

The CYPHER

Volume 29, Number 2

October 2010

The Newsletter of the American Guild of Organists — Southern Arizona Chapter

NEXT EVENT IN THE CHAPTER

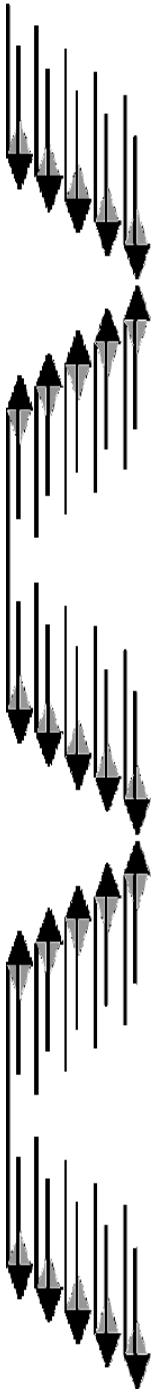
SHOWCASE RECITAL

**Sunday, November 14, 3 p.m.
Catalina United Methodist Church
2700 E. Speedway Boulevard.**

Catalina Methodist Church is host to the AGO's annual Showcase recital featuring chapter member organists Dennis Grannan, Chris Fresolone, and Janet Tolman performing on the 1957 34-rank three manual Reuter organ.

Freewill offering will be taken.

Refreshments to follow the recital.



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**CALLING FOR CONTRIBUTIONS
FOR THE DECEMBER CYPHER.**

We would like to feature your special seasonal musical events in the December Cypher in the member News section.

For inclusion please send the information to Derek Redmore at derekredmore@msn.com by December 4, 2010.

Want to know your fellow AGO Chapter members better?

We hope to include biographical sketches of members in upcoming Cypher issues. If you would be willing to write a piece on a member (or yourself) please let me know, Derek Redmore, editor, at derekredmore@msn.com.



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Detail for the April 2011 Liszt event; part of the 2010-2011 program.

"Liszt 200th Birthday Celebration"
Sunday April 17, 2011 beginning at 2 pm
St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church
(NE corner of Campbell & River Roads)

"Via Crucis"

The St. Philip's Canterbury Choir directed by Garmon Ashby, with organist Jeffrey Campbell, lead us into Holy Week with a performance of the masterful "Via Crucis". Scored for solo voices, chorus and organ, this remarkable work depicting Christ's final hours, centers around His journey of carrying the cross. 2:00 pm

Lecture-recital, 3 p.m.

Following the performance a lecture-recital by renowned Liszt scholar, and UA professor Dr. Jay Rosenblatt 3:00 pm

Recital, 3:45 p.m.

Concluding the Liszt anniversary celebration, UA professor of organ Pamela Decker, and St. Philip's Associate Music Director Jeffrey Campbell present two of Liszt's organ masterworks, the "Fantasia on BACH" and the magnificent Fugue from the "Fantasia on 'Ad nos, ad salutarem undam'".

Region IX Convention News: Meet Our New Regional Councilor

By Leslie Wolf Robb, AGO Region IX Councilor

I'm excited to be serving as your new Regional Councilor for Region IX!

I've been a part of the AGO since my college years and earned my C.A.G.O. not long after graduation. Currently I serve as Director of Music Ministries for St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School in San Diego and teach piano and organ to both children and adults. I've served on the board of San Diego AGO in many capacities and have been privileged to serve on two national AGO committees. My passion is getting young people interested in organ study and I believe that we need to reach out in a variety of ways to help our student members become active, engaged participants in AGO. I believe that long-range planning and goal setting are crucial for long-term growth for chapters and for the AGO as a whole, and look forward to continuing to help the AGO grow and flourish as we work together.

Region IX includes Arizona, California, Western Colorado, Hawaii, Korea, Nevada, Utah, Singapore, Sydney, and our newest chapter in Taiwan – and has a host of tremendously gifted musicians within its borders. You'll have the opportunity to hear many of them next summer!

The San Francisco Chapter will celebrate its 100th birthday in 2011 and has partnered with the Palo Alto/ Peninsula chapter to present a phenomenal program for the **2011 Regional Convention**. I'm looking forward to hearing the new instruments that have been built since the 1984 convention, being inspired by and learning from artists, composers, and workshop presenters from all over our region, and getting to know all of you! Mark your calendars now for **July 3- 7, 2011**, and join us in the beautiful City-by-the-Bay and surrounding communities for a wonderful five days of music, learning, and connecting with colleagues.

MEMBER NEWS

Evensong Service at Northminster Presbyterian Church

Choral Evensong Service
November 14, 5:30 pm
Northminster Presbyterian Church
2450 East Fort Lowell Road

The service will feature the music of composers Sir John Goss, Ralph Vaughan Williams and Jane Marshall. John T. Brobeck, organist, and Dusty Johnson, director.

Bach and the Dance of God: The Great Chorale Settings

Commemorating the 25th anniversary of the St. Philip's Holtkamp pipe organ.
Jeffrey Campbell, organ
St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church
4440 N. Campbell Ave.
(NE Corner of Campbell & River Roads)

Organist Jeffrey Campbell began a four-concert survey of the Great Chorale Preludes of Johann Sebastian Bach, on Sunday October 24.
Future concerts in this series take place on January 23, 2011 (*The Little Organ Book, Passiontide to Pentecost and Faith*), March 6 (*The Leipzig Manuscript*), and May 1 (*The Clavierbung, part III*). All concerts are at 3 p.m. in the Church.

Directory Additions

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**2011 AGO Region IX San Francisco Convention Update:
The Region IX AGO/Quimby Regional Competition**

By Angela Kraft Cross, Region IX AGO/Quimby Competition Chair

Every two years in odd-numbered years, the AGO holds a nationwide series of competitions for young organists. The current cycle of competitions will culminate in nine regional competitions at the nine regional AGO conventions in the summer of 2011. These competitions are not to be confused with the *National Young Artists' Competition in Organ Performance*, "NYACOP," which features advanced college and grad student organists and culminates in a final competition at each national convention during even-numbered years.

Young organists, who need not be AGO members but must be under age 24 as of August 1, 2011, are encouraged to compete in either the region of their school location or the region of their legal home address. They begin this process by competing at a local chapter competition, playing a Bach prelude and fugue, a composition from a composer born in the 1800s, and one from a composer born after 1900, in contrasting styles. Competitors must also prepare to play a hymn, choosing either *Lobe den Herren*, *Nicaea*, or *Mit Freuden Zart*.

The winner of each chapter competition then will move on to compete at that chapter's regional convention in the summer of 2011. Finally, the nine winners of the nine regional conventions will perform at the 2012 National Convention in Nashville in the "Program of Rising Stars."

At both the chapter and regional levels, there are cash prizes awarded. Each chapter offers its own cash prizes (set by the hosting Chapter). Local chapters are also encouraged to provide performance opportunities for their local chapter winners.

The regional prizes are made possible by a generous grant from Michael Quimby, President of Quimby Pipe Organs, Inc. In addition to the \$1000 first place cash prize and the \$500 second place cash prize at the Regional convention, the first place winner also receives the golden opportunity to perform a forty-five minute concert at the regional convention.

The Region IX AGO/Quimby Regional Competition will take place as a pre-convention event on **Saturday July 2, 2011** on the Aeolian Skinner organ at beautiful St. Luke's Episcopal Church in San Francisco. The chapter winners who get the opportunity to play the wonderful instrument in this inviting space will think the trip well worth their effort!

Please note the upcoming deadline of October 22 for local deans to apply to hold a chapter competition. Let's encourage our young organists!



**St Luke's Episcopal
Church San Francisco**

American Guild of Organists Convention
Washington, DC July 4-8, 2010
A report by Kathryn Snodgrass.

Being in the company of the greatest organists, pipe organs and venues in the nation, is one of the greatest pleasures and privileges in my life. So was the case July 4-8. Not only does one get to hear these excellent performers, but one also gets to meet them and chat.

2100 people attended this year's National Convention. Since I have been going for about 40 years now, I know a lot of folks and it is great to see them. I arrived in DC on July 3 and went to a Pre-Convention concert of organ and instruments, at Foundry United Methodist Church, an easy, relaxed way to get used to sitting for hours and listening carefully.

On July 4 (the perfect place to be - in Washington, DC) I attended The National Presbyterian Church Sunday AM and then a patriotic concert in the fully-packed National Cathedral. Talk about thrilling - hearing the Washington Symphony Brass, the US Navy Band Sea Chanters and 2 young men playing incredible amounts of notes on the mighty pipe organ - very moving.

Back to the National Cathedral on Monday the 5th for an exhilarating Opening Worship service. There was the Washington National Cathedral Choir Cathedral Voices; the Washington Symphony Brass; the AGO Chaplain who spoke of the great value music has in our lives; and one of the two organists (Scott Detra) we had heard the afternoon before.

Following that we heard Paul Jacobs, Chairman of the Organ Department at Juilliard School of Music in NYC, play a stunning recital in St Ann Roman Catholic Church - the oldest Catholic Church in that part of the city.

This was followed by a wonderful concert by the Heritage Signature Chorale at Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church. They are celebrating their 10th season continuing to preserve the African-American choral tradition, especially the Negro Spiritual. We really had to change moods as this was a very lively gospel-singing, mostly black choir. We were really rockin' and rollin' and clappin'.

Changing moods again, I went to a Bach Vespers; here I got steeped in Bach - choral and organ. The choir was the Washington Bach Consort complete with period instruments. The organist was again Scott Detra. He had played 3 huge events already (counting his Sunday AM service) and he came "running" out on stage to play this concert. Here is a tremendous talent and a very humble guy.

Believe it or not, we are not finished with the first day yet; there is an Opening Concert at the National Cathedral with the Cathedral Choral Society, Members of the National Gallery Orchestra and yet again, Scott Detra. Absolutely, another thrilling concert.

Tuesday brought us a wonderful Hymn Festival with Bruce Neswick at the National City Christian Church. Bruce is the director of Music at St John the Divine in NYC. He has a long history of excellence and hymn festivals are one of his specialties. I heard one person say that

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they were there mainly to hear this festival. The Cantata Singers of Washington and the National Brass Quintet with Bruce at the organ supplied the accompaniment while 2100 people sang hymns old and new. It was superb in every way.

A prelude to this festival was played by the 15-member Virginia Bronze Hand bell Ensemble. What a way to start one's day.

Following the Festival I attended a choral concert featuring the Woodley Ensemble singing music from around the world. The group was founded in 1991 and has about 20 members; Their mission is a commitment to bringing beautiful and unusual choral music to the public through performances and recordings of the finest quality. It was in a small room and very intimate - a welcome venue at this point of the Convention.

The evening was my favorite. We took busses (40) to Annapolis to the Naval Academy Chapel. It 102 degrees and we only had to walk 3 blocks; that was enough. We packed the Chapel to hear David Higgs (a longtime friend of mine), head of the Eastman School of Music play the huge pipe organ, one of the largest on the world. David plays very musically and without a note. He is a great inspiration.

Wednesday was a bit of a low key day; we started with the Annual Meeting of the AGO; went to Shiloh Baptist Church for an African-American Worship Service and that was a bit of a let down.

Is it the last day already??? We started with a concert by the Fessenden Ensemble, one of the finest chamber music groups in the Washington area. This concert featured a small "Portative" pipe organ that can be carried around. It had the sweetest sound. The Ensemble sang works by Dvorak, Mozart and Brahms, perfect for my tastes. The site for this concert was St Paul's Center parish hall in Rock Creek Parish. This church is the only colonial church still extant within the bounds of the District of Columbia.

The venue for the next two, and final events, was the fabulous Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. It is the preeminent Marian Shrine of the Roman Catholic Church in USA. There are more than 70 chapels (62 upstairs) and oratories representing a piece of history of the many ethnicities and traditions that together constitute the universal Church. The ornateness and complexity of this Church was mindboggling. One could not take it all in in just 2 visits.

We first heard the 1987 Schudi organ (based on old German tonal designs) in the Crypt Church. This is a huge space under the main body of the building. James David Christie played 16th - 18th century music, perfect for this organ.

Going back in the evening we heard a ½ hour of Carillon on the 56-bell carillon housed in the 392 ft high campanile known as "Knights Tower". This was played by internationally known carillonneur, Robert Grogan. All motion involved in sounding the bells comes directly from the carillonneur's hands (fists) and feet, transmitted through the keys, vertical rods, horizontal transfer rollers and wires to the individual clappers. This is a career for a strong person. The bells themselves weigh between 21 and 7200 pounds!!! The range of pitch is 4 2/3 octaves.

Mr. Grogan's program was entitled "A Century of Carillon Composition".

[With minor editing by the Cypher editor.]

Inside:
Washington D.C. Convention Report
Showcase Recital November 14
2011 Region IX Convention San Francisco

Publication Information: ***The Cypher*** is a bimonthly newsletter published by the **Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Guild of Organists**. It is distributed to chapter members, organists of churches in Tucson and surrounding communities, and deans of all chapters in Region IX (Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Utah). **Southern Arizona Chapter members who do not request the printed version will receive *The Cypher* via email.** Send information for publication to Derek Redmore, 5646 N. Genematas Dr., Tucson, AZ 85704-5934, or to email address derekredmore@msn.com. Please type "Cypher" in the subject line. Views expressed in any of the pieces herein are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the Southern Arizona Chapter—AGO, its officers or members.

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