



Newsletter

American Guild of Organists Utah Valley Chapter 2011-2012

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 2012

No. 9

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Dean's Message

Since this is my final Dean's message, it seems appropriate to express my appreciation for your support these past two years. I have enjoyed the association with Board members, Chapter members and fellow organ geeks! Working with you has been uplifting and inspiring. My life has been enriched by knowing you.

In reflecting upon our activities as a chapter these past two years, a well-known verse by Ralph Waldo Emerson came to my mind. I hope he will forgive my interjections—they just seemed to fit so well . . .

What is success?

To laugh often and much;

Friday Night Informals

To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children;

Pedals, Pipes and Pizza

To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends;

Super Saturday Organ Workshops

To appreciate beauty;

Bach Chapter Member Recitals

To find the best in others;

Tribute to Don Cook

To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition;

Christmas Recital at Utah State Hospital

To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived;

The continued support and encouragement I received from chapter members

This is to have succeeded.

Thank you, friends, for making this chapter a success.

Florence

Upcoming Events

- May 25 St. Mark's Cathedral Bigelow Organ Inaugural Recital featuring the five Salt Lake Tabernacle organists, Friday, 7:30 p.m., 231 E. 100 S., SLC. Tickets are free but required. Contact David Chamberlin (801-376-1399 or email--see front cover) or contact the cathedral directly (801-322-3400) for tickets.
- Jun 2 Closing UVAGO Chapter Social – Farewell, Food and Fun Fest will be held Saturday at 6:00 p.m. at Rebecca Brand's home, 826 E. 700 N., American Fork (directions below)

Super Saturday was an unqualified success!

Thank you to the planning committee, the instructors, BYU for housing the event, those who arranged the food, all chapter members who distributed flyers and information and encouraged ward members to attend. The attendance was our largest ever—around 280 participants and instructors. Thank you to Clay Christiansen for sharing his personal experiences as Tabernacle organist (remarks are online at <http://uvago.org/handouts.htm>).

Farewell, Food and Fun Fest—our closing social June 2, 2012, 6:00 p.m., 826 E. 700 N., AF

An email reminder will be sent about ten days before this event, but please put this date on your calendars now. Plan to join us at this our chapter's closing social as we thank our outgoing executive board for a great two years of service. All chapter members and guests (spouses, friends, significant others, etc.) are invited to this potluck picnic evening. If you would like to help out with this event, please contact Florence Hawkinson.

Directions to Rebecca Brand's House:

Exit I-15 at the Pleasant Grove/American Fork exit heading east toward American Fork. Turn left at the first light and swing past the HeeHaw farm and toward State Street. Cross State Street, pass the American Fork Hospital and drive up the hill. At the four-way stop by the Mt. Timpanogos Temple, turn left, pass the temple, and head west down the hill. Watch for a black mailbox on your right and turn left into a long driveway just past that mailbox.

Nominating Committee

A nominating committee composed of Carol Dean and Doug Bush is in the process of contacting those they have nominated to serve you as officers for the next two-year term—September of 2012 to June of 2014. Once all responses are in, a list of the new officers will be emailed to chapter members for review and ratification.

Newest Chapter Members

Recently two new members have joined our chapter:

Jerri Bearce, Orem

Elaine Bylund, Lehi

Welcome!

Spotlight on One of Our Newest Members

Elaine Bylund

I started playing the piano when I was about four and always loved it so much. When I was 12, I received my first Church calling—to play the organ for Primary, which met in the chapel at that time. My mom was the ward music director, so she also allowed my sister and I to prepare to play a few hymns for Sunday School. (This was back when Sunday School was held in the morning and Sacrament Meeting later in the day.) When I was 14, I took organ lessons from the ward organist and loved learning more how to better play this beautiful instrument. At BYU I played the piano and organ in my ward, then after my marriage, I continued playing, and also began teaching piano lessons. Over the 40 years of my marriage, I have been the ward organist probably about 20 years in various wards. About 30 years ago, I was able to take organ lessons from a gifted musician who had studied under Alexander Schreiner, where I unlearned some bad habits and became more disciplined in correct techniques. Later I also took a semester of lessons at the University of Nebraska, where I was on the faculty in the School of Communications. I have taught piano probably a total of ten years and have also taught two organ courses in the Church. I am so delighted to have moved to Utah where I have more opportunities to keep learning!

The Organ, an Encyclopedia

Douglas E. Bush, Editor

Richard Kassel, Associate Editor

(Following are three short articles taken from the "R" section.)

Ripieno

An Italian stop dedicated to one rank and timbre, at times virtually synonymous with the Principale (Principal), otherwise incorporating it; akin to the French Plein Jeu. During the 15th and 16th centuries, Italian organbuilders transformed the medieval Blockwerk into multiple-stop instruments, each controlling one rank. Unlike the rest of Europe, one-manual instruments were the Italian norm until the turn of the 20th century. Stops were indicated by timbre (Principale, Flauto) or lowest pitch in relation to the lowest foundation pitch (Ottava or II, Quintadecima or XV).

Confusion between the ripieno and Principale stems from the sharing of the lowest register (8'; 16' in larger instruments). A ripieno chorus might include the 8' Principale and stops at the octave, fifteenth, nineteenth, and upper octaves and fifths, all the way to the ½,' four octaves above the fundamental. The subtle, gently winded ripieno had ceased to be the basis of Italian organ building by the 20th century, when a more international approach attracted local builders. But it proved attractive to other European builders, who developed a so-called Italian division during the height of the Organ Reform Movement; it continues to be included in some new instruments, occasionally as a main division.

--Richard Kassel

Rollerboard

In a tracker action (Renaissance and thereafter), an internal vertical board, parallel to the keyboard, to which are attached cylinders, or rollers (originally wood, now metal), one per key. The rollers revolve around their central axis and have short rigid arms on either side. A tracker or similar connection from the key is attached to one roller arm; when the key is played, the tracker pulls the arm "down," moving the roller a short distance toward the front. At the other end of the roller, the attached arm pulls down another tracker, this one attached directly or indirectly to the windchest pallet (or valve); when activated, the pallet is pulled down and the associated pipe or pipes sound.

With its action transferred (transmitted) sideways, a manual of normal size can control a much wider sequence of pallet chests, making a larger instrument possible. One of the more ingenious inventions of the period and applicable to instruments with balanced or suspended key action, the rollerboard system was crucial in making mechanical, Hauptwerk-based, cathedral-sized instruments possible. Some suspended action instruments later used splayed trackers or backfalls to accomplish transmission, but this was more practical for smaller instruments.

--Richard Kassell

Rollschweller

Crescendo pedal-like device developed by German organ-builders in the latter 19th century. It allows an organist to put on preset registers or stops gradually by manipulating a rotating drum at foot-pedal level. Generally, three complete rotations would complete the gradual full crescendo or decrescendo. The rollschweller could also serve as its own on-switch device when brought to a certain position; a separate piston of the rollschweller. This and similar devices were criticized for sonic inefficiencies caused by differences between original pipe voicings and the changing wind pressures. The rotating drum mechanism was superseded by the balanced hinge (pivoted) pedal. The rollschweller family never achieved the popularity of the swell pedal with builders or composers.

--Richard Kassell

Electronics at Student Contests and Concerts

A very interesting article (by the above title) was written by Lea Schmidt-Rogers, Councillor for Professional Development, AGO Region IX. It is attached to this newsletter for your perusal.

Recipe of the Month

Bran Muffins

Cream together:

1 cup shortening
2 ½ cups sugar
4 unbeaten eggs

Add:

5 cups flour
1 ½ tsp. salt
6 cups Bran Buds
2 cups boiling water
5 tsp. soda
1 quart buttermilk

Optional:

dates
nuts
raisins
blueberries

Bake for 20 minutes in cupcake pans at 400 degrees.
Stores for six weeks.

Important Websites:

Blog for beginning organ students
(created by Jennifer Morgan)
www.organlessons.blogspot.com

BYU organ information
(including off-campus programs):
www.organ.byu.edu

David Chamberlin's music
www.chamberlinmusic.com

Free music for the LDS organist:
www.ldsorganist.org

Local organ builder of fine mechanical action organs
www.bigeloworgans.com

"Pedal Points" – a forum for organists
(created by Florence Hawkinson)
www.ldsorganist.wordpress.com

National AGO website:
www.agohq.org

Region IX Blog address:
www.agoregion9blog.blogspot.com

Resources for LDS organist
www.ldsorganists.info

Salt Lake Chapter AGO website:
www.slicago.org

Source of music for the LDS organist:
www.wardorganist.com

Utah Valley Chapter AGO website:
www.uvago.org