



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.

May 2011

No. 9

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Dean's Message (excerpts from opening remarks at "Super Saturday")

The purpose of the American Guild of Organists is to "promote the organ...to encourage excellence in...performance..and to provide a forum for mutual support."

The American Guild of Organists can sound pretty intimidating. After all, its local membership includes an impressive list of well-trained, professional teachers, performers, and composers of organ music. However, the membership also includes people who are not that impressive—like me! I'm just a lowly amateur pianist who, less than six years ago, in a moment of immense faith or temporary insanity, told my bishop, "Yes. I will learn to play the organ." And now I am dean! Sometimes I wonder, "What am I doing here?"

A few weeks ago I was working with Dr. Don Cook to put together an AGO event. Multiple copies of a particular piece of music were needed for the event. Don sent out an email to a large number of people asking if they had a copy that he could use for a day. When I received the email, I looked at the list of people to whom he had sent his request. They were people you would expect a professional organist with a doctorate to send emails to—other professional organist with doctorates. I scanned the list and saw Richard Elliott, Andrew Unsworth, Robert Cundick, and other tabernacle organists and well-known composers. And then there was my name. The song from Sesame Street went through my mind, "One of these things is not like the other. One of these things doesn't belong."

But the amazing thing is that I do belong. My lack of formal musical training has nothing to do with my love of music and my ability to promote the organ, to encourage excellence in performance, and to provide a forum for mutual support. I belong; and you belong. Whether you officially join our chapter or not, you belong. Your willingness to put forth effort to improve your skills at the organ demonstrates that you belong.

I invite you to take this 'belonging' to heart. When you have a question, a comment, or are in need of some fresh ideas, I am here for you. I am here *with* you. Feel free to email or call me. I don't know a lot . . . but I know people who do. I will do everything I can to assist you in your organ endeavors.

The American Guild of Organists is not an 'us' and 'them' organization. If you have any spark of passion at all for the organ, or even just a *desire* to have passion, this is your organization. I welcome you and thank you for being part of the Utah Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Florence Hawkinson
Dean

Upcoming Events

- May 6, 7 Richard Elliott, Tabernacle organist, is playing with the Utah Symphony Orchestra at Abravanel Hall, under the direction of guest conductor Andrew Grams. Elliott will perform "Symphony No. 3 in C Minor" by Camille Saint-Saens and "Concerto in G Minor for Organ, String Orchestra and Timpani" by Francis Poulenc. Also on the program is "Scherzo Fantastique," an early work by Igor Stravinsky.
- May 14 Conference Center Organ Crawl, 8:30 to 11:00 a.m.

"Super Saturday" Report

Lori Serr, Education Officer and Chairman

The Super Saturday training for the church organist was another great success this year! The turnout exceeded all our expectations. Because of the Easter weekend, we were not planning to have as many attendees as there had been in previous years. However, our numbers were very close to the same as other years. The beginning organ classes were all filled to capacity each hour with the organ lab well used as well. There were many positive comments about several classes, and many filled out the evaluation forms for the committee to review. We added a couple of new classes this year which were well received and also extended each hour to four class offerings. The closing recital by Seth Bott was also a new addition and was well attended. Of course, a highlight this year was our keynote speaker, Janice Kapp Perry, who brought a spirit of service and humility to begin the workshop. It was a perfect beginning. The opening hymn sing with organist, David Chamberlin, filled our souls and brought a smile to all our faces as he played his clever and artistic arrangements of the hymns.

Of course, all of this would not have been possible without the unselfish service that so many of our guild members freely give to this annual event each year. There were many hours of planning, calling, copying, organizing, scheduling, teaching, emailing, practicing, greeting, hauling, setting up and taking down, etc. All was done so professionally and willingly. In addition, there were many challenges to overcome, some personal and unexpected, but everything came together in the end. We give special thanks to our Dean, Florence Hawkinson, and her husband (the photographer!) for all their sacrifices on behalf of the guild and this event. Also, thanks to Don Cook and BYU for allowing us to host this event using their facilities.

Thank you everyone who contributed! And if you want to help next year, please don't be afraid to ask. We can always use an extra hand.

Keynote Address

Janice Kapp Perry's keynote address from the April 23rd Utah Valley Chapter Super Saturday is attached to this newsletter. We so much appreciate her willingness to share this day with us and for her inspiring message which went hand in hand with our Dean's theme for her term in office, "By small and simple things are great things brought to pass, (Alma 37:6-7).

May Chapter Event

As indicated in April's newsletter, our closing event for this year will be an organ crawl at the Conference Center in SLC. We do not yet know which Tabernacle organist will be conducting the tour, but we will email you with that information as it becomes known.

From 8:30 to 11:00 am. our chapter members (enter the Conference Center through Door 4, near the Ticket Office) will be given an inside and outside tour of the organ (chambers and console demo). There may be time for a limited number of folks to play the Conference Center organ as well, so bring your music.

Ruth Eldredge will be coordinating the carpooling to the Conference Center. She would like those who need a ride, and those who have room for passengers to contact her via email: ruth.eldredge@gmail.com and include basic information about their carpooling situation – including their area of residence and where they could meet the carpool (if driving), as well as how many passengers their car will accommodate.

Varsity Scouts hold "Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza" activity

Eleven 14- and 15-year-old Scouts in the Pleasant Grove Utah Grove Creek 8th Ward had the opportunity to listen to and play the seven-rank Schantz in the Grove Creek Stake Center on March 9. The event was part of a Wednesday night Mutual activity.

Mike Carson, one of the boys' advisers, demonstrated the organ's stops and studs and then played a classical selection, which highlighted the sounds of the organ. Each boy received two minutes of impromptu time on the bench to play anything they knew. Some played hymns, some played pop songs and ballads, and one talented boy played a lively rendition of Maple Leaf Rag with Carson changing the organ stops at strategic points in the piece. Carson finished the hour with Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Phantom of the Opera" theme. After the pedals and pipes portion of the demonstration, the boys and their advisers enjoyed piping hot pizza in the church's kitchen.

The activity was the first of three musical events for the Scouts. On March 23, the group had a "Bring Your Own Instrument Night" for a jam session at one of the adviser's homes. Later next month Carson will oversee another musical event—this time centered on hymns, in which the boys will be shown how to conduct a hymn, identify some obscure or lesser-known hymns, and play "Name that Hymn" for candy bar prizes.

[Editors's Note: Are we doing all we can as organists to reach out to and interest our youth in the "King of Instruments"? Thank you, Mike, for your example.]

The Organ, an Encyclopedia

Douglas E. Bush, Editor

Richard Kassel, Associate Editor

(Following are two short articles taken from the "G" section.)

Gedeckt

A covered manual or pedal Flute stop of 32', 16', 8', 4', or (rarely 2' pitch), made of rectangular cut wood or (for the upper registers) open or capped metal, medium scale; a lower cut-up emphasizes the twelfth above the fundamental (third harmonic). Its smooth, rounded tone makes it ideal for binding together disparate stops in any division (i.e., functioning as a Copula); it can cover overly prominent partials in other sonorities and offer a quiet counterpoint to brighter stops. It is a common, if not the most common, covered Flute stop. Spanish builders used the term *Flautado de Violon* for the Gedeckt in the 17th and 18th centuries. The term applies to a variety of stops, including Bass, Doppel, Echo, Flute, Pommer, and Regal, several harmonic stops (Quinte, Tierce, Twelfth), and a host of types described by shape or timbral analogy; the most common of the latter is the Lieblichgedeckt, smoother and softer than its less "lovely" cousin.

--Richard Kassel

Gemshorn

From the early 16th century, a conical metal Flute stop, wide and with a sharp tapering at the top, ranging in rank from 16' to 1-1/3' (Praetorius, *Syntagma musicum* II, 1619). The sweet, hollow mixture of flute and string tone was meant to imitate the closed-end fipple flute of the same name (German, "Ram's horn"). By the 19th century, the Gemshorn had become a foundation stop of similar but narrower construction (metal, occasionally wood), pitched at 32' (pedal) and 16', 8', or 4' (manuals and pedal), clean and somewhat neutral in tone (partials from the twelfth on up are dampened, while the fifth, seventh, and ninth are stimulated). It is effective in binding other stops and reinforcing their weaker lower harmonics, and is common in mixture and mutation ranks; while not an effective solo stop, it supplies a bass without a booming fundamental and a good accompaniment to Diapason solos.

AGO Region IX Convention Worship: Celebration, Diversity, and Creativity

by George Emblom, AGO Region IX Worship Committee Chair

A rich, diverse, and exciting set of worship services awaits you at the AGO Region IX Convention in San Francisco this summer, July 3-7. The convention begins in an exciting way with an **Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving** at beautiful and historic Temple Emanu-El in San Francisco, to celebrate the opening of the convention, commemorate the 100th anniversary of the SFAGO, and honor our country's annual Independence Day observance—all in one hour!

Temple organist Rodney Gehrke will play pre-service music by Jewish composers. Other selections feature music by San Francisco composers John Karl Hirten,

David Conte, and Mark Wings (with composition by Conte and Wings especially commissioned and premiered at this service), along with a hymn by current SFAGO Dean George Emblom. Adding to this mix is a musical reflection by jazz pianist Ken Muir. In observance of the July 4th holiday, we will join in singing "America the Beautiful," led by the temple's Skinner organ. We are privileged to have resident cantor Roslyn Barak and the Temple Emanu-El Choir lead the congregation in prayer. Other highlights include a Muslim call to prayer and a reading in Hebrew by AGO Executive Director James Thomashower. The featured speaker is The Very Reverend Dr. Jane Shaw, recently appointed Dean of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. SFAGO chaplain Father Robert Rien will lead a Litany of Thanksgiving for the 100th anniversary of the Chapter. All this, plus a festive catered reception in the stunning Temple foyer following the service, make this an event not to be missed!

On Wednesday morning, a traditional service of **Morning Prayer** will be held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Berkeley, beginning with Renaissance music played by the *Sec Chordoe Consort of Viols*. The organist for this service is Lenore Alford from St. John's Episcopal Church, Ross, CA, who will offer music by Elisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre, Margaret Sandresky, and Emma Lou Diemer on St. Mark's two-manual/ 23-rank Flentrop (1971, enlarged by Flentrop in 2002). The preacher is the Reverend William Countryman, retired Professor of New Testament at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley. The canticles are from the "Dorian Service" by Thomas Tallis and sung by members of St. Mark's Choir Association, George Emblom, director. The congregation will join together to sing the beautiful and familiar "If ye love me," by Thomas Tallis. At this service we will also sing, "As newborn stars were stirred to song," to the tune *Alexandra*, composed by John Hirten, the winner of a hymn competition sponsored by the SFAGO and St. Mark's, Berkeley, in 1995.

On Wednesday afternoon, a Roman Catholic **Vespers** (evening prayer) will take place at St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco. Father Robert Rien, SFAGO chaplain, will be the homilist and officiate. Samuel Salvador Soria, Los Angeles, will serve as organist for the service, and will offer improvisations based on music and texts used during the service on the cathedral's Ruffatti organ. The Psalmody is from the *Antiphonale Monasticum*, with Gregorian antiphons sung by the choir, who will also sing the motet "Ave regina caelorum" composed by Josef Rheinberger. Stephen Walsh is the cantor, and cathedral music director Christoph Tietze will direct the Cathedral Choir.

We have worked hard to make these worship services worthwhile experiences, both musically and spiritually. We look forward to an energizing week of wonderful music making, worship, and collegiality. If you have not registered to attend the AGO Region IX Convention in San Francisco, July 3-7, 2011, it's not too late! Go to www.sfago2011.org and sign on now.

Alternative to San Francisco

Check out the last page of your April 2011 newsletter to review a closer convention opportunity than San Francisco—the Region VIII AGO Convention in Boise, Idaho, July 3-7, 2011.

Editor's Note

Last Thursday night I attended the Women's Conference evening concert, since I had a free ticket. (I try to stay away from large crowds as much as possible.) The performers were Hilary Weeks, Jenny Oaks Baker, Kirby Heyborne, Vocal Point, and Josh Wright. While driving around the Valley to give private organ lessons at my student's churches or home, instead of listening to KBYU-FM exclusively, I spend much time listening to books on tape or CDs; therefore, I had not yet heard any of Josh Wright's CDs, and the Women's Conference concert was my first exposure to him. Probably all the rest of you know who he is already – a 23-year-old amazing pianist getting his master's degree in music at the University of Utah.

At the concert he performed a very difficult Liszt piece flawlessly which resulted in a spontaneous standing ovation from the huge audience in the Marriott Center (the only performer of the entire evening who was awarded such). I thought I would include his website in this newsletter for those of you who, like me, have not yet had the opportunity to know of him:

www.joshwrightpiano.com

Last Newsletter for the 2010-2011 AGO Year

This newsletter will be the final one for this AGO year. Any information that needs to be disseminated to you during the summer will be sent out in group emails.

Recipe of the Month

from the kitchen of Sheri Peterson

Green Salad Dressing:

1/3 cup orange juice
2 Tbsp. red wine vinegar
1/2 cup vegetable oil
2 Tbsp. sugar
1 Tbsp. dry Italian dressing mix (Good Seasons or any generic brand)

Best if made up a day in advance and is well chilled before mixing with salad greens.

The body of the salad is made up of any kinds of greens you desire. Then add any combinations of fruits and nuts you like. I generally use strawberries, mandarin oranges, pears (if in season). You can also add cranraisins, pomegranates, avocados, sugared pecans or almonds, chicken, etc...basically anything you want.

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 website:
www.agohq.org