

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to enrich lives through organ and choral music.

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2016-2018

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Dean's Message — November 2016

Hello All!

This month, we celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. Traditionally, we celebrate it with family and friends, gathered together, enjoying both food and the company of the guests. We, at least for a moment, are thankful for the blessings in our life. In unison with our personal celebration of Thanksgiving, we too are celebrating this fantastic time of rejoicing within our churches. We sing hymns of praise and hymns of thanksgiving. I personally love the spirit of hope and optimism that comes with these hymns. They uplift the downtrodden soul, encourage the weary, and inspire us to do what is right.

Let us facilitate this hope and optimism for others in our preparation for this holiday. Maybe you are looking forward to December, to Christmastime, or are dreading the stresses and workload of that season, especially for musicians. I think the opening verse of *Come, Ye Thankful People* puts succinct words to my plea:

> Come, ye thankful people, come,
> raise the song of harvest home;
> all is safely gathered in,
> ere the winter storms begin;
> God, our Maker, doth provide
> for our wants to be supplied;
> come to God's own temple, come,
> raise the song of harvest home.

Have a fantastic month, and I look forward to seeing you at some of the upcoming performances, or at our holiday recital!

Quinten

Upcoming Events

Chapter Activities

Nov 18 Holiday member recital. 7:00 PM. Pleasant Grove East Stake Center. 825 Loader, Pleasant Grove.

Jan Organ Crawl. Location and date TBA.

Feb 25 Youth Scholarship Recital. Time TBA.

Mar 17 Bach Recital. 7:00 PM. Provo Central Stake Center.

Apr 29 Super Saturday. 8:00 AM. BYU Harris Fine Arts Ctr.

May 19 Closing Social. Potluck dinner and a presentation by Joan Stevens about her studies with Flor Peeters.

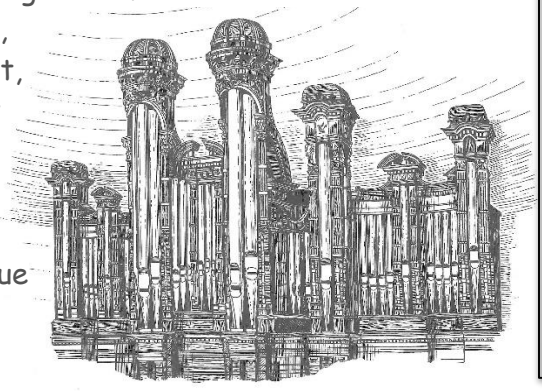
Organ Recitals and Other Events

Nov 6 Eccles Organ Festival. Alison Luedecke, St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, La Jolla, California. 8:00 PM, Cathedral of the Madeleine, 331 East, South Temple, Salt Lake City. Click here for program info.

Nov 11 Organ Fest IX, sponsored by Classical 89. 7:30 PM, Tabernacle, Temple Square, SLC. All five Tabernacle Organists and Cathedral of the Madeleine organist Gabriele Terrone.

Dec 30 James Welch recital. 12:00 Noon, Tabernacle, SLC.

It's time once again to gather for Classical 89's Organ Fest. This annual concert features organists from the Salt Lake Tabernacle – Bonnie Goodliffe, Linda Margetts, Richard Elliott, Clay Christiansen, and Andrew Unsworth, and organist at the Cathedral of the Madeleine, Gabriele Terrone. Join us for this free concert in a new venue this year, The Tabernacle on Temple Square, Friday, November 11 at 7:30pm.



Voices from Abroad

In this monthly column, we will hear from members and friends who have had experiences with the organ and sacred music in far-flung places. This month, we will hear from Miranda Wilcox, who has been in England since January leading a study abroad and doing research.

The first week in York, I saw a sign announcing an organ recital series at St. Columba's United Reformed Church down the street from where I lived. At the first recital I mustered the courage to ask the organist Nigel and Reverend Allison if I might practice on their lovely instrument. They were incredibly generous and welcoming and agreed that I could practice on "Mildred," the 1907 Lewis organ. Mildred has a warm, rich tone with gentle flutes and robust principles. Even though there are no mixtures or mutations, the organ is quite versatile, and I enjoyed playing Dupre and Bach. I am very grateful to the St. Columba community for the opportunity to practice regularly while I was in York.

For the last organ recital in the six-week series, Nigel wanted it to have the feel of the British Proms. I happened to be practicing the organ when Nigel and his wife arrived to decorate the night before the recital. They draped strings of Union Jack across the sanctuary. I helped them distribute crackers, whistles,

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and streamers among the pews. Nigel thinks organ recitals should not be so serious and wanted "a bit of silliness." Simon Lindley, the Leeds city organist and a consummate performer, played a rousing program of "British" tunes. He ended by inviting the audience to sing "Holy art Thou" (while he played Handel's *Largo*) and "Jerusalem." As we sang, the audience got into the patriotic mood and began waving flags, blowing kazoos, pulling poppers, and throwing streamers. It was unlike any organ recital I have ever attended.

Miranda Wilcox



"Mildred," the 1907 Lewis organ at St. Columba's United Reform Church, York, England.

Resources for Organists

AGO National Headquarters

AGO Utah Valley Chapter

Utah Valley AGO Facebook Page

AGO Salt Lake City Chapter

Bigelow & Co.

Local organ builder of fine mechanical action organs

Hymn Voluntaries

by David Chamberlin

Hymnal Trivia Quiz

by Lella Pomeroy and James Welch

LDS Organist

Free music for the LDS organist

The LDS Organist

Resources for organists by Jennifer Morgan

Organ Study

BYU School of Music

Pedal Points

Musings on organ playing by Florence Hawkinson

Pedals & Pipework

Tours of local pipe organs by Nick Banks

Resources for LDS Organists

by DeeAnn Stone

WardOrganist.com

Music for the LDS organist

Voices from Pipe Organ Encounter 2016

In this monthly column, we will have the opportunity to hear the experiences of youth who attended this year's Pipe Organ Encounter, and hopefully be inspired by their youthful enthusiasm and passionate musicianship.

When we got the list of POEs all around the country, I saw there was one in Salt Lake City this year. I didn't even think twice and asked my parents if I could go to that one. During a visit to SLC, when I was about 7, we went to Temple Square and the Conference Center and I was in awe of the organs. Their sight stayed in my mind for a long time and I think that's what made me decide to play this instrument a few years later.

One of my favorite things during the week was touring a lot of organs, especially at Temple Square. We not only got to play the Conference Center organ but also went behind the scenes. This is probably as exciting as playing, to see how it is made. We also got to play the Tabernacle organ after listening to a recital by Clay Christiansen. After that we visited the Assembly Hall organ and got to play it too. For me it was like a dream come true! We didn't stop there,

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Start working now on your Bach repertoire!

The annual Bach Recital will be Friday, March 17, 2017 at the Provo Central Stake Center.

Contact Carol Dean with the title of the piece you would like to play. **carolorg1111@gmail.com**

Music Lesson

By Gay Behrensmeyer, Illinois City, Illinois
Submitted by Mike Carson

My organ teacher, John Hildreth, and I always met at an old Episcopalian church in town. I'd taken lessons from him for 30 years, but now I was ready to give up. My playing just wasn't what it used to be. I sat on the organ bench, wondering how to tell him. He would be so disappointed.

"Take a listen to this recording," John said, "and I'll be right back." He hit play and stepped out of the sanctuary. The melody coming from the speakers was beautiful, rich with notes that seemed to float from all directions. The organist's coordination between the manual keys and the foot pedals was spot on. I closed my eyes and took it all in. Wow, Lord, I thought, if I could play like that, I'd never quit.

Before our new choir director arrived, I'd been more confident. Then the criticism began. "You're playing too fast," she'd say. "Now it's too slow…can't you play something more contemporary?" Then last month a member of the congregation said, "You know you missed a note in that last piece." I could've cried.

Clearly I was losing my touch. Much as I'd miss playing, what was the point if the music didn't sound good anymore? I'd have to find a different way to praise God. But how?

Soon John returned. He turned the tape off. "That was lovely!" I blurted out. "I wish I could play that well."

John gave me a quizzical look, "That was you playing. It's a performance from a few weeks ago."

And with that, I had my answer.

For more information and applications for the UVAGO Youth Scholarship Audition in February 2017, please contact Lori Serr. ljzserr@yahoo.com

For information about the AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Youth Organists in April 2017, please visit the UVAGO website. RCYO Information

Holiday Repertoire Recital



Many thanks to those who participated in the holiday repertoire workshop last month. Some wonderful ideas and repertoire were shared. Everybody in attendance got a jumpstart on the holiday spirit.

For our November activity, again at the Pleasant Grove East Stake Center, members will have the opportunity to share holiday repertoire in a different way—by performing it! Share with us your favorite pieces. Take the chance to have a "trial run" of a piece you're planning to use this holiday season. Bring your family and friends, too, so that we can spread as much holiday spirit as possible. **There is still room on the program for more performers**, so if you would like to perform, please contact Sheri Peterson (sheri.peterson@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

Friday, November 18, 7:00 PM
Pleasant Grove East Stake Center
825 Loader, Pleasant Grove

Voices from Pipe Organ Encounter 2016, continued

and during the week continued on with the organ in the chapel of the Joseph Smith building, Cathedral of the Madeleine, St. Ambrose Catholic Church and the First United Methodist Church. I like how they all have their own "personality" and how the same piece can have a different feel depending on the organ.

We also had the chance to play a Carillon on the BYU campus, and we had so much fun with it that I'm pretty sure people within earshot of it were wondering what was happening up there!

I also enjoyed all the master classes where you can learn new techniques, how to improve registration and get the best out of an organ. Same with the visit to the organ builder Bigelow. Seeing how an organ is made helps you understand how it works, how the sounds are formed, and it is fascinating.

To take a break from all these musical activities, we went to the BYU Creamery for some ice cream. Given the heat, it was a very welcome visit! During the week we also did a variety show filled with fun performances, including my bad chemistry jokes.

Overall, it was an amazing experience. I learned many new things about the organ, such as different ways to learn hymns, articulation techniques, and more. I made new friends too. The teachers, organizers and chaperones/drivers were all very nice and patient in dealing with our crazy bunch. Of all the organ camps I have attended so far, this has been the best!

I also learned that I should bring Chapstick with me to Utah during the summer.

Michele Eggleston

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Administrative Assistant for BYU Organ Program

12-17 hours per week

Essential Functions: Handle arrangements and correspondence related to traveling BYU Organ Workshops. Organize systems for efficient administration of these events. Refine curricula and lesson plans for workshop instructors, and administrative materials for coordinators. Create online registration systems for workshop participants, and publicize the events through social media. Serve as a workshop instructor as needed. Perform other tasks as requested by the organ faculty. Most work may be done online from home office.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in organ performance required. Master's degree preferred.
- At least two years' experience as an organ teacher
- Demonstrated excellence in organ teaching and lesson planning
- Demonstrated excellence in communication, organization, and administration
- Fluency with email and social media (FB, Twitter, Instagram, more)
- Ability to learn software programs and complete projects independently
- Constant access to a late-model computer and Internet from home

Required:

- Demonstrated excellence in communication, organization, and administration
- Fluency with email and social media (FB, Twitter, Instagram, more)
- Ability to learn software programs and complete projects independently
- Constant access to a late-model computer and Internet from home
- Desirable: Video production skills

Application form (Job ID 58834)

Contact:
Don Cook
doncook@byu.edu