences with the organ, the King of Instruments.”

Celebrating music through the GRAMMY Awards for more than 50 years, the Recording Academy® continues its rich legacy and ongoing growth as the premier outlet for honoring achievements in the recording arts and supporting the music community. The GRAMMYs are the only peer-presented award to honor artistic achievement, technical proficiency, and overall excellence in the recording industry, without regard to album sales or chart position. ?

Green Valley Presbyterian Church

Sunday, April 10 Cantata Sunday

J. S. Bach: “Christ lag in Todesbanden” (Christ Lay in Death’s Bonds), BWV 4

9:00 am and 10:30 am

Sung in German by the GVPC Chancel Choir, Soloists, and Chamber Orchestra, Lillian Kollar, organist

This is the third Bach Cantata presented during worship at GVPC within the last calendar year.

AGO NATIONAL COUNCIL APPROVES NATIONAL COLLECTION OF DUES FOR 2011–2012 MEMBERSHIP YEAR

AGO Members Encouraged to Renew Dues Online

Printed Dues Renewal Forms Will Be Provided for Those Without Internet Access

NEW YORK CITY — The American Guild of Organists (AGO) is improving and expanding its dues renewal and collection process by providing online access to its national membership database. The new online dues collection system will be activated on or about May 15, 2011. New and renewing members will be able to log in to their own personalized user account, confirm or update their contact information, and renew online using a major credit card or pay later by sending a check. For those without Internet access, local chapters will provide a printed dues renewal form.

“This is an exciting technological step forward into the brave new world of membership management and online communications with AGO members, chapter leaders, and AGO National Headquarters,” declared AGO Executive Director James Thomashower. “For the very first time in the history of the Guild, all local AGO chapters, Headquarters staff, and members will have 24/7 access to membership information, sharing a single database connecting nearly 20,000 members, subscribers, and friends. Because the local portion of AGO membership dues and contributions will be remitted back to local chapters via electronic funds transfers weekly, the new online dues collection system will help the AGO support a ‘greener’ environment by reducing the need for paper and postage.”

Every AGO chapter will have its own unique dues renewal page and the ability to collect contributions to help support its general operations, scholarships, or special programs. Local chapters have been asked to identify by February 28, a Chapter Administrator (often the Registrar or Treasurer) who will take responsibility for the setup and management of the local chapter’s dues renewal Web page. The setup is simple for anyone with Internet access and basic computer skills. Chapter leaders will be able to view and print membership reports for their chapter from any computer connected to the Internet. Online training for chapter leaders will be offered in April and May, while ongoing support will be provided by AGO National Headquarters staff. For further information, please visit <http://dues.agohq.org>.

Important AGO Region IX Convention Hotel Alert

by Robert Kerman, Region IX Convention Registrar

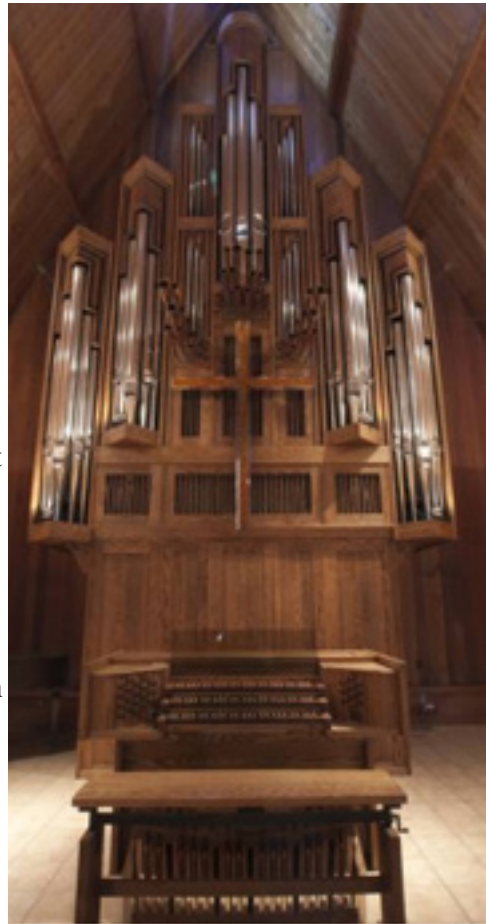
At this writing, over 200 people have registered for the convention this summer in San Francisco! But in addition to registering for the Region IX Convention, be sure to make your convention hotel reservations at the Holiday Inn Golden Gateway immediately. We arranged with the hotel for a block of rooms at the discounted convention rate, and once our room block is filled, the rate will no longer be available. It is a first-come-first-served situation! So make your reservation right now if you have not done so already. This can be done through our Region IX Convention website, <http://www.sfago2011.org>.

AGO Region IX Convention Venues & Organs

by Matthew Burt, Region IX Convention Logistics Chair

The San Francisco Bay Area features an abundance of beautiful churches and stunning organs of all periods. The AGO Region IX Convention, July 3-7 this summer in San Francisco, will feature instruments that even predate the San Francisco Chapter (and the 1906 earthquake), such as the 1901 Murray Harris instrument at Stanford Memorial Church and the 1902 Möller at St. John's Episcopal in San Francisco. At the other end of the chronological spectrum, there will be opportunities to hear no fewer than four organs built since 2000, at First Congregational Church in Palo Alto (Letourneau), First Congregational Church in Berkeley (Petty-Madden), the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland (Letourneau), and St. Mark's Lutheran Church in San Francisco (Taylor & Boody). European organ-builders are represented by Flentrop (St. Mark's Episcopal in Berkeley and All Saints' Episcopal in Palo Alto) and Ruffati (the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption in San Francisco), while the work of at least eight other North American builders is found within our convention schedule.

Among our venues, we will feature three of the most striking cathedrals in the United States, including the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland, dedicated in 2008. In San Francisco we will also enjoy a concert in the historic Mission Dolores Basilica, site of the Misión San Francisco de Asís, founded in 1776 by Junipero Serra. Across the other venues we will experience a wide range of architecture, including buildings made from wood, brick, and concrete, and a wide range of religious traditions, including a Jewish Temple, a Mormon Center, and a host of Christian churches. Please go to <http://www.sfago2011.org> and register today to join us in July!



FIRST ANNUAL ORGAN CONCERT SERIES

Christ Church Episcopal presents

JANE DYE in concert

On the 54-Rank Schantz Pipe Organ

with Vyonne Mendenhall, flute

Friday, March 4, 2011 7:30 p.m.

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Las Vegas, NV 89104

(702) 735-7655

Tickets \$15.00 each

Available at the door or reserve by calling (702) 684-7746

Reception to follow in the Parish Hall



