

# THE CLARION

January 2010

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## **CACAGO SLATE OF**

### **OFFICERS 09/10**

#### Dean

[Phil Bordeleau](#)

#### Sub Dean

[Wayne Simpson](#)

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[Betty Anderson](#)

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#### Members at large

[Nathan Beethe](#)

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Robert Ellis, a native of Fort Worth, began his tenure as professor of organ at Henderson State University (then Henderson State Teachers College) in Arkadelphia in 1952. Recently graduated from The University of North Texas (where he obtained two degrees, one in music and one in English), from the Curtis Institute of Music, and from The University of Michigan, he was guest artist for the national convention of the AGO in San Francisco in the early nineteen-fifties. Prior to that performance, he recently premiered one of Leo Sowerby's works in a recital in Chicago. Robert presented recitals at three Region AGO conventions in Arkansas: 1959, 1979, and 1985 and played dedication recitals for several organ installations in Arkansas and in neighboring states. Five Fulbright scholars -his Henderson organ students- studied in Europe in the 1950's and 1960's and two of his students were winners in the national AGO student competition. He also taught many working church organists throughout Arkansas, including CACAGO members JoAnne Smith (former), Elizabeth Plowman, and Carol Majors. Robert served the CACAGO chapter as Sub-Dean in the 1950s. He organized a student chapter at Henderson where for three decades his students were active within the CACAGO as recitalists for seasonal concert series within Little Rock churches and also as regular attendees at monthly meetings. When I first knew Robert as his student at Henderson in the mid-1960s, I found him to be the most self-effacing, kind, and nurturing of teachers. A gentle-man in the classic sense, he however possessed an acerbic wit. Robert did not suffer foolishness and he always championed the purity of artistic expression. Stories abound! Robert loved his Dalmatian dogs and his Cadillac sedans (one of a very few luxuries he permitted himself), both of which he kept throughout his life.

Written by: Kay McAfee



**Friday, January 8, 2010**  
**Thomas Sheehan, organist**  
**Seventh Annual Recital**  
**Celebrating the Life of Robert Ellis**

**Presented By:**

**The Central Arkansas Chapter of the American Guild of Organists**  
**And**  
**The Robert Eliis Estate**

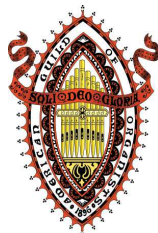
**Hosted by**  
**Christ Episcopal Church**  
**509 Scott St., Little Rock, AR**

Dinner reservations may be placed with Marian Berry via email to [Dinner@cacago.org](mailto:Dinner@cacago.org) or phoned in to 501-663-1693. Marian is accepting reservations until noon, Wednesday, January 6. You should receive a confirmation of your reservations via email or phone. If you do not get confirmation, please call Marian to ensure your reservation has been placed. We are anticipating a wonderful night of music-making and fellowship. By the way... Ann and Sylvia are cooking... ☺

**There will be a Reception Following the Program**

**Punchbowl: 6:00 PM Dinner: 6:30 PM Recital: 8:00 PM**

(Note: if you have standing reservations it would be help to confirm you are on the list!)



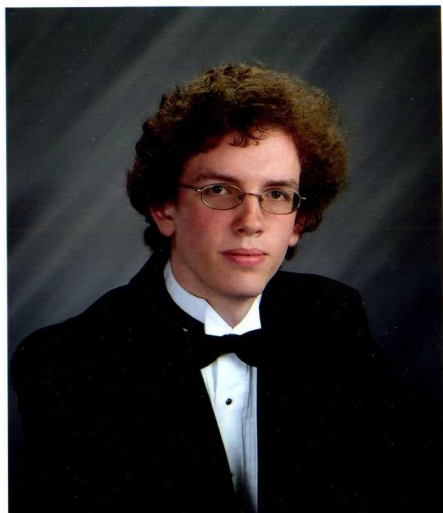
**About the Recital Series:**

This recital is the Seventh in a series of annual events celebrating the life of Robert Young Ellis, who was Professor of Organ at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, for thirty-five years from 1952 to 1987. It is hoped that this series will inspire musicians young and old, as Ellis, through his teaching and playing, influenced innumerable students and colleagues who remember him as a musician of genius and as one who brought both wit and sophistication to the lesson and to the classroom. Mr. Ellis, a native of Fort Worth, Texas, was trained at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia (where he was a student of Alexander McCurdy), at the University of North Texas (where he studied with Helen Hewitt), and at the University of Michigan (where his teacher was Robert Noehren). He was guest artist for numerous conventions of the American Guild of Organists and for dedications of many new pipe organ installations throughout the United States. Mr. Ellis was a visiting lecturer at Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton, New Jersey.

In Arkansas, he served as organist for the First United Methodist Church of Hot Springs and the First United Methodist Church of Arkadelphia. At Henderson, he coached four Fulbright Scholars and winners of regional and national competitions. He was a man of warm presence and kindness to all who knew him. Numbered among those whom he influenced are professionals that now serve throughout the country as church musicians, university professors, organbuilders, as principals and supporters for fine arts organizations.

**Our Artist**

Tom Sheehan currently serves as Organ Scholar at Trinity Episcopal Church, Princeton, New Jersey, and is in his senior year as an organ performance major at Westminster Choir College, studying with Ken Cowan. In 2009 he was awarded first prize in both the Arthur Poister National Competition in Organ Playing, and the AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for the Mid-Atlantic Region (Region III). 2009-2010 performances include appearances in New York City, NY (St. Bartholomew's Church), Lancaster, PA, Chestertown, MD, Chambersburg, PA, and Little Rock, AR. In July, 2010 he will be a featured "Rising Star" performer at the National Convention of the American Guild of Organists in Washington, D.C. An experienced accompanist, he has performed frequently with the Westminster Chapel Choir and the Westminster Schola Cantorum. In 2007, Mr. Sheehan toured England with the Trinity Church Choir, including performances at St. Paul's Cathedral, London; Blackburn Cathedral; St. John's Chapel, Cambridge, under the direction of Tom Whittemore.



**Thomas Sheehan, Organist**



# MISCELLANEOUS PIPING



## Thomas Sheehan's Program, January 8, 2010

### Festival Overture

Otto Nicolai (1810-1849) (Arr. Franz Liszt)

### Trio Sonata III in D minor, BWV 527

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Andante/Adagio e dolce/ Vivace

### Prière, Op. 64

Charles-Valentin Alkan (1813-1888) (Arr. Franck)

### Toccata

Jean Guillou (b. 1930)

### Intermission

### Deuxième Fantaisie

Jehan Alain (1911-1940)

### Scherzo from Midsummer Night's Dream

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847) (Arr. Nevin)

### Deuxième Symphonie, Op. 26

Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

Preludio/ Intermezzo/ Toccata

I hope you all had a Great Holiday!  
From Christian Lentz

## FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2010

### Annual Richard Hixson "Birthday" Recital

Christ Episcopal Church, Little Rock, AR

A Festival of Organ and Brass

Nathan Laube, Organist

Pinnacle Brass



Christ Church

Little Rock's Downtown Episcopal Church

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2010

### Festival of String Orchestra with Harpsichord and Organ

Cathedral of St. Andrew, Little Rock

Phil Bordeleau, Kay McAfee, and Ann Rye



CATHEDRAL of ST. ANDREW  
THE OLDEST PLACE OF CONTINUING WORSHIP IN THE CITY OF LITTLE ROCK



On Sunday, Jan. 31, at 3 p.m.  
Conway First United Methodist Church  
welcomes Dr. John Ferguson to our  
sanctuary to lead a Hymn Festival.  
The public is invited, and there is no  
charge for the festival.



Dr. Ferguson is Professor of Organ and Church Music and Minister of Music to the Student Congregation at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn. He is respected as a fine teacher and performer, and his skill as improviser and leader of congregational song has received national acclaim. Each year he prepares and leads many festivals across the country, both for local congregations and professional gatherings. Conway First United Methodist Church is located at 1620 Clifton Street, Conway, AR, 72034. Questions: call Betty Cohen at 501-336-9924

## SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2010

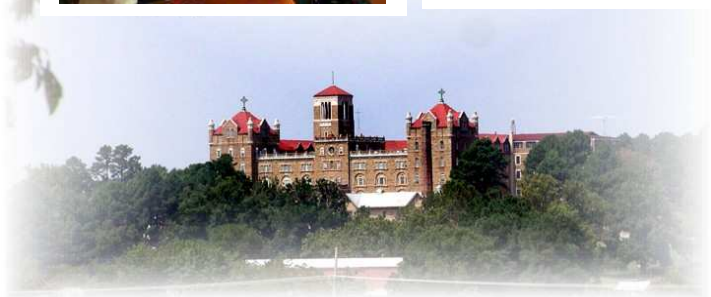
### Joint Meeting of the Arkansas AGO Chapters

(Celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the AGO in Arkansas)

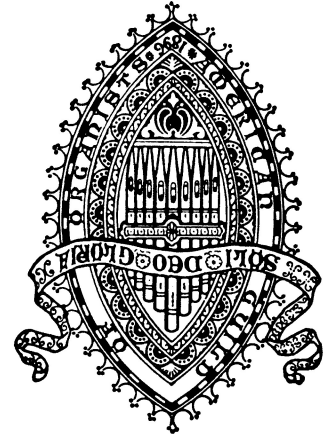
Subiaco Abbey Church, Subiaco, AR

Casey Cantwell, Organist

Concert – 10:00 am Luncheon – 12:00 pm

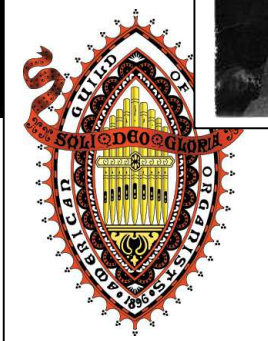






The Central Arkansas Chapter of  
the American Guild of Organists  
P.O. Box 2765  
Little Rock, AR 72203-2765

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE CACAGO



### FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2010

7TH Annual Organ Concert  
Celebrating the life of Robert Ellis  
Christ Episcopal Church, Little Rock, AR  
Thomas Sheehan, Organist

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2010

Festival of String Orchestra with Harpsichord and Organ  
Cathedral of St. Andrew, Little Rock  
Phil Bordeleau, Kay McAfee, and Ann Rye

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(Celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the AGO in Arkansas)  
Subiaco Abbey Church, Subiaco, AR  
Casey Cantwell, Organist  
Concert – 10:00 am      Luncheon – 12:00 pm

### FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2010

First United Methodist Church, Pine Bluff, AR  
Joshua Stafford, Organist  
All Friday programs will have a Punch Bowl and Dinner preceding the 8:00 pm program

