



# Friends of the Organ

Newsletter of the  
Utah Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

MAY 1999

No. 8

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❖ **May 6 (Thursday)**—Open House at the Bigelow Organ Factory (130 West 100 South, American Fork) from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. All AGO members and Friends of the Organ, including family and friends, are invited to come and see how tracker organs are built. Refreshments will be served.



- ❖ **May 27 (Thursday)**—Duncan Peterson, sophomore recital, 7:30 p.m., Madsen Recital Hall. Works of Rutter, Bach, Mendelssohn, Buxtehude, and others.
- ❖ **June 5 (Saturday)**—Neil Thornock, sophomore recital, 7:30 p.m., Provo Tabernacle. Works of Reger, Alain, Bach, and others.
- ❖ **June 12 (Saturday)**—Organ Workshop at the BYU Organ Lab from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Don Cook will discuss the OrganTutor computer program and give organists hands-on experience using it in the organ lab at BYU. All interested organists (and pianists) are invited to come.



- ❖ **June 19 (Saturday)**—Free organ concert sponsored by Heritage Music at 8:00 p.m. in Abravanel Hall with Richard Morris performing on the Rodgers new 960 custom with roughly the equivalent of 110 ranks of pipes. Workshop TBA. AGO members in all chapters are invited.
- ❖ **June 28-July 1**—AGO Region IX Far West Convention, Sacramento, California. See the April 1999 issue of TAO, p. 56, for details.
- ❖ **August 3-6 (Tuesday through Friday)**—BYU's 21<sup>st</sup> annual Workshop on Church Music. If you have questions or comments regarding the workshop or would like to be added to next year's mailing list, please call (801) 378-7692 or e-mail your name and address to [church\\_music@byu.edu](mailto:church_music@byu.edu)



## REPORT ON LAST MONTH'S MEETING

We had a good turn-out for our spring lecture/recital/social—and we appreciate David Bagley of Heritage Music, who came to explain the various features of the versatile Rodgers 835A Model organ in the North Park Stake Center. One of the interesting features of the organ is the fact that you can set it on various temperaments, eg.—Werkmeister III, etc.

After David's demonstration, some of us played differing pieces of our choice, showing how versatile the organ is. Then we met in the cultural hall to enjoy each other's company and eat delicious pizza, salads, and deserts. We extend our thanks to LuJean Moss for providing the pizza, etc., and to everyone else for the food they brought. We especially want to thank Larry Tomkinson for arranging for us to use the building.





## NEWS FROM NATIONAL

April 5, 1999

### AGO MOURNS THE LOSS OF MICHAEL FARRIS

Associate Professor of Organ  
Eastman School of Music

The AGO is deeply saddened by the sudden death of Michael Farris, associate professor of organ at the Eastman School since 1994 and co-chair of the Keyboard Department, on the evening of Saturday, March 27, 1999. Dr. Farris was 41.

Born in Clovis, New Mexico, on May 5, 1957, Michael Delman Farris completed his bachelor's degree at Southern Methodist University and was a student of Robert Anderson. He earned his Master of Music degree and Performer's Certificate at Indiana University, where he studied with Wilma Jensen and Larry Smith. He received a Doctor of Musical Arts degree, Performer's Certificate, and Artist's Diploma from Eastman, studying with the late Russell Saunders.

As a student, he won three national performance competitions: In 1976, at age 18, he won the MTNA Collegiate Artist Competition, then in 1985 he won the Ft. Wayne Competition, and the following year the National Young Artist Competition of the American Guild of Organists.

He was sent by the AGO to perform before the International Congress of Organists in Cambridge, England, in 1987, and later that year was featured in *Musical America* among a number of promising young artists. Dr. Farris performed in recital for regional and national conventions of the AGO in 1987, 1989, 1993 and 1996.

Dr. Farris was a faculty member and chairman of organ at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign from 1989 until 1994. While at Illinois, he received the University Scholar Award for distinction as a faculty member in 1993.

He is survived by his family, and by his many friends and students. A service was held on Thursday, April 1, at the Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word, Rochester, New York.

The dues schedule is as follows:

### Utah Valley AGO Chapter/Friends of the Organ dues are:

Suggested yearly donation: \$10 to \$25.

The goal of the Utah Valley Chapter of AGO/Friends of the Organ is to be of service to organists and members of the community, through providing workshops, recitals, socials, and other activities that will enable organists and others to increase their knowledge of the organ and develop their skills.

### National American Guild of Organists yearly dues are:

\$40 for regular members, \$27 for seniors,  
\$21 for partner members, \$17 for students.

Send Chapter and National dues to:

Mary Paz, Treasurer  
826 W. 1400 S.  
Provo, UT 84601

The following is background information about AGO found on the official AGO web site:

<http://www.agohq.org/home.html>

The American Guild of Organists (AGO) is the national professional association serving the organ and choral music fields. The Guild serves approximately 20,000 members in 348 chapters throughout the United States, and in Europe, Korea and Argentina.

Founded in 1896 as both an educational and service organization, the Guild seeks to set and maintain high musical standards and to promote understanding and appreciation of all aspects of organ and choral music.

Under the leadership of the National Council, a network of volunteer committees and officials at the regional, district, and local levels directs the activities of the Guild. The AGO National Headquarters is in New York City where a full time staff supports and coordinates publication, administration, and development activities of the organization. For purposes of administration and representation, the Guild is divided into nine geographical regions, and each chapter is assigned to one of them.

The purposes of the American Guild of Organists are:

1. To advance the cause of organ and choral music, to increase their contributions to aesthetic and religious experiences, and to promote their understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment.
2. To improve the proficiency of organists and choral conductors.
3. To evaluate, by examination, attainments in organ playing, choral techniques, conducting, and the theory and general knowledge of music, and to grant certificates to those who pass such examinations at specified levels of attainment.

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### DUES FOR NEXT YEAR



Just a note to remind you of next year's dues. The renewal period for next year began April 1 and extends until August 1st. It would be helpful if you could send in your dues and membership form as soon as you can, while you're thinking about it—especially if you wish to be a regular member of AGO and want to receive the *American Organist Magazine* on time next year. (See enclosed form.)

## A Potpourri of Fun

4. To provide members with opportunities to meet for discussion of professional topics, and to pursue such other activities as contribute to the fulfillment of the purposes of the Guild.

Guild sponsored activities include a series of examinations for professional certification as well as programs and an extensive list of publications, audiocassettes and learning resources for all levels of interest. The Guild sponsors competitions in organ performance and improvisation and in organ and choral composition. National and regional conventions held in alternate years, present the finest performers. THE AMERICAN ORGANIST magazine, published monthly by the AGO, is the most widely read journal devoted to organ and choral music in the world.



**American Guild of Organists**  
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New York, NY 10115  
e-mail: info@agohq.

Answers to last month's newsletter puzzle:



### FUNNY STORIES FROM THE FRANTIC ORGANIST WEB SITE

<http://www.franticorganist.com/>  
*April Frantic Organist Stories*

### RESOURCES FOR LDS ORGANISTS WEBSITE

**Resources for LDS Organists** website (hosted by DeeAnn Stone) is now available on the Internet. The website can be found at:

<http://members.xoom.com/dadstone/>

Found on the web site are:

1. Resource List for Organists: Arrangements and Free Accompaniments of Hymns in the LDS Hymnal
2. Links to other organ-related sites: Classical Radio Stations, Composers, Hymn Resources, Organs, Organizations, More links, Music Publishers/Online Sheet Music, Recordings/Midi, and Theory sites
3. Articles (under construction)
4. Organ Teachers

If you have any information, articles, or links that you would like to have posted on this website, please contact DeeAnn at 377-4728 or at her new e-mail address: [ddstone.mark@aros.net](mailto:ddstone.mark@aros.net) (If any material is copyrighted, please get permission first in order to have it posted.)

*If you would like a hard copy of the 95-page bound booklet of "Resource List for Organists: Arrangements and Free Accompaniments of Hymns in the LDS Hymnal," the November 1998 version is available for \$15 (including postage). Please send a check to DeeAnn, 1510 West 500 North, Provo, UT 84601.*

When I was in high school, I played for a non-denominational church that was at one time the First Christian Church. The organ was a 1905 Estey that was installed new in the church. The church was near a river, and in the summer time, to cool off the building, the powers that be would open all of the windows the night before to let the cool air in. One Sunday during the service while I was playing, I felt a weird feeling on my right foot, which was on the swell pedal. After the first hymn and during the sermon, I sat down in one of the pews in front. All of a sudden a raccoon came out of the opening where the swell pedal was and proceeded to walk around on the altar area behind the pastor. Everyone started to laugh and, of course, he wanted to know why. So, he turned around, and much to his surprise he saw the raccoon. He about jumped off of the chancel. The raccoon walked around a bit, and then went back into the organ from whence it came. I then had to finish the service knowing that this creature was not far away. I was not amused to say the least.

Another time in the same building while I was playing; one of the Diapason pipes came loose and almost fell on my head. I caught it just in time so no damage was done. Embarrassed? Yes. Damage? No.

And another time, I was playing for a wedding once in a Catholic Church in Kankakee, Illinois. The organ was in the choir loft in the back and was situated so that side of the console was level with the edge of the loft. While I was playing the prelude music, I turned a page which sailed over the edge and floated down to the first floor. I told the soloist to "get down there and pick that page up." Talk about nerve-racking!

Gary Black from Bradford, Illinois



*Sundays at 9:00 p.m.  
on KBYU-FM*

**May 2** – *The Dupré Legacy*—A continuing exploration of the unusual compositions of one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's most acclaimed and influential recitalists and teachers, Marcel Dupré.

**May 9**—*Going On Record*—A spring survey of recent organ recordings.

**May 16**—*Back Before Bach*—Proving that even if you cannot teach an old dog new tricks, you can play old music on new organs.

**May 23**—*Fanfares and Pageants*—With superb- read really hot - performances of American music taped in Texas and Minnesota.

**May 31**—*An I-40 Festival*—Enjoying organs and choirs on down the line from Nashville to Memphis to Little Rock.

## Officers

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## *Friends of the Organ*



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