



# Newsletter

American Guild of Organists  
Utah Valley Chapter  
2009-2010



April 2010

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## **Dean's Message**

I've had a personal goal in the back of my mind ever since I began my term as dean in September 2008. That goal was to have at least 20 new members join our chapter to bring our total membership to 50. Well, the news came this month that the 50<sup>th</sup> member had joined us: Jennifer Morgan of Lehi. Since then J. Cordell Bott has come on board as no. 52. Welcome, Jennifer and Cordell! Each of you is to be congratulated, because it is really everyone's accomplishment. Many of you have invited friends and associates to consider membership, and I thank you for your efforts. But we still have our work cut out for us. With over 1,000 LDS wards and branches in Utah Valley and with most units having more than one organist, that adds up to a lot of organists!

On April 24, our chapter will have the opportunity to host many area church organists at our annual "Super Saturday: Training for the Church Organist." The event, which will be held in the Harris Fine Arts Center at BYU, will focus on introducing pianists to the skills of organ playing and helping church organists improve and enhance their service playing skills.

The keynote speaker will be Herbert Klopfer, member of the LDS Church General Music Committee since 1983. He is also an organist, pianist, and composer, who, with his wife, Carolyn Hamilton Klopfer, wrote the LDS hymn "Home Can Be a Heaven on Earth." He will also teach two breakout sessions, one on appropriate music for LDS worship services and the other on the history of hymn books and children's songbooks (will also conduct a question/answer session at the end of the seminar). We are very excited to have Brother Klopfer speak to us.

Super Saturday is a great opportunity to introduce pianists to the skills of organ playing, and there will also be topics of interest for organists of all levels. A variety of break-out sessions will be offered, including free, 25-minute private organ instruction sessions. Pre-registration is required for the private instruction by calling Gayle Farnsworth at 801-374-0147 after April 10. Pianists and organists of all ages are invited to attend Super Saturday.

Check-in begins at 8:00 a.m. in the south foyer of the Madsen Recital Hall, and the keynote address begins at 8:30 a.m. Attendees are invited to arrive early by 8:00 a.m. to listen to an organ prelude and hymn sing performed by Florence Hawkinson, dean-elect, before the keynote begins. Please bring your own hymnal.

The entire event is FREE, including a free "grab and go" lunch. For more information, you may contact Lori Serr, event coordinator, at 801-489-8222.

If you wish to publicize the upcoming Super Saturday in your area, we've provided links on the chapter website to flyers and pass-along cards for printing, distributing, and/or displaying on bulletin boards and other places in meetinghouses. Please help us get the word out; perhaps member no. 52 is out there somewhere!

Mike Carson, Dean

## Upcoming Events

- April 10     BYU Organ Student Shared Recital, Zyhena Tyltina and Seth Bott, 2:00 p.m., Provo Tabernacle
- April 16     April "Informal", 7:30 p.m., 475 N. 700 E., Pleasant Grove
- April 18     Lorelea Anderson Organ Recital (student of Dr. Bush), 7:00 p.m., Provo Central Stake Center, 12<sup>th</sup> W. 5<sup>th</sup> N., Provo
- April 24     "Super Saturday" (see below)
- May 1        Jean Funk Organ Recital (student of Carol Dean), 2:00 p.m., Provo Central Stake Center, 12<sup>th</sup> W. 5<sup>th</sup> N., Provo
- May 21     Chapter Closing Social/Potluck (more information coming)

## Chapter Bach Recital of March 21

A big "thank you!" to Claire Rogers, organizer of this annual chapter event at the Utah State Hospital chapel, and to all the chapter members who participated in honoring "Papa Bach" on the 325<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. The performers were: Carol Dean, Tanner Bowman, Jean Funk, Sheri Peterson, Mike Carson, Nora Hess, Gayle Farnsworth, Judy Wright, Florence Hawkinson, Miranda Wilcox, Ruth Ann Hay, Lori Serr, Ruth Eldredge, and Felipe Dominguez. David Hawkinson took a couple of very nice photos, which are posted on the chapter's website.

## April 16 "Informal"

The April 16<sup>th</sup> Informal will be held in Pleasant Grove at the chapel located at 475 North 700 East at 7:30 p.m. Turn on 100 East at the Purple Turtle. Continue north to 500 North and turn east (towards the mountains). Continue east to 700 East, passing two chapels on the way. The building has a small unique pipe organ from 1974.

## Super Saturday at a Glance

**What:** Super Saturday: Training for Church Organists

**When:** Saturday, April 24, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Where:** Harris Fine Arts Center, BYU

Check-in at 8:00 a.m. Madsen Recital Hall south foyer

Hymn-sing at 8:00 a.m. Bring your own hymnal.

Keynote by Herbert Klopfer at 8:30 a.m.

Free admission and free lunch provided

Pre-registration required for individual instruction (call

Gayle Farnsworth at 801-374-0147)

Questions: Contact Lori Serr at 801-489-8222

## Wilhelm Sauer - Organ Builder

Submitted by Meg Griffith

Self-taught Prussian organ builder, Wilhelm Sauer, was born 23 March 1831. Early in his career, he collaborated with E. F. Walcker and Aristide Cavaille-Coll to build an organ for the Berlin *Marienkirche*. Later he established his own workshop in Frankfurt. (Dr. Bush informs me that the organ in the Berlin *Marienkirche* has been restored and that there are recordings available on that instrument.)

"[Sauer's] organ for the Berlin *Christuskirche* (1867; 18 stops) was so successful that his reputation grew nationally and, eventually, internationally." He expanded his

workshop to meet the demands for more instruments.

"Sauer rapidly became one of the leading Prussian firms, producing nearly twelve hundred organs by 1916." Most of the organs were built for Germany, especially in the north, but some were exported to Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Finland, and Peru, with 40 to Russia and South Africa.

"Sauer organs are known for their symphonic character, precision, technical perfection, and the use of fine materials. Principal stops were very important, but mixtures were used rather sparingly. He was among the first to build four-manual organs with over one hundred stops." Sauer built a four-manual, 52-rank tracker for the *Thomaskirche* in Leipzig. (I own a CD of this organ, and its tone is extremely clear and sensitive.) "Wilhelm Sauer died a highly honored figure in Frankfurt *an der Oder* on 9 April 1916." [*The Organ: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Douglas E. Bush and Richard Kassel]

## Spotlight

### Ruth Eldredge

This month's spotlight is on Ruth Eldredge, our sub-dean elect for the coming two-year term. Ruth was born and raised in Wheat Ridge, Colorado, where she lived until she left to study at Brigham Young University. She had piano lessons from her mother starting as a child, and kept with it more or less until she went to college. Her introduction to the organ occurred at age 13 when she was called to be ward organist. Her first organ lessons came five years later as a student at BYU. She joined the music department in her second year as an organist. Later, she did a master's degree in musicology from Oxford University.

Ruth lived in the UK for just over two years (2007-2009) and, while she was studying there and afterward, worked as an organist in several college chapels. Ruth studied organ with Dan Hyde (now at Magdalen College, Oxford) and briefly with Nicolas Kynaston of the Royal Academy of Music. While at Oxford, she was the director of music at the Oxford Catholic Chaplaincy and organist for the Christ Church College choir. After finishing her master's degree, Ruth managed a concert series at the University Church, Oxford—the most exciting concert being the opening of the Sixteen's annual English tour.

Ruth enjoys a variety of musical styles. For organ music, she is a big Bach fan. She loves polyphony, chant, and dance music—French Classic organ music being a great mix of all those. For music in general, Bob Dylan is a perennial favorite. Ruth also enjoys opera. She loves Schubert lieder. Ruth enjoys playing chamber music – accompanying and playing in ensembles.

Ruth has several musical goals, one of which is just to listen to more music. "There's so much out there to hear!" Ruth has been trying some new things and recently has re-fallen in love with Beethoven. She also has the goal to be comfortable improvising in front of people. She wants to learn the entire *Orgelbüchlein* and to be able to play convincingly on a harpsichord. Additional goals are to do a Ph.D. in musicology, study

renaissance music exercise books learning how music was taught in the 16th-17th centuries, and to learn more about connections to community and theology.

Ruth has had some very memorable experiences in music. Last September she went on a study trip to central France. Hearing French music on a French organ was the biggest musical revelation of 2009. An unforgettable musical moment: Ruth says, "I was asked at the last minute to play 'Jerusalem' for the Archbishop of York at the end of his lecture. I was sitting at a piano underneath the ornate, raised lectern where he had been speaking. He was decked out in his ceremonial robes and was looking very important as he gave an hour-long lecture. Suddenly the archbishop looked down at me and said, 'Hit it, sister'; I was shocked!"

Most forgettable musical moment (wishes she could forget): Ruth says, "playing the wrong opening hymn at the beginning of a big mass service. Aack! Or perhaps falling off the bench onto the pedal board once during sacrament meeting."

Ruth's other interests include a love of outdoor sports--hiking, rock climbing, skiing (this one was new to her this season). She served a mission in Rio de Janeiro and is a *Lord of the Rings* fan. Ruth occasionally does freelance copyediting for academic publishers. She also enjoys an occasional distance race. She studied chemistry at BYU for three years and loved it. Currently, Ruth plays for the Orem Community Church and teaches privately.

We look forward to having Ruth as our new sub-dean for the coming term!

### **A hearty welcome to our new chapter members since March 1:**

Jennifer Morgan  
Lehi

J. Cordell Bott  
Orem

### **Important Websites:**

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 Website:  
[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 Website:  
[www.slicago.org](http://www.slicago.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)