

Utah Valley Chapter American Guild of Organists

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

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The Dean's Message

December 2013

Dear Members and Friends,

Thank you to everyone who organized and helped with the Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza! Thanks to many of you it was another successful event. I am grateful for your efforts and support.

It is common this time of year to reflect on the things that we are grateful for and to ponder on that which matters most. In my reflecting, I have felt gratitude for the gift of music and for the good people whom I have the privilege of associating with. I have thought about our AGO members and friends, and I have thought about Doug Bush.

This past April was my senior recital. Prior to the recital, I was surprised to have Doug come up into the loft to talk with me a moment. He explained that he would have to leave immediately after and so he wanted to visit with me prior to the recital. He expressed his confidence in me and how he was looking forward to hearing me perform. Even more surprising was the fact that after the recital, when I arrived home, I found that I had received an email from Doug, congratulating me on a fine performance. His supportive gestures meant a lot to me and have carried me a long way.

For years, one of the highlights of my summer has been attending Doug's seminar prior to the BYU Organ Workshop. I would sit spellbound by his great wealth of knowledge. This past summer, I sat in awe for another reason. Doug could barely talk; he spoke in a whisper. I anticipated that his voice would give out and that he would have to cut the seminar short. Nevertheless, to my amazement, he talked for the full four hours. After the seminar, I sought him out to thank him for his presentation. In that brief, private encounter, it was obvious to me how miserable he felt. I knew that he was very ill and that he had sacrificed a lot to present a four-hour seminar. He made the sacrifice because it was important to him to serve and share with others.

Like those who spoke at Doug's funeral, I have been the recipient of his love and acts of service. I am confident that most of you could say the same. I appreciate Doug's example and the legacy that he has left behind. He has inspired me to remember things that matter most and inspired me to want to serve and give more of myself. Music is wonderful gift that I prize! However, what good does it do to improve our musical skills and gain musical knowledge, if we don't share it with others? We don't have to be a Bach authority in order to have something to give. Each of us has something we can offer. I hope that during this Christmas season and in the coming New Year we can all follow Doug's example and seek out opportunities to serve.

I am truly grateful for all of you! Merry Christmas!

Sincerely, Sheri

Upcoming Events

Utah Valley Chapter Meetings

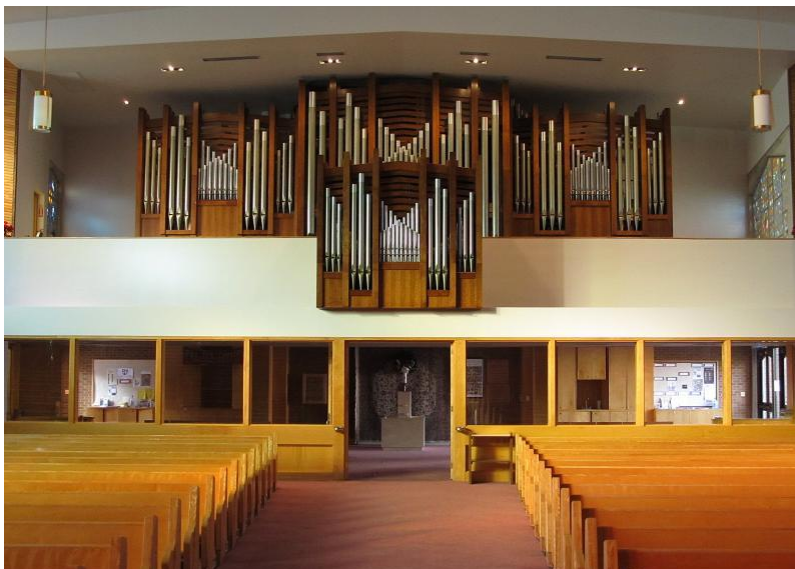
Jan 11	Organ Tour at St. Ambrose Catholic Church 2315 Redondo Avenue, SLC, 12:00–3:00 pm
Feb	Hymn Sing Workshop
March	Chapter Bach Recital
April	Super Saturday
May	Chapter Hymn Sing

Organ Recitals and Concerts

Dec 2	Utah Baroque Ensemble, 25 th Anniversary Concert Orem City Library, 6:00 and 7:30 pm
Dec 6	“There was With the Angel,” We Witness Music group Grand Theater, SLC, \$10, 7:30 pm
Dec 9	Utah Baroque Ensemble, 25 th Anniversary Concert Provo City Library, 7:00 pm
Dec 15	“Christmas in the Grove,” 20 th Anniversary Concert Grove Creek Stake Center, 1176 N 730 E, Pleasant Grove, 7:00 pm
Dec 15	Spanish Fork Stake Hymn Sing, 1006 E 200 S, 7:00 pm
Dec 24	Don Cook, Tabernacle Organ Recital, Temple Square, noon

Please Join Us

On Saturday, January 11, our chapter has the opportunity to play the beautiful 3 manual organ at St. Ambrose Catholic Church from noon to 3 pm. Installed in 2013, the Bigelow, opus 36, has 50 ranks and 40 voices. Bring your music! We will have a potluck sandwich bar while people play. The chapter will provide hoagie buns and condiments; please bring cold cuts or veggies to share. Contact jackstoneman@byu.edu to arrange a carpool or with questions.



At the Bench

by Ruth Eldredge

I spent a magical Christmas season of 2008 in Oxford, England, where I had just finished my master’s degree and was directing the music events at two churches. By several turns of events including working fulltime for one church and part-time for another, and working with several college students who tend to procrastinate the day of their finding an organist, I ended up participating in twenty-four separate Advent and Christmas services or concerts in nineteen days. These included Catholic, LDS, and Anglican services, several non-denominational concerts, and even an Evensong conducted, to my surprise, entirely in Welsh (a lovely event, but somewhat difficult to follow the order of service).

I distinctly remember coming to one evensong rehearsal where the choir sang John Rutter’s ‘Nativity Carol.’ Even though I was sight reading through the piece for the first time, I was struck by the dignified simplicity of the rocking melody as it described the infant Savior: “Born in a stable so bare, Born so long ago; Born ‘neath light of a star, He who loved us so ... far away, silent lay, Born today, your homage pay, For Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.”

Amid the tumult of cold evenings, myriad concerts and no time to practice, learning this music brought me back to a time, far away from our own homes, long before our memories, when Mary and Joseph looked on the Savior for the first time. It brought me much-needed peace, perspective, and quiet joy as I took in the season far from my own home.

Memories of Doug Bush



Here's a picture of Doug and myself at the organ work shop in 2010. I had finished level 4 in the organ certification program. Doug was my instructor.

I loved how open and happy he was. I could bug him for anything at any time when I was struggling. I loved how through the years he always knew my name when we crossed paths. He would give me a big smile and say "How is it going, Becky?" He made my life brighter. Because of his great love for the organ and the way he showed it to people, I always wanted to do my best on the organ!

Becky Azera

I happened to visit Doug in his office as he was composing 'All Poor Men Humble.' He played it for me- not quite to the end because it was still in process. I was thrilled to see how his mind works and to be the initial audience for that Christmas song.

Another favorite Christmas song of Doug's is 'Silent Night- Pastorale.' He composed it and played it for the first time in Bach's church while there on a recording session. His settings are always beautiful and sensitive- showing his special talent and gift that he was so willing to share. And yet another favorite is 'It Came Upon a Midnight Clear.' He composed this first for harp, flute and voice and I was fortunate to play the harp part in a program at St. Mary's Church in Provo with Doug, a flutist and soprano. Later, I was thrilled to be able to play the same hymn setting for organ.

At this Christmas season with his passing still so fresh in our minds and hearts, I hope we will perform his music to the best of our ability to honor him and his legacy to all of us.

Sandra Mangum, Organist

Sharon First Ward, Sharon Stake



Dedicated Teacher: Kym Stone's recital, June 2013

Most people don't know the struggle I went through to complete my Masters. Don and Doug knew. I moved here in 1992, all done with my Masters except for the German exam. I had permission to take the exam here and have it proctored by Don Cook. It took five years and three tries before it happened, and without Don's help and support I couldn't have succeeded. The problem that caused it to take five years centered on a difficulty with a UCSB faculty member in his administering the German exam. He wouldn't pass anyone.....anyone....no one was ever good enough to suit him. I was not the only victim and the University was a great



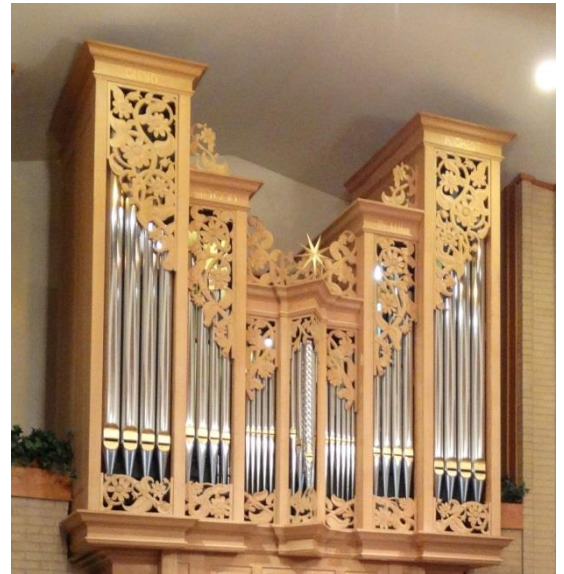
Gifted Teacher, Super Saturday,
April 2013

support in seeing this resolved. But during that time period, I had an organ project that I had embarked upon with the idea of having an article published about my findings. All my research was being done in German. One day, thoroughly dejected because of the ongoing problems with this UCSB faculty person, I had become very depressed and despondent over my project, so I called Doug Bush and we arranged to meet. I showed him my work. Even today I remember that visit with him with such positive feelings and great fondness. He was so supportive, and helpful, and approving of what I was doing. He saw good in the whole project and gave me some great ideas as to how to continue my work. He saw nothing wrong with my translations.

As of today, the project is uncompleted. After those five years of struggle with the exam because of the unkindness of that one man, my psyche was damaged so severely that working in the German language became too much of an emotional

struggle and I put the project in a zippered leather case and put it in my closet. Every time I open my music closet to get into my file cabinet, I see that case. I have thought from time to time that I should "get over it" and "get on with it." After all, it has been sixteen years now since I triumphed over that man. I know that someday I will finish the project. And when I do, it will be because Doug was so positive and so approving and I know that ultimately I will do it for him, because he would want me to see it through. I really feel he would cheer me on. What a kind man, and what a contrast in teaching. One man is so arrogant and demeaning that he leaves damage in his wake, while the other is so kind and approving that he leaves a person with nothing but sweet feelings and hope for the future.

Lella Pomeroy



Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza at the Provo Central Stake Center

by Kari Nay



Carol Dean demonstrates the organ and zimbelstern.



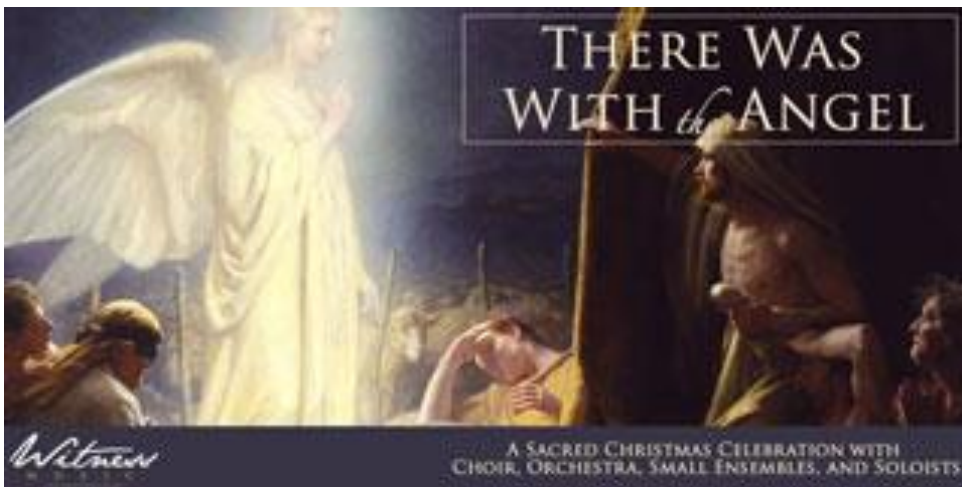
Blaine Olson teaches pipe families.



Linda Rehart and Kym Stone serve lunch.



Mike Bigelow, the organ builder, introduced the young people to this tracker organ and gave them a tour of the pipes.



There was with the Angel, A Witness Music Christmas Concert

Friday, December 6, 7:30 pm

Grand Theatre, 1575 South State Street, SLC, Tickets: \$10

Have you ever wondered what it was like to be there, or even perhaps wondered if you were there somehow? Who were the multitude of heavenly hosts that proclaimed, 'with the angel,' the advent of the Savior into the world? Come and experience a sacred Christmas celebration with Witness Music's magnificent choir and symphony Orchestra, small performing ensembles, soloists, and the spoken word. Join us for a special evening that is sure to focus your Christmas on the reason behind it all. Come, let us adore Him.

Christmas in the Grove

Sunday, December 15, 7:00 pm

Grove Creek Stake Center, 1176 N 730 E, Pleasant Grove

"Christmas in the Grove," a joyous musical celebration of the birth of the Savior, will present its 20th anniversary concert on Sunday, December 15. The performance features adult, youth, and children's choirs, and a chamber orchestra with organ, comprised of over 100 members and friends of the Grove Creek Stake. The program begins at 7:00 p.m. Families and friends from all communities and of all faiths are invited to attend. Small musical ensembles will perform 30 minutes prior to the concert in a "pre-program." Everyone is invited to arrive early to enjoy the additional Christmas music before the concert begins. The choirs are directed by Kathryn Laycock Little and Bonnie Bingham, and accompanists are Mike Carson, Andy Walsh, and Caleb Lyons. A nursery will be provided for children ages 18 months to six years old, beginning at 6:30 p.m., in the Primary room of the stake center. For more information about the concert or the nursery, please contact Wendy Rosenlof at 801-376-3081.

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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