



Newsletter

American Guild of Organists

Utah Valley Chapter

2010-2011

The purpose of the American Guild of Organists is to promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles, to encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music, and to provide a forum for mutual support, inspiration, education, and certification of Guild members.

September 2010

No. 1

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Dean's Message

"What has the AGO done for you?" This is the question I posed to members of our chapter board recently. The answers varied: "Association with other organists; increased knowledge; a way to share my talent and ability; satisfaction in serving others; more performing opportunities; the Tabernacle organ—'I got to play *The Tabernacle Organ* . . . how cool is that?'; friendship; acceptance; sharing my passion with those who feel the same." I liked what I heard. I could see that I was not alone in my appreciation for this organization.

My introduction to the American Guild of Organists came just a few years ago, during a particularly challenging time in my life. Ruth Ann Hay had invited me to attend the annual Bach members' recital. Since I was new to the organ, this was my first exposure to Bach organ music. Something happened to me that night. The music, though not perfectly executed, reached deeply inside me and healed a small part of my aching heart. I felt a stirring of life within myself that I had not felt in quite some time. Hope began to grow within me again.

How can one forget such an event? It brought a feeling that is so universally sought and so very individually experienced. It stands out in my mind as one of the truly great moments of my life. Yet, looking back, I don't see anything particularly amazing about the evening. It was just one night, less than two hours, with a handful of musicians (mostly amateur musicians at that) who performed some music that happened to be written by the same composer. There was not a great crowd in attendance. No one became famous because of it, and the vast majority of the world was totally unaware of the entire event.

The theme I have chosen for my time of service as Dean of the Utah Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is "*Small and Simple Things*," because I believe that a tremendous amount of good will comes from the small and simple things we do. Who can measure the value of learning one new prelude, sharing one simple word of encouragement, sitting at the organ bench with one young pianist, or attending one chapter event?

What has AGO done for you? What has been most meaningful to you about this organization? What can you give? What can you do? In this new AGO year I encourage you to look for the small. Seek the simple. Great things will come. I am sure of it.

Florence Hawkinson, Dean

Upcoming Events

- Aug 31 Robert August Organ Recital, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Provo Central Stake Center, 12th W. 5th N., Provo
- Sep 5 Tribute Recital for Claire Rogers, Sunday, 7:00 p.m., Utah State Hospital Chapel, East Center St., Provo
- Sep 10 Marsha Foxgrover Organ Recital, Friday, 7:30 p.m., Salt Lake Tabernacle, SLC
- Sep 12 Eccles Recitals begin (see below)
- Sep 15 Informal Recital, Friday, 7:30 p.m., 670 E. 700 N., Provo - Ruth Eldredge, host
- Oct 8 "The Christmas Accompanist," presented by Felipe Dominguez, Friday, 7:30 p.m., 710 E. 800 S., Orem (just north of Costco)
- Oct 12 Informal Recital, Friday, 7:30 p.m. - time, place, and host TBA
- Nov. 3 Carillon Tour (tour and introductory hands-on with the BYU Carillon), presented by Dr. Don Cook, Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., BYU Bell Tower

Seventeenth Annual Eccles Organ Festival begins September 12, sponsored by The Cathedral of the Madeleine, 331 E. South Temple, SLC

Olivier Latry, Cathedrale Notre Dame de Paris

September 12

Craig Cramer, University of Notre Dame

September 26

Andrew Sheranian, Christ Church, Rye, NY

October 10

Clive Driskill Smith, Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford

October 24

Gail Archer, Concert Organist

November 7

All recitals take place Sunday evenings at 8:00 p.m. and are free of charge and open to the public.

Robert August to present recital in honor of Claire Rogers at Provo Central Stake Center, Tuesday, August 31st at 7:00 p.m.

Robert August is Director of Music/Organist at First Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth, TX. Before coming to Fort Worth, he held the position of Assistant University Organist and Choirmaster at The Memorial Church at Harvard University, while pursuing his doctoral degree at the New England Conservatory of Music. He received a Master's degree in organ performance from Brigham Young University, where he studied with Dr. Douglas Bush. Robert has an extensive background in organ performance and a long history of church performance and conducting. In addition to collaboration with artists such as Yo-Yo Ma, Christopher Hogwood, and Simon Carrington, Robert has performed in Europe and the United States as a solo artist and accompanist, including tours and CD recordings with the Harvard University choir and the Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra. His doctoral thesis on the organ works of Robert Schumann was published in 2010, celebrating the composer's 200th birthday. Robert often collaborates with his wife Dolores, who holds a Master's degree in flute performance from the University of North Texas.

Tribute Recital (co-sponsored by Mike Benedict, chaplain of the Utah State Hospital, Utah Valley Chapter of the AGO, and Heritage Schools, Inc.) will honor Claire Rogers for her years of service in the community.

This event will serve as the opening meeting for the new AGO year. Because of Claire's weakened condition, only a few organists will share some of their arrangements and favorite pieces. This concert will be presided over by Mike Benedict, chaplain at the Utah State Hospital where Claire served as organist for several years and also planned *Music for a Sunday Evening* concerts for the patients there. Representatives from Heritage Schools, where Claire worked part-time in the Accounting Department, will also be in attendance.

We encourage all who want to express their love and support to Claire to come and participate in this evening of organ music and comradery.

Temple Square Performances to feature organist Marsha Foxgrover.

Organist Marsha Foxgrover will perform in the Salt Lake Tabernacle on Friday, September 10 at 7:30 p.m. Her program will include the "Timpanogos Suite," written for Ms. Foxgrover by Crawford Gates. Marsha Foxgrover has performed extensively on the West Coast and in the Great Lakes region, appearing at major churches, colleges and universities, and for chapters and regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists. A recipient of many special honors, Marsha won AGO chapter contests in Pasadena and Long Beach, CA; the Gruenstein Memorial Scholarship of the Chicago Club of Women Organists; and was awarded departmental honors with the M.Mus. Degree from the University of Southern California. Her teachers include Robert Rayfield, Robert Prichard, Ladd Thomas, and Irene Robertson. Currently Ms. Foxgrover is organist in residence at Rockford College in Rockford, IL, and is also on the music faculty of Rock Valley College. She most recently served as organist of First Covenant Church, Rockford, and as a member of the National Commission for Church Music of the Covenant Church. Formerly organist of Lake Avenue Congregational Church in Pasadena, CA, she also was a full-time instructor in music at Azusa Pacific College, Azusa, CA.

If you haven't yet sent in your 2010-2011 AGO membership dues, please don't delay.

The membership form is available on the chapter Web site (see below). David Chamberlin is the Registrar for the current AGO term, replacing Joan Barnett who served faithfully in this slot for many years. David will contact you by email (if you list one on the form) when he receives your membership forms and checks.

Newsletter Editor

I thought I was done with preparing newsletters for awhile. However, Nora Hess was unable to follow through with her acceptance of this assignment; therefore, you are stuck with me for another two years.

Carol Dean, Newsletter editor

Member Spotlight

Steve Wright, Publicity Board Member

Steve was born in Montpelier, Idaho, descendant of the founding pioneer leader, Apostle Charles C. Rich, who settled Bear Lake in 1863. He studied piano and organ with Lois Lee Hulme in Montpelier and played the two Austin pipe organs in the LDS tabernacles in Montpelier and Paris, Idaho. Steve attended BYU and studied organ there with Claire Rodgers and J. J. Keeler for two years. He did not pursue a degree in music but earned a B.A. in Spanish and an M.A. in Linguistics. He also studied organ with Larry Anderson at ISU in Pocatello, Idaho, for a year.

Steve has served as ward and stake organist in most of the places he has lived, including Mexico City, the Provo and Orem areas, Pocatello, ID, and in California. He enjoys Bach, Mendelssohn, French Romantic composers –especially Guillemant and Lemmens. He has served on the music committee in the Provo East and Provo Bonneville stakes and assisted Verena Hatch in implementing her organist training course. He also assisted in the installation of Wicks instruments in the Provo Bonneville Stake Center at 900 E. and Center and the Provo First Ward chapel near the County Courthouse. Steve has been the Dean of the Southern Nevada Chapter of the AGO in Las Vegas, Chairman of the 2006 Mid-Winter Region IX Conclave there and is currently serving on the AGO Region IX Nominating Committee for 2010-2011. He has played in Las Vegas at the First Church of Christ Scientist and First Presbyterian--First Congregational churches.

In his home in Taylorsville, Steve has an Allen Protégé organ. After years of living in California and Nevada where he worked in high tech at Novell and Cisco Systems, Steve chose to come back to Utah. He is divorced and the father of six grown children and 15 grandchildren. He currently works in Orem for a manufacturing company in international sales with responsibility for sales in Latin America, Spain, and Portugal.

Steve was Mike Carson's bishop many years ago in Provo and was one of the chapter members of the Utah Valley chapter when it was formed in 1979. He enjoys gardening, grandchildren, and travel. His musical goals include keeping his repertoire growing and learning more Bach pieces. He looks forward to working closely with the UVAGO chapter leadership in the months ahead.

We, the current officers of the UVAGO chapter, are thrilled to have Steve decide to be a member here in Utah County (instead of the Salt Lake Chapter where he resides), and are looking forward to serving with him as well.

Important Websites:

Utah Valley Chapter AGO Website:
www.uvago.org

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

Salt Lake Chapter AGO Website:
www.slicago.org

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

National AGO Web Site:
www.agohq.org

David Chamberlin's music
www.chamberlinmusic.com

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

Free music for the LDS Organist
www.ldsorganist.org



Region IX Convention

in association with the Peninsula Chapter

July 3-7, 2011

San Francisco

Fifteen featured organists from Region IX, including Korea and Australia (partial list)

Angela Kraft Cross
Robert Huw Morgan
Roger Nyquist
Dorothy Young Riess
Amy Johansen
Andrew Unsworth
Namhee Han
Kimberly Marshall

Twenty featured organs at nineteen venues throughout the Bay Area (partial list)

St. Luke's Episcopal Church (Aeolian-Skinner)
Temple Emanu-El (Skinner)
First Congregational Church, Palo Alto (Letourneau)
Christ Church, Portola Valley (Visser-Rowland)
All Saints Episcopal Church, Palo Alto (Flentrop)
Stanford Memorial Church (Fisk and Murray Harris)
Old First Church (Hutchings/Vischer)
Mission Dolores Basilica (Allen)
St. John the Evangelist (M.P. Möller/DeCamp)
St. Mark's Episcopal, Berkeley (Flentrop)
First Congregational, Berkeley (Petty-Madden)
St. Mary's Cathedral (Ruffatti)
LDS Interstake Center (Swain & Kates)
Cathedral of Christ the Light (Letourneau)
St. Mark's Lutheran (Taylor & Boody)
Grace Cathedral (Aeolian-Skinner)

Seven instrumental and vocal performance groups (partial list)

Millennia Consort with Allison Luedecke
I. Norton
Artists' Vocal Ensemble (AVE)
American Bach Soloists

Twenty-one workshop presenters addressing a variety of interesting, relevant topics (partial list)

Enhancing Congregational Song
Works for Organ & Narrator
MIDI
Vocal Technique for the Young Singer
The Art of Accompanying
The Mystique of Cavallé-Coll
Organ Improvisation

Commissioned Pamela Decker organ work to be premiered

Exhibitor booths and exhibit rooms

Three worship services reflecting the diversity of the San Francisco Bay Area

Pre-convention chapter and regional competitions for young organists

Competition - Saturday, July 2
Winner's Recital - Tuesday, July 5

www.sfago2011.org

Celebrating 100 Years