

American Guild of Organists

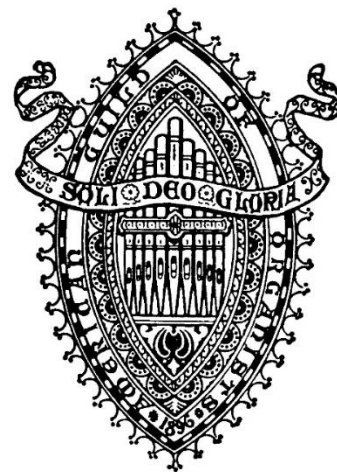
Las Cruces Chapter

Members' Recital

October 1, 2023

Church of St. Clement

El Paso, Texas



Program

WelcomeLaurel Benson Brown
Dean, Las Cruces Chapter

Partita on "Old Hundredth" Michael Bedford AAGO, ChM
Fanfare, Pastorale, Carillion
Richard Garven AAGO, Organ

Fugue in G Major – "The Gigue" (BWV 577) J.S. Bach
Karen Billings CAGO, Organ

Preludium, Adagio, Trio, Tutti and Fugue in B \flat Major (BWV 549b) J.S. Bach
Jieun Kim Newland, Organ
Angelina Montalvo, Oboe

America, A Fugue (in Five Voices) Eugene Thayer
Wanda Richardson, Organ

Trio Frederic Archer
Adele Giusto, Organ

Hymn: "The God of Abraham Praise" (YIGDAL) All
The Hymnal 1982 – Hymn 401 – Stanzas 1 and 2

Toccata on "Yigdal" Seth Bingham
Laurel Benson Brown, Organ

Closing Remarks Richard Garven AAGO
Organist Emeritus
The Church of St. Clement, El Paso, Texas

While masks are not required, please respect those who choose to wear one.



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About the Music

Dr. Michael Bedford, AAGO, ChM, DMA (b. 1949) recently retired after a 50-year career in church music, the last 25 years of which were spent at St. John's Episcopal Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he is Organist-Choirmaster Emeritus. Dr. Bedford is an active composer, having published works for children's, youth, and adult choirs, in addition to compositions for handbell choirs and organ collections. He composed the **Partita on "Old Hundredth"** in honor of the 2023 Southwest Regional Convention of the American Guild of Organists.

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) was a prolific German composer of the late Baroque period. Widely renowned as a keyboard player, it is believed that much of his organ playing during church services was improvised, and those compositions that were preserved in notated form were intended primarily as teaching pieces. Very little of his music was published during his lifetime; the work of authenticating and editing his published works from manuscripts continues to challenge scholars.

The **Fugue in G Major** (BWV 577) differs from many of Bach's fugues because it was composed as a single piece, without a corresponding prelude or other movements. Composed in 12/8 time, the piece has a jig-like feeling, leading to its nickname of "The Gigue". Its authorship by Bach has been challenged through the years, but more recent scholarship seems to conclude that it probably is, in fact, one of his compositions.

Bach was known to have tinkered with his own compositions in his later years, and the **Preludium, Adagio, Trio, Tutti and Fugue in Bb Major** (BWV 549b) is the result of such tinkering. The prelude, originally written for the choral work *Erwurgtes Lamm, das die verwahrten Siegel* (BWV 545), was modified by omitting the first and last four measures and changing the key from C Major to Bb Major. John Robinson, the organist at Westminster Abbey, discovered this manuscript in the British Museum in 1727. The trio movement, which is arranged for organ solo in BWV 549b, is also the Allegro movement from one of Bach's sonatas for Viola da Gamba and Harpsichord (BWV 1029). The version performed on this recital features the oboe in the Trio movement.

(Whitney) **Eugene Thayer** (1838-1889) was one of America's first concert organists. He gave free recitals as a mission effort to enable the average person to hear the organ. He also had one of the first private organ studios in America and served as organist at several churches in New York. **America, A Fugue** is the first movement of his second organ sonata, which was probably published in the mid-1860s. Since compositions based on patriotic themes were popular at that time, Thayer dedicated this piece to Lieutenant-General Ulysses S. Grant, who later became the eighteenth president of the United States of America. This composition was later revised and republished in 1874 as the "Fugue on God Save the Queen."

Frederic Archer (1838-1901) is a British-American composer, conductor, and organist. He studied music in London and Leipzig and held positions in England and Scotland until 1880, when he moved to the United States to become organist at Plymouth Church in Brooklyn, New York. He was appointed conductor of the Boston Oratorio society, and later settled in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he was organist at the Church of the Ascension, director of the Carnegie Music Hall, and where he founded the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

Seth Daniels Bingham (1882-1972) received two Bachelor's degrees from Yale University (1904 and 1908) before moving to Paris in 1906, where he studied organ with Alexander Guilmant and composition with Charles Marie Widor and Vincent d'Indy. He was appointed Organist and Choirmaster at Madison Avenue



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Presbyterian Church in Manhattan in 1913, a position he held for 38 years. He was also Associate Professor of composition and music theory at Columbia University from 1922 to 1954. Following his retirement, he taught advanced composition to doctoral students at the School of Sacred Music of Union Theological Seminary.

About the Musicians

Rick Garven, a third-generation native of El Paso, Texas, received a Bachelor of Arts at Pasadena College in Pasadena, California and a Master of Music from the University of North Texas. He retired from the Church of St. Clement in El Paso after serving 40 years as Organist-Choirmaster. He is organist for the El Paso Symphony Orchestra and staff organist at the Plaza Theater, playing the restored Wurlitzer Theater Organ (1930). Rick is certified as a Colleague and as an Associate of the American Guild of Organists (CAGO and AAGO).

Karen Billings, a resident of Las Cruces, New Mexico, since 2007, was an engineer and mathematician with AT&T Bell Laboratories for 20 years. She has degrees in Mathematics from Hendrix College (Conway, Arkansas) and Oklahoma State University. She studied organ while at Hendrix and continued her studies at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey. Karen is certified as a Colleague of the American Guild of Organists (CAGO).

Jieun Kim Newland is an organist and harpsichordist currently living in El Paso, Texas. She received a Master's degree in Organ Performance from Yale University and is an active musician, both as a church organist and collaborating with early music and choral ensembles in Hawaii, Washington, and Colorado. Jieun currently serves as Music Minister and Organist at Peace Lutheran Church in Las Cruces. She is a member of Sprezzatura, an early music ensemble in El Paso, Texas, and Fellowship of the Melody, a Medieval music ensemble; she is also actively involved in the music programs at University of Texas at El Paso and New Mexico State University.

Angelina Montalvo is a local oboist of 20 years' experience. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education and a Master's degree in Oboe Performance, both from the University of Texas at El Paso. She has had the privilege of performing with several groups in the El Paso and Las Cruces area. She is certified as a band instrument repair technician by the Red Wing Musical Instrument Repair School of Minnesota State College.

Wanda Richardson began her organ studies while growing up in El Paso, Texas. She received a Master's degree in Church Music from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas, and a Master's Degree in Music from the University of Texas at El Paso. She is retired from teaching choir and piano in the El Paso public schools and serves as organist at Chapel of the North Hills in El Paso.

Adele Giusto is a retired elementary school music teacher from Silver City, New Mexico, where she has lived since 1976. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota and a Master's degree in Keyboard and Psychology from Western New Mexico University. For the last several years, she has been the Music Director at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Silver City, New Mexico. In this capacity, she serves as organist/pianist and directs the church choir and handbell choir.

Laurel Benson Brown received a Bachelor of Music at Colorado State University and a Master of Sacred Music at Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio. She worked for 44 years as a Lutheran church musician in Colorado, Ohio, Florida, South Carolina, and northern Virginia, where she also taught music at Northern Virginia Community College. She and her husband, an amateur astronomer, live north of Deming, New Mexico, where she stays busy accompanying and subbing in Silver City, traveling, and looking at the night sky.

About the Instrument

The Church of St. Clement has a rich musical heritage dating back over a century. The organ used in today's recital was built in 1986 by Visser-Rowland Associates of Houston, Texas (Opus 56). The instrument has three manuals of 56 notes each and a 30-note pedal-board. It consists of 55 ranks and 37 stops with mechanical key action and electrical stop action. The organ case is constructed of solid oak and oak veneers with a matching adjustable bench. The organ has a silent high-speed blower with a static wind regulator and a main wind regulator. The combination action includes ten General pistons and six divisional pistons for each division, along with eight memory levels and two Tutti pistons.

Hauptwerk	Positiv	Schwellwerk	Pedal
16' Quintaton	8' Gedeckt	8' Gedeckt	32' Bourdon (Digital)
8' Prestant	4' Prinzipal	8' Harfpfeife	16' Prinzipal
8' Rohrflöte	4' Kleinflöte	8' Celeste	16' Subbass
4' Oktav	2-2/3' Nasat	4' Prinzipal	8' Oktav
4' Nachthorn	2' Waldflöte	4' Blockflöte	8' Gedeckt
2' Superoktav	1-3/5' Terz	2' Oktav	4' Choralbass
III Cornet (2-2/3')	1' Sifflöte	1-1/3' Larigot	IV Mixtur (2')
V Mixture (1-1/3')	IV Mixtur (1')	IV Scharff (1')	16' Posaune
8' Trompete	8' Krumhorn	16' Rankett	8' Trompete
Tremulant	Tremulant	8' Oboe	4' Schalmey
		Tremulant	
Positiv/Hauptwerk	Laukhuff Cymbelstern		Positiv/Pedal
Schwellwerk/Hauptwerk			Hauptwerk/Pedal
Schwellwerk/Positiv			Schwellwerk/Pedal

About the Guild

The American Guild of Organists is the national professional association serving the organ and choral music fields. Founded in 1896 as both an educational and service organization, the Guild seeks to set and maintain high musical standards and to promote understanding and appreciation of all aspects of organ and choral music. The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ.

If you wish to be informed about upcoming events, but are not currently on the Chapter mailing list, please fill out one of the pink comment cards and leave it in the basket as you depart.

Support Our Work

A free-will offering will be accepted at the end of the program to defray expenses. The Las Cruces Chapter also accepts donations electronically. Please visit our website (www.lascrucesago.org) or use the PayPal QR code to the right.

The Las Cruces Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is a registered 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization under Code Section 170.

