



Utah Valley Chapter American Guild of Organists

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to enrich lives through organ and choral music.

Chapter Officers

Dean

Sheri Peterson
sheri.peterson@gmail.com

Sub-Dean

Jack Stoneman
jackstoneman@byu.edu

Registrar

David Chamberlin
david@chamberlinmusic.com

Secretary

Jennifer Morgan
onemorejennifer@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor

Miranda Wilcox
miranda_wilcox@byu.edu

Web Master

DeeAnn Stone
ddstone@renewamerica.us

Historian

Judy Wright
jjswright1027@gmail.com

Education

Lori Serr, CAGO
ljserr@yahoo.com

Publicity

Mark Clark
mclark@novell.com

BYU Student Representative

Kymerly Stone
kym.stone21@gmail.com

Members-at-Large

Florence Hawkinson
wardorganist@gmail.com

Carol Dean
carolorg1111@gmail.com

Linda Rehart
lindarehart@juno.com

Lella Pomeroy
lellasplace@gmail.com

The Dean's Message

September 2012

Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to another year of AGO! It is wonderful to be associated with all you fine people and have the privilege to serve and get to know each of you! Much thought and preparation has gone into planning the calendar for the year. As you will see, we made the decision to simplify, cutting back to one activity a month. I am most grateful to all those who have contributed time and energy to help in the planning. I believe it takes synergy to have an effective organization. I am grateful for the synergy that is found in the Utah Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists!

I have given much thought as to what I might share with you in this newsletter. In doing so, I kept coming back to a principle that I learned more about because of the recent death of my father. I hope you won't mind my sharing such a personal thing, but I believe that it might benefit us all.

At my father's funeral, there was a common thread addressed by everybody who spoke on the program. Each one spoke about how my father's life had been one of becoming. He wasn't perfect, but every day he worked at becoming a little better. My father experienced a rocky childhood and as a result had many emotional and spiritual challenges to overcome. He didn't learn boundaries in his youth and struggled to learn them as an adult. There were times when he felt like giving up, but he never did. My dad may have had seemingly insurmountable obstacles in life, but one step at a time he overcame them.

My family and I were in awe at the number of people who attended my father's viewing. The line went out the mortuary door and down the street. People waited in line for an hour and a half just to say a few kind words to my mother and our family. I had the privilege of standing next to my mother in the line and was touched by the countless people who had nothing but good to say about my father and spoke about how much he had influenced their lives for good. We left wondering how an imperfect man, who had such serious struggles, could have had such an influence upon so many.

I believe the answer is simple. In spite of his challenges, my father developed his talents and with tireless energy freely shared them with others. He didn't wait until he became the perfect person to reach out and help another, but rather, throughout his process of becoming, he shared his talents, in whatever state they were in, and helped others grow too. [continued on p. 3]

Upcoming Events

Utah Valley Chapter Meetings

- Sept 7 Opening Social: Multi-Stake Center, 300 N 900 E, Provo, 7:00 pm
- Oct 19 Louis Vierne 75th Anniversary Master Class with Clay Christiansen
Joseph Smith Memorial Building Chapel, SLC, 7:30 pm
- Nov 17 Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza: Provo Central Stake Center, 450 N 1220 W
- Jan 5 Tabernacle Organ Crawl, Tabernacle, SLC, 12:30 pm
- Feb Hymn Sing, TBA
- March 22 Bach's Birthday Recital, Provo Central Stake Center
- April 27 Super Saturday, BYU
- May 17 Closing Social & Member Recital

Eccles Organ Festival, Cathedral of the Madeleine, 8:00 pm

- Sept 9 Andrus Madsen, Second Church, Newton, Massachusetts
- Sept 23 Julia Brown, First Methodist Church, Eugene, Oregon
Note: This concert will be held at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral
- Oct 7 Clive Driskill-Smith, Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, England
- Oct 21 Jonathan Ryan, First Prize, 2009 Jordan International Organ Competition
- Nov 4 László Fassang, Franz Liszt Academy, Budapest

Additional Organ Recitals

- Oct 26 BYU Organ Majors' German Chorale Prelude Recital
Multi-Stake Center, 300 N 900 E, Provo, 7:30 pm

Please Join Us

The Utah Valley Chapter will begin the year with an opening social on Friday, September 7 at 7:00 pm at the new LDS Multi-Stake Center on 900 E and 300 N in Provo. The new chapter officers will be introduced, and Dr. Don Cook will share the chapel's new Johannus organ. The evening will conclude with open bench on the organ and light refreshments.

On Friday, October 19, our chapter will sponsor the Louis Vierne 75th Anniversary Master Class with Tabernacle organist Clay Christiansen. It will take place in the Joseph Smith Memorial Building Chapel at Temple Square at 7:30 pm. If you would like to play in the master class, please send your name and contact information, a brief description of your experience with the organ, and what Vierne piece you would like to play for Dr. Christiansen's critique to Lori Serr (ljzserr@yahoo.com) by Friday, October 5. If you are not playing, please participate as the audience.

At the Bench

by Jack Stoneman

Not long ago, I was listening to Thomas Murray's CD "The Longwood Gardens Organ, Vol. 1" and was impressed by a wonderful and evocative piece called 'AD 1620' by the great American composer Edward MacDowell (1860-1908). What happened in 1620 was my first question. And how hard would this be for me to learn and play was my second question. Turns out it is doable, though I haven't yet learned it all the way through. And it turns out the Pilgrims landed in 1620. I should have remembered that from 8th grade U.S. history!

MacDowell's poetic inscription for the piece reads: "The yellow setting sun / Melts the lazy sea to gold / And gilds the swaying galleon / That towards a land of promise / Lunges hugely on." The piece has an inevitable surging rhythm to it and a beautiful crescendo and chorale in the middle. I did a little more research and found that it is one of eight "Sea Pieces" Opus 55 composed originally for piano. Frederick N. Shackley arranged 'AD 1620' for organ. I found an online recording of the piano version:

http://youtu.be/NpB7mw_ys10

After comparing the piano and organ versions, I found that the organ is much better suited to painting the broad canvas of sea and ships, swelling wave and smoldering sun, that MacDowell intended. How often is an arrangement better than the original? I'm so glad that I stumbled upon this one, and hope to have it to performance level in time for Thanksgiving this year or next.

The Dean's Message continued

I am not the perfect organist and my guess is that most of you feel the same way about your organ playing skills. We probably all have musical challenges. Yet, we do not have to wait until we become the perfect organist to share our skills or knowledge with others. No matter what our background, or where we are at on the path to being the "perfect" organist, each of us has something to offer others. Like my father, we are all becoming and we can help others to become, too. I look forward to serving and associating with you during this coming year!

Most sincerely, Sheri

We are on Facebook!

Kymerly Stone has set up a Facebook site and Facebook group for the American Guild of Organists - Utah Valley Chapter (www.facebook.com). Kymerly will post upcoming activities and announcements on the Facebook site. You will need to join our Facebook group to see photos, information, and comments that can only be seen by members of the group. The board hopes chapter members might use the group for organ related conversations and making arrangements for carpooling to recitals and activities. It will also be a great place to post photos. Check it out.

Member Spotlight: Kymerly Stone

Kymerly Stone is the Chapter's new Student Representative. Kymerly was born in Provo, has two younger sisters, and grew up in Texas and Washington. She loved music since she was a baby and began taking music lessons when she was three. She played in many piano competitions and recitals while growing up. Before coming to BYU in 2009, the only music she had heard played on the organ consisted of hymns played at General Conference, but that all changed when she took the beginning group organ class her first semester. She auditioned for the Organ Performance program the next semester. Kymerly would love to tell you the story of how she became a music major – ask her when you see her at a chapter meeting. Kymerly is amazed how much she has learned about the organ over the last few years. When she started the organ program, she could only play a few hymns and simple pieces. Since then she has played for devotionals and convocations, and she successfully completed her sophomore recital. She is very grateful to Dr. Cook and Dr. Bush for being great examples, teaching her to love the organ, and motivating her to keep progressing. She also loves the people in the program and says that they are "some of the most wonderful people I have ever met." Kymerly plans on applying the BYU's organ master program when she finishes her bachelor's degree. Kymerly is excited to be the chapter's student representative: "It has been wonderful to work so closely with the members of the board, and I look forward to my future service! I hope I can get to know you over the next few years I have here at BYU!"

Resources for Organists

"The LDS Organist"
(created by Jennifer Morgan)
www.organlessons.blogspot.com

"Pedal Points"
(created by Florence Hawkinson)
www.ldsorganist.wordpress.com

Doug Bush's hymn arrangements
douglas_bush@byu.edu

David Chamberlin's hymn
voluntaries
www.chamberlinmusic.com

Free music for the LDS organist
www.ldsorganist.org

Music for the LDS organist:
www.wardorganist.com

Resources for the LDS organist
www.ldsorganists.info

BYU organ information
www.organ.byu.edu

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

AGO Salt Lake City Chapter
www.slago.org

AGO Utah Valley Chapter
www.uvago.org

AGO Region IX Blog
www.agoregion9blog.blogspot.com

AGO National Headquarters
www.agohq.org

American Guild of Organists –
Utah Valley Chapter
www.facebook.com