



American Guild of Organists

UTAH VALLEY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1994

No. 3

MESSAGE: "Hints on the Art of Practicing"

Another day of practicing has ended. As I walk back to my apartment, I often think about how the practicing went. Sometimes I feel satisfied with what I have been able to accomplish, but other times I feel that I played the same annoying spot or piece fifty times and did not play it any better than when I first started. In order to avoid these feelings of frustration, some simple practice guidelines that have been given to me by my teacher are presented. They have helped me immensely in the past when I have followed them. Many of you have heard these suggestions, I'm sure, but how many of us follow them regularly?

- 1) Finger and pedal a work thoroughly so that if another organist were to look at your score, he/she would be able to play it that way. This causes one to concentrate about how he/she will play the piece, which greatly accelerates the speed the piece is learned. The piece will be firmly embedded in the individual.
- 2) Play hands separately and together.
- 3) Play pedal alone.
- 4) Play right hand and pedal alone.
- 5) Play left hand and pedal alone.
- 6) Play all parts together very slowly. Do not increase the tempo until the piece can be rendered perfectly. Then gradually increase the speed until the piece is perfected at that tempo. Do this until the final tempo of the piece is reached. Always play so that you are in control.
- 7) A metronome helps the organist keep a steady and decisive tempo when practicing. When followed, it makes the organist follow the tempo he/she has chosen--whether it be learning or perfecting a piece.
- 8) Mentally play through the score away from the organ. This allows the mind to readily absorb the piece.
- 9) Specifically isolate "problem spots" and use the aforementioned practice principles 2-6 to help overcome these problems.
- 10) Practice difficult spots at the piano. The piano is much more conducive to building finger strength and agility than the organ. One's organ technique will be greatly benefited.

These suggestions build the firm foundation that is needed to perform a piece well. Even though these suggestions may be tedious and boring at times, they are how we achieve solid, confident performances of pieces, which is always our goal.

--David Pickering

OCTOBER CHAPTER MEETING

"What's New in Organ Music?"--Wednesday, October 19th, 7:30 p.m., State Hospital Chapel, 1300 E. Center, Provo.

As outlined in the last newsletter, this month's meeting will focus on organ music that has been published within the last year or so. Be sure to invite your ward and stake organists and anyone else you know who would be interested in new organ music. Come hear Lella's repertoire reading session, and see what Mike Carson has available from Keith Jorgensen's.

NOVEMBER CHAPTER MEETING

Many times we organists have wanted to add variety to our hymn playing by using an interesting introduction, free accompaniment, or interlude, but are frustrated when we can't find music written for a particular hymn. Our frustration increases when we want to write something ourselves but don't know how to go about doing it.

So, for our chapter meeting on November 16, Gerald Dick, whose hymn arrangements are well-known to many of us, will demonstrate how to write simple introductions, interludes, and free accompaniments. Look for more details in next month's newsletter.

RUSSIAN ORGANIST

Our chapter, in conjunction with the Salt Lake Chapter, will be sponsoring Russian organist, Alexander Fiseisky, President of the Russian Guild of Organists. He will be coming to BYU on Thursday, Oct. 13, to give a lecture/recital in the Madsen Recital Hall from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

On Friday, Oct. 14, the Salt Lake Chapter will be hosting a reception at 6:30 p.m. for Mr. Fiseisky at the Chuck-A-Rama on 31st S. Highland Dr., SLC. They have invited our chapter to join them for the buffet dinner. Following the dinner, Mr. Fiseisky will speak to the group and answer questions.

Please call Ken Udy (277-1788) or Joyce Peabody (364-0517) to make reservations. You can mail your check for \$10 per person to Joyce at 851 E. 600 S., #304, Salt Lake City, UT 84102-2952.

Then on Saturday, Oct. 15, at 7:30 p.m., Mr. Fiseisky will be giving an organ recital, first in the Assembly Hall on Temple Square and then in the Salt Lake Tabernacle.

| DEAN | SUB-DEAN | SECRETARY | TREASURER | MEMBERS AT LARGE: |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Lella Pomeroy 489-4655 | Lee Clark 224-1591 | DeeAnn Stone 377-4728 | Joan Barnett 375-7880 | Dr. Don Cook W--378-3260 LuJean Moss 374-2595 David Pickering 371-4570 |

PAUL MANZ HYMN FESTIVAL/WORKSHOP

Paul Manz is rescheduled to come to Zion's Lutheran Church, 1070 Foothill Dr., SLC, to present a Hymn Festival Benefit on Friday, Nov. 18, at 7:30 p.m., and will give an organ workshop on Saturday, Nov. 19, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. A free-will offering would be appreciated at the Hymn Festival.

AGO FAR WEST REGIONAL CONVENTION

We have received more information concerning the Far West Regional Convention, which is to be held in Phoenix, Arizona, from June 18 to 22, 1995. The Convention fees, which cover lunches every day but not hotel or transportation costs, are:

Pre-registration (Jan. 1st to April 30th)--
\$150, seniors/students--\$130.

Late registration (after April 30th)--\$185

If you pay early but have to cancel for some reason, you will receive a 50% refund before April 30th, but will receive NO refund after that date.

Contact the Central Arizona AGO Chapter for more information: P.O. Box 60701, Phoenix, Arizona 85082-0701.

DONATIONS NEEDED

Many of you know that Jan Harrison, Dean of the St. George/Cedar City Chapter, has been very ill. She thought that she had successfully beaten breast cancer only to find that it had moved into her bones, necessitating a bone marrow transplant. Before she can have the operation, however, she must come up with \$150,000, because her insurance won't cover it.

An appeal is being made to all her friends in AGO to assist her by making a donation to the Southern Utah Foundation, Janice Harrison Fund c/o Cardon, 326 S. 600 W., Cedar City, UT 84720. Any amount would be appreciated.

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
UTAH VALLEY CHAPTER
Lella Pomeroy, Dean CAGO
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Springville, UT 84663

OTHER EVENTS

--Provo Central Stake Concert Series - Sundays.
8:00 p.m., 450 N. 1200 W., Provo

October 9 - An evening of instrumental chamber music featuring organ, trumpet, and cello

November 13 - Douglas Bush, organ

December 10 - Christmas Concert

--Music for a Sunday Evening - 7:00 p.m., State Hospital Chapel, 1300 E. Center, Provo

October 23 - Larry Green, Classical Guitar

--Student Recitals

October 8 (Saturday) - David Young,
7:30 p.m., Provo Central Stake Center

October 22 (Saturday) - Ben Crandall,
7:30 p.m., Provo Central Stake Center

November 22 (Tuesday) - Andrus Madsen,
8:00 p.m., Cathedral of the Madeleine, SLC

Pipedreams

KBYU-FM, Tuesdays, 9:00 p.m.
Classical 89

October 4 - "Byzantine Sketches"

October 11 - "Americana Revisited"

October 18 - "A Mexican Organ Odyssey"

October 25 - "Olivier Latry in Concert"

(For more details on all broadcasts, see the September TAO, p.86.)

INFORMATION FOR NEWSLETTER

Please contact DeeAnn Stone at 377-4728 (or mail to 1510 W. 500 N., Provo, UT 84601) by the 25th of each month.

