



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 & Treasurer

David Chamberlin
david@chamberlinmusic.com

Secretary

Jennifer Morgan
MusicalMom@gmail.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

Photographer

Kari Nay
2karinay@gmail.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

November 2013

Dear Members and Friends,

I apologize for the delay in getting the newsletter out. I've had some thoughts lurking in the back of my mind, but have not had the time to adequately express them. I've wanted to say something concerning our good friend, Doug Bush, but I need more time to let my thoughts settle. He lived a life of service and had a substantial impact on many members of our chapter. His influence will live on. We would like to honor him by sharing any of your experiences or feelings that you would care to share in the December newsletter. Please email your contributions to Miranda at newsletteruvago@gmail.com. We would also like to have a recital in the future in his honor. This hymn by Karen Lynn Davidson captures some of my feelings.

Each life that touches ours for good
Reflects thine own great mercy, Lord;
Thou sendest blessings from above
Thru words and deeds of those who love.

What greater gift dost thou bestow,
What greater goodness can we know
Than Christlike friends, whose gentle ways
Strengthen our faith, enrich our days.

When such a friend from us departs,
We hold forever in our hearts
A sweet and hallowed memory,
Bringing us nearer, Lord, to thee.

For worthy friends whose lives proclaim
Devotion to the Savior's name,
Who bless our days with peace and love,
We praise thy goodness, Lord, above.

I am grateful to have known Doug Bush and appreciate all of the many things I learned from him. May we all strive to follow his example of love and kindness, and may we have the courage to share our talents with others.

Sincerely,
Sheri

Upcoming Events

Utah Valley Chapter Meetings

Nov 16	Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza, Provo Central Stake Center, 10:00 am
Jan	Organ Tour in SLC
Feb	Hymn Sing Workshop
March	Chapter Bach Recital
April	Super Saturday
May	Chapter Hymn Sing

Organ Recitals and Concerts

Nov 2	Premiere of <i>The King of Instruments</i> documentary, Temple Square North Visitors Center, Theater #5, 50 W North Temple, 7:00 pm
Nov 3	Isabelle Demers from Baylor University Cathedral of the Madeleine, 8:00 pm
Nov 10	Utah Baroque Ensemble, 25 th Anniversary Concert 1081 W 1060 N, Provo, 7:30 pm
Nov 17	Utah Baroque Ensemble, 25 th Anniversary Concert 810 E 600 N, Orem, 7:30 pm
Dec 2	Utah Baroque Ensemble, 25 th Anniversary Concert Orem City Library, 6:00 and 7:30 pm
Dec 9	Utah Baroque Ensemble, 25 th Anniversary Concert Provo City Library, 7:00 pm

Please Join Us

Our chapter will sponsor Pedals, Pipes, & Pizza, our youth outreach activity on Saturday, November 16 at 10:00 am at the Provo Central Stake Center (450 N 1220 W). This is a great opportunity to invite friends who might be interested in starting organ practice, especially youth, but of course any age is welcome. If each chapter member brought just one or two interested friends with them, we would have quite a crowd! There will be tours of the Bigelow organ, and beginners will have a chance to try their hands at the console. Pizza will be served for lunch. Please RSVP to jackstoneman@byu.edu by Thursday, November 14 and share the flier attached with the newsletter.

Call for Music

We all enjoyed Blaine Olson's duets last year, and I would like to invite anyone in the chapter who would like to share hymn arrangements, introductions, preludes, etc. to email them to newsletteruvago@gmail.com.

Organ Teacher List on Chapter Website

The chapter will be posting a list of local organ teachers on the chapter website. Please contact DeeAnn Stone at ddstone@renewamerica.com, if you would like your name to be included on the list.

At the Bench

by Kymberly Stone

I was the first competitor at the Bakersfield RCYO Competition this summer, so I got to hear the other competitors play after me. The last competitor played Litanies by Jehan Alain. I immediately fell in love with it! The driving rhythms made my heart race and the harmonies were unlike anything I had heard before. When she released the last chord I sat in awe. I knew I had to learn it! Within a week or so of hearing it, I made my score to work off of and began searching for recordings.

The perfectionist in me struggles with the last two pages of the piece. Of the tricky passages on the second to last page, Jehan Alain wrote: "Push yourself to the limit of speed and clarity. Never mind, however, the sixths in the left hand near the end. At the true tempo, this will be unplayable. But the rubato was not made without reason, and it would frankly be better to mess up a bit rather than to take a pace that would distort my Litanies." When I figure out a way to play it as quickly as Alain wanted with the clarity that Marie-Claire Alain was able to play it with, I'll let you know :) For now, I'll stick with my slow practice.

The more I read about Litanies, the more I love it. In the dedication of Litanies, Jehan wrote:

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At the Bench continued

“When in its extremity the Christian soul can find no new words to implore God’s mercy, it tirelessly repeats the same plea with vehement faith. The limits of reason are reached, and only faith can pursue its ascension.” He also wrote, “When you play this piece, you must give the impression of an ardent evocation. The prayer is not a complaint but an irrepressible hurricane that overthrows everything in its path. It is also an obsession: one must fill the ears of men . . . and of the Good Lord!



If, in the end, you do not feel exhausted, then you will neither have understood nor played as I want it.” Alain’s wording really resonated with me. After reading that, I thought back to times of trial in my life. There was a time when I felt like my prayers weren’t being heard, but all that kept me going was a constant, almost frantic prayer in my heart. I remembered the desperate desire to feel the Lord’s presence in my life and then the juxtaposition with the feeling after the trial of my faith when I was able to see the Lord’s hand had been there for me all along, I just hadn’t recognized it. I am striving to play this piece from my heart as a small gesture of gratitude to the Lord for always being there for me, even when I have fallen short.

If you haven’t heard this piece, I highly recommend Marie-Claire Alain’s recording of it! She is Jehan Alain’s baby sister, and (in my opinion) the most authoritative source on his music. Give it a listen. It is well worth your time!



The King of Instruments

If you missed the premiere of the *King of Instruments*, a documentary by Steve Vest that highlights the histories of five unique organs in Rexburg, Idaho and BYU-Idaho and culminates with a live performance by notable organists Dr. Clay Christiansen, Dr. Darwin Wolford, Dr. Daniel Kerr, Rebecca Parkinson, and Molly Patrick, you can order a copy at

<http://www.thekingofinstruments.com/>.

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.agoregionixblog.blogspot.com

AGO National Headquarters
www.agohq.org

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