



THE FIRELINE

The Phoenix Rising Daily News — Central Arizona Chapter AGO

Thursday
25 June 2009
Priceless

Today's Weather: Partly cloudy with an expected high of 106F with winds out of the southwest at 9 mph. Humidity to be less than 15% during the day, less than 24% in the evening. Sunrise at 5:20 AM, Sunset at 7:42 PM. with an overnight low of 86F. UV-index of 10+ with a 20% chance of precipitation.

Schedule Adjustments: Please note that Jan Bigler's 1:30 PM workshop has been moved to the Casa Grande Room.

Group Photo: In many of the churches we serve, the hallways are often lined with old photographs of confirmation or Sunday school classes, giving us a glimpse at the achievements of the past. While not a convention tradition, it has often been remarked that a group photo should be taken to commemorate our time together. Therefore, on Thursday, June 25, at 4:30 PM, a group photo will be taken in front of the large fountain in the center courtyard of the resort. This will be a fine time for us to look our best as many will be dressed nicely for the gala banquet at 5:00 PM. Please make an effort to join us for this photo as we plan to use it for the festival review to be printed in The American Organist. Since it will be warm outside, please be prompt so that this photograph will only take a few minutes at the most.

The current issue of the Fireline is now on the Phoenix Rising website AGOinPhoenix.com.

Breakfast: Biltmore Guests are invited to a light continental breakfast, Thursday in the Aztec Room, 6–8 AM.

Please join us in the exhibit hall every night at 9:00 PM for receptions, cash bar, and a great time! There will be several door prizes awarded throughout the week, and you will have an opportunity to visit with our exhibitors and see what they have to offer.

Exhibits: Did you know that door prizes will be awarded on Thursday evening following the John Scott program at Gammage Auditorium? Stop by the exhibits hall and inquire about a signature sheet. By collecting a signature from five exhibitors or more, you will then be able to submit your signature sheet for door prize drawings. One must be present to win the prize. Drawings will be held on Thursday evening in the exhibit hall at 10:30 PM. There are prizes and surprises galore!!

Saying Thanks: A major event like Phoenix Rising could never be realized without the generous support of our donors, advertisers and exhibitors. Please take the time to visit and thank each of our exhibitors this week. Many of our donors are identified with special tags on their name badges. A quick flash of a smile, a wink, or a brief word of thanks for helping to make this event a reality can go a long way. Finally, our beautiful program booklet is filled with the warm images of our advertisers. Please be sure to extend a handshake or bit of gratitude for their very generous support as well for it took a community to create our week-long festival community. Finally, on behalf of the Central Arizona Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and the Steering Committee of Phoenix Rising, THANK YOU for your attendance and support. We hope that you found Arizona to be the beautiful, warm, and friendly place for which we take pride and that you found this as a comfortable home away from home.

Thomashower Workshop Outline: If you are interested in receiving an email copy of the James Thomashower workshop outline, you can leave your name and email address at the Registration Table, and a copy will be forwarded to you early next week.

Roster: Have you made some new friends? Perhaps you have reconnected with some old friends and want to stay in touch. If so, a complete roster of Phoenix Rising attendees will be available at the close of the festival. In our efforts to be green, save a few trees, save money, and to provide a complete listing – as we have had many walk-up and daily registrations – a roster will be available in PDF format which will be emailed to you at the close of the festival. There is a sign-up sheet at the Registration/Hospitality Table. Please print your name and email (clearly) on the signup sheet. (Hardcopy rosters are available only by special request for those with no email access.) The roster will be compiled on Thursday from our registration database. If you are aware that there were errors in your registration information – address, phone, email, etc. – please speak with David James or email him at jdavidj@getnet.net. We'd like to correct these before the roster is compiled.



Medical Registration Forms: Even though only one day remains for our festival, it is still very important that you fill out and submit your medical information form. In the event of an incident minutes can be critical. Having the appropriate information about medications and health concerns is crucial, especially in the event that one becomes confused or even unconscious and emergency contact information is not available. When decisions have to be made quickly, information is important.

Evaluation Forms: If you are leaving us in the next couple of days, please be sure to leave a completed copy of the Phoenix Rising Evaluation Form in the basket on the Hospitality Table. Not only do we want feedback about the job we did, but we want to help educate the next group of leaders who will create our 2011 Regional Convention in San Francisco. It only takes a few moments of your time and your input is vital to future success and growth.

Facebook Fans – Are you a member of Facebook? If so, you can keep up with the events of the Festival by becoming a fan of **Phoenix Rising: Region IX Festival 2009**. Daily posts will remind you of upcoming concerts and events as well as other fun or interesting information! Fans can post photos and or comments! We encourage you to share your photos with us and create a Phoenix Rising online community. If you have friends, family members, etc. who could not be with us, invite them to become a fan of *Phoenix Rising: Region IX Festival 2009* on Facebook. They can get a glimpse at the fun they are missing.

Bus Emergency:

Charles (Chuck) Sedgwick 602 541-4079



All Other Emergencies:

Homer A. Ferguson III 480 205-1857 or
Michael Heap 602 320-8340

Friday Organ Crawl: There is still plenty of space available for Friday's organ crawl event. If you are still interested please see the registration desk. Cost for the crawl is \$25.00. Crawl participants must take the bus to the destinations on Friday as there is no parking available at these homes. Cost of the crawl includes transportation and admission to both executive homes. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to see two world-class instruments in luxury estates. The crawl is also available for non-festival participants such as spouses, partners, friends, etc. for the same \$25.00 price. Reservations must be made by Thursday afternoon to ensure proper count for seating, etc. Featured will be a two-manual mechanical-action Bigelow organ built in a stunning Italianate case set in a Tuscan Villa-inspired home and played by Ty Woodward. Following, will be a performance by Jelani Eddington on the Midmer-Losh organ in the home of Adrian Phillips. The Midmer-Losh organ which was originally installed in the Atlantic City High School Auditorium is the sister instrument to the Atlantic City Convention Hall Organ.

Grady Gammage Memorial Auditorium

... (widely known as Gammage Auditorium and often called the Gammage) is named for Dr. Grady Gammage, President of Arizona State University (ASU) from 1933 to 1959. The auditorium is located on the main campus of Arizona State University in Tempe at the crossroads of Mill avenue and Apache Boulevard.

It is considered to be the last public commission of architect Frank Lloyd Wright (and reputed to be based on Wright's drawings for an opera house in Baghdad, Iraq, of which, legend has it, Wright lost the blueprint in a gambling wager with Gammage). Groundbreaking took place and construction on Gammage began on May 23, 1962. It took twenty-five months to complete. The built-on-time, under-budget building opened in 1964 with the Philadelphia Orchestra conducted by Eugene Ormandy.

The building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

The structure measures 300 feet (91 m) long by 250 feet (76 m) wide by 80 feet (24 m) high. Fifty concrete columns support the round roof with its pattern of interlocking circles. Twin *flying buttress* pedestrian ramps extending 200 feet (61 m) from the north and east sides of the structure connect the building to the parking lot. The auditorium seats a total of 3,017 people on its main floor, grand tier and balcony. The stage can be adapted for grand opera, Broadway musicals, dramatic productions, solo productions, organ recitals, and lectures.

The auditorium has a total seating capacity of 3017, with 88 removable seats. It is wheelchair accessible and has an infrared system for thirty hearing impaired people (in addition to signers).

- Gammage was the site of the third and final debate in the 2004 Presidential Election.
- The original movie *The Nutty Professor* starring Jerry Lewis had the *prom* (where Buddy Love was exposed) scene filmed in the newly constructed building in 1962.
- A concert scene in Barbra Streisand's 1972 film version of *A Star is Born* was filmed inside the auditorium, using ASU students as extras to fill the room to near-capacity.
- From the air, the auditorium and walkways look like a guitar.
- Organists who have performed on the Aeolian-Skinner include, in no particular order, Alexander Schreiner, the Duruflé's, Virgil Fox, Piet Kee, Marie-Claire Alain, David Craighead, Wilma Jenson, Catherine Crozier, Xavier, Darasse, Marilyn Mason, Robert Glasgow, Marilyn Keiser, John Weaver, Gillian Weir, university organists—Charles Brown, David N. Johnson, Robert Clark, Kimberly Marshall, and innumerable students, both graduate and undergraduate.

