



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.

October 2010

No. 2

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Dean's Message

This past month brought the passing of two members of our chapter, Claire Rogers and Thomas Hinckley. They each had been associated with the Utah Valley Chapter for a number of years. Thomas served as dean from 1990 to 1992, and Claire gave valuable service in various positions for more than two decades. Their presence will be missed.

The death of a friend or acquaintance generally brings up tender, poignant feelings; often warm memories mixed with sorrow and a sense of loss. Seeing someone complete their mortal experience is not an easy thing for those left behind to complete their own. We often need some sort of memorial service to help us through the experience. As was mentioned at the funeral service for Claire, these occasions are spiritually significant because they are a time where we look for the good in another.

I was talking with an acquaintance recently, and the subject of church music came up. She lamented the sad state of the LDS Church where those serving as musicians get an "A" for effort regardless of their level of performance. She continued by proposing that only those who have excellent musical skills ought to be allowed to participate in worship services. For a moment I got caught up in what she was saying. I reveled in the thought of beautiful music every Sunday—prepared pianists accompanying competent choirs and enthusiastic music directors working with trained organists in leading attentive, on-key congregations. It was a glorious scene! Then my mind came back to reality. We're just people...doing the best we can. We are brought together each Sabbath by a common bond of faith in God and a desire to worship Him. One's call to service is based on confidence, not competence—confidence that the person will serve their God in the best way they can at that point in their life. I reflected also on the doctrine of grace and the atonement—are we not in this life all given the opportunity to receive an "A" for effort though our performance falls short of perfection?

I recall some of my own musical mishaps. I have stumbled through my fair share of hymns. I am guilty of 'leading astray' the ward choir. And once, while directing congregational singing, I spied a man in the congregation directing the music also—showing me the way I *should* have been doing it! (He was right and I have led that hymn correctly since!) On-the-job training can be a painful, but very effective, way to learn.

So where does this leave those who love beautiful, well-performed music as part of an uplifting worship service? Well, quite frankly, often it leaves us with a great opportunity for charity; an opportunity of spiritual significance; yes, an opportunity for seeking and expressing the good in another. The seeking may take real work, at times. Yet, the expression can be as simple as a smile, a pat on the back, a 'thumbs up,' or a kind word. We need not gush, nor 'make up' stuff. Keep it sincere. Keep it simple. Remember, great things will come!

Florence Hawkinson, Dean

Upcoming Events

- Oct. 8 "The Christmas Accompanist," presented by Felipe Dominguez, Friday, 7:30 p.m., 710 E. 800 S., Orem (just north of Costco)
- Oct. 15 October Informal, Friday, 7:30 p.m., 1090 N. Main Street, Orem
- Oct. 16 Clay Christiansen Master Class on French Romantic Organ Music, Saturday, 3:00 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, South Temple and "C" Street, SLC
- 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
- Nov. 18 November Informal, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. at the home of Rebecca Brand, 826 E. 700 N., American Fork (specific directions will be in the November newsletter)
- Dec. "Serve where you are" - there will be no chapter meeting this month

Seventeenth Annual Eccles Organ Festival Cathedral of the Madeleine, 331 E. South Temple, SLC

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.

October Chapter Meeting

Felipe Dominguez, our BYU Student Representative, a graduate student in Organ Performance and Pedagogy at BYU, and also Organist and Choir-master at the Provo Community Congregational United Church, will present our chapter meeting this month.

His presentation (at the date and time listed above) will be a choir accompaniment essentials class for organists. With Christmas approaching and the need to prepare Christmas music for our congregations, this class will be a great review for all of us, no matter what our level of experience.

AGO Member Directory

A Salt Lake City and neighboring chapters membership directory will be available mid-October for a cost of \$1.50, which includes shipping and handling. An email will be sent out to all of you the day it becomes available, with payment and address particulars. If you have any questions in the meantime, contact Scott Mills directly at: greenmills987@comcast.net.

Member Spotlight

Miranda Wilcox, Secretary

Miranda was born in Provo but grew up in Covina, CA, a suburb of Los Angeles. Her first piano lessons were on a Yamaha home organ that her grandfather purchased for

her mother. Her grandfather grew up in Rotterdam, Holland, and loved listening to hurdy-gurdy street organs. Although he never learned to play an instrument, he encouraged Miranda's mother to learn how to play the organ.

Miranda's early exposure to the organ inspired her to take group organ classes when she was a freshman at BYU. After learning the fundamentals of hymn playing, she served as the substitute organist in various wards. While in graduate school at the University of Notre Dame, she was called as a ward organist and eventually the stake organist and stake music chair. Preparing and coordinating music for stake conferences was challenging, so Miranda began taking private organs lessons from graduate students at Notre Dame to develop her repertoire and skills. Daily organ practice soon became a respite from the stresses of completing a doctorate in medieval studies. She moved to Provo three years ago when she joined the faculty of the English Department at BYU, where she teaches medieval literature and researches Anglo-Saxon culture. She has been able to continue her organ study under the patient tutelage of Don Cook.

Chorale preludes are Miranda's favorite organ music to play-- particularly those by Bach and Brahms. She feels she gains spiritual insights as she masters the intricate musical patterns illustrating themes of the hymn texts. Miranda recently discovered that she also enjoys listening to and learning how to play Baroque transcriptions of concertos and the music of Maurice Duruflé. She is fond of attending organ recitals and listening to Pipedreams to hear new music and also her old favorites. Miranda is excited with the opportunities to promote and share organ music in the Utah Valley Chapter of the AGO.

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 News: Meet Our New Regional Councillor

By Leslie Wolf Robb, AGO Region IX Councillor

I'm excited to be serving as your new Regional Councillor for Region IX! I've been a part of the AGO since my college years and earned my C.A.G.O. not long after graduation. Currently I serve as Director of Music Ministries for St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School in San Diego and teach piano and organ to both children and adults. I've served on the board of San Diego AGO in many capacities and have been privileged to serve on two national AGO committees. My passion is getting young people interested in organ study, and I believe that we need to reach out in a variety of ways to help our student members become active, engaged participants in AGO. I believe that long-range planning and goal setting are crucial for long-term growth for chapters and for the AGO as a whole, and look forward to continuing to help the AGO grow and flourish as we work together.

Region IX includes Arizona, California, Western Colorado, Hawaii, Korea, Nevada, Utah, Singapore, Sydney, and our newest chapter in Taiwan—and has a host of tremendously gifted musicians within its borders. You'll have the opportunity to hear many of them next summer!

The San Francisco Chapter will celebrate its 100th birthday in 2011 and has partnered with the Palo Alto/Peninsula chapter to present a phenomenal program for the **2011 Regional Convention**. I'm looking forward to hearing the new instruments that have been built since the 1984 convention, being inspired by and learning from artists, composers, and workshop presenters from all over our region, and getting to know all of you! Mark your calendars now for **July 3-7, 2011**, and join us in the beautiful City-by-the-Bay and surrounding communities for a wonderful five days of music learning, and connecting with colleagues.

Recipe of the Month

Submitted by Sheri Peterson

Lemon Bars

Crust:

1 cup soft butter	dash of salt
½ cup powdered sugar	2 cups flour

Combine and mix well. Press into 9" x 13" pan. Bake at 350° for 15 minutes.

Filling:

4 eggs, beaten	1/4 cup flour
2 cups sugar	6 T. Lemon juice

Mix eggs and sugar together; set aside. Mix flour and lemon juice together and add to the sugar mixture. Mix thoroughly. Pour onto lightly cooled crust. Bake at 350° for 25 minutes. Sprinkle with powdered sugar. Cool and cut into squares.

