



# Newsletter

American Guild of Organists  
Utah Valley Chapter  
2009-2010



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## Dean's Message

The Utah Valley chapter of the American Guild of Organists is one of 320 chapters worldwide, led by volunteer officers who are elected by local AGO members and friends. Together, we all work to make the Guild as strong as it can be through local chapter programming. In addition, regional and national conventions, educational activities for teens and adults, and a professional certification program for all members strengthen and inspire us as our time and resources allow us to participate.

The AGO has much to celebrate. Nationally, nearly 100 candidates successfully completed a level of certification, and, at seven regional conventions, world-class artists pulled out all the stops for the grand conclusion of the International Year of the Organ! National membership is not only strong, but this year it has experienced a growth in membership--the first increase in over ten years. Our own chapter membership has increased significantly, with 17 new or returning members since 2007, bringing our current total membership to 47.

Although the Utah Valley chapter is relatively small and young, its local efforts help to make a difference in the musical lives of its members and in the community at large. Not only have chapter activities helped maintain connections with teachers, friends, and colleagues, but many of our events bring organ and choral activities to the awareness of the public as well, most especially to local church organists.

My family watched the movie *It's a Wonderful Life* on Christmas night, and now, as I write my thoughts about the Guild the following morning, I think about the many things that would be very different if our beloved charter members had not met that night in the fall of 1979--30 years ago--to organize a chapter of the AGO here in Utah Valley. There would be a marked absence of this community of friends sharing a common cause and purpose, an absence of a wonderful outlet for musical growth and improvement.

To all of you, our devoted members and friends, who have supported the Guild in so many ways with your interest, enthusiasm, intellect, and energy, I extend my best wishes for a happy new year. This organization would never have been the same without you.

Mike Carson, Dean

## Chapter Election Procedures

by Mike Carson

Our chapter holds biennial elections for executive officers in even-numbered years. According to the official election procedures in the Chapter Handbook, the current chapter executive officers must appoint a nominating committee by December 31 of an election year consisting of at least three members, a majority of whom are not on the executive committee. We have appointed chapter officer David Chamberlin to head the nominating committee, and he has asked David Worlton and Nora Hess to serve with him on this committee. We wish to thank these members for accepting this assignment and for executing the important work of this committee.

The chapter must nominate at least one person for each office: dean, secretary, and treasurer/registrar. Other officers are at the discretion of the nominating committee and chapter officers. Incumbent officers may be nominated for re-election. Chapter officers' terms are for two years. It is important that the committee nominate candidates who understand the duties of their office and who will assist the chapter and the Guild.

The slate of nominees submitted by the nominating committee must be delivered to the current executive committee and announced in writing to the membership by March 1. Additional nominations may be made by petition of at least five voting members in good standing and should be received by the secretary no later than April 1. The election must be concluded by May 31. The end of term for current chapter officers and executive committee members whose terms have expired is June 30. The new officers will begin their terms July 1, 2010.

## Upcoming Events

- Jan. 7 Joseph Peebles Senior Recital (student of Don Cook), 7:00 p.m., Provo Tabernacle
- Jan. 9 Salt Lake AGO Chapter "Super Saturday," 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., David Gardner Hall, U of U, Salt Lake City
- Jan. 15 Chapter "Informal" - Home of Claudia Johnson, 4198 W. 9950 N., Cedar Hills, 7:30 p.m. (Call 801-785-4761 if you get lost.)
- Jan. 22 Chapter Event - "Musical Implications of Early Fingering Techniques" presented by Felipe Dominguez, 7:30 p.m. BYU HFAC, E-208 (Dr. Bush's office)
- February February Chapter Event - TBA
- Mar. 21 Chapter Event - Bach Member Recital, State Hospital Chapel (Contact Claire Rogers with your pieces.)

### Salt Lake Chapter's "Super Saturday"

This exciting event is just eight days away

Salt Lake City Chapter of the American Guild of Organists presents: Super Saturday, January 9, 2010, University of Utah David Gardner Hall.

This exciting day of music will include the following:

**Jerold Ottley:** "The Higgaiion of Operosity" (Keynote Address) We had to look this one up! Come and learn what it's all about.

**JoAnn Ottley:** "Making music with the first instrument: a e i o u" For all you non-professional singers. Learn from the best how to improve the vocal performance of your choir.

**Day Murray Music:** "New and hidden choral treasures" Choral review of sacred music.

**Ryan Murphy:** Choral conducting. The new associate director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir really knows what he is doing! Come and pick up pointers to help you with your choirs. You need to hear him for yourself.

**Rulon Christiansen:** "New and hidden organ gems" Reading workshop to find new and unknown-to-you pieces that ought to be in your church music repertoire; basic, medium, and advanced levels.

**Clay Christiansen:** "Organ Master Class" Four persons are given a classroom-setting performance critique.

**Ken Udy:** "Open console" Your chance to play the Lively-Fulcher organ in Libby Gardner Hall! Time limits relative to number of person pre-registered only.

**James Drake:** "The Alexander Technique" Ever become sore from practicing or tighten up during a performance? Learn what you can do to prevent this from happening.

**Don Cook:** "Organ Technique" Hands-on help to learn or improve your organ technique. (LIMITED SEATING)

**Kathleen Stanford:** "Transposition" Hands-on, useful, basic concepts to pass AGO exams as well as spruce up your hymn playing. (LIMITED SEATING)

**Rulon Christiansen:** "Improvisation" Hands-on opportunity to learn to improvise at the keyboard. (LIMITED SEATING)

**Ed Thompson:** "Arp Schnitger and E. Power Biggs in the 1950's: renaissance and revival of the tracker organ" The organ revolution in the 1950's as seen through the eyes of a non-organist musician (lecture with slides).

**Roger Miller:** "The Berlioz Requiem as a model for colorful registration" A revolutionary concept of colorful orchestration useful in learning more advanced registration techniques.

**Clay Christiansen Organ Recital:** Libby Gardner Hall. This 50-minute recital is sponsored by The Alexander Schreiner Foundation. Works by Bach, Morricone, Franck, Langlais, Utterbach, and Liszt on the exciting Lively-Fulcher organ in Libby Gardner Hall will be featured.

**Registration** is open to the public (pre-registration is \$10.00, at the door: \$15.00) A light lunch is included. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. Program begins at 9:00 a.m. You will have the opportunity to attend the keynote address, three classes, and the Clay Christiansen organ recital. The event will last until 1:00 p.m.

Please go to the following Web site and click on "Calendar" for more information and a registration form  
<[www.slicago.org](http://www.slicago.org)>

**Parking:** There is no shuttle service on Saturdays. FREE parking (all day) is available around President's Circle and in a new parking lot. From the University Street and 100 South intersection, go East on 100 South to the traffic light. (There is a ship's anchor on the right side of that intersection.) Turn right and then left. This lot is just one block East of the David Gardner Hall.

### January Chapter Event

Friday, January 22, 2010

"Musical Implications of Early Fingering Techniques"

Presented by Felipe Dominguez  
Harris Fine Arts Center, BYU  
Room E-208, (Dr. Bush's office)  
7:30 p.m.

This promises to be a fascinating and informative topic. Felipe says of his presentation: "We will analyze the earliest sources of fingerings for keyboard music and study the different national approaches to fingering. We will also discuss the implications of fingerings in articulation and how they affect the musical conception of Baroque and Early repertoire."

### Musical Wisdom from Alexander Schreiner

Submitted by Meg Griffith

#### The Man as a Musician

Alexander Schreiner, who served as Tabernacle organist for 54 years, was hailed by critics as an organist whose "first regard is for musicianship." When he studied in Paris with Louis Vierne, he went with a group to visit the famous Eglise de Saint-Ouen, a church about 500 years old. Albert Dupre, father of Marcel Dupre, was organist there. Albert was a very social person and invited the group to play the Cavaille-Coll organ during a vesper service. According to Schreiner, "When Monsieur Dupre asked who would like to start playing, the girls hung back, shrinking like violets, and said, 'We didn't bring our

## Spotlight

### Felipe Dominguez, BYU Student Representative

Submitted by Mark Clark

music.' I had recently memorized the Prelude in D Major by Bach, so I said, 'I'll play.' I did my best to get my companions to play but none of them would, so I began an improvisation [and] had the rich experience of improvising to my heart's content."

#### Concerning Church Musicians

"In the Church of Jesus Christ [of Latter-day Saints] we are tied up with the greatest thing in all the world. We have given ourselves to participate in Heavenly Father's purposes. Our choristers and organists should vow to make themselves the greatest choristers and organists in all the world." As singers, we should 'Make a joyful noise unto the Lord . . . and come before his presence with singing' (Psalm 100:1,2)." Schreiner said that "we should sing to the Lord, not the chorister. Let ourselves be heard."

#### Conducting

"Direct as you would drive a team of four horses--steady; always stay in tempo--and keep all forces on an even keel with organ, your baton, and singers in one grand unison of tempo. Be a leader. Spark enthusiasm of the congregation with your attitude and manner of directing, producing a commanding and demanding beat pattern."

#### Organists

"I do not need a large instrument. I just need a good performance. Let your music sound natural. This is not easy. One may stumble along the way or play in a style that is not natural nor suitable to the music being played. One must seek the qualities of nobility, sublimity, serenity, and power from within one's own soul."

#### Excerpt (told by Gerald Petersen)

"During a live Sunday broadcast from the [Salt Lake] Tabernacle some years ago, the choir and the audience were suddenly startled to hear a loud, discordant note glaring through the music like an abrasive uninvited guest. One of the pipes was stuck open and could not be silenced. I tensed, wondering how we were going to handle this catastrophe. Audience and choir began to shift uneasily. At this point, the only calm person in the Tabernacle took over--the organist, Alexander Schreiner. He coolly improvised a beautiful solo around the offending note while a repairman climbed up inside the pipes to fix it."

From Meg: "Because of the power of music, we as organists and conductors can do much to touch souls. As we begin a new year, the first verse of hymn #217 encourages us, "Come, let us anew our journey pursue, . . . our talents improve by the patience of hope and the labor of love."

(Sources: *Music and the Gospel* and *Alexander Schreiner Reminisces* by Alexander Schreiner)

## Organ Bench for Sale

Adjustable organ bench from Don Cook's office for sale. Heavy duty mechanism and wood construction. Rodgers charges \$2,500 for this extra heavy duty bench brand new. The price Dr. Cook is asking is only \$1,000. Contact Mike Ohman at 801-422-3149 if you are interested.

Felipe was born in Talcahuano, Chile, a port city in southern Chile about 400 miles south of Santiago. His mother had to be in the hospital for six months during her pregnancy (she always reminded him of that).

When Felipe was a child, he was never interested in music. He did take a few months of guitar lessons when about five years old but was not exposed to any other music instruction. When Felipe was ten years, he started playing basketball for a private club and played until he was 16. He had opportunities to travel all over Chile and South America and achieved a slot on the State team.

When he was 15, he taught himself to play the keyboard with a manual that the Church provided. Felipe got out of school at 1:00 p.m. because school was also in session on Saturdays. So the Monday after he acquired the instruction manual, he started systematically working through it each afternoon and evening until 10:00 p.m. without a break. By Wednesday night, he could play a simplified version of "Come, Come Ye Saints." "I played for my family, and everybody was excited." Felipe continued to learn and started playing at church.

When he was 17, he was introduced to an organ in a big Augustine Cathedral in Santiago. The organ was built by Moretinni, an Italian organ builder, around the 1890's. The organist gave Felipe a few lessons (he had to travel eight hours for these lessons). The lessons gave him a foundation of organ technique, although he never really learned to play with pedals at that time.

Concerning Felipe's musical goals, he states: "Before I die, I want to play all the organ and harpsichord works of Johann Sebastian Bach. I also want to get a doctorate degree in early music or early keyboard performance. My dream job would be to teach at a university. I would love to teach early music theory and history classes, conduct ensembles, and teach private harpsichord and organ lessons."

Felipe's favorite style of organ music is Baroque. He especially loves the music of Bach and his contemporaries. He also loves the music of early Baroque Italians and music from the French Baroque. There is some Romantic music that Felipe likes, but he cannot stand French symphonic music (he would rather listen to heavy metal music). From the Modern period, Felipe enjoys Ligetti, Hugo Distler, and Max Drischner. Some of Dale Wood's preludes are also favorites.

Felipe has been married for about two and a half years. He and his wife, Brandi, were sealed in the Nauvoo Temple, which Felipe says was a great experience. His wife is from Kentucky and is studying special education teaching. Felipe says, "She is the best, most loving and sweetest person I have ever met." Even though Brandi is not a musician, she is very supportive. She actually has played the organ with Felipe one time at the Provo Tabernacle for a choral arrangement he wrote that had a solo counter melody to be played on a reed stop. He and Brandi as yet have no children.

Currently, along with his music degree, Felipe is working on a political science degree. He is considering getting a masters degree in political science after he finishes his masters in organ. After that he will work on his doctorate degree. This semester Felipe is doing an internship at the office of Congressman Jason Chaffetz, who is the congressman for the 3<sup>rd</sup> District of Utah. Felipe got into political science because he had a very personal spiritual experience where he felt without a doubt that the Lord wanted him to pursue that avenue. Every day he finds out more and more why the Lord needs people with principles to be in politics. Felipe says, "It is in His interest that this country remains free and as close to the original founding fathers' framework as possible."

Other than politics, Felipe's hobbies include going on road trips, enjoying the outdoors, camping, and hiking. He also loves to play pool. Gardening is another interest. However, Felipe says, "For some reason, I have not been able to grow anything successfully. Everything that I planted last spring died."

Felipe has a personal Web site you may want to visit:

[www.felipedominguez.net](http://www.felipedominguez.net)

Felipe is a great asset to our chapter. We are glad he is part of the team.

## **Recipe** **Black Forest Trifle**

Mike Carson

1 large box instant vanilla pudding  
milk to make pudding  
1 16-ounce container whipped topping  
1 small chocolate pound cake  
2 cans cherry pie filling  
2 ounces sliced almonds

Mix pudding according to directions on package for pie filling, 1/4 cup less milk. Let pudding set five minutes. Slice cake into one-inch cubes. Stir half the whipped topping into the pudding until thoroughly combined. Assemble the trifle by placing a layer of half the cake cubes in the bottom of a tall, transparent trifle dish. Pour one can cherries on top of the cake and spread to the sides of the dish. Spread half the pudding mixture over the cherries. Repeat with another layer of cake, then another can of cherries, and the rest of the pudding. Cover and set in refrigerator until the next day. Before serving, cover the top of the trifle with the remaining whipped topping and sprinkle with sliced almonds. Display trifle before serving. Use large spoon to spoon into serving bowls. Serves 8-10.

### **Important Web Sites**

David Chamberlin's music  
[www.chamberlinmusic.com](http://www.chamberlinmusic.com)

Free music for the LDS Organist  
[www.ldsorganist.org](http://www.ldsorganist.org)

Utah Valley Chapter AGO Web Site:  
[www.uvago.org](http://www.uvago.org)

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

Salt Lake Chapter AGO Web Site:  
[www.slago.org](http://www.slago.org)

Region IX Blog Address:  
[www.agor9.blogspot.com](http://www.agor9.blogspot.com)

National AGO Web Site:  
[www.agohq.org](http://www.agohq.org)

Source of Music for the LDS Organist:  
[www.wardorganist.com](http://www.wardorganist.com)

