



STOP

San Joaquin Valley Chapter

REED

American Guild of Organists

OCTOBER 2011

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2011-2012**

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DEAN'S MESSAGE

THE YOUNG AND THE OLD LOVE TO PLAY THE ORGAN!

On September 25 we were treated to a "senior" organ recital by 17 year old Tyrell McKenzie.

Last July 6 at the Region IX AGO Convention the attendees were treated to a "senior" organ recital by 80 year old Dorothy Young Riess.

Tyrell's recital celebrated finishing his senior year in High School.

Dorothy's recital celebrated her 80th Birthday and was a repeat of the Celebration Recital that took place at UNLV in April 2011.

All ages love to play the organ. Just ask Helga or Laurell, super teachers of the Fresno Pipe Organ Academy about the excitement of their young musicians.

We congratulate Tyrell on his achievements so far. At age 17 he is already a fine organist. His recital was well received and now he is on his way to studying with Laurell Huber at FPU, and extending his musical activities to choir, brass ensemble and piano. Best wishes for future musical successes, Tyrell!

We congratulate Dorothy, who won top honors in several state and regional competitions, including first place in the National Competition in San Francisco in 1952. She studied in France and Italy, and Yale University graduate Music School. A series of life-changing events led her into the healing arts and at age 33 she became a medical doctor and practiced Internal Medicine until her retirement in 2000. Then she resumed serious organ playing, gave a recital at age 75, 77 and now age 80. Congratulations, Dorothy!

At age 8 or 18 or 80 – we know we love to play the organ. Our excitement leads us to practice new music, learn different registrations, more advanced pedaling and above all, be in the listening audience of musicians like Tyrell and Dorothy. Be in the audience on Sunday, November 6, 3:00 pm to hear Ty Woodward. He will play at First Congregational Church, Fresno. (I wonder how old he is?)

Catherine Walker

ORGAN ARTIST SERIES PRESENTS

TY WOODWARD

Sunday, November 6, 3:00 pm
First Congregational Church
2131 N. Van Ness, Fresno, CA

Our first recital of the 2011-2012 season presents Ty Woodward, Staff Organist at Disney's El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood and Organist and Choirmaster at St. Barnabus Episcopal Church in Scottsdale, AZ. Ty holds a Bachelor of Music Degree in Organ Performance and a Masters Degree in Choral Conducting from USC. Performances have ranged from the Spreckels Organ in Balboa Park, San Diego, to Westminster Abbey, London, the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington D.C. and the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Los Angeles. He is also a pipe organ consultant, and an area representative for the Schantz Organ Co.

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS:

Susan Berg – please add Substitute Organist
Jeanne Nelson – please correct email to jeaniewes@att.net
Ruth Reed – please correct address to 9620 S. Duke Ave.

NEW MEMBERS:

We welcome Sheridan Haskell, Cliff Munk, Ruth Jean Reed, Michael Varlas and Hannah Zentner as new members. We will hear more about them in future newsletters.

FRESNO PIPE ORGAN ACADEMY:

Chapter members Helga Medd and Laurell Huber held a Fresno Pipe Organ Academy presentation ORGAN AND ORFF on Saturday, September 24 at the Second Church, Christ Scientist, in Fresno.

As they arrived, children and parents were provided with several sizes of xylophones and also percussion instruments to use for improvisation.

Orff specialist Helga asked for book titles to produce various rhythmic patterns. "Around the World in 88 Keys" was selected. (Already we were improvising.) We experimented with different rhythmic patterns and melodic patterns. The final version added organ harmonies, also played by a student, and the entire group played their composition.

In the last segment, each student played a prepared selection on the organ with the "Orff band" improvising with gusto in the background. A wide spectrum of stops were tried on a variety of pieces, which included: bagpipes, a Korean Folk Song, one by 16th c. organist Michael Praetorius, and a piano étude.

The following day, high school, college, and adult organists, students of Laurell, met to discuss and individually present various aspects of service playing required of organists. The following topics were examined: modulating/transposing, hymn tune variations, gospel style, preparing a CD, fingering for ornamentation, etc., method for learning a piece, repertoire, and AGO Service Playing Exam requirements.

Three specific assignments were made for students' upcoming private lessons: transcribing oratorio orchestra/piano score to organ, transcribing contemporary piano/vocal to organ, and adding missing harmony to a single line liturgy.

We enjoyed pizza and fixings before attending the superb Senior Organ Recital of Tyrell McKenzie at UPC.

ORGAN DEDICATION RECITAL:

Dr. Robert Tall, Organist, Bakersfield First United Methodist Church, Sunday, October 23, 2011, 4:00 pm
Rodgers three-manual 77 stop console with a twelve-channel audio system, interfaced to the church's existing 27 rank Schantz Pipe Organ originally installed in 1972. The church is at 4600 Stockdale Highway in Bakersfield. Free admission.

COLLEAGUE LEVEL SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

The San Joaquin Valley Chapter American Guild of Organists is announcing a scholarship for organ study now available.
Application deadline – November 15, 2011

Total amount available for scholarship - \$1,500.00. Award to be sent directly to the institution of higher learning in which the student is enrolled for organ study. (A maximum of two scholarships to be given to the same person.)

Qualifications:

- a) Applicant must be attending an institution of learning: high school, college, university, conservatory.
- b) Applicant must audition for the Scholarship Committee of the American Guild of Organists, San Joaquin Valley Chapter in Fresno, CA. (Preference will be given to students living or studying in the San Joaquin Valley.

Audition Requirements: Three pieces from 3 different eras, patterned after the current minimum performance requirements for The AGO Colleague Examination, as listed in the July issue of The American Organist or online at agohq.org.

References: Two letters of reference, including one from the current organ teacher will be required.

Applicants will be evaluated without discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, religious affiliation, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, disability or medical condition.

Scholarship forms may be obtained from: Mrs. Andrea Belau, SPC
American Guild of Organists, San Joaquin Valley Chapter
1801 20th Ave.
Kingsburg, CA 93631
landabelau@att.net

FROM YOUR REGIONAL COUNCILLOR:

Summer is almost over and another AGO season begins soon! Mom was right when she said that time goes faster as we get older. I'm in the midst of planning my choirs' schedules, organizing folders, ordering music, polishing handbells, and getting excited about having a music season in full swing! Of course fall always means a return to board meetings, AGO meetings, and concerts. After a long day at work it's easy to think that putting my feet up and enjoying a good book is a great way to spend the evening instead of heading off to a meeting, workshop, or concert. But when I make the effort to go, I'm ALWAYS glad I did! Spending time with colleagues talking about what we are doing in our respective church jobs, brainstorming ideas to deal with problems, getting motivated to practice more by a phenomenal performer, hearing a new organ, hearing new ideas (or old ideas that I'd forgotten about or hadn't used in awhile) at a workshop, gaining inspiration from a terrific presenter – all of these energize me and help me do what I do better and with more passion. Join me this fall – go to that AGO meeting, workshop, or concert. Introduce yourself to someone you haven't met before. Ask someone if they have a creative way of solving a problem you are dealing with in your work. Share an idea or new piece that you're excited about. Get fired up about the King of Instruments and share that with everyone you meet!

Leslie Wolf Robb
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