

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS



Newsletter

UTAH VALLEY CHAPTER
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JANUARY 2002

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JANUARY CHAPTER ACTIVITY

Those of you who have been busily preparing a piece to play for our member recital on January 25th can now rest easy. You will have a few more months to work on it. When the date for the member recital this month was planned, we were unaware that Dr. James Drake of Utah State University would be playing a recital the same evening at BYU. We felt that it would be best to support him that evening and attend his recital rather than hold our own. We have now moved the date for our member recital to May. We appreciate the efforts of Larry Tomkinson in arranging for us to use his stake center for the chapter recital even though we won't be using it this month.



Dr. Drake will be giving a masterclass in the Madsen Recital Hall at BYU on Thursday, January 24, from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. His topic will be the Alexander Technique of relaxation. He gave a similar presentation for our chapter in April 1997. This was a very informative and helpful explanation of how to prevent performance anxiety and injury from physical strain. (See page 2 for more information.)

In the April 1997 chapter newsletter, Dr. Drake was quoted as saying, "The Alexander Technique is a most valuable aid for overcoming the obstacles associated with performance stress, locking, and physical strain. It frees the organist to practice and perform with openness, lightness, and focuses energy. The technique is a liberating discipline used by many professional and non-professional musicians throughout the world."

The next evening, Friday, January 25, at 7:30 p.m., Dr. Drake will give a recital in the Madsen Recital Hall.

These events will be our chapter activities for the month. Please be sure to come--and keep working on your pieces for the member recital in May.

THE ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE

“The Alexander Technique was developed a century ago by Frederick Matthias Alexander, who was born in Tasmania in 1869. Pursuing his chosen career as an actor and reciter in Melbourne and Sydney, he developed voice and breathing problems. In his search for a cure, he was led to far-reaching conclusions concerning the impact of our patterns of breathing and posture and habits of tension on our health and well-being. He moved to London in 1904, and in 1930, he established the first teachers' training course of his technique. Alexander taught in London and in the United States until his death in 1955.”



“Used primarily by dancers, singers, and musicians, the Alexander Technique is a body therapy that everyone can benefit from. “Developed in the 1880's, the system examines the way individuals use their head, neck, and spine and how it affects overall body health. Most of us are unaware of the position of the body in everyday movements, but ‘crunching’ your neck while working at the computer, for example, restricts breathing. Other incorrect movements can lead to chronic pain and tension. Alexander proponents state most people are so concerned with the end result of physical actions that they pay no attention to how those actions are executed.

“Instructors of The Alexander Technique stress paying attention to simple movements like sitting, walking, standing. They guide you in a series of gentle ‘reminders’ on how the upper body should be carried. One example: learning to ‘release’ the head, picturing it as a balloon on top of the body, creates an incredible sense of lightness and ease in all of your movements.”

NEW MEMBER DUES

People who join AGO now can pay a reduced rate that will cover the remainder of the year. Meg Griffith received this information from National Headquarters about reduced rates for NEW members. The rates are the following:
Regular-\$30 + chapter portion, for each category
Special (65 and over, or disabled) - \$20
Student - \$13
Partner (2nd member at same address) - \$16

*These reduced fees need to be AT
AGO Headquarters by April 30, 2002.*

ORGAN AND MISC. ITEMS FOR SALE

Parley Belnap received the following information to share with us:

For Sale: M.P. Moller organ

- Two Manual, Three ranks, under expression
- The pipes are contained in walnut cabinet 3' 6" x 7' 8" tall. The console is separate with a cable approx. 20' long.
- Expression and crescendo pedals, no combination action
- Opus 8097 - 1949
- Priced at \$3,200.00

Contact Robert R. Douglas
1446 La Sal Circle
St. George, Utah 94790
Telephone (435) 673-7693



The organ is currently in storage, easily reassembled, and was used for teaching at Ricks College, Rexburg, Idaho.

Pipes and Parts for Sale

Contact Heritage Church Organ Company
557 N. 1200 W.
Orem, Utah 84057
800-542-3942
or Robert Douglas (see above)

Pipes hand picked by Virgil Fox for the Richard Simonton organ

1,567 pipes by Aeolian Skinner for #13,000
Aeolian Skinner Positiv, \$6,500

Pipes by Roosevelt, Reuter, Schopp, Kimball, and misc. for \$7,000

Also, pipes from the Salt Lake Tabernacle Organ 1869-1947 for \$12,500.

Festival Trumpet 61 pipes. Moller and Peterson Chimes for \$3,750

Other items are also for sale. Call the above numbers for more detail.

The First Twenty Years

This month commemorates the twentieth anniversary of the first *Pipedreams* broadcast on January 3, 1982. The program observing this event, hosted by Micheal Baron, was broadcast on KBYU-FM on Sunday, January 6.

If your computer has a fast enough modem, you can listen to *Pipedreams* by going to the Minnesota Public Radio station website or by using this URL: www.pipedreams.org.

In the January 2002 issue of *The American Organist*, pp. 89-92, is a delightful article



Michael Baron

entitled "Grace Happens: A Story Worth a Smile," by Michael Baron. This article is about an exchange of e-mails that he had, since August 1999, with a mother named Samantha Allen-Newman who was pregnant with her daughter, Grace. Samantha tells how her daughter, who is now 2 1/2 years old, has grown up with *Pipedreams*, how upset she was when the program was cancelled in their area, and what they did to solve the problem. The latest e-mail was in October 2001. This article will warm your heart when you read it.

NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR YOUNG ORGANISTS

The National Competition for Young Organists will be held at the First United Methodist Church in Lubbock, Texas. Competitors must have been born between the years 1977 and 1984. Contact Dr. Don Cook for details and application forms.

First Prize, \$ 2,500, 2nd Prize, \$1, 250, and 3rd Prize \$750.

Cassette audition tape must be postmarked by Feb.1, 2002.

BYU ORGAN STUDENT RECITALS

February 8 (Friday) Chad Jenks
Sophomore Organ Recital, deJong Concert Hall, 8:00 p.m.

April 3 (Wednesday) Alena Hicken
Sophomore Organ and Piano Recital,
Madsen Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

April 13 (Saturday) Neil Thornock
Composition Recital (including organ and carillon compositions), Madsen Recital Hall, 3:00 p.m.



Classical 89
KBYU-FM
Sundays at 9:00 p.m.

January 6 - *The First Twenty Years* . . . a retrospective of two decades of *PIPEDREAMS* programs, celebrating the 20th anniversary of our first national uplink on January 3, 1982. Time flies when you're having fun! Program No. 0201

January 13 - *Maurice Durufle, A Centenary Tribute* . . . we honor a masterful French composer and performer (1902-1986) whose music remains at the core of the organ's (and choir's) standard repertoire. Program No. 0202

January 20 - *Going on Record* . . . a New Year review of recently released compact discs of organ music. Program No. 0203

January 27 - *Rising Stars* . . . might the big names of tomorrow be the prize-winning young performers of today? Program No. 0204

February 3 - *Reach Out and Touch* . . . we delight in four centuries of "toccata" works first developed as tactile introduction to an instrument's tonal resources and later evolved into bravura showcases for virtuoso talent. Program No. 0205

February 10 - *In Black and White* . . . mingled African and American influences bring interesting colors to the pipe organ's repertoire. Program No. 0206

Upcoming Chapter Events

January 24 (Thursday)

Dr. James Drake
Masterclass on the Alexander Technique
for relaxation.
Madsen Recital Hall, BYU
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

January 25 (Friday)

Dr. James Drake
Organ recital
Madsen Recital Hall, BYU
7:30 p.m.

February

Olympics February 8 - 24
No chapter meeting

March (date TBA)

Super Saturday Organ Workshop

April (date TBA)

Utah Premier Brass
and
Wasatch Chorale Concert

May (dates TBA)

Chapter recital
Conference Center organ crawl (tentative)



You can now search for books at the new Provo Library on line from your own computer.

The URL is:
www.provo.lib.ut.us

Please contact DeeAnn Stone if you have any information for the newsletter--e.g. recitals, concerts, musical items for sale, inspirational or humorous stories or quotes (music related), recipes, member news, helpful musical hints or ideas, etc.--377-4728, ddstone@softhome.net, 1510 W. 500 N., Provo, UT 84601. Also, please contact her if you have a change of address, phone, and/or e-mail.

Resources for LDS Organists

www.geocities.com/ddstone48

(new URL--note changes)

American Guild of Organists



Utah Valley Chapter

Dr. Parley Belnap, Dean

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"Show enough sensitivity to the qualities of the hymns and infuse them with life and fervor. The Savior spoke as one having authority. Well, let us strive to play our hymns with loving leadership, and leave inferiority behind." (Alexander Schreiner, "Music and the Gospel" page 71) *Thanks to Meg Griffith for the quote*