



American Guild of Organists

UTAH VALLEY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1995

No. 8

TREASURER'S MESSAGE

In selecting and preparing music for services, we as church musicians should reflect on the purpose of music in church. Because our congregations clamor for music they "enjoy," we sometimes become preoccupied with insuring they can relate to our musical offerings. We may pander to the "itching ears" of the church audience. Such a stance overlooks the admonition that we attend church not only "to keep ourselves unspotted from the world" but also "to offer up our sacraments and pay our devotions unto the Most High." The service is not for the purpose of entertainment; worship need not be fun. Music is not only to edify and prepare the worshipper for worship. Perhaps even more important, it is to praise and glorify God; it is itself an act of worship. In this light even the most recalcitrant listener can hardly deny the Lord is worthy of our best efforts, our most elevated music. What we hear on the pop radio station or even in the concert hall may not be good enough for him.

I once read a TAO article, the central thesis of which was that the function of the church organist is to praise the Lord for the congregation. It maintained that because of talent and training, the organist is qualified to be the intermediary between the worshipper and God. This position is obviously presumptuous and extreme, particularly in the context of a lay leadership church; nevertheless, it has in it an element of truth. We organists have the duty to help the congregation worship God. If the best music is beyond them, we must painstakingly aid them in their quest for greater understanding. As a TAO letter to the editor expressed it, "One of the major roles of the church musician is to stretch the sonic vocabulary of corporate prayer."

The listener is not without responsibility, however. If scriptures or sermons are unintelligible to readers or hearers, they have an obligation to study to comprehend them. Likewise, listeners have a

responsibility to elevate themselves to appreciate and be edified by carefully and prayerfully chosen and prepared music. Otherwise our praises are relegated to a level of lowest common denominator in the audience, some of whom are quick to criticize the snobbish tastes of musicians. Only in our assemblies of musicians united with congregations can we worship God with the most sublime music of which we are mortally capable and make our songs of the righteous worthy prayers unto him.

--Joan Barnett

MARCH CHAPTER MEETING

On Wednesday, March 15, at 7:30 p.m., at the Provo Central Stake Center, 450 N. 1200 W., our chapter recital of early Baroque music will be held. Doug Bush will also be giving a short lecture on Bach, followed by a delicious buffet dinner. This is open to the public, so feel free to invite someone to come with you.

For those of you who will be playing, please contact DeeAnn Stone or Carol Dean to schedule a time to practice.

APRIL CHAPTER MEETING

The April meeting is scheduled for Wednesday the 19th at 7:30 p.m. This meeting under the direction of David Pickering will be a hymn sing which will involve BYU organ students.

SALT LAKE CHAPTER EVENTS

On Saturday, March 18, at 10:00 a.m., Ken Udy will give a lecture on the California years of Alexander Schreiner. Call Ken for the location of the event (1-801-277-1788).

Also, on April 9 at 7:30 p.m., at the First Congregational Church, the SLC Chapter members will hold their Palm Sunday recital focusing on organ music from France.

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

SUNDAY RECITALS IN MARCH

--On March 5 at 8:00 p.m. at the Provo Tabernacle as part of the International Conference on the Holocaust, **Douglas Bush** will premiere an organ piece by Murray Boren entitled "Beyond."

--On March 12, **Carol Dean** will give an organ recital at the Provo Central Stake Center, 450 N. 1200 W., at 8:00 p.m.

--And flutist Lissa Hepner Wildman and organist **David Chamberlin**, joined by mezzo-soprano Jan Chamberlin, will present a recital of contemporary music appropriate for the Lenten season on March 19 at 7:30 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, 1070 Foothill Drive, SLC. The program includes some of David's original compositions and arrangements.

LDS HYMN ARRANGEMENT COMPILATION AVAILABLE

by DeeAnn Stone

Finding and organizing a file of music that is appropriate to play for church services has apparently been an age-old dilemma. Lella recently told me that Walthers, J.S. Bach's cousin, tried to compile a list of arrangements made on hymn tunes, but because of all the "borrowing" that went on in those days, the task became monumental. Without the aid of a computer, it would have been extremely mind boggling. (In fact, even with the aid of a computer, it can become extremely mind boggling.)

So, after many frustrating years of trying to remember what hymn arrangements I had and where I could find them, I decided to compile my own list last summer.

I began by using the chronological list of hymn arrangement collections of LDS composers compiled by Rulon Christiansen for one of his 1993 Workshop on Church Music classes. I then organized all the LDS hymns alphabetically, indicating hymn number, title of hymn, key, time signature, and hymn tune.

Next, under each hymn with an arrangement, I listed the name of the arranger, page number, book title and volume, and key in which it was written and to which it modulates.

Then, I compiled each hymn by key and placed an asterisk by those that have arrangements.

The compilation consists mainly of works by LDS composers, a few works by others, and some chorale preludes, as well as some piano pieces.

Some of you have already told me that you would like a copy of this. So, in order to know exactly how many copies to run off, I need a list of everyone who would like a copy. If you would like one, please contact me as soon as possible (377-4728). I'll have the copies available at our meetings; the cost is \$2.00. If you would like me to mail it to you, add \$1.00 to the cost.

When I can find the time to do it, I want to make a similar compilation of Children's hymns and free accompaniments.

FAR WEST REGIONAL CONVENTION NEWS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

--**Registration Packets** were mailed on Monday, February 13, and should be in the hands of all Region IX members by now. If you have not received yours, call the Summer SoundSplash '95 Voice Mail, 1-800-807-0107 (x246).

--**America West Airlines** is offering a special rate to convention participants. For information/reservations, call the America West CAMS Desk, 1-800-548-7575, say you're with the American Guild of Organists, and give the Reference Code (#19783SD).

--**Budget Rent-A-Car** is also offering a special rate to convention participants. Reservations can be made through the Convention Hotel, the Embassy Suites, Scottsdale. Five-day advance notice is recommended; our Corporate I.D. number is 1978.

**NewsSplash '95 (#6) by Mark Ramsey
Workshop Artists Article 2 of 3**

The first two NewsSplash articles highlighted several of our convention recitalists. In the present series of three articles, workshops and presenters are highlighted, including workshops on vocal, keyboard, and handbell music, children's choirs, and creative worship.

KEN DAVIS has just completed his twelfth year as Music Associate at the Valley Presbyterian Church of Scottsdale, Arizona, where he directs an extensive ministry involving more than 300 children and youth in four choral groups, divided into seven weekly rehearsal sections. His prior experience includes five years as a Director of Music Ministries at the Central United Methodist Church, Fayetteville, Arkansas and four years in a similar post at the Lakewood United Methodist Church, North Little Rock, Arkansas. He has served on the Executive Committees of the Central Arkansas and Central Arizona Chapters of the AGO. Ken is also active in the Chorister's Guild, the Presbyterian Association of Musicians, the American Choral Director's Association and the Fellowship of United Methodists in Worship, Music and Other Arts, where he currently serves on the Annual Fund Committee. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Choral Music Education from Millikin University, Decatur, Illinois, and has done graduate work in Choral Music Education and conducting at Arizona State University.

Mr. Davis will present a workshop on "Keeping Children's Choirs Grown." This workshop will cover methods of planning, administration, organization, coordination, and promotion of children's and youth choirs in the church. Emphasis will also be placed upon the recruitment, spiritual growth and retention of choir members through the development of a pastoral music ministry to and through the young people and their families.

JOHN METZ is Professor of Harpsichord at Arizona State University. For eleven years he has been a major performer in the Connecticut Early Music Festival, presenting approximately five concerts each summer. In addition, he gives innumerable solo and ensemble recitals from coast-to-coast. Several of his performances have aired on National Public Radio's "Performance Today" program. His interest in performing works by the great French woman composer Elizabeth-Claude Jacquet de la Guerre resulted in a recording of three of the composer's Suite (Summit Records #136). In September 1993, Dr. Metz spent ten days in Seoul, Korea, teaching harpsichord, lecturing, and presenting recitals and a program of Baroque chamber music with Korean musicians.

Dr. Metz will present a workshop on "Harpsichord Hash--Something for Everyone." This workshop is a checklist of things related to the harpsichord, covering historical approaches to the harpsichord, methods of getting pianists and organists oriented to harpsichord touch, and various books and anthologies for people interested in harpsichord and continuo playing; a look into the harpsichordist's studio, with time for questions and discussion.

On p. 52 of the February issue of TAO there is a short article about Lella.

PIPEDREAMS - KBYU-FM, Tuesdays, 9:00 p.m.

Music for a Sunday Evening - March 26, 7:00 p.m., State Hospital Chapel, 1300 E. Center, Provo

Student Recital - Nadine Turner, April 12

INFORMATION FOR NEWSLETTER--Please contact DeeAnn Stone at 377-4728, or mail to 1510 W. 500 N., Provo, UT 84601

"Keyboardists whose chief asset is mere technique are clearly at a disadvantage . . . They overwhelm our hearing without satisfying it and stun the mind without moving it. A mere technician, however, can lay no claim to the rewards of those who sway in gentle undulation the ear rather than the eye, the heart rather than the ear, and lead it where they will."

--C.P.E. Bach, Essay on the True Art of Playing Keyboard Instruments

"The performer who relies for his interpretation solely upon musicological precept and digital dexterity will succeed only in communicating signs. If he has no curiosity for music's mysterious effect upon the soul, and plays without love, even his best technical efforts will succeed only in a momentary dazzling of his listeners. If, as well, he is an organist, with a formidable armoury of sound and signs at his disposal, his performance may well resemble Macbeth's 'tale Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, Signifying nothing'."

--Peter Hurford, Making Music on the Organ, p. 5



AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
UTAH VALLEY CHAPTER
Lella Pomeroy, Dean, CAGO
1770 S. 300 E.
Springville, UT 84663

