



American Guild of Organists

UTAH VALLEY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1995

No. 4

SUMMER SOUNDSPLASH '95 REPORT

by Ruth Ann Hay

I took the opportunity to attend the convention and spend some time with my sister and her family who live in Mesa. Since I did not stay at the convention hotel, I did not have the luxury of being bused from one event to the next. Instead I was seen driving around the metro with map in hand, attempting to keep my directions straight. On more than one occasion, I actually beat the bus to the next destination.

Monday was spent on the ASU campus, and I was pleased to see and hear the 1991 Fritts installation demonstrated magnificently in recitals by Robert Clark and Carol Terry.

Tuesday was spent in Phoenix. I was tempted to skip a class entitled "Creative Worship" taught by Linda Spevacek, but at the last minute I changed my mind and attended. It turned out to be mostly a choral reading session of music for children and youth choirs. I have long felt sad that such choirs are not a part of our church music curriculum, so I found the presentation very stimulating.

Following that day's luncheon, Sandra Soderlund showed a portion of the video "Pulling Out All the Stops." As you do doubt know, it will be a television documentary that promotes the organ and will be aired nationally sometime this coming year. I was a little skeptical about the project before, but after seeing the video clip, I am now converted. I sent in my contribution and hope that every chapter member will do likewise.

The highlight of the day was a performance at All-Saints Episcopal Church by Scott David Youngs, the church's chamber choir, and the Amabile String Quartet. The program was well-balanced, stylistically varied, and demonstrated many of the resources of the Visser Roland organ. Scott's playing of the BWV 541 was solid and energetic, yet tastefully expressive. His playing of Bach's E-flat Major Trio Sonata was a milestone of sorts for me. I will make a public declaration and confess that I have never really enjoyed any of those sonatas.

For the first time in my life I was actually enthralled with the performance from beginning to end. The articulation was tasteful and delicate and the piece sparkled like diamonds. He accompanied the entire third movement with a very delicate cymbalstern. The blend and cohesiveness of the choir was remarkable as they sang music by Gibbons, Bach, Pachelbel, and Parry. The Amabile String quartet which accompanied some of the choir pieces was a truly professional ensemble. Scott demonstrated impressive musicianship as both performer and conductor, so I left the concert truly refreshed.

Wednesday was spent in Mesa, and hearing Joan Zimmerman play Mike Bigelow's instrument at Victory Lutheran was another highlight. The instrument is jam-packed with tonal colors, endless moods, and expressive capabilities. Joan did an excellent job of showing it all off. The recital was like a musical kaleidoscope. It was truly a stimulating sensory experience. Although the organ is North German in design, it has very eclectic possibilities. David Chamberlin did a truly remarkable job as tonal director. Hooray David and Mike!

Another unforgettable experience, this time visual, was the magnificent stained glass ceiling depicting the heavens at the Kilgore chapel at Valley Presbyterian in Scottsdale. Brilliant orange, red, and blue dominated the many colors that depicted the moon, stars, sun, and dramatic streams of light sweeping across the ceiling. We were there at noon and the stained glass, being set off by the brilliant white hexagonal walls was simply spectacular.

The convention came to a close when the Phoenix Boys Choir surrounded us and sang John Rutter's setting of "The Lord Bless You and Keep You." I had a strong feeling at that moment that the Lord was expressing his approval of our efforts to lift our congregations through sacred music, that it was his personal blessing on us. I left renewed and energized and more committed in fulfilling my musical mission.

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 375-5007

NO DECEMBER CHAPTER MEETING - But, for the January meeting on the 16th at 7:30 p.m., we will have the opportunity to see the PBS video "Voices in the Wind." Place TBA.

REPORT ON LAST MONTH'S MEETING
by DeeAnn Stone

Things certainly have changed at the BYU Library since I was a student 25 years ago. Over the years, I have continued to use the library, but have generally used the card catalog system to find things. Somehow, using the modern computer system was like venturing into a giant black hole.

At our last AGO meeting, David Day of the library staff helped us enter this black hole and come out alive. It's truly amazing what can be done with the computer system--like getting information from other libraries and even using your own computer from home to find information via modem.

There have been many times that I've wandered through the music reference area wondering where things were. Thanks to David, I have a better idea of where to find things. He also showed us what is available in the Journal Collections area and Learning Resource Center.

It was time well spent, and we thank David for showing us around.

ADVENT ORGAN VESPERS
AT THE CATHEDRAL OF THE MADELEINE

Vespers start at 4:30 p.m., with the Cathedral Choir singing and David Young accompanying them on the organ. Immediately after the vespers services, the following organists will play for about a half hour:

- Dec 3 - Lisa Olcott Glade
- Dec 10 - Diane Pratt Keller
- Dec 17 - David Pickering
- Jan 7 - David Young

Provo Central Stake Concert Series - Stake Christmas Concert, Sunday, December 10, 8:00 p.m., 450 N. 1200 W.; Douglas Bush, conductor, Larry Tompkinson, organist, and other members of AGO singing in the choir.

Music for a Sunday Evening - December 17, 7:00 p.m., "The Music of Christmas" with Claire Rogers, organ, and friends. State Hospital Chapel, 1300 E. Center, Provo

MEMBER NEWS

Lillian Heil reports that the LDS Church in Jamaica is in the beginning stages there. The members are wonderful and excited about learning how to run the branches and providing music for services. Only a few of the branches have pianos and most have keyboards, but not many people know how to play either one. Lillian will be starting keyboard classes there in January. We wish her luck in her endeavors.

If you would like to write to her, please send your letter with a \$.32 stamp to:

Pouch
Lillian Heil
Jamaica Kingston
50 E. North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84150



The Church will forward it to Jamaica by Fed Ex.

NEW CD AVAILABLE--"A Radiant Light: Christmas and Advent Music from the Cathedral of the Madeleine," featuring the Cathedral Choir and David Young playing two organ solos on the Eccles Memorial Organ should be available by December 5. To order copies call the Cathedral of the Madeleine at (801) 328-8941 or contact David.

ROBERT CLARK JANUARY EVENTS

January 11, 1996 - Master Class, 5:00 p.m., Madsen Recital Hall, BYU

January 12, 1996 - Recital, 7:30 p.m., Salt Lake Tabernacle

There was a pair of light blue pot holders left at Robin Cardon's place at our opening social last fall. If these are yours, please contact DeeAnn Stone.

Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas and
all through the Guild
Not an organ was playing,
The pipes were all stilled.

My music was placed on the
console with care
In hopes that the morning would
still find it there.

I closed the swell pedals
and, giving a nod,
I turned off the mixtures and
reeds en chamade.

And laying a finger
aside of my nose
I switched off the blower and
tiredly rose.

When what to my wondering
eyes should appear,
But a miniscule console and
eight ranks of reindeer!

And a little old player
in bright sequined socks—
I knew in a moment it
must be Saint Fox!

His scales how they twinkled,
His mordents how merry!
His pedal technique was as
light as a fairy!

He played just a bit of
a great fugue by Bach,
But stopped when he happened to
glance at the clock—

"The hour is late and
quite soon I must go,
But first there is something I'd
like you to know."

"This battle 'twixt backers and
electropneumatic
Will never be settled by
votes democratic."

Saint Fox stopped a moment
to straighten his tie,
Then spoke with a powerful
gleam in his eye,

He paused for a second and
brushed off some snow
Which fell from his shoulder to
carpet below.

"You see, since I left here
I've learned quite a bit.
I'm still playing concerts, but
I must admit,

"With Bach in the audience
I've mellowed a tad.
I'm careful with tempos and
things that I add.

"He's gracious and kindly and
never critiques—
He's humble and thoughtful
whenever he speaks.

"He's quite open-minded; my
point is just this:
In matters of tolerance
the world is remiss.

"One small example will
have to suffice;
Listen quite closely and
take my advice:

There currently rages a
feud over trackers.
Some folks quite like them and
some think they're crackers.

"I wish I could give you
a sample, my dears,
Of what Bach's been writing the
last hundred years!

"The interesting thing's that it
cannot be played
On present day organs at
all, I'm afraid.

"Your trackers, pneumatics, and
stuff in between,
Exposed or encased or perched
up on a screen—

"They're all fine and dandy, but
all out of date
Which makes your whole battle
a silly debate.

"Now let me propose at this
new Christmastide
That arguments like this be
all put aside.

"May the reason's true spirit help
organists see
What shepherds and wise men were
shown anciently.

"Now blessings upon you who
play on the keys;
May heaven reward you with
its harmonies."

He sprang to his console and
hit the "Sforzando"
And away they all flew con
molto accelerando.

But I heard his exclaim ere
he drove out of view,
Merry Christmas to all,
and a new organ, too!"

by Daniel E. Gawthrop (1982)



RECIPE CORNER

PIPEDREAMS - KBYU-FM 89, Tues., 9:00 p.m.

Prize Winning Black Bean Salsa--Mary Paz

INFORMATION FOR NEWSLETTER

- 1 can (15 ounces) black beans--rinsed, drained
- 1-2 medium tomatoes--chopped
- 1/2 cup red onion--finely chopped
- 3 TBS coarsely chopped fresh cilantro

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

- Seasoning:
- 1 tsp chili powder
 - 1/4 tsp cumin
 - 1/2 tsp salt
 - dash of red pepper

Mix together and sprinkle seasonings over top. Then mix again. Garnish with fresh sprigs of cilantro, if desired.



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