



Utah Valley Chapter Newsletter

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Secretary's Message

1997 marks the beginning of a new era for the American Guild of Organists, now that AGO has entered its second century. Because of this, National Headquarters has suggested that during either the month of January or February each chapter hold a grass-roots brainstorming session as part of the **World's Largest Town Hall Meeting (WoLTHaM)**, so that local members may give input on what direction AGO should take for the next 100 years. The date our chapter has chosen to hold our Town Hall Meeting is Tuesday, January 21, 1997, at 7:30 p.m., in the multi-purpose room of the Provo Central Stake Center, 450 N. 1200 W. (at the south end of the building). We need everyone in the chapter to come and share their ideas, so that we can inform National Headquarters what we envision for AGO.

Among the questions we may wish to discuss at our meeting are the following: (These questions are adapted from suggestions submitted by AGO Vice-president Ed Hansen.)

1. Where do you see our organization in five years? Ten years? Twenty years?
2. How can AGO better serve you?
3. What are the strengths and weaknesses of AGO on the local and national levels?
4. In light of question #1, how can we correct our weaknesses?
5. Should AGO work with other organizations to accomplish its goals? If so, what organizations and in what way?
6. Should AGO establish programs to bring the organ more to the general public? If so, in what way? To what extent?

(Editor's note: Recently, I was chatting on the internet with a fellow from London, Ontario, Canada, who has his own classical radio program there. He told me that there have been times when he plays organ recordings on the air, people call in and request that he refrain from doing so – they apparently haven't acquired the "taste" for organ music like we have. His statement really shocked me. Then, the thought occurred to me that we in AGO (and RCCO) have our work cut out for us to help the general public appreciate the beauty of our instrument and the music that is played on it.)

7. Should AGO move to a program of collecting dues nationally and sending chapters their portion of the dues? (This is something we need to hear from you about.)

8. What other efforts, such as the **World's Largest Organ Recital** or *Pulling Out All the Stops*, can AGO utilize to strengthen its programs?
9. What publications would be helpful to our general membership?
10. What other things could National do to help local chapters?
11. Since there are so many lay organists in our area, how do we best serve both their needs and the needs of the professional members?
12. Since our organization includes choral conductors, and other non-organists, should we change the name of AGO?
13. Should changes be made to *The American Organist* magazine? A new name? A different emphasis?
14. What other changes would help?

Hopefully, these questions will help you to come up with your own ideas. Now is a good time to consider the possibilities, so that you can come prepared to our meeting to discuss them. We want the meeting to be an informal and open setting in which everyone can feel free to share their ideas. If you won't be able to come to the meeting, please be sure to jot down your suggestions and send them to either Larry Tomkinson or DeeAnn Stone, so that we can have your feedback. This is your chance to make your wishes known!

--DeeAnn Stone

A Word About Dues

In the last issue of *The American Organist*, on page 3, AGO President Margaret Kemper stated, "Realizing that increasing dues would not help in the Guild's effort to increase membership, the National Council made the decision to hold the

line on dues through the Centennial; therefore, AGO dues have remained at the same rate for the past four years, even though operating expenses have increased. We have done our best to eliminate nonessential expenses in order to maintain our solvency, but the time has come to defer no longer the development and implementation of important new programs to strengthen our profession.

"The National Council has approved a \$6.00 dues increase for the 1997-98 year for regular voting members." Thought I'd better bring this to your attention. Perhaps, this item could be added to the agenda at the Town Hall Meeting.

Pulling Out All the Stops Video

We appreciate KBYU-TV for airing the AGO Centennial video, *Pulling Out All the Stops* on Sunday, December 15. If you weren't able to view the program, we would like to remind you that you can contact DeeAnn Stone to borrow it.

Upcoming Chapter Events

January 21 (Tuesday) - Town Hall Meeting, 7:30 p.m., multi-purpose room, Provo Central Stake

February 8 (Saturday) - John Ferguson, master class on Hymn Playing, 9 - 12 noon, Madsen Recital Hall, BYU. Be sure to spread the word.

February 9 (Sunday) - Guest organist, John Ferguson, Hymn Sing, deJong Concert Hall.. Please invite family and friends. We would like to thank Dr. Parley Belnap for making the arrangements. More information to follow.

March 18 (Tuesday) - Bach night

April 15 (Tuesday) - Dr. James Drake, Dean Cache Valley Chapter, Alexander Technique

May 20 (Tuesday) - Closing social/expert on copyright laws

December's Meeting

We would like to thank the Mosses for their generosity for sharing their home with us and preparing a delicious meal that we all enjoyed. The evening was lively with humorous stories that each of us told. The highlight being watching Dr. Belnap jump two feet in the air demonstrating how high his former branch president jumped when Dr. Belnap accidentally pushed the crescendo full throttle and played the first chord of a sacrament hymn.

AGO Region IX Convention



ALOHA! For those of you lucky enough to attend the Region IX Convention this year, you are in for a real treat. The convention will be held in beautiful Honolulu, Hawaii, on July 16-19. The fees are as follows:

- \$175--regular member (by January 31, \$200 thereafter)
- \$150--special member (65 years by January 31, \$200 thereafter)
- \$150--student member (full-time)
- \$275--non-member
- \$35--meal package (includes one dinner and two lunches)
- \$80 transportation package (via air-conditioned motorcoach)

Artists and clinicians include:

Bruce Bengtson, Carl Crosier, Katherine Crosier, David Higgs, Nathan Jensen, John McCreary, Cherry Rhodes, Ladd Thomas, David Urrows, Gillian Weir, Dale Wood, Paul Salamunovich and the Choir of St. Charles of Borromeo, Hawaii Youth Opera Chorus, Lutheran Church of Honolulu Choir and Orchestra, St. Andrew's Cathedral Choir. There will be a commissioned work by Dale Wood featured.

Some features are:

The Historic Hawaii Theater Tour and the Celebration of Pacific and Polynesian Cultures.

The headquarters are in Waikiki at the Queen Kapiolani Hotel (\$81 nightly – single or double or \$106--triple) and Waikiki Park Shore, near

Queen Kapiolani (\$118 nightly – single or double or \$136 nightly – triple). The reservation deadline is May 31. Contact Albermae L. Stewart Allied Tours for hotel reservations and tour options at 2222 Kalakaua Avenue, Ste. 906, Honolulu, HI 96815; fax – 808-924-3321.

The registrar is Samuel Lam, 3043 Kaimuki Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96816, (808) 737-7144; fax – 808-735-5630; e-mail: 74643.2152@compuserve.com

Salt Lake Chapter Coming Events

February 18 (Tuesday) - Kenneth Udy , organ recital, Assembly Hall on Temple Square, 7:30 p.m. The first half of the program will feature a fugue, chaconne, sarabande, and toccata by J. S. Bach. On the second half he will perform corresponding “forms” by American composers of the 20th Century: Near, Ashdown, Roberts, and Elmore.

March 8 (Saturday) - Mini-convention at Summerhays Music, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The featured clinicians will be Dr. Kenneth Udy on “How to Register a Small Organ” and Dr. Don Cook on “Marking Your Hymnal for Meaningful Performance”. Between the two classes enjoy bagels and juice.

March 31 - Susan Talley Recital. Logan.

April 1 - Susan Talley, “Creative Hymn Playing,” workshop at the First Baptist Church on 1300 East 800 South, SLC. Time TBA. Ms. Talley is the organist at Cathedral of the Rockies in Boise, Idaho.

Music for a Sunday Evening

4th Sundays at 7:00 p.m., State Hospital Chapel, 1300 E. Center, Provo. Contact Claire Rogers for details.

Off the Net

This humorous article was written in 1975 when we had an "energy" crisis:

Organists and the Energy Crisis

by Corwin Elliott

While most other North Americans are struggling to solve the Energy Crisis, we church musicians have quietly disregarded it. Since we and the clergy are largely ignored by the public, we've felt anything we do won't make much difference.

Not so, according to Federal Bureau of Music chief, Reston Trebel. At a press conference last week, Trebel explained that "all modern organs use electricity, with 20 or 30 thousand of them being played simultaneously on Sunday mornings, and a growing number on Saturdays . . . that's a lot of energy. Organists can really help."

"The first step," Trebel said, "is a 60 beat per minute speed limit. This has become mandatory in seven states. Organists who play faster than this are being fined. All new music must reflect the limit, and publishers are issuing largo stickers to be pasted over the old temp markings."

According to Trebel, other organists are following the President's suggested four-point program:

1. Turn off the blower during prayers and sermons.
2. Play staccato.
3. Use a cappella anthems and shorter hymns; let chamber groups and brass choirs play the preludes and postludes.
4. In churches with pipe organs, run a duct from the pulpit to the wind chest so that the hot air from the

sermon can be recycled. "A typical 20 minute sermon," Trebel explained, "can build up enough pressure in the wind-chest to accompany a six page anthem and a doxology."

"If all organists will do these things, formal stringent measures may not be necessary."

"What if they refuse?" asked a reporter. "What if church musicians ignore the energy crisis and continue in their old ways?"

"Then," said Trebel, "The President will start a Sunday driving ban which will virtually eliminate church!"

PIPEDREAMS - KBYU-FM 89

Tuesdays at 9:00 p.m.

INFORMATION FOR NEWSLETTER

Please contact DeeAnn Stone at 377-4728 (or write me at 1510 W. 500 N., Provo, UT 84601); or e-mail: dd.stone@aros.net. (My apologies for getting the newsletter out so late. We had a major computer breakdown.)



J.S. Bach and his sons



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