



American Guild of Organists

UTAH VALLEY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1993

No. 3

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

What is your favorite hymn? What is your least favorite? A congregation was asked these questions, and the result was interesting. Their response was: the most favorite--"How Great Thou Art"; and the least favorite--"How Great Thou Art." Apparently, this is one of those hymns that people really like or really don't. I'll have to admit that it is not one of my favorites, although there are people in my ward who think it is one of the most sacred hymns ever written.

Lately, I've been thinking about my own biases toward certain hymns, in view of the fact that there are people who sincerely like the ones I don't really care for. I began thinking about this after a conversation I had a few weeks ago with Carol Dean.

Carol told me about a story she heard at a recent stake auxiliary training meeting. It was about a handicapped girl whose favorite hymn was "There Is Sunshine in My Soul Today." That hymn was important to her because of words in the second verse: "Jesus listening can hear the songs I cannot sing." Suppose this hymn was never used in this girl's ward: she would be deprived of a valuable source of comfort and inspiration.

Last week, my thoughts on this subject were further influenced as I read through some old issues of Staff Notes. I came across the following quote that I think helps punctuate the importance of being sensitive to others' feelings, and of being receptive to the promptings of the Spirit.

The July 1992 issue quoted part of K. Newell Dayley's opening address at the 1985 Church Music Workshop. He said, "It is worthy to desire musical excellence. We should do all in our power to increase our gifts that we might receive even more. We should hold to high standards. But, more importantly, we should be sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and do that which we are 'constrained' to do. . . . It is not enough to be excellent, and dedicated. We must be

excellent in the right way. We must be dedicated to the right things.

"Music will not fulfill its sacred purposes until those who exercise musical gifts are endowed with power from on high, until they are fully able to receive spiritual guidance so that they can act in their office and calling with complete justification. We have been asked by our leaders to do this; to give up the practice of seeking the glory of the world, to seek to bring forth Zion in this day, to give unselfishly of our gifts.

"[Increase] your skills and understanding. . . . Set a course of self-improvement . . . so that you will more excellently discharge your obligation to properly use the musical gifts that you have been given. . . . Renew your commitment to study the gospel of Jesus Christ, to learn and follow righteousness in all you do so that your efforts might be endowed with the guidance and constraint of the Holy Spirit, which will enable you to do that which is right."

These thoughts and experiences made me stop and re-evaluate my own feelings. Like everyone, I have my favorite hymns and would feel something lacking in my life if I never heard them sung. At the same time, my own preferences should not prevent me from allowing others to enjoy their special favorites. After all, the purpose of performing music is to uplift others, not just ourselves.

I have therefore decided to be more sensitive to my listeners and try to include all types of hymns when I choose the music for church. That would seem the right thing to do--if my intent is to uplift, inspire, and teach a wide variety of people.

This past month my ward music chairman presented me with a list of suggested hymns for Sacrament Meeting for the next quarter. Ironically, on that list was "How Great Thou Art." The Spirit must have been preparing me for that moment.

--DeeAnn Stone

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OCTOBER CHAPTER MEETING

IN MEMORIUM

The American Contemporary Repertoire Session on Wednesday, October 20, at 7:30 p.m., under the direction of Dr. Don Cook, will be held at Scott Mills' and Lillian Heil's ward building, 1038 N. 1200 E., Provo. Those of you who are playing, contact Scott Mills directly (373-7069) for practice time. If there is anyone who would like to play who has not been previously contacted, call Carol Dean immediately with your selection.

On October 4, 1993, Miriam Owen, a member of our chapter, passed away as a result of kidney failure and pneumonia while visiting her children in Spokane. Her funeral was last Saturday afternoon, October 9th. Miriam had been fighting a long battle with breast and then liver cancer, and her weakened body finally gave up the fight. However, her sweet spirit and willingness to serve will be with us always.

SPOTLIGHT

When you come to our American Contemporary repertoire session this month, you will hear Diane Pratt Keller play the Persichetti that she took second with at the Utah State Fair. Diane is a student of Dr. Don Cook at BYU and a fine organist.

At her funeral J.J. Keeler, Miriam's organ teacher of 15 years, gave a tribute to her for her character and musical ability. He talked of her fortitude in always striving for excellence in her music even when weakened from chemotherapy and in pain.

The youngest of seven children, she was raised in Tuscon, Arizona, where her father is a pharmacist and her mother a homemaker. She started piano at age seven and served as ward organist from age 12 until she came to BYU. She had no organ training until she saw an ad about auditioning for an organ scholarship at BYU. Her father arranged for Patti Cheek to teach her. After two months of lessons, she auditioned in person for Dr. Parley Belnap and was given the scholarship. She had not originally intended to be an organ major, but Dr. Belnap seeing and hearing her talent urged her to reconsider so she could be awarded the scholarship. She is now a junior at BYU in organ performance and pedagogy.

Just a year or so ago, she and Elise Richards had co-performed an organ recital in the Provo Tabernacle. She also had served this past year as an organist in the Provo Temple. Bro. Keeler said Miriam felt her recent European organ tour with Dr. Bush and others was the frosting on the cake of her organ experience. J.J. Keeler's grandson, David Pickering, played the prelude and postlude at the funeral; Scott Mills played an organ solo--Brahms No. 11 from Op. 122.

Miriam, we will miss your smile and loving nature, as well as your musical talent.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Many thanks to Sandra Soderlund for the two very informative workshops she gave while in Utah on September 24th and 25th. She talked with the BYU organ majors about "How Bach played" and to the combined Salt Lake and Utah Valley chapters on "The Eight Short Preludes and Fugues, BWV 553-560."

It was also very helpful to hear all eight of the works played, not only by Sandra, but also by Doug Bush at his recital the evening before. It makes any organist want to dig the pieces out and get them back under their fingers. A new edition of the "Eight Short Preludes and Fugues," edited by Sandra Soderlund will be published by Wayne Leopold sometime in 1994.

This last May she married Kevin Keller, an electronics engineer technology major, in the Manti Temple. They enjoy cycling and hiking together, when they can break away from their studying AND Diane's practicing. Diane has just received a call to serve as stake organist in her BYU marrieds' stake. She also has taken second place at Utah State Fair two consecutive years ('92 and '93).

--Carol Dean

SALT LAKE CHAPTER'S OCTOBER MEETING

Remember that we have been invited to join with the Salt Lake Chapter for their October 22nd organ crawl of the organs on Temple Square as well as the new Casavant in the Joseph Smith Memorial Building. Meet at the West Gate at 6:00 p.m. (7:00 p.m. for latecomers).

UTAH STATE FAIR WINNERS

Congratulations to Ronnie Grauman and Diane Pratt Keller who again placed first and second respectively in their division.

Ronnie performed the A Minor Chorale of Franck and No. 24 in the Orgelbüchlein, "O Mensch, bewein dein Sünde gross."

Diane played the third movement of Vincent Persichetti's Sonata for Organ, Op. 86, as well as the first movement from the G Major Trio Sonata of Bach. Good work!

AMERICAN FORK COMMUNITY CONCERT SERIES

David Chamberlin played a delightful organ recital September 19 at the American Fork Tabernacle. Recitals will continue on the third Sunday afternoon of the month 4:00 p.m.

Don Cook will perform on the 17th, and David will return to the organ again on the 21st of November.

ALL-BACH RECITAL

The No. 3 Bach Recital by Doug Bush will be Saturday, October 16th at the Provo Central Stake at 7:30 p.m. For this recital Doug will be playing three large free works, early chorale preludes, and some of the Schübler chorales.

ORGAN FOR SALE

The Christian Science Church is selling a 1948 Moller 3-rank "unit" 15-rank (Artiste Series) pipe organ with chimes (walnut, Gothic style) for \$4,000. Contact Lane at 375-5795 or Emily at 373-1270.

PIPEDREAMS

(K-BYU FM, TUESDAYS, 9:00 P.M.)

October 12 - "Organs in Evansville, Indiana"--Douglas Reed, Robert Anderson, and Mark Hatfield play new and historic instruments by Walker, Fish, Jaekel and Schaefer in this modest Indiana town, a most gracious and hospitable home to the King of Instruments.

October 19 - "Indian Summer"--Seasonal favorites featuring theater-organ soloists Chris Elliott, Ashely Miller, Stan Kann, George Wright, Lynn Larsen, Simon Gledhill, Jelani Eddington, Dan Bellomy, Jim Riggs, Walt Strony, and Ron Rhode on the "Mighty Wurlitzer" and its relatives.

October 26 - "What's New?" Michael Barone surveys some recently released organ recordings.

BOOKLET FOR ORGANISTS AVAILABLE

Recently, we received the following information from Dorothy McDougall of the Dayton, Ohio, AGO Chapter:

"The work and compensation of musicians is an ever-present consideration in our field. The advertisement shown below offers a brand-new booklet on the subject. You may want to order your own copy."

THE WORK AND COMPENSATION OF MUSICIANS IN SACRED MUSIC

- Job Considerations
- Interview, Audition
- Sample Contract
- Determining Salary
- Salary Formula & Chart
- Compute Desired Hourly Rate

Send a \$4.00 check to:

Dayton Chapter, American Guild of Organists
c/o Dorothy McDougall
1101 Chateau Drive
Dayton, Ohio 45429

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 16 - Saturday

All-Bach Recital, No. 3, Doug Bush, 7:30 p.m., Provo Central Stake

October 17 - Sunday

Don Cook, organ recital, 4:00 p.m., American Fork Tabernacle

October 17 - Sunday

Vocal recital, 8:00 p.m., Provo Central Stake

October 19 - Tuesday

Andrus Madsen, harpsichord recital, 7:30 p.m., Madsen Recital Hall, BYU

October 20 - Wednesday

CHAPTER MEETING - American Repertoire Session, 7:30 p.m., 1038 N. 1200 E., Provo

October 22 - Friday

Salt Lake Chapter Meeting - organ crawl, 6:00 p.m., West Gate on Temple Square, SLC (7:00 p.m. for latecomers)

October 24 - Sunday

"Music for a Sunday Evening," Organ Recital featuring students of Parley Belnap and Don Cook, 7:00 p.m., Utah State Hospital Chapel, 1300 E. Center Street, Provo

November 3 - Wednesday

Early Music Ensemble, 7:30 p.m., Madsen Recital Hall, BYU

November 7 - Sunday

Early Music Ensemble, 7:30 p.m., Cathedral of the Madeleine, SLC

November 12 - Friday

William Atkinson, harpsichord recital, 7:30 p.m., Madsen Recital Hall, BYU

November 20 - Saturday

Andrew Unsworth, organ recital, 7:30 p.m., Provo Central Stake

November 21 - Sunday

David Chamberlin, organ recital, 4:00 p.m., American Fork Tabernacle

November 21 - Sunday

DeeAnn Stone, organ recital, 8:00 p.m., Provo Central Stake

November 23 - Tuesday

All-Bach Recital, No. 4, Doug Bush, 7:30 p.m., Provo Central Stake

December 3 - Friday

Ruth Ann Hay, senior organ recital, 7:30 p.m., Provo Central Stake

December 12 - Sunday

15th Annual Stake Christmas Choir Program, 8:00 p.m., Provo Central Stake

INFORMATION FOR NEWSLETTER

Contact DeeAnn Stone, 377-4728
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AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

UTAH VALLEY CHAPTER

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December 19th - Sunday

"Music for a Sunday Evening"
Music for Christmas, Claire Rogers,
Organ and friends