



Newsletter

American Guild of Organists

Utah Valley Chapter

2009-2010



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Dean's Message

It's hard to believe that the AGO year is coming to a close, and even more difficult to believe that my tenure as dean has come to an end, as well. It has been a wonderful experience being so closely involved with our chapter members. Thank you for this amazing opportunity to serve.

Our chapter event on May 21 will be a Closing Social/Potluck/Informal. I hope everyone will plan to attend. We'll meet at the LDS chapel at 1929 West 1500 North in Lehi, where there has been a recent installation of a Johannus organ. We'll begin with a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. and then move to the chapel for the informal at 7:30. Our host, Jennifer Morgan, has made arrangements for the installer, Tyler Anderson, to be in attendance. Everyone who wishes to play the organ will be given that opportunity. All chapter members and guests are invited to attend the dinner and informal. Feel free to come and go as your schedule allows.

The chapter's Super Saturday on April 24 was a great success. We have had many positive comments and expressions of gratitude for this offering. There were about 175 in attendance. The classes were all top notch, and there were many teens there who took advantage of the organ essentials classes. Our special guest, W. Herbert Klopfer, from the LDS General Church Music committee was kept busy teaching and speaking to the groups. The keynote address and handouts for his three classes are available on our chapter Web site, as are the handouts from many of the other instructors. I'd like to thank Lori Serr, event coordinator, and her wonderful committee for seeing that all the details were taken care of for a great Super Saturday. Many chapter officers and members participated in the instruction and the behind-the-scenes activities that made the day so great. "Thank you" to all who helped in any way. And "thank you" to all who attended.

Mike Carson, Dean

Lori Serr to perform on organ recital series

First United Methodist Church of Salt Lake City has begun an organ recital series to feature community organists. This unique organ recital, called **A Wesleyan Sermon**, is held on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 5:30 p.m. The 40-minute recital includes three organ works, two hymns, and a short reading from one of John Wesley's sermons. On the May 23 program, Lori Serr will perform Prelude in G Major (J. S. Bach), Pastorale (Franck), and Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower (Peeters). Seth Bott is scheduled to perform on the May 9 program. If you are interested in performing or attending, please go to: www.firstmethodistslc.org to view past and upcoming programs. For further information, contact Scott Mills at 801-230-4139.

Upcoming Events

- May 1 Jean Funk Organ Recital, 2:00 p.m., Provo Central Stake Center, 12th W. 5th N., Provo
- May 9 *A Wesleyan Sermon*, Seth Bott, organist, First Methodist Church, 203 S. 200 E., SLC 5:30 p.m.
Program
Skizzen, Op. 56 by Robert Schumann
UMH #62 - All Creatures of Our God & King
Cantilena from Organ Sonata 11 by Joseph Rheinberger
UMH #698 - God of the Ages
Moto Ostinato by Peter Eben
- May 16 The Madeleine Festival Concert, 8:00 p.m., Cathedral of the Madeleine, 331 E. South Temple, SLC (see *Tabernacle Organist* article below for more details).
- May 21 Chapter Closing Social/Potluck (see Dean's Message and Ruth Ann Hay's article for more details)
- May 23 *A Wesleyan Sermon*, Lori Serr, organist, First Methodist Church, 203 S. 200 E., SLC 5:30 p.m.
Program
Prelude in G Major by J. S. Bach
UMH #127 - Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
Pastorale by Cèsar Franck
UMH #451 - Be Thou My Vision
Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower by Flor Peeters

Tabernacle Organist Richard Elliott to give Utah Premiere of recently discovered organ work by Samuel Barber

On Sunday, May 16, as part of the 2010 Madeleine Festival at the Cathedral of the Madeleine in Salt Lake City, Mormon Tabernacle organist Richard Elliott will give the Utah premiere of a recently discovered organ composition by noted American composer, Samuel Barber, whose centennial year is being commemorated in 2010. The manuscript of the composer's Prelude and Fugue in B Minor was discovered by music historian Barbara Heyman while doing research for her 1995 biography of Samuel Barber.

Barber's Prelude and Fugue were written in 1927, while he was studying composition with Rosario Scalero at the Curtis Institute of Music. It was premiered a year later in Philadelphia by organist Carl Weinrich, but was not publicly performed again until Paul Jacobs gave the "re-debut" in Philadelphia in 2008. Jacobs has since performed the work in Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Los Angeles, Vancouver, and San Francisco.

The Madeleine Festival concert, which commemorates 50 years of broadcasting by Classical 89 KBYU-FM, will also include performances by BYU faculty members featuring works by composers celebrating anniversaries in 2010:

Chopin (200th), Schumann (200th); and Barber (100th). The concert will take place beginning at 8:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Madeleine, 331 E. South Temple Street. For more information, call 801-328-8941 or visit www.saltlakecathedral.org/madeleine-festival.

Informal/Closing Social By Ruth Ann Hay

On Friday, May 21, we will hold a combined informal recital and closing social, meeting at the LDS chapel at 1929 W. 1500 N. In Lehi. We will gather at 6:30 p.m. for a potluck dinner in the multi-purpose room; then move to the chapel at 7:30 for the informal. A welcome special guest, Tyler Anderson, who recently installed the new Johannus organ in the chapel, will be there. All members are invited to try out the instrument. Tyler earned a degree in organ performance and business management at Utah State University. He now works for the Johannus Organ Company and the Piano Gallery church organ division. Tyler plays the organ in the Smithfield 16th Ward of the LDS Church and also at St. John's Episcopal Church in Logan, UT.

Driving instructions coming from the south are: Take Lehi exit 282, 1200 W. At the end of the off ramp, turn left at the light onto 1200 West. Turn left at the next light (US 89). Turn right onto 1500 N (there's a Chevron on the corner). Drive to 1929 W. The building is on the left side of the road.

Driving instructions from the north are: Take Lehi exit 282, US 89. Turn right onto 1500 N (there's a Chevron on the corner). Drive to 1929 West. The building is on the left side of the road. [Please note that 2100 N. is currently closed at the railroad tracks.]

A sincere "thank you" to Jennifer Morgan, one of our newest members, for making the arrangements.

"Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord" Submitted by Meg Griffith

J. S. Bach stated, "The final aim and reason of all music is nothing other than the glorification of God and the refreshment of the human spirit." The Lord delights in the song of the heart and for the righteous, their songs are considered a prayer and are "answered with a blessing upon their heads" (D&C 25:12). President Thomas S. Monson said, "If you love the Lord, if you love the doctrine, you'll love the hymns; and when you love them, then you will sing them."

When Joseph Smith translated the Book of Mormon, he found nineteen references to music and singing. He said, "To praise God is to sing to God." Brigham Young taught that "All good music belongs to heaven. We should delight in hearing harmonious tones made by the human voice, by musical instruments, and by both combined." (*Song of the Righteous*, Darwin Wolford)

Ezra Taft Benson told a story about his great grandmother who was temporarily left by her husband when he went with other men to explore Cache Valley for the pioneers. "When great-grandmother and her two sons sat outside the covered wagon, about an hour after the men had gone, she heard a noise, and there was a big lion standing on its haunches about a hundred feet from where they were. It looked like it was ready to attack, so great-grandmother prayed in her heart and asked the Lord what to do. She was impressed to sing. This she did and the lion went away without harming her. Then she knelt down and thanked the Lord for saving the lives of herself and the children." (*Blessed by the Hymns*, LaVonne Van Orden)

Brigham Young said, "Music has a powerful influence on the behavior of God's creations, even that of plants and animals. It has charms to sooth the savage beast. It has been proven that sweet music will actually tame the most malicious and venomous beasts, even when they have been stirred up to violent wrath, and make them docile and harmless as lambs. Who gave the lower animals a love for those sweet sounds, which with magic power fill the air with harmony, and cheer and comfort the hearts of men, and so wonderfully affect the brute creation? It was the Lord, our Heavenly Father, who gave the capacity to enjoy these sounds, and which we ought to do in His name and to His glory." (*Journal of Discourses*)

Martin Luther declared, "People should have hymns as well as the Bible so that they cannot only read God's word, but they can also speak to him in song." J. Reuben Clark, Jr. said, "We can get closer to the Lord through music than perhaps through any other thing except prayer." Vaughn J. Featherstone adds, "Music is an aid to living, a shield against despair, and a triumph of the human spirit." Alexander Schreiner writes in his book, *Music and the Gospel*, "Let us fill our lungs, sit up and sing vigorously before the Lord, our Maker. We are the Latter-day Saints. Let us sing like we are, so our Heavenly Father may be able to recognize us." Violinist and per-former Jenny Oaks Baker stated when interviewed, "I believe that Heavenly Father gave us music to help us draw closer to Him. When gospel themes are set to inspired melodies, hearts are touched and lives are changed."

Mader Organ-Playing Competition

Application forms are now available for participation in the 2010 National Organ-playing Competition sponsored by the Ruth and Clarence Mader Memorial Scholarship Fund. Finalists will compete for prizes of \$6,000, \$4,000, and \$2,000 plus transportation and lodging.

The competition is organized into two phases: a recorded (CD) preliminary competition from which three finalists will be selected, and a final event presented as a concert open to the public. The competition is open to all residents of the United States who will be under the age of 35 on November 6, 2010. Repertoire (30 to 45-minutes playing time) must include one required work: "October Interlude" by Clarence Mader.

Application forms and CD recordings are due by August 1, and finalists will be selected and notified by September 1. The final competition will be held on November 6, 2010, at the Claremont United Church of Christ, Congregational, in Claremont, California. The organ is a three-manual, 77-rank instrument built in 1998 by Glatt-Götz/Rosales.

Application forms and additional information may be obtained from Dr. Frances Nobert, 5023 Tierra Antigua Drive, Whittier, CA 90601: e-mail address: fnobert99organ@aol.com.

The Ruth and Clarence Mader Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 1971 to honor the memory of two outstanding Southern California artists. In addition to sponsoring organ-playing competitions, the Fund has engaged in various projects related to the pipe organ, including commissioning organ compositions and funding organ compositions and organ-related research.

The AGO membership renewal period has begun

New and renewing memberships may be submitted now through July 31 for the coming AGO year, July 2010 through June 2011. If you wish, you may join for \$25 or more to be affiliated as a non-voting "friend" of the guild. If you have questions, please call Joan Barnett, current chapter registrar and treasurer, at 801-375-7880. The membership form is available on the chapter Web site.

Organ for Sale.

A stake-center model Allen organ built in the 1970's is available for sale for \$2,000 (not counting minor repairs and moving costs). If interested, call Dian Monson (801-691-9210).

SLC AGO National Convention Update

We are herewith relaying the following information as relayed to us by Dennis Ellwell, National Councilor for Conventions.

The National Council has reached a decision to accept the withdrawal of the SLC AGO bid to hold the 2014 National AGO Convention in Salt Lake City, and the subsequent resignation of the 2014 Convention Chair, Linda Margetts. Notwithstanding the Salt Lake City Board's close positive vote to continue forward with a convention, the council decision was based on the following summarized points:

1. Not having the availability of, or ability to engage with the LDS Church and its Temple Square facilities, thus likely affecting convention attendance
2. LDS Church funeral clause would mean Temple Square would be closed or unavailable for convention activities for three days
3. In the case of a funeral, the stress on the remaining facilities would be too great on the rehearsal and performance schedules

4. The significant negative feelings in both the Salt Lake City chapter and Temple Square particularly expressed by some present and past leadership of the chapter and the potential difficult connotations for both the convention and the chapter should the convention go forward

The decision comes with a sincere sense of regret and sadness by many, if not all, of the National Council members.

[Editor's Note: We have included this information in the newsletter for your information as it came to us from the Salt Lake AGO chapter. Inclusion does not mean we are "in the know" regarding this decision.]

Important Websites:

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

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

Recipe

Creamy Italian Chicken

4 boneless chicken breasts

1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese

1 can cream of chicken soup

½ cup water

1 envelope Italian salad dressing mix

Place chicken in electric crock pot. Combine remaining ingredients and pour over chicken. Cook in crock pot on low for 3 to 4 hours (or more). Break up chicken into small pieces. Serve over cooked rice (can double the sauce ingredients and serve it over linguini).