American Guild of Organists

UTAH VALLEY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1994 No. 6

SECRETARY/EDITOR'S MESSAGE

In the October newsletter, I wrote about the need to be sensitive to the hymn preferences of others. This month I would like to discuss a related issue--the need to be equally sensitive to others in the way we play the hymns. Specifically, I would like to pose the question: do our attempts at artistic interpretation of the hymns enhance worship or get in the way of it?

Not too long ago, I thought it would be nice to use an embellishment I found for the introduction to an opening hymn and then add a simple free accompaniment to the last verse. I'm not sure what went wrong this particular Sunday, but after I played the introduction, I felt as if I were playing a solo--hardly anybody started singing. I don't know if it was because all the "singers" were on vacation or if my introduction "blew them away." In either case, I got the feeling that they didn't appreciate what I was doing. Needless to say, I left out the free accompaniment on the last verse. I didn't want to overwhelm them twice.

Part of the problem may have been the fact that this happened at the beginning of the school year when we had a lot of new BYU students move into our ward who weren't "broken in" yet to this type of hymn playing. But whatever caused this lack of enthusiasm for singing, it got me thinking about how "artistically" I should play the hymns.

If what I do doesn't inspire people to feel like singing, I have defeated my purpose. I need to be sure that any artistic interpretations I add are appropriate for each situation--including the feelings and moods of my congregation.

I'm not really sure what the answer is. For every occasion when things I planned have not worked, there have been times that I have added embellishments and free accompaniments and the people have sung with all their hearts. Perhaps it all goes back to the need to be sensitive to the promptings of the Spirit.

Usually, during the week when I practice, I try to be prayerful as I choose registrations and/or embellishments to use, and then I usually stick with them to lessen the stress of playing for Sacrament Meeting. Even so, there are times when I instinctively feel that I should change these plans at the last minute.

The reverse is also true. There have been occasions when I felt that I didn't want to use what I had planned, but a strong feeling came over me that I was supposed to play it exactly the way I had previously felt I should.

Sometimes needed changes have occurred to me after the fact. Recently, I was playing the last verse of a hymn that is usually played using more lively stops. Half-way through, I realized that this particular verse would have been more meaningful if I had used more subdued stops.

Our successes and failures certainly have a way of refining us. My own experiences have helped me realize that any changes I make in playing a hymn need to be appropriate--so that my "art" doesn't get in the way of others' worship.

But more important than being sensitive to our listeners is our intent. If people sense that we are sincerely trying to help them come unto Christ through our music, they will tend to be forgiving of our artistic interpretations when these don't appeal to them. If we prepare spiritually, our artistry will be much more meaningful.

(A footnote about my October message regarding "How Great Thou Art": I guess the Lord was just testing me, because after all I said about changing my attitude so that I was willing to play this particular hymn, the speaker took too much time in the meeting and I didn't have to play it after all!)

--DeeAnn Stone

DEAN	SUB-DEAN	SEC./NEWSLETTER	TREASURER/REG.	EDUCATION
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FEBRUARY CHAPTER MEETING

Dan Berghout's lecture/recital of Jehan Alain will be given at the Provo Central Stake Center, 1200 W. 500 N., at 7:30 p.m.

SPOTLIGHT

Dan Berghout, graduate student studying with Parley Belnap, has done extensive research on the French organist and composer, Jehan Alain (1911-1940), and will share his knowledge and talent by giving us an Alain lecture/recital for our February Chapter Meeting.

Dan was born and raised in Ogden, Utah, where his father worked in the housing construction business and his mother taught third grade. He has four brothers and one sister. Dan started his musical training by taking piano lessons at age eight. His first exposure to the organ was at age 16 when he had to substitute at the organ for his aunt's funeral. Then at age 17 he started studying with Rulon Christiansen and continued with him until he received his B.A. degree at Weber State.

Since coming to BYU, in addition to his course work for his master's degree and taking organ lessons, Dan has been kept busy teaching three sections of group organ each semester as well as two sections of keyboard harmony. He started as guest organist at the Salt Lake Tabernacle November of 1991 and has continued taking his turn since that time. He also played one of the Advent recitals at the Cathedral of the Madeleine this year in addition to being very active in his Ogden Chapter of the AGO. He is also serving as Music Director of the First United Methodist Church in Ogden.

Dan served his mission to South Africa where he was allowed to play a number of recitals during the two years he was there. In addition to his music, Dan loves to cook and garden. Those who know Dan know what a genuine and caring individual he is. If you don't know him, come and meet him at our next chapter meeting and give yourself a treat.

CHANGE IN MARCH CHAPTER MEETING

Again, the March meeting has had to be changed because Doug Bush and several of the performers will be out of town on the 23rd. Please mark Friday, March 11th, on your calendars for an evening of hearing all of Doug's music. Any performers who cannot accommodate this new date, please call Carol Dean immediately, 375-4873.

CLAY CRISTIANSEN RECITAL

Clay Christiansen will present the final inaugural recital at the Cathedral of the Madeleine on Sunday, February 6th at 8:00 p.m. The recital is free. His recital will include works of Bach, Hollins, Saint-Saens, and Reubke.

CLAY CHRISTIANSEN'S CD FOR SALE

The Salt Lake Chapter is selling the CD or cassette "Clay Christiansen at the Tabernacle Organ." The CD will cost $19.00 if it is mailed to you ($18.00 if you pick it up); and the cassette is $12.00 mailed or $11.00 picked up.

Please mail checks (payable to SLC AGO) to Joyce M. Peabody, 851 E. 600 S. #304, Salt Lake City, UT 84102, 364-0517.

PAUL MANZ HYMN SING

A rare opportunity is coming for all organists on Saturday, April 23rd. Paul Manz will be presenting a Hymn Sing at Zion's Lutheran Church, 1070 S. Foothill Dr., SLC. This is an event you won't want to miss!

WIDORFEST

To commemorate the sesquicentennial of Charles-Marie Widor, the Salt Lake Chapter will sponsor a Widorfest on May 27th and 28th. Friday evening will be a recital of Widor's music in the Tabernacle performed by invited recitalists. This recital will be under the auspices of the Temple Square Concert Series. A lecture by a noted Widor scholar will take place the next morning.

SALT LAKE CHAPTER'S MINI-CONVENTION

An educational mini-convention for organists and church musicians will be held Saturday, April 9th, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 800 S. 1300 E. in SLC.

Fees: $20 for Paid AGO Members
$20 for Spouses of Members
$25 for Non-AGO Members
$15 for Youth, ages 12-19

The registration fee includes a catered buffet luncheon and your selection of four classes from university-level, specialized instructors:

Larry and Alice Beebe
Kevin Bower
Douglas E. Bush
Eila D. Cagle
Betty Jeanne Chipman
Clay R. Christiansen
Don Cook
Daniel E. Gawthrop
Bonnie L. Goodliffe
John T. Longhurst
Michael Ohman
H. Ronald Poll
Kenneth L. Udy
Walter Whipple
Darwin Wolford

Classroom topics will provide something for everyone--beginning organists, more advanced organists--and will include hymn playing, high technology instruction, and a full range of offerings of choral classes.

ORGANISTS WANTED

St. Jude's Catholic Church in Murray is looking for an organist. Responsibilities include one service on Sunday morning at 10:30 and a periodic choir rehearsal on Thursday evening. Call 268-2820 for more information.

Also, St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Park City is looking for an organist to play at 9:00 and 10:30 p.m. service on Sundays either full-time or alternating. Salary negotiable. Call 649-4900.

PIPEDREAMS
(KBYU-FM, Tuesday, 9:00 P.M.)

8 February - "Florida Flashbacks," aural visions of a new instrument in old style (1993 Taylor & Boody) at 1st Presbyterian Church, Tallahasse, and an older instrument (Aeolian-Skinner) revised and renewed at the University of Florida, Gainsville.

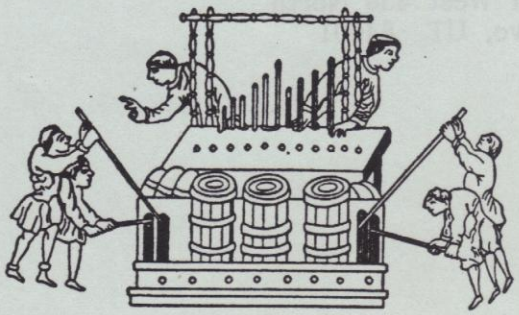
Performances by Judith Hancock, Michael Corzine, Amy Johansen, and Willis Bodine of Bach, Bohm, Vierne, Brahms, and Saint-Saens.

15 February - "American Organs Here and There," capsule coverage of some recent organ installations showing an interesting variety of styles with performances by Norma Stevlingson, Robert Burns, David Higgs, and Ronald McKean.

22 February - "Charles-Marie Widor, a Sesquicentennial Symphony Sampler," in honor of the 150th birthday anniversary of this illustrious and long-lived Parisian musician (1844-1937)--a survey the ten works upon which his reputation rests and which sent French organ music down a colorful new path.

1 March - "On the Fritts Again," recital performances Professor Robert Clark and guest Swiss soloist Guy Bovet on the recently-installed, historic-styled organ built by Paul Fritts & Co. for Arizona State University in Tempe.

8 March - "Solos at St. Thomas," selections from the regular Sunday afternoon recitals given throughout the year at New York City's renowned St. Thomas Church on Fifth Avenue. Performances by Gerre Hancock, Michael Kleinschmidt, Judith Hancock, Stephen Rumpf, Thomas Bara, and Stephen Tharp.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 5 - Saturday
John Jorgensen Organ Recital (Student of Parley Belnap), 7:00 p.m., Madsen Recital Hall, BYU

February 6 - Sunday
Clay Christiansen Inaugural Recital, 8:00 p.m., Cathedral of the Madeleine, SLC

February 12 - Saturday
David Pickering Organ Recital, 7:30 p.m., Provo Central Stake

February 15 - Tuesday
CHAPTER MEETING - Dan Berghout's Lecture/Recital of Jehan Alain, 7:30 p.m., Provo Central Stake

February 18 - Friday
No. 6 "All-Bach Recital" - Doug Bush, 7:30 p.m., Provo Central Stake

February 19 - Saturday
Marcos Krieger Harpsichord Recital, 2:30 p.m., Madsen Recital Hall, BYU

Feb 27 - Harpsichord - St. Hospital

March 11 - Friday
CHAPTER MEETING - "All-Bush Night," 7:30 p.m., Provo Central Stake

March 17 - Thursday
BYU Baroque Ensemble performing J.S. Bach's **B Minor Mass,** 7:30 p.m., Provo Tabernacle

March 20 - Sunday
BYU Baroque Ensemble performing J.S. Bach's B Minor Mass, 8:00 p.m., Cathedral of the Madeleine, SLC

March 22 - Tuesday
"All-Bach Recital," No. 7, Doug Bush, 7:30 p.m., Provo Central Stake

March 30 - Wednesday
Ralph Woodward Chorale singing Robert Cundick's "The Redeemer," 7:30 p.m., Presbyterian Church, SLC

April 1 - Friday
Woodward Chorale (same as above), 7:30 p.m., Provo Tabernacle

April 9 - Super Saturday
8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 800 W. 1300 E., SLC

April 9 - Saturday
Gayle Farnsworth Organ Recital (student of Don Cook), 7:30 p.m., Edgemont South Stake, 2950 N. Canyon Road, Provo

April 23 - Saturday
Paul Manz Hymn Sing, Zion's Lutheran Church, SLC

May 27 and 28 - Friday and Saturday
"Widorfest," Temple Square, SLC

INFORMATION FOR NEWSLETTER
Contact DeeAnn Stone, 377-4728
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