



American Guild of Organists

UTAH VALLEY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER 1991 - 1992

SEPTEMBER CHAPTER MEETING

Panel Discussion: "Programs for Sacred Musical Training and Performance"

Thursday, September 12, 1991

7:30 p.m.

Provo Central Stake Center

Multi-purpose Room

500 N. 1200 W., Provo

FIRST, LAST and ONLY NOTICE OF DUES

Every professional organisation I belong to is in financial difficulty. My primary professional society lost \$80,000 at our convention this year. All of them are talking about raising dues. I cannot figure out how to enact this strategy at home. There we can only enact greater economies. There is not much that we can do about the National dues, but we have certainly scrutinised our chapter expenses.

Our greatest single expense is postage. We propose to bring the following month's Newsletter to Chapter meetings and pass them out there. For those who don't show, we shall mail them. Many will doubt that the dean can get his dollop done that far in advance. Will parsimony win out over procrastination? By doing this we can hold the chapter dues down to \$20. Were we politicians, this would be suicide, but I hope we are more responsible.

THE DEAN'S DOLLOP

I have wondered for a long time what we should be doing in the Utah Valley Chapter. Is the music we labour so hard to promote an arcane predilection or is it one of the more powerful drives toward saintliness? Just as the language of the scripture is the greatest literature in the English language, so the sacred music of the same period is also the high point of our musical heritage. This morning in Sunday School at the State Hospital, the student giving the lesson played a tape of 'Yur Not Alone'. In my mind's ear I started to hear 'He, Watching Over Israel', and wondered whether there could be any doubt as to which engendered the greater trust in God.

The best sacred music is confrontational: it requires me to repent, to become servant. It invites me to grow spiritually. In performance it stretches me to the limits because this music requires me to live the saintly life in order to have genuine access to the music.

Every great religious movement is one of renewal. The prophets and Christ teach renewal and the wicked attempt to preserve the status quo. For Protestants, the great event is the Reformation; for Catholics the important events are the Counter-reformation and the Vatican II; and for Latter-day Saints, the Restoration. But we don't inherit any of this, each must repent and be converted which is the process of renewal.

What then ought we to be doing for renewal in the Chapter? As a minimum, it seems, we had ought to be:

- a) training organists
- b) training conductors
- c) training choristers (choir singers)
- d) fostering better musical taste
- e) training youth to better understand our musical heritage.

Last year we worked on training organists. Without relaxing those efforts we want this year to help train conductors and choristers.

My earliest memories are of a craving for good music. At 6 I got licked for running down the car battery while surreptitiously listening to the New York Philharmonic on the car radio. In the ensuing 50 years, classical music has become readily available, but unfortunately there is less sacred music than when I was 6. When did I last hear oratorios such as *Elijah*, *St. Paul*, *Israel in Egypt*, or *The Book of Mormon*? There are many concert versions of sacred music, but once you have heard Bach as sacred music, the concert versions are palling and appalling.

I cannot change the world; the only thing I can change is me. Change starts at the grass roots. Decrying the lack of spiritually enervating music is not enough. So my wife and I have started buying the piano scores to the sacred choral repertoire and have again begun acquiring the major hymnals. As private worship, we read through them at the piano.

As Chapter members we help young men and women start the training to become organists and conductors. We can start musical fire-sides, hymn-sings, and other programmes that foster good music. We none of us can mount an oratorio, but we can do selections. We relied on the schools to teach singing and now we have the opportunity to teach the sacred style of singing. We have the privilege and the responsibility to teach why and how the hymnody we have inherited transcends every other musical tradition. Moses told Israel that Israel must teach and not be taught. Our challenge then, is to lose ourselves in the service through sacred music.

DEAN	SUB-DEAN	SECRETARY/NEWSLETTER ED.	TREASURER/REGISTRAR	EDUCATIONAL CONCERNS
Thomas K. Hinckley 373-1477	Mark T. Clark 226-4297	DeeAnn D. Stone 377-4728	Joan Barnett 375-7880	Carol Dean 375-4873

Because of our shared longing for the best of sacred music, we as your Chapter officers want to continue to outreach to the sacred musicians in our area. We will continue to make our resources available to those wishing to run ward or stake training classes.

Carol Dean will be our educational coordinator. She will point you to available training materials and help you find instructors for organ classes and conducting classes. She will be a clearinghouse for repertoire and technical questions, as well as help with the LDS Church's Service Playing Certification.

Given all of this it should not be a surprise the opening meeting in September will be a panel discussion of **Programmes for Sacred Musical Training and Performance**. In addition to the items mentioned above we will have a report on the LDS Church's new Service Playing Certification.

THE YEAR'S CALENDAR

What we have planned for the year is a reification of the Dollop. For each of the meetings will you bring a guest: a conductor, a music chairman, a young person studying music, a fellow musician, or a friend.

In October, we shall explore the sacred style of singing; of how text and music knit together. In November we observe the rehearsal of a stake choir, and afterwards, perhaps have some discussion with the conductor, organist, and choristers. In December we plan to have an exciting discussion of the organist/choir interface. In January we hope to have two recitals as a spinoff from the Historical Organ in America Conference. In February we are planning a mini sacred music workshop which will be geared for the average ward organist and conductor but which will make some interesting departures from the standard workshop fare. Our March meeting will be taken up with a discussion of textual analysis and its implications for musical analysis. April's meeting is entitled 'Debtor to the Wise' and will explore the early foundations of hymnody. Last year we did a celebration of music of the Restoration. This year we will explore another part of our heritage. It would be appropriate to bring youth from your ward to this presentation. Our May Member Recital will feature you and your choir in performance of sacred music. If you are not ward organist, please consider bringing a double trio or double quartet.

Our dilemma is to do all that we want to do, all that needs to be done, in a mere nine months. So-o-o-o we may have two meetings some months. The BIG news is that BYU is performing the **St. Matthew Passion** in 1992. We are talking of doing a special pre-performance overview--sort of an insider's guide. Would you be interested? There is also interest in a Temple Square organ crawl, but we need a commitment of 15-20 people to do this.

RECAP OF 1991-92 CHAPTER MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER - Organizing programs for sacred training and performance: a panel discussion.

OCTOBER - David Warner: Sacred Style of Singing.

NOVEMBER - Provo Central Stake Choir Rehearsal with discussion afterwards with the conductor, organist, and choristers.

DECEMBER - Don Cook: Organist/Choir Interface.

JANUARY - Two recitals: a spinoff from the Historical Organ in America Conference.

FEBRUARY - A mini workshop on sacred music.

MARCH - Thom Hinckley: Textual Analysis and Its Implications for Musical Analysis.

APRIL - "Debtor to the Wise:" a celebration of the first two centuries of congregational hymnody.

MAY - Member Recital: organ/choir. We invite you to bring your choir, double trio, or double quartet and perform a sacred number.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A major conference, **The Historical Organ in America**, will be held at Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, 12-16 January 1992. It will be a festival and symposium on historically inspired American organs and their future, which will be presented by The American Organ Academy, ASU, and the Westfield Center. For further information on the conference, and for information on ride-sharing, please call Doug Bush, 373-1675.

Joan Stevens will give an organ recital on Wednesday, September 11, 1991, 7:30 p.m., in the Madsen Recital Hall, BYU. She will perform works of Bach, Mozart, Tournemeir, Flor Peeters, and others.

Congratulations to Geoff and Connie Myers. They are the proud parents of a sweet baby girl, who was born August 2 at 8:04 a.m., during the Church Music Workshop. (She kept her daddy busy running from BYU, where he was teaching classes for the workshop, to the hospital and back to BYU.) Lucy Anne weighed in at 6 lbs. 15 oz. and was 20" long.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY WISHES

11th - Beth Groo

23rd - Marietta DeArmond

Contact DeeAnn Stone, 377-4728, about any address changes, musical events coming up in your stake, or any other items of interest to the chapter.