

Hawaii Chapter  
**American Guild of Organists**



**YOUR HAWAII  
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**ORGAN SPECTACULAR HONORS NYLE HALLMAN**

Over 200 people attended Hawaii Chapter's Organ Spectacular concert on October 19th at Central Union Church. It was a very special night of organ and harp music, featuring Nyle Hallman as she celebrated her 80th birthday with beautiful music and grace. Assisting her was organist Margaret Lloyd and harpist Connie Uejio, both Hawaii AGO members associated with Central Union Church. Oboist Brian Greene performed in a specially-commissioned piece for organ and oboe.

A Proclamation was read as follows:

WHEREAS, the Hawaii Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will join more than 300 other chapters in honoring the King of Instruments during its celebration of the International Year of the Organ; and

WHEREAS, Nyle Hallman is an outstanding performer of organ music and nationally recognized as an Associate of the American Guild of Organists, and

WHEREAS, the visitor industry of Hawaii has recognized Nyle Hallman as a premier talent in Waikiki for her harp accompaniment of both Emma Veary and Don Ho, and

WHEREAS, she and her husband co-founded and led the Honolulu Boy Choir for an entire generation, and

WHEREAS, continues to make important contributions to the musical life of our community as second chair harpist with the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra and as a member of Flute a la Harpe, which performs for weddings, receptions, and other musical events.

NOW THEREFORE, I MUFU HANNEMANN, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, do hereby proclaim October 19, 2008, to be NYLE HALLMAN DAY in the City and County of Honolulu, in honor of her musical talent and efforts that bring excellence to culture and the arts of our city and touch the hearts of our people. Done this 19th day of October, 2008, in Honolulu, Hawaii. MUFU HANNEMANN



Karl Bachman presents Nyle with the Mayor's Proclamation.



## **HYMN HALLMAN**

Surely one of the highlights of the evening was the singing of "Hymn Hallman," the text of which was commissioned by the AGO Hawaii Chapter, in celebration of Nyle Hallman. Sung to the tune, "Lasst uns erfreuen," (All Creatures of Our God and King), the words were written by The Rev. Fritz Fritschel of the Lutheran Church of Honolulu.

Nyle Hallman is shown with Pastor Fritz Fritschel, author of "Hymn Hallman."

For nearly thirty years they played  
Ecclesiastic music made,  
Roy and Nyle  
On this isle.  
Their skills brought endless harmony  
To Union's faithful company.  
With their choirs  
All afire.  
Roy and Nyle,  
On this isle,  
Brings a smile.

She sat at organs as a child  
Pulling the stops while going wild  
On the keyboard,  
Like a surfboard.  
Her feet and fingers fairly flew,  
In major keys and minor, too.  
On the keyboard  
Like a surfboard,  
Fairly sailing  
Never failing.  
E'er prevailing.

Once taught by Porter and by Sykes,  
Coci, McCurdy and the likes  
Worthy mentors  
Known presenters  
They taught her how to play her best,  
Pipes, pistons, pedals and celeste.  
Worthy mentor  
Known presenter  
Always giving  
For the living  
In thanksgiving.

Gave orchestra ephemeral flair,  
With sounds of angels' favorite air,  
Fingers strumming,  
Harp strings humming,  
Her backseat prowess blessed the crowd,  
With plucking sounds as on a cloud,  
Here crescendo,  
There glissando,  
Now ritardo,  
Soon allegro,  
Ne'er pellegro.

Now for the notes as yet unplayed,  
We raise our songs in accolade,  
Let 'er ring,  
Let's all sing.  
Let music warm the hearts of all  
New melodies the crowds enthral,  
Fancy fugues  
Prim preludes  
All the while,  
Shades of Nyle,  
All in style.

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

to my dear friend, Nyle Hallman,  
and congratulations on her long and  
distinguished career as a consummate  
musician.

Nyle has been my personal and  
professional friend for more than half  
of her life. Scary, isn't it, Nyle! From  
New York to Tulsa to Honolulu, Nyle  
and her wonderful husband, Roy, and  
I have enjoyed a unique and warm

friendship which I will always treasure. The  
musical and personal times we have enjoyed are  
legion.

I dare say that all of you hearing these  
words this evening have been moved by Nyle's  
organ and harp performances on many and  
varied occasions in church, concert hall, and  
elsewhere. Further, many of you know first hand,  
her wonderful, warm, cheerful and generous  
spirit.

Nyle's indefatigable amount of energy and  
willingness to go the extra mile in every situation  
continues to amaze us all. She probably real-  
izes, as I do, that the day may come when she  
has to sit home and rock. But until then she will  
undoubtedly continue to bless us all with her  
performances.

I'm sure that all of you join me in wishing  
Nyle an especially happy time on the occasion of  
this milestone birthday, and for all her years to  
come.

*Fred Swann*

## **A THANK YOU NOTE FROM NYLE**

November 15, 2008

To my dear friends in the AGO,

Thank you for honoring me by celebrat-  
ing my 80th birthday at the October  
19th Organ Spectacular! It will surprise  
none of you that my favorite part of turn-  
ing 80 was playing in a concert. It was es-  
pecially fun since I got to work with two of  
my dearest friends, Margaret and Connie.

Hymn Hallman was a delightful  
surprise. Pastor Fritz used his marvelous  
skill as a poet to fit in my life story to an  
unusual hymn meter. Thank you for hon-  
oring me with such a unique gift. The  
impressive Proclamation is being framed  
and will soon hang on the wall. Mahalo  
to you for yet another way in which you  
made the evening so special.

Thank you again for an unforgettable  
evening.

With love and gratitude,

*Nyle*

## DEAN'S COLUMN

This Fall our Hawai'i Chapter has offered three diverse events for members to attend and enjoy. We continued our programming for the year on October 19th with Organ Spectacular! – A Tribute to Nyle Hallman, yet another celebration in the International Year of the Organ. Over 300 gathered in the sanctuary at Central Union Church for an evening of music for organ and harp. We were able to surprise Nyle with a birthday greeting from Fred Swann; "Hymn Hallman", commissioned by our chapter and masterfully written by Pastor Fritz Fritschel (set to the tune *Lasst uns erfreuen*); and a Proclamation from Mayor Mufi Hannemann designating October 19, 2008, as Nyle Hallman Day! Karl Bachman deserves another round of thanks for procuring the proclamation. And, my profound thanks to Nyle Hallman, Constance Uejio, and Brian Greene, oboist, for joining me in this wonderful evening of music making!

Just days later, on October 31st, John McCreary, our resident theatre organist extraordinaire, entertained an audience at the Hawai'i Theatre with his accompaniment on the mighty Morton of the silent movie, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame". Included in this newsletter is an interview published in the Honolulu Weekly on October 29th entitled "An organic Halloween" which is a delight to read! Thank you, Betsy, for the photo at the console . . .

On Monday evening, November 17th, we held our 7th Annual Clergy Appreciation Dinner at the Parish Hall of Central Union Church. Thirty-two of us shared a delicious Greek meal prepared by the CUC caterers; introduced clergy we had invited to be honored; and then enjoyed an extraordinary 30-minute performance of sacred repertoire by the Advanced Intermediate Choir from St. Andrew's Priory School under the direction of Deanna Tucker, accompanied by David Hicken.

Our chapter does not plan an event in December, given all the worship services, special seasonal programs, and performances throughout Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. I would encourage you to attend an event that someone else is offering, and be blessed again by the worship and music anticipating and then proclaiming the Gift that is ours each and every day. Happy Holidays!

*Margaret Lloyd*



## ORGANIST JOHN MCCREARY BRINGS SILENT FILMS TO LIFE

by Adrienne LaFrance  
(Reprinted from *Honolulu Weekly*, 10/29/2008)

It has been nearly 70 years since John McCreary first sat down at an organ. He played at Saint Andrew's Cathedral for decades, and has traveled the world—even performed at Notre Dame in Paris, an apt venue in advance of his upcoming gig at Hawaii Theatre. On Halloween night, McCreary will play the theater's historic Morton organ in accompaniment with the 1923 silent film, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. McCreary took time to speak with the Weekly about his passion for the organ, his plans for Hunchback and the history of his favorite instrument in Honolulu.

**How did you start playing the organ?**

Oh, when I was about nine years old, I became very fascinated with it and I took some lessons from a lady organist in town and then when I went to college I majored in organ.

**Where did you grow up?**

Indiana, Pennsylvania. Jimmy Stewart's hometown.

**How often do you play now?**

Well let's see. I am retired, but I substitute in churches as needed and I play weddings at Saint Andrew's Cathedral on Thursdays. Every Thursday there are Japanese weddings. What else would you want to know about? Well, I'm brilliant composer [laughs]. I've played in just about every cathedral in the U.S. and at Notre Dame in Paris. So I got a taste of the hunchback there.

**How did that come about?**

I was on sabbatical and I knew the organist at the cathedral had played a recital here in Honolulu, at Saint Andrew's. He said, when you ever get to Paris, let me know. So I let him know.

**That must have been a thrill.**

It was very exciting. Four thousand people! And that's the biggest audience I've had if you exclude television.

**To a lot of people the organ evokes the sound of church services, baseball games and maybe radio soap operas—what does it sound like to you? What does it make you think of?**



Organist John McCreary at the Robert Morton theatre organ at the Hawaii Theatre.

Two things: Either church or theater. I like to play jazz and pop tunes as well as organ music. I've played for Hawaii Five-0 and Magnum P.I. I was staff organist for those shows and it was exhausting, actually. I remember one day where I was on the organ from 8 o'clock in the morning until 9 o'clock at night. Thirteen hours! The musicians' union sent them the bill for that and they just about fainted. But it does make me think of theater. I have a theater organ in my home, built it myself.

**How did you build it?**

With help from friends [laughs].

**How long did that take, and what materials did you use?**

It took four years and I used lumbers, used organ parts and a lot of wire. You also need some little magnets and patience from your wife.

**Where do you keep it?**

It's in a room that was the library but now I don't read much in there [laughs]. It's 12 feet deep and about 20 feet wide.

**So getting to The Hunchback of Notre Dame, of all instruments, why does the organ so aptly accompany a film that's both romantic and suspenseful?**

Well I think a little history is in order here. Back in the 1920s, any theater that had more than 200 seats would have an organ of some kind. People always think they used pianos. Well, they did in the very beginning but then replaced them with organs as theaters got bigger and more elaborate. Toward the end of the '20s we were at the crowning age when theaters were built to be palaces, but so few of them have remained. They would have an organ, maybe an orchestra of some kind, but a small one, piano, bass and drums, but no theater could afford to keep an orchestra in the pit all day long. It was much cheaper to pay one man. So the orchestra would play for 10 minutes, and the organ would take over for the film, then the orchestra would take over again for the last 10 minutes."

**I understand the Morton organ at the Hawaii Theatre is rather historic and originally came from the Princess Theatre in the '60s. What's it like to play an instrument that has been through so much?**

Here's the history: The Princess Theatre had an organ and the Hawaii Theatre had an organ. In the war, the place to be was downtown Honolulu, so the Hawaii Theatre and the Princess Theatre really did a good job. Then the whole gang moved after the war and the place to be was Waikiki and the Waikiki Theatre was built and they moved the organ from the Hawaii Theatre to the Waikiki Theatre, so there was no organ in the Hawaii Theatre until the Princess Theatre went and a gang of organ enthusiasts said let's save this thing. It was almost identical to the organ that had been there, so they moved that organ. It was all done internally. So the Hawaii Theatre got a free organ, and we keep reminding them of that any time the organ needs repairs. And you know, it's in need of an awful lot of work.

**What kind of repairs does it need?**

About \$300,000 worth!

**Just basic wear-and-tear?**

The mechanism for the pipes wears out. That oversimplifies it, but for an explanation, it'll do.

**Tell me more about the Hunchback and your preparations for it. Is there music composed for it that you'll perform?**

No. All the music will be mine. I have scenes for each person in the movie. Quasimodo and the heroine and the villain and various other people all have their own themes and it's all music that I've written. I'll improvise, turn them upside down or backwards, and sometimes you'll recognize the same theme when a certain character comes back on screen, but I'll be improvising as I go along.

**So there isn't already music that goes with the film so to speak?**

You know, there was. When these movies came out, they would send something for the musicians which they simply called cue sheets which would give the subtitles, and tell you how long each scene lasted and the type of music you'll need and then give you three or four bars to improvise on.

**But you didn't get one of those for this performance.**

I've never even seen one of those.

**Have you accompanied this film before?**

Maybe four or five times. I did play it once at the Hawaii Theatre many, many, many years ago, but frequently at Saint Andrew's and I played it in my home. I have a VHS of the film.

**So you own the film. How do you think it contrasts—especially given the live performance element that you add—to the scary movies playing at modern movie theaters?**

Well you know, this one is not terribly scary. It's Quasimodo, the hunchback, he's very ugly but he's got a heart of gold. There are some rather scary parts but it's nothing compared to the one I did last year. That was Nosferatu and it is really scary.

**Oh, you're right, that is a really scary one.**

It is downright horrifying.

**So are you dressing up for Halloween?**

Nah, I'm just gonna wear my tux.



## **CLERGY APPRECIATION DINNER**

On Monday, November 17, 2008, Hawaii Chapter AGO members invited their clergy to an Appreciation Dinner at Central Union Church. Everyone enjoyed the Greek-themed dinner: Greek salad, spanikopita (spinach in phyllo pastry), rolls and Greek dessert (baklava).

The highlight of the evening was an utterly delightful and beautiful program by the Advanced Intermediate and Chamber Choirs of St.

Andrew's Priory School. Led by Deanna Turner with accompanist David Hicken, the Priory girls sang with perfect intonation and rhythmic precision, making this a most enjoyable evening.



## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Traditionally, there has been no chapter meeting in the month of December. We offer instead a list of special holiday music events so that if you have some free time, you can go to someone else's program!

### CENTRAL UNION CHURCH

Saturday, December 6, 7:00 pm

61st Annual Presentation of Handel's Messiah, Central Union Church. The CUC Oratorio Choir and Orchestra with Catherine Goto, soprano; Susan Purnell, mezzo-soprano; Douglas Hall and James Price, tenor; Christopher Kelsey, bass; Dr. Timothy Carney, conductor.

Wednesday, December 24, 5:30 pm

Family Service and Christmas Pageant

9:00 pm Candlelight Communion with Carols

11:00 pm Candlelight Communion with Carols, Chancel Choir.

### HAWAII PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

Friday, Dec. 5th, 7 pm

Seventh Annual Winter Concert

Central Union Church.

Hawai'i Pacific University International Chorale and Vocal Ensemble and Chamber Orchestra. The orchestra will perform works by Felix Mendelssohn, J.S. Bach, as well as traditional holiday favorites. The vocal groups will perform pieces honoring King Kalakaua, Queen Lili'uokalani, and Princess Ka'iulani as well as traditional spirituals, folk songs from around the world, and songs for the holiday season. The concert will culminate with a candlelit, joint performance of *Stille Nacht*.

### HONOLULU BOY CHOIR

Saturday, Dec. 20th, 7 pm

Central Union Church

Annual Christmas Concert

### HONOLULU CHORALE

Friday, December 12, 7:00 pm

Community Church of Honolulu

2345 Nuuanu Avenue

A free holiday concert featuring Antonio Vivaldi's "Gloria," Mozart's "Regina Caeli" and Christmas Music.

### HONOLULU SYMPHONY CHORUS

Wednesday, November 26, 7:30 pm

Blaisdell Concert Hall

Esther Yoo will conduct the Honolulu Symphony and Chorus in Bach "Magnificat," John Rutter "Gloria," and Benjamin Britten "Ceremony of Carols." Free.

### LUTHERAN CHURCH OF HONOLULU

Sunday, November 30, 7:30 pm

The "O" Antiphons. This is the church's 34th annual Advent Procession and is based on the Great "O" Antiphons, which refer to the seven names of the Messiah. Choral music by Hallock, Mathias, Bruckner, Maxwell Davies, Hammer-schmidt, Howells and Chilcott will accompany the procession of specially-made banners.

Saturday, December 20, 11:30 am

Benjamin Britten, "Ceremony of Carols"

Hawaii State Library

The Trebles of the Lutheran Church of Honolulu will be joined by young harpist, Melody Lindsay, in this holiday favorite, presented as a free concert in the library lobby.

Sunday, December 21, 4:00 pm

17-year-old harp virtuoso, Melody Lindsay, will join the Trebles of the Lutheran Church of Honolulu in Benjamin Britten's, "Ceremony of Carols," and John Rutter's, "Dancing Day," in addition to other harp holiday classics. She will be joined her 9-yr-old brother, Christopher, organist and flutist. Admission.

Wednesday, December 24, 10:30 pm

Carl Crosier conducts Bach Cantata 64 "Sehet, welch eine Liebe hat uns der Vater erzeiget" with the Lutheran Church of Honolulu Choir and the Bach Chamber Orchestra. The Mozart Mass in D, K. 194, will be presented as the Ordinary in the Holy Eucharist which follows.

Thursday, January 1, 2009, 4:00 pm

Carl Crosier conducts Bach Cantata 171, "Gott, wie dein Name, so ist auch dein Ruhm" with the Lutheran Church of Honolulu Choir and the Bach Chamber Orchestra.

### ST. ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL

Sunday, November 30, 5:30 pm

The service of Lessons and Carols is an Anglican

Christmas tradition that has been embraced by churches around the world.

Monday, December 8, 7:30 pm  
The Honolulu Brass celebrate Christmas with Thomas Osborne, Conductor and Cathedral Music Director, John Renke, guest organist.

Sunday, December 14, 5:30 pm.  
St. Andrew's presents a Carol Concert spanning the centuries, with music traditional and new.

Wednesday, December 31, 10:15 pm.  
New Year's Eve Organ Recital with John Renke.

Sunday, January 4, 2009, 5:30 pm  
Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols with St. Andrew's Cathedral Choir, led by John Renke.

#### WINDWARD CHORAL SOCIETY

Friday, December 12, 7:00 pm  
Windward United Church of Christ  
Susan McCreary Duprey conducts the 50-voice Windward Choral Society in its first annual holiday concert.

## CHECK THE HAWAII AGO WEBSITE!

You are especially invited to check the Hawaii Chapter AGO's website:

[www.agohawaii.org](http://www.agohawaii.org)

Please note the new section under Photo Blog, for the latest news and pictures of AGO Hawaii events. If you have pictures, or other tidbits of information which would be of interest to our members, please send them to Kathy Crosier at [crosier3@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:crosier3@hawaii.rr.com).

## PRAYERS REQUESTED

Dear Friends,

I have a prayer request for our Liturgical Arts Coordinator (a fancy name for our music and arts director) here at Calvary by the Sea. Tom Poole had an aneurysm in the base of his brain early Monday morning and is intensive care at Queens Hospital. He can't have visitors but we could sure use your prayers. Tom has done amazing things here at Calvary and we are so thankful for all the blessings he brings to our church.

Grace and peace,  
(The Rev.) Tim Mason

Calvary by the Sea Lutheran Church

*Editor's Note:* Tom Poole is the Hawaii Chapter AGO Secretary.

## INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE ORGAN

2008-2009 has been designated by the American Guild of Organists as the International Year of the Organ (IYO). Organizations throughout the world have been invited to participate with us in this celebration. This year was kicked off with events at the national AGO convention in Minneapolis in June 2008, and will conclude with the regional conventions in summer 2009. Every chapter of the AGO has been encouraged to participate in as many ways as they can.

January 16, 2009, 7:00 pm  
**Frederick Swann, organist**  
Central Union Church  
Part of the Sacred Choral Festival weekend

March 22, 2009, 2:00 pm  
**BACHanalia (New Date!)**  
Lutheran Church of Honolulu  
A marathon organ recital on the day after Bach's birthday from 2:00 to 4:00, culminating in Bach Vespers with orchestra with the Lutheran Church of Honolulu Choir and the Bach Chamber Orchestra. Contact Kathy Crosier NOW at [crosier3@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:crosier3@hawaii.rr.com) if you are interested in playing a Bach work for the marathon. Contact her before she calls you!

April 25, 2009, 7:00 pm  
**Young Organists Recital**  
Lutheran Church of Honolulu  
The third annual showcase of young talent in Hawaii, this is a benefit for the scholarship programs of the Hawaii Chapter AGO.

June 12, 2009, 7:30 pm  
**Aaron David Miller, organist**  
St. Andrew's Cathedral  
The fourth Annual Organ Concert will feature this brilliant young improvisateur who has just been appointed organist of House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, MN. Aaron David Miller is a renowned concert organist and composer, having won numerous international awards and given concerts across the United States. Dr. Miller's performances have been heard on National Public Radio, Minnesota Public Radio, Pipe Dreams, and many television programs. His compositions have been performed by such ensembles as the Zurich Symphony, Seattle Symphony, and Toledo Symphony. Dr. Miller's work was recently honored with the 2004 Hellenikon Idyllion Composition Prize offered by the Olympic Committee in Athens, Greece.



In 1996, Dr. Miller won the Top Prize in Improvisation at the American Guild of Organists National Convention in New York. In 1998, he went on to win the Bach and Improvisation Prizes at the Calgary International Organ Festival and Competition. Subsequently, he was invited to perform at the New York, Calgary, and Los Angeles Bach Festivals. His other prizes include the 1999 Helen Cohn Award for Music Research for his study of late Medieval and Renaissance keyboard music.

## 2009 REGION IX FESTIVAL

The 2009 Region IX Festival will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, on June 22-25. Please take a moment to look at the Festival schedule, which boasts outstanding presenters and venues: <http://www.AGOinPhoenix.com>. Our Festival hotel, the Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa, is an historic resort of great beauty and majesty. During next summer's Festival, take advantage of all that our event will have to offer and stay at the heart of the action, The Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa. In addition to the majestic Biltmore, our Festival will also showcase the architectural excellence of Grady Gammage Memorial Auditorium, which represents Wright's final public commission, and we'll worship together at Ascension Lutheran Church, which was designed by Wright's son.

If you are able to stay at the Biltmore Resort, visit <http://www.AGOinPhoenix.com> to make reservations online. Use the menubar link "Accommodations/Info & Booking" to go to our special group reservations page. This will secure the \$139 room rate (per room, per night) and ensure that your reservations are credited toward the AGO account.

It is highly recommended that you purchase the transportation package, because of limited parking available at some of the venues and because of the high cost of gasoline! Parking at the Biltmore is free in the covered garage, and, by using Festival transportation, you will have more opportunities to relax and visit with other Festival attendees. We look forward to having you join us for this wonderful event. Phoenix Rising: The Hottest Time You'll Ever Have!



**ADVENT PROCESSION**  
A DRAMATIC SERVICE OF CAROLS, HYMNS, MOTETS, SEASONAL LESSONS AND TEXTILE ART  
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF HONOLULU CHOIRS  
CARL CROSIER  
ALLEN BAUCHLE  
KEANE ISHII  
CONDUCTORS  
KATHERINE CROSIER  
ORGANIST  
SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER 30  
7:30 PM

Central Union Church  
presents  
*Handel's*  
**Messiah**  
Catherine Goto, *soprano*  
Susan Purnell, *mezzo-soprano*  
Douglas Hall, *tenor*  
James Price, *tenor*  
Christopher Kelsey, *bass*  
The Central Union  
Oratorio Choir  
and Orchestra  
Timothy Carney, *conductor*  
LOVE NEVER FAILETH  
One performance only; please note the new date and time:  
**Saturday, December 6, 2008 - 7:00.p.m.**  
Central Union Church  
Beretania & Punahou Streets  
Ph: 941.0957

The performance is free and open to the public. There will be a free-will offering.