



Newsletter

American Guild of Organists
Utah Valley Chapter
2008-2009

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Dean's Message

It begins around October 1, when the Halloween decorations appear on neighbors' porches and lawns. This year I actually saw a man who wore a bright orange shirt to church every week in October leading up to the hallowed day. In my view, Halloween should be relegated to a one-day event, not a month-long celebration! And poor Thanksgiving, in my opinion the best holiday out there, gets basically only one day. Maybe that's why it's the best!

Why is it that every year at this time I feel like I'm navigating a minefield? I think it has something to do with the dichotomy of the Savior's birth and commercialism and my struggle to find the Spirit of Christmas in all the celebrating. Sometimes I would just like to "unplug the Christmas machine."

My favorite thing about Christmas is the music. Of course, there's Christmas music and then there's Christmas "musack." I am amazed every year when I turn on my car radio (to the station my wife was last listening to) and hear the strains of "Chestnuts roasting on an open fire . . ." on November 1! I'll never get it, I'm afraid.

It's the "classical" music of Christmas that feeds my soul, so I always listen to a recording of a Christmas oratorio between Thanksgiving and Christmas. My favorites are Berlioz, Bach, and Handel. And I also like the Menotti opera and even Tchaikovsky's ballet. I always watch one of my favorite movies on or near Christmas Day—Gillian Armstrong's *Little Women*—while enjoying a plethora of nuts and chocolate and a Christmas orange. (You'd have to see the movie to understand about the orange.)

I always listen to the Christmas Eve Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, which is broadcast live on KBYU-FM from King's College Cambridge every year, and Renée Fleming's PBS special, which is rebroadcast each year, both near the cozy warmth of my gas log.

Locally, there are wonderful programs offered during the season. Among them is BYU's "Celebration of Christmas," which is broadcast live on KBYU-FM on December 6 this year. It's always a lovely concert, a gift from the music faculty and choral and instrumental students, prepared in just a week and performed from memory! And there's the wonderful Community Christmas Choir, under the direction of Doug Bush, which has performed annually for over 20 years and can be heard at the Provo Central Stake Center on December 21.

However, as a church musician I find that it is difficult to attend very many Christmas concerts because of my own rehearsals and performances. Perhaps you have the same dilemma. Regrading rehearsals and performances, many years ago I made the rule that if they aren't on the calendar by December 1, "it ain't gonna happen." That rule has made my December life much more tolerable.

For the past 10 years, since our two children at home were ages three and six, our family has enjoyed performing regularly for older folks at assisted living and retirement centers. When we began, we could not foresee the many blessings that would come from the years of our children sharing their talents in these non-competitive settings with such appreciative (and captive) audiences! And, since we have no family members nearby who come to our home for Thanksgiving or Christmas dinners, we schedule performances for those days and stay for the festive dinners afterwards. Thus, we truly “sing for our supper.”

The real significance of the “Spirit of Christmas” is appreciated when we drop the last syllable of the word and it becomes the “Spirit of Christ.” It really has nothing to do with amassing things. The true joy of Christmas is found in our love for one another. Jesus “went about doing good,” and as we follow in His ways, the Christmas spirit will be ours.

Merry Christmas!
Mike Carson, Dean

Chapter Event on January 2

Our December chapter meeting will be held on the “ninth” day of Christmas, Friday, January 2, at Nancy Christensen’s home. We will meet at 7:30 p.m. for a potluck dinner, old-fashioned Christmas caroling, and a discussion of the liturgical elements of the “season.” Friends or spouses are welcome, but no children, please. Nancy’s address is 673 E. 180 N., Santaquin.

We have organized some car pools from various locations in the valley. If you would like a ride, please contact the driver to reserve a seat. For more information, call Mike Carson at one of his numbers below. Hope to see you there!

Lehi/American Fork

David Chamberlin (376-1399)

Meet in the parking lot of the Alpine Tabernacle in American Fork at 6:30 p.m.

Cedar Hills/Pleasant Grove

Mike Carson (785-9668, x100 daytime/796-6293 evening)

Meet in the front parking lot of the Pleasant Grove Jr. High School at 6:30 p.m.

Provo/Orem

Gayle Farnsworth (374-0147)

Meet at the BYU Museum of Art parking lot at 6:30 p.m.

Springville/Mapleton

Lori Serr (489-8222)

Meet in the commuter parking lot at the IHOP off the second Springville exit. Call Lori for the time.

Newest Chapter Member

Welcome to Judy Wright of Provo - dual membership with Salt Lake and Utah Valley chapters

Super Saturday at the U of U

Plan to attend the Salt Lake AGO chapter’s Super Saturday on January 3. It is billed as a Church Musician Education Day with workshop classes being offered in choral directing and organ playing. There will also be a class on performance anxiety by Dr. Keith Henschen. For more information regarding classes, location, time and registration, visit the Salt Lake chapter’s website at www.slago.org. Mike Carson is going for sure and will be happy to provide a ride for anyone who needs one.

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 9 - Celebration of John Milton’s 400th Birthday with Glade Hunsaker/Doug Bush, 7:30 p.m., Provo Central Stake, 5th N. 12th W., Provo
- Dec. 9 - BYU Chamber Orchestra, Vivaldi’s Four Seasons, DeJong Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 10 - Chamber Orchestra and Harpsichord Recital, E-400 HFAC, 7:30 p.m. A Telemann and Zelenka trio sonata will be performed. Our BYU student representative, Felipe Dominquez, will be performing Frescobaldi, Bach, and Couperin
- Dec. 14 - An Evening of Christmas Music at the Utah State Hospital - Claire Rogers on the organ
- Dec. 21 - Community Christmas Choir Concert, 7:30 p.m. (time change), Provo Central Stake
- Jan 2 - Chapter Potluck, Christmas Caroling, and Discussion on Liturgical Elements of the “Season”
- Jan. 3 - Salt Lake AGO Super Saturday at U of U
- Feb. 22 - Hymn Sing accompanied by our own David Chamberlin (February chapter event), Alpine Tabernacle in American Fork, 7:00 p.m.
- Feb. 24 - Salt Lake AGO Chapter Recital, 7:30 p.m. at Cathedral Church of St. Mark - Episcopal, 231 East 100 South, SLC (to commemorate Felix Mendelssohn’s 200th birthday of Feb. 4th)

Milton Anyone?

Tuesday evening, December 9, at 7:30 p.m., in the chapel of Provo Central Stake Center, Glade Hunsaker and Douglas Bush (and attendees) will celebrate John Milton’s 400th birthday. Glade will highlight and read several passages of Milton’s prose, and Doug will play numbers between the readings on the Bigelow tracker organ. Delectables will be served afterward.

Thank You to Dr. Bush

A great big thank you to Dr. Bush for his well-prepared hand-out and lecture on Hugo Distler at our November chapter meeting. In addition to getting an excellent overview of Distler’s life and work, it was an additional treat for all of us to enjoy the talent of Brian Mathias who played the Partita: “Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, op. 8/1 (1932) on the Bigelow Op. 16 at Provo Central Stake. Thank you members for supporting this event and for bringing excellent calories to share—requested recipes from that night will follow at the end of this newsletter.

From the Central Arizona Chapter 2009 Region IX Festival

The 2009 Region IX Festival will be held in Phoenix, AZ, on June 22-25. Please take a moment to look at the Festival schedule, which boasts outstanding presenters and venues: <http://www.AGOinPhoenix.com>. Our Festival hotel, the Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa, is a historic resort of great beauty and majesty. The Biltmore has hosted numerous U.S. presidents and celebrities and boasts the architectural inspiration of Frank Lloyd Wright.

During next summer's Festival, take advantage of all that our event will have to offer and stay at the heart of the action, the Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa. In addition to the majestic Biltmore, our Festival will also showcase the architectural excellence of Grady Gammage Memorial Auditorium, which represents Wright's final public commission, and we'll worship together at Ascension Lutheran Church, which was designed by Wright's son.

Visit <http://www.AGOinPhoenix.com> to make reservations at the Biltmore online. Use the menu bar link, "Accommodations/Info & Booking," to go to our special group reservations page. This will secure the \$139 room rate (per room/per night) and ensure that your reservations are credited toward the AGO account.

Various Bulletins from AGO National HQ

The American Guild of Organists has launched a new Web page to connect academic institutions offering instruction and degree programs in organ, choral conducting, and sacred music with prospective students, their parents, and guidance and career counselors. This service is in response to steady requests for accurate and timely information received at AGO National Headquarters. The new Web page identifies all institutions of higher education in the U.S., Canada, and abroad offering instruction and degree programs in organ, choral conducting, and sacred music. The directory can be found online at www.agohq.org/education/schools.html.

There is no charge for a basic academic directory listing, which can be submitted online at www.agohq.org/education/schools-submit-info.html. Institutions wishing to enhance their visibility on the AGO Web page may add descriptive text, a hotlink, or banner advertisement for a modest annual fee. Pricing and more detailed information are posted online at www.agohq.org/education/schools-ad-rate.html.



The American Guild of Organists and Yale University are partnering to produce the 15th AGO National Conference on Organ Pedagogy, March 11-14, 2009. The conference, designed in cooperation with the AGO Committee on Continuing Professional Education, will be hosted by the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, an interdisciplinary graduate center dedicated to the study and practice of sacred music, worship, and the arts. The four-day conference will be held at the Institute, in the

Sterling Divinity Quadrangle, as well as other locations at Yale University and in downtown New Haven.

The keynote address will be given by Martin E. Marty. The conference will include plenary sessions led by Marva Dawn, Quentin Faulkner, Robert Rimbo, and Don Saliers; master classes on teaching by Lorraine Brugh (global music), David Heller (hymn-playing), Mark Miller (gospel accompaniment), Thomas Murray (choral accompaniment), and Bruce Neswick and Pamela Ruitter-Feenstra (improvisation for church musicians). Church music curricula will be presented by Michael Bauer, Lorraine Brugh, Craig Cramer, Peter DuBois, and Janette Fishell. Preceding the pedagogy conference there will be a three-day symposium on preaching and music: Listening is Performing; Performing is Listening, March 8-10.

Complete conference information, including online registration, is available at www.agohq.org. For further information, please contact the Yale Institute of Sacred Music at 203-432-3220 or e-mail albert.agbayani@yale.edu.



The American Guild of Organists has discounted its entire catalog of educational resources by 20% for AGO members making purchases now through December 23, 2008. Dozens of books, recordings, and items of apparel, including t-shirts, sweatshirts, and neckties, are offered.

All merchandise can be ordered online at www.agohq.org/store. Additionally, orders can be placed via postal mail using the order form found on page 9 of each issue of The American Organist Magazine. All orders totaling \$30 or more will qualify for a free gift: a CD recording of 2006 NYACOP winner, Scott Montgomery.

Important Web Sites

Utah Valley Chapter AGO Web Site:
www.uvago.org

BYU Organ Information (including off-campus programs):
www.organ.byu.edu

Salt Lake Chapter AGO Web Site:
www.slcastgo.org

Region IX Blog Address:
www.agor9.blogspot.com

National AGO Web Site:
www.agohq.org

Non-Christmas LDS Hymn Suggestions for December

Hymn 187 "God Loved Us, So He Sent His Son"
Hymn 196 "Jesus, Once of Humble Birth"

Report on November "Informal"

Ruth Ann Hay

There will be no "Informal" in December. The date and location of January's "Informal" will be included in the January 2009 newsletter.

The AGO board met at Gayle Farnsworth's chapel. After a productive meeting, we adjourned to the chapel for our "Informal." We played on a traditional, small Wicks but got a variety of good sounds from it. Mike Carson shared his final two verses of *A Poor Wayfaring Man of Grief*, which was "hot off the press," having just been placed on WardOrganist.com that very day. Gayle played some of Paul Manz's Christmas hymn settings, and Ruth Ann played *Aria*, also by Paul Manz.

If you haven't yet checked out WardOrganist.com, you will find it a delightful place to find excellent music for service playing. David Chamberlin, Mike Carson, and Florence Hawkinson have published pieces there. The site is maintained by Dan Berghout, a BYU graduate from the 90's.

Recipes **Raisin Cookies**

Sift together: 4 cups oatmeal
 4 cups flour
 2 tsp. salt
 2 tsp. soda

Combine: 2 cups brown sugar
 2 cups melted shortening
 2 eggs
 1 tsp. vanilla

Stir in dry ingredients.

Boil: 3 cups raisins
 1 cup sugar
 1 cup water until thickened just a little. There should still be some juice. Spread and press three fourths of the dough on a large cookie sheet. Pour raisin mixture onto it. Sprinkle rest of dough over the top. Bake at 350 for 25-30 minutes. Cut into squares while warm.

Seven-Layer Bean Dip

Layer 1 - 1 can refried beans spread on bottom of 9 x 9 glass pan (heat through in microwave for two minutes)

Layer 2 - three Roma tomatoes, chopped

Layer 3 - mild or medium Salsa

Layer 4 - Dean avocado dip
(layers 4 and 5 can be blended together with whip before spreading)

Layer 5 - small container sour cream

Layer 6 - sliced olives

Layer 7 - shredded cheese (your choice of type)

Serve with tortilla chips.