

Hawaii Chapter
American Guild of Organists



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UPCOMING EVENT

Sunday, October 19 • 7:00 pm
Organ Spectacular honoring Nyle Hallman
Central Union Church
1660 South Beretania Street

In celebration of Nyle Hallman's 80th birthday and her many years of dedicated service to the community, Central Union Church and the Hawaii Chapter of the American Guild of Organists are delighted to sponsor this wonderful concert featuring organ and harp solos, duets and special works. The concert also highlights the 2008-2009 International Year of the Organ. Concerts in honor of the "King of Instruments" are being held simultaneously on this date all over the world.

The concert will feature works by Bach, Barclay, Britten and Burton as well as a piece for organ and oboe entitled "Ornament of Grace" by Bernard Wayne Sanders, the first prize winner of an international competition coordinated by the American Guild of Organists specifically for the Organ Spectacular concerts.

Nyle herself will play, as well as her beloved friends, Margaret Lloyd and Connie Uejio, all organists at Central Union Church.



Three organists of Central Union Church ham it up for the camera: (L-R) Connie Uejio, Nyle Hallman and Margaret Lloyd.

MORE ABOUT NYLE HALLMAN

Nyle Hallman is Assistant Director and Organist Emeritus at Central Union Church where she served for 29 years. She is a graduate of Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ and Union Theological Seminary in New York City. Her organ teachers were Lauren B. Sykes, Claire Coci, Alexander McCurdy and Hugh Porter. She holds the degree of Associate of the American Guild of Organists. Since retirement in 1998, Nyle serves as second chair harpist with the Honolulu Symphony and is a wedding and associate organist at Central Union Church.



DEAN'S COLUMN

Congratulations — you are the winner! Unlike some scams that find their way to all of us, this email was in fact legitimate, and we have Kathy Crosier and Sam Lam to thank for this success story. The AGO Committee on Membership Development and Chapter Support encouraged a Summer Phonathon entitled Revisit, Reconnect and Rejoin! Kathy signed us up at the national convention in Minneapolis and then Sam, our Membership Chair, conducted a one-person phonathon to find former members of our Hawaii Chapter. Following Sam's detailed report to National Headquarters, our chapter was entered into the national drawing, and we won—an award of \$1500!

The celebration of the International Year of the Organ continues with two events this month. This next Sunday, October 19th, we will share with other chapters across the globe in the Organ Spectacular - the world's largest organ recital. The Hawaii Chapter will be honoring our own, beloved Nyle Hallman, celebrating her 80th birthday and paying tribute to her many years of service to Central Union Church and the community. Joining me in this program of music for harp and organ are Nyle and Constance Uejio. An award-winning composition commissioned by the AGO for organ and solo instrument will also be performed. A birthday reception will be held in the Women's Building. Then on Friday, October 31st, John McCreary, theatre organist extraordinaire, will accompany the



Big smiles from (L-R) Kathy Crosier, Margaret Lloyd and Sam Lam as they receive \$1500 in prize money on behalf of the chapter.

silent movie, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame", at the Hawaii Theatre. Ticket information for this evening of artistic entertainment is available on the theatre website.

Our November programming event will be the annual Clergy Appreciation Dinner, scheduled for Monday, November 17th, at 6:00 pm, in the Parish Hall at Central Union Church. More details will follow, but I would encourage you to invite your clergy person(s) to this evening of fellowship some time soon.

On another membership note, I would like to welcome three new members to our chapter: Lawrence Fung, Joseph Kotowski, and Yuri McCoy. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the executive board members who are working very hard to provide a season of performances and social events of interest to members and the community as we celebrate the King of Instruments in this International Year of the Organ.

Thanks and Aloha!

Margaret Lloyd, Dean

HAWAII AGO WINS PRIZE!

Imagine our shock yet sheer delight to learn that the Hawaii Chapter AGO was the winner of the AGO Phonathon of July 2008! In early October, several of the chapter officers received an email which opened with:

Hello Hawaii Chapter,

My name is David Lincoln and I serve on the Committee on Membership Development and Chapter Support. As I am sure you are already aware, you are the winner of our Phonathon in the amount of \$1,500.

AGO PHONATHAN, cont.

Quite honestly most of us were skeptical, thinking it was a Nigerian money scam!

The AGO Phonathon was an attempt to revisit and reconnect with past members, going back ten years. Chapters would be given a printout of people who had not paid dues, and it was the intent of the contest organizers that phone calls would be made to update records, hence the name "Phonathon." Kathy Crosier entered the chapter in the competition at the AGO booth at the Minneapolis national convention, never dreaming that we would win!

MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S ORGAN CONCERT REVIEW

This year's Midsummer Night's Organ Concert was a special event for our community because it followed closely upon the return of Paul Jacobs to celebrate the complete restoration of the beautiful Aeolian-Skinner Organ at Central Union Church. In conversation with Mr. Jacobs following that recital he made mention of the joy of performing on this instrument, because of the wide variety of tonal colors and the ease of finding so many appealing combinations of sound. This thrilling kaleidoscope of sound continued on July 20 as the community gathered again to hear our own organists give the annual benefit concert for the Scholarship Fund of the Hawai'i Chapter American Guild of Organists.

Following the invocation from Dr. Tom Poole, Margaret Lloyd, principal organist at Central Union Church and current Dean of our AGO Hawaii Chapter, took the bench wearing a red, black, and white top paired with black slacks. She gave a lush performance of the "Benedictus" of Max Reger. Her careful phrasing and management of the registration changes reinforced the rich Romantic sounds from this famous, though under-performed, composer of the late nineteenth century. The birds just outside the chancel window added their own "blessings" to this Vespers "Benedictus."

Jordan McCreary, organ scholar, then came forward to present three chorale preludes, two of Michael Burkhardt and one of Paul Manz. He conveyed the cool demeanor of a "man about campus" in his taupe slacks with coordinated aloha shirt. The organ strings were seductive in the "Hyfrydol" setting by Manz and he managed the manual changes with great dexterity. His musicianship belies his young age and the fact that he has only had two years of formal organ study. He shows much promise for the future



Performers at the July 2008 Midsummer Night's Organ Concert were (L-R) Joey Fala, Jordan McCreary, Nyle Hallman, Katherine Crosier, Young Pak, John Renke and Margaret Lloyd. Proceeds went to the organ scholarship funds of the Hawaii Chapter AGO.

and it is good to know that he has received another organ scholarship for the next academic year.

Nyle Hallman, Organist Emeritus, of Central Union Church presented a new work by David Cherwien, Variations on "Jesus Shall Reign." Always the professional, she wore appropriate evening concert attire. We don't know how she does it, but Nyle consistently finds new and very interesting works to present at these summer concerts. This year was no exception. The composer notes that the first movement is to be performed "With Excitement" and that is precisely what Ms. Hallman did, never once missing a beat when the rhythm shifted triple to duple and back. Don't be fooled by her diminutive stature. Once she takes command of the console there is no stopping her and the final toccata was all the proof one needed. Chords traversing the whole of the manual compass and double pedal spanning more than an octave and a half were nothing for this performer. And she did it all as the composer indicated: "With Fire!"

Sporting a long-sleeved blue and white striped shirt with khaki slacks Joey Fala brought the first half of the concert to a rousing conclusion. Mr. Fala has always shown initiative and this evening was no exception. He heard a work by Robert Hebble and discovered that it was currently out of print and unavailable. Not to be disappointed he sent an email to Mr. Hebble making inquiry and was sent a very nice note with a PDF file of the work, "Blessed Assurance." The musical interest in the work is that it is a parody of

J. S. Bach's "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" with the familiar hymn alternating. In addition it builds to nearly a full organ crescendo and fades out again at the end, all of which the artist handled with great dexterity and calm. But this was just the "warm up" for the next work: the "Final" from Louis Vierne's first symphony for organ. He began the "Final" with all the enthusiasm of so many young artists, but by the second page had relaxed into a good tempo for the duration of the work. The audience showed its appreciation with a rousing ovation at the conclusion. Many in the audience have watched with great interest over the past five years to see how Joey Fala would progress and this year has been a banner year for him. With a very, very nice performance of the Bach "Gigue Fugue" this past spring and this summer's rousing rendition of a concert show piece like the Vierne, Mr. Fala has shown that he has what it takes to make a career in organ performance, if he so desires.

MIDSUMMER REVIEW, cont.

Elizabeth Wong, Scholarship Chair, introduced the 2008-2009 AGO Scholarship Recipients: Laura Bleakley, Devin Chu, Nathalie Jones, Seong Eun Kim (Aloha Music Club), Karen Leatherman, Christopher Lindsay, Holly Lindsay, Michelle Manual, Jordan McCreary, Adam Simon, Miki Yamamoto, and Naomi Yuen-Schat.

The concert continued when Katherine Crosier, Organist at Lutheran Church of Honolulu, presented a very rarely heard work of J. S. Bach, the Prelude and Fugue in D minor, BWV 539, sometimes referred to as the "Fiddle" because the fugue was based on a previously composed Violin sonata, BWV 1001. The prelude is unusual in that it does not have a pedal part, unlike other Bach works from this period, and seems more like a French harpsichord piece in compositional style. Ms. Crosier treated the prelude as such with a French-inspired Grand Jeu registration, complete to the 16 foot level. Her articulations and ornaments were impeccable. The fugue is interesting in that it exploits the contrapuntal possibilities of the organ while at the same time maintaining the arpeggio nature of the violin sonata. Thanks to Kathy for taking the time to learn this work and present it at this summer's concert. She wore a black dress with multi-colored Chinese-inspired print.

Young Pak, organist at Logos Korean Church, wearing a burgundy and black paisley top with black slacks, presented three works by the contemporary German composer, Johannes Matthias Michel. He is president of the Karg-Elert Society, which doesn't explain his interest in Gospel, Jazz, Blues, and other-non-traditional rhythms and harmonies [or perhaps it does!] The three hymn-preludes are part of a self-contained suite, "Organ, Timbrel, and Dance". Even if one were well-schooled in "Erhalt uns, Herr" and "Wunderbarer König" it is still difficult to discern the cantus firmus in these works. The happy exception was the third work on "In dir ist Freude", a tribute to Leonard Bernstein [think West Side Story]. The rhythms emerge from the Swell with the box closed and they were so subtle in this performance they were actually inaudible for the first few measures, but that would soon change. With the crescendo came driving rhythms, the Bernstein "hemiola" abounding, and a cascade of chord planing [Thanks, Debussy!] and third-relation harmonies. Ms. Pak took charge of the instrument and never let go from beginning to end. Challenging rhythms, registrations, ornaments were handled with precision and ease, all of which made for some very exciting listening.

The concert concluded with John Renke, wearing an aloha shirt and black slacks, Director of Music at Saint Andrew's Cathedral, presenting another "Final", this one from Felix Alexandre Guilman's Sonata No. 1. Not unlike the "Benedictus" with which the concert began, this very large Romantic work for organ required extensive registration changes, manual changes, expression pedal usage, and correctly playing all the right notes, all of which were exquisitely handled by Mr. Renke. The work required great pedal facility and it was smoothly handled by Mr. Renke, including the double pedaling. By the conclusion the audience was treated to having heard every stop on this magnificent instrument, including the "party horn" from the rear gallery.

"Mahalo nui loa" to Central Union Church for sponsoring this annual event and to all of the artists who gave so freely of their time and talent for the support of the Donald L. "Don" Conover Scholarship Fund, training the next generation of church musicians from the state of Hawaii.

Karl D. Bachman, reviewer

NEW HAWAII AGO WEBSITE!

Take a look at the Hawaii Chapter AGO's website:

www.agohawaii.org

It contains up-to-date information on programs, current and archived newsletters, local pipe organs, a photo gallery, membership forms and more. Thank you to Kathy Crosier, webmaster for putting it together. If you have pictures, or other tidbits of information which would be of interest to our members, please send them to Kathy at crosier3@hawaii.rr.com.



CLERGY APPRECIATION DINNER

will be held on Monday, Nov. 17th, Central Union Church. Mark your calendars now!

POSITION AVAILABLE

The position of organist is available at Windward United Church of Christ, effective immediately. For more information, please contact the director, Susan Duprey at sduprey@hawaii.rr.com.

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.

Here are the remaining dates of the IYO events in Hawaii:

October 19, 2008, 7 pm

Organ Spectacular

Central Union Church

We will celebrate Nyle Hallman's birthday in a concert of music for organ

and harp. AGO Chapters all over the world will present organ recitals on this day.

October 31, 2008, 7:00 pm

The Hunchback of Notre Dame

Hawaii Theatre

John McCreary will accompany this silent film classic on the Robert Morton theatre organ. Buy tickets online at www.hawaiiitheatre.com.

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 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!

SPECIAL: Organ Spectacular!

A Tribute Honoring Nyle Hallman



Featuring music for
organ and harp
performed by
Nyle Hallman,
Margaret Lloyd and
Constance Harding Uejio

A free concert
CENTRAL UNION CHURCH
7 p.m., Sunday, October 19



MORE INFORMATION: www.agohawaii.org or contact Margaret Lloyd at 808.375.7320
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