



Newsletter

American Guild of Organists
Utah Valley Chapter
2008-2009

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Dean's Message

Dear Chapter Members and Friends,

The AGO calendar year is fast coming to a close. We have had an amazing year, full of informative events and entertaining performances. I would like to point you to the chapter website to review the meetings and events that have taken place in our chapter since September. (Click on "Past Chapter Activities" in the left-hand side bar.) DeeAnn Stone has done a wonderful job managing the site for us. She has created a new header on the home page, indicating the celebration of our chapter's 30th anniversary in 2009. Visit the "About Us" page to learn the details of how the Utah Valley chapter came to be and to view a list of deans who have served since 1979. And finally, note the links on the home page to the Super Saturday presenters' handouts, including Don Cook's keynote address.

"Super Saturday: Training for the Church Organist," held at the Harris Fine Arts Center at BYU on April 25, was a great success. Over 175 church musicians attended to receive instruction and inspiration from chapter member instructors. Dr. Don Cook, organ area coordinator in the BYU School of Music, delivered a powerful and humorous keynote address, "What's Great about Learning the Organ?" This year's committee, chaired by Lori Serr, chapter board member over Professional Development, worked hard to provide a quality program to help church organists improve and enhance their service playing skills in a variety of educational workshops, which lasted through mid-afternoon. Free 25-minute private organ instruction sessions with seasoned teachers were offered, and a free lunch was provided. (It was like the miracle of the loaves and fishes: There was just enough food for everyone!) Super Saturday is a time to recharge our musical batteries and an opportunity to socialize and interact with fellow church musicians from all over the valley. We had reports that several came from Salt Lake City and Bountiful, and someone had driven from Idaho that very morning!

Another inspiring event was the Sunday evening hymn-sing on April 26 presented by David Chamberlin. (I affectionately refer to it as "Super Sunday"!) His "Celebration of Hymns" featured festive hymn singing and original organ solos. A 20-minute recital of Bach, Mendelssohn, and Chamberlin preceded the program. It was amazing to hear the Austin organ in the Alpine Stake Tabernacle in American Fork played by an artist who understands and loves that specific instrument. The registrations for the hymn accompaniments were warm and soothing and bright and exhilarating, all in the same program.

Finally, I invite you to take a few minutes and look at the new membership form on the website. The fees have increased for those who join the national guild, but those who wish, may join for \$25 or more to be affiliated as non-voting "friends" of the guild. If you have questions, please call (801-375-7880) or e-mail Joan Barnett, chapter registrar and treasurer. New and renewing memberships may be submitted now through the end of the summer for the coming AGO year, July 2009 through June 2010.

Our closing event will be the chapter "Informal" on May 15 at the Salt Lake Tabernacle, where chapter members will have the opportunity to play the Tabernacle organ.

See you on the bench!

Mike Carson
Dean

Upcoming Events

- May 5 Sean Bennion Freshman Recital in the Madsen Recital Hall, BYU, at 7:00 p.m.
- May 15 - Informal at the Salt Lake Tabernacle, 7:30 p.m. (for dues-paying friends and members of Utah Valley AGO)

Super Saturday

Our chapter's Super Saturdays just get better and better. This year's was excellent thanks to the efforts of the planning committee, the teachers, and Don Cook's sense of humor. It's great to be given worthwhile information in such a fun way. What could be better for our health and well-being than to laugh and have good wholesome fun together at 9:00 a.m. on a Saturday morning? (Dr. Cook's message is available on the chapter Web site: www.uvago.org.) Thanks to everyone who came for making the effort to be there!!!

A Celebration of Hymns

David provided a wonderful service for those of us who attended his hymn sing last Sunday night. He has been blessed with a special ability to hear variations on the hymns in his head, to study them out in his mind, and to present them to congregations in such a joyous manner.

Thank you, David! Being in the Alpine Tabernacle Sunday evening sharing in the joy of your talent was a great privilege.

(See www.chamberlinmusic.com to order his music.)

Review of April Informal

by Ruth Ann Hay

Our April Informal was held at the Alpine Tabernacle on the 17th. We all enjoyed hearing David Chamberlin talk about the history of the instrument. Janet Stout, Claudia Johnson, Katherine Rosenvall, David Worlton, Ruth Ann Hay, Gayle Farnsworth, Florence Hawkinson, Mike Carson and David Chamberlin all played. It is a noble romantic instrument and with David's help we sampled many of its fine colors.

Friday, May 1, is the last day to let me know if you plan to participate on May 15 at the Salt Lake Tabernacle. Please contact me at 801-375-2124 or ruthhay@q.com. I will make up a schedule and assign everyone a slot and email it out to the participants.

Time to Renew!

As indicated in the Dean's Message, AGO dues for 2009-2010 have been raised to conform with the AGO recommendations. The renewal form is available on the chapter Web site: www.uvago.org. The deadline for paying dues is July 31.

Appointment

Mike Carson has been appointed by the Region IX Councillor, Frances Nobert, to serve as District Convener over the Bonneville Utah District. The district consists of the Cache Valley, Ogden, Salt lake, and Utah Valley chapters. During his service, Mike hopes to be able to help organize more chapters in the state. He will continue his service as our chapter dean through the remainder of the 2010 year.

Important Web Sites

David Chamberlin's music
www.chamberlinmusic.com

Free music for the LDS Organist
www.ldsorganist.org

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.slicago.org

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

National AGO Web Site:
www.agohq.org

Source of Music for the LDS Organist:
www.wardorganist.com

Resources for the LDS Organist:
www.LDSorganists.info

PHOENIX RISING
Region IX Festival 2009
(June 22-25)
www.agoinphoenix.com

OHS NATIONAL CONVENTION
(July 5-10)
www.organsociety.org/2009

Condolences

Our condolences and sincere sympathy are extended to Trudy Barnes, whose mother passed away in Walla Walla, Washington, on April 22.

Recipe

Huge Potato Salad

10 lbs. red potatoes
2 or 3 large red onions, diced (wear safety goggles)
1 dozen hard-boiled eggs, chopped
1 quart Mayo
small jar dill relish (about 8 oz.)
small bottle French's Mustard with Horse Radish (6 oz.)
1 tsp. salt to taste
1/4 tsp. black pepper to taste

Wash potatoes and boil whole with skins on until tender. Cool completely. Peel half the potatoes and leave the skins on the other half. Slice into half-inch cubes. In a very large bowl, combine potatoes, onions, and eggs. To the Mayo, blend the dill relish, the entire bottle of mustard, salt, and pepper. Add Mayo mixture to potatoes and stir until thoroughly blended. Serve in a large punch bowl, garnished with parsley and cherry tomatoes. Serves a crowd.

No newsletters during the summer months

Member Spotlight

DeeAnn Stone

(Submitted by Mark Clark)

This month's spotlight is featuring our web master, DeeAnn Stone, who created our chapter web site, www.uvago.org, in 2004 and was previously the newsletter editor, from 1990 to 2004.

The first time DeeAnn knew that she wanted to play a keyboard instrument was in 1955 when her 2nd grade teacher, Bertha Durnell, at Wasatch Elementary School in Provo, would accompany the kids on an old player piano when they sang in class. DeeAnn remembers, "I thought it was pretty cool that Mrs. Durnell could play the piano with no hands sometimes, and I wanted to be able to do that, too!" After begging her parents for a piano, they were finally able to buy one for DeeAnn a couple of years later, using some of the inheritance money her mother received after her parents were killed in a car accident in November 1955 (DeeAnn was 7). "When we got the piano, I was disappointed to find out that it didn't play by itself," DeeAnn laughs, "and that I'd have to put in a little effort of my own to get it to 'play.'" DeeAnn thanks her grandparents and parents for helping her get started playing the piano, and Mrs. Durnell for inspiring her.

After finally realizing that she'd have to actually have to learn how to play the piano, DeeAnn started taking lessons when she was nine years old. Her teachers were Carma Eccles, Edith Rowan, Barbara Allen, and Verena Hatch. When she was in junior high and high school, she would sometimes play the little Hammond organ for Junior Sunday School and the piano for MIA. She also played the piano for sacrament meeting at the State Hospital (Verena Hatch arranged this). And on Sunday afternoons, she lulled her dad to sleep on the living room couch playing hymns. DeeAnn loves to play hymns! As a student at BYU, DeeAnn accompanied a male quartet that sang at various events, and she even played the background music for a BYU fashion show. She was also the pianist for her BYU 36th Ward's Relief Society and sacrament meeting.

When DeeAnn was a pre-teen and teenager, Robert Manookin and Verena Hatch were her ward organists, and it was fascinating for her to hear and watch them play. They inspired her to want to learn to play the organ, but she never thought that she had the ability to do it, even though she secretly wanted to. In 1973, after DeeAnn was married and had one child, they moved into the Provo 5th Ward where Doug Bush was the ward organist (and her home teacher). DeeAnn says, "I'll never forget the first Sunday we attended church and heard this incredible organ music playing! It had been so long since I had heard good organ music in church that I felt inspired all over again to learn how to play." She feels the Lord was trying to nudge her in that direction. Not long after she moved into the ward, she was called to be the Stake Relief Society organist. She told the stake president that she didn't know how to play the organ, but he reminded her that Bro. Bush could teach her. However, she felt too intimidated and too overwhelmed with having a new baby to call him up and ask him for help, and she ended up just playing the piano for the Stake Relief Society meetings.

Although DeeAnn had been playing the piano for Primary and other things for many years, she had never touched an organ. In 1981, however, when they had lived in the Rivergrove 3rd Ward in the Provo Central Stake for three years and she was expecting her fourth child, she got a call from the stake music chairman asking her if she would like to take a six-week organ course. Her first impulse was to say that she wasn't interested, but then a little voice told her to do it. After she hung up the phone, she was in shock at what she had just committed herself to do! DeeAnn says, "I think the Lord was tired of nudging me, and gave me a big push this time into learning to play the organ!" The course was taught by Geoff Meyers and started with about 10 people. When the course was over, there were only two students left--DeeAnn and someone else. She was hooked. The organ was her new passion.

DeeAnn played a couple of times for sacrament meeting when she was taking the course, and Rick Shumway was her patient ward music director. However, she didn't play again for six more years and two more children later. She had been playing the piano for her ward choir and for Primary when, in January 1987, Bishop Jack Nelson called her to be the ward organist. This was when there was no organ in the building--just a big hole in the wall. This was during the time when the new Bigelow tracker organ was being built for her stake. DeeAnn figured that once the new organ was installed, they'd call a real organist, and she'd go back to what she was

before. Little did she know how her life would change. (Doug Bush was, ironically, in her stake presidency at the time and was overseeing the installation of the new organ.)

After the organ was built and ready to play, DeeAnn remembers going to a stake music training meeting for all the organists in the stake--feeling totally out of her league. Pres. Bush, who was conducting the meeting, had her and the others come up and try out the organ. "When it was my turn," DeeAnn says, "I looked down at the pedal board, and, after not having played the organ for so long, I couldn't remember which note was which. I felt like I was trying to swim in a big ocean and was sinking fast." Because of not being in a position to afford organ lessons, DeeAnn really didn't know what to do, except ask to be released.

However, she persevered and soon her prayers for help were answered. One day when she was practicing at the church, Carol Dean, the organist from the other ward that met in her chapel, came in. DeeAnn and Carol soon became friends, and then Carol offered to give her free organ lessons, if DeeAnn would be her "test student." DeeAnn says, "Carol was getting her master's degree at BYU and needed someone to experiment on giving organ lessons to. I was a willing subject. I'll always be grateful to Carol for her patience and generosity in helping me develop my skills and confidence in playing the organ." Carol eventually helped DeeAnn pass the Level 3 BYU organ course, and Doug Bush was the one who gave her the performance test. DeeAnn played in her first (and last) recital on November 21, 1993.

During this time, DeeAnn also enjoyed attending the Workshop on Church Music at BYU, where she received a lot of good training and ideas in organ and children's music. This was always the highlight of her year.

In 1993, with the help of AGO members, DeeAnn began compiling a list of hymn arrangements and free accompaniments that she eventually made into a web site called "Resources for LDS Organists" (www.LDSorganists.info). Besides the chapter web site (www.uvago.org), she has recently created www.RememberAmerica.net for Neil Brian Goldberg--well-known singer, musician, and composer from the '60s, '70s, and '80s, who wrote all the music for the segment of the The Archies cartoon TV show, called the "Giant Jukebox."

DeeAnn and her husband, Stephen Stone, have performed together for weddings, reunions, county fairs, and other events, and have performed with others (i.e., Denis Sorenson, one of the original 3Ds, for whom she also made a website).

DeeAnn has additional interests in gardening and jogging/walking. Feeling the need to do her part to help preserve our nation, her life has been filled with politics for the last ten years. Her family runs one of the top conservative Christian web sites in the nation called www.RenewAmerica.us and its activist site www.AmericasRevival.com

DeeAnn and Stephen have eight children, and 10 ½ grandchildren, plus 4 step-grandkids. Her daughter Abbey will be getting married on July 31.

DeeAnn would like to say the following to the chapter: "I'd just like to tell everyone in the chapter how much I appreciate knowing all of you over the years. My life has been enriched by your examples. I miss being able to come to the chapter meetings because of the work I'm involved in, but want you to know that I'm thinking of you. Thanks for letting me have the privilege of being the web master."