

American Guild of Organists

Newsletter

Utah Valley Chapter
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Chapter Officers

Dean

David B. Chamberlin
801-376-1399

dbchamberlin@utah-inter.net

Sub-Dean

David T. Worlton, CAGO
801-768-8597

dworlton@mstar2.net

Secretary/Newsletter Ed.

Carol Dean, CAGO
801-226-4664

carolorg@msn.com

Treasurer/Registrar

Joan Barnett
801-375-7880

jdbarnett@emstar2.net

Website Editor

DeeAnn Stone
801-373-5788

ddstone@renewamerica.us

Historian

Lillian Heil
801-377-6076

fwh@burgoyne.com

Publicity/Public Relations

Rob Stilmar
801-794-0874

rob_stilmar@hotmail.com

Members-at-Large

Claire Rogers
801-374-5310

quillingcote@worldnet.att.net

Cindy Wells
801-371-1930

bcwells@indigita.com

BYU Faculty Representative

Dr. Douglas E. Bush
801-422-3159

douglas_bush@byu.edu

BYU Student Representative

Mark S. Campbell
253-376-5959

marksca72@yahoo.com

Sub-Dean's Message

The AGO provides opportunity for its members to improve their musical skills and to be recognized for certain levels of achievement. Certification levels are Service Playing, Colleague, Choir Master, Associate, and Fellow. These certifications allow organists of almost any level of proficiency to receive recognition from national headquarters for their achievements by passing the examinations.

As a non-professional organist, I was previously not aware that the AGO or any of its programs existed. Several years ago Dr. Belnap graciously offered to help me improve organ playing skills. He also suggested the BYU Organ Certification Course which I completed with instruction from Dr. Cook. After completing this course, I was made aware of the AGO, and Dr. Cook recommended I investigate the Colleague certification, which I did. As the AGO suggests, I wrote to headquarters and received the requirements, study guides, and sample exams.

A review of this material and the music to be played for the exam indicated it might be achievable. I decided to give it an all-out one-time attempt. After some additional instruction from Dr. Cook, I took the exam and passed. The feeling of accomplishment and achievement was very satisfying indeed.

An AGO Certificate benefits the member by contributing to improvement in musical skills and to increased confidence in performance. It also strengthens the Guild in its mission to maintain high standards in organ playing. The experience of preparing for the exam also improves skills.

Certification demonstrates that we are serious about the quality music written for and played on the King of Instruments. I recommend certification to all AGO members.

David T. Worlton

October 23rd Meeting

How many of you have never even considered teaching a student too young or too small to be able to reach the pedals? That was where I was until I had the opportunity a couple of months ago to observe Ingrid Hersman teaching organ lessons to young children. Put 10/23/04 on your calendars and plan to car pool with us to the historic chapel on 420 S. 800 E., SLC, at 1:30 p.m. to join with Ingrid and some of her young students as they demonstrate how very feasible teaching the organ to youngsters can be.

Ingrid was born and raised in Berlin, Germany, and cannot remember a time that music did not influence her life. She attended the Carl Orf Elementary School in Germany where the idea of music, movement, and dance was incorporated in all areas of teaching. In the fall of 1982, Ingrid became a Suzuki mom her then four-

year-old son, Eric, had begun Suzuki violin. The Suzuki method seemed so peculiar to her that she attended a Suzuki institute in Fort Worth, TX, the following summer just to see what it was all about. The things she learned were immediately applied to her own piano studio.

After moving to Salt Lake City, she began studying Suzuki piano with teacher trainer Cleo Brimhall in 1992. Ten years later in 2002 Ingrid began her travels to Sweden to study with Gunilla Roennberg, the creator of the Suzuki organ method, after she attended a conference in Minneapolis, MN, and watched children playing the organ with ease and joy under Gunilla Roennberg's direction. Ingrid's is the first Suzuki organ project in the United States.

Whether we embrace any of the Suzuki principles or not, we all need to see how the pedal extensions, developed in Sweden (available through Wayne Leopold), work and be open to procuring our own sets to work with children and grandchildren who are just waiting for us to light a spark of excitement for the organ in their lives. I will be sending out a reminder of this event and calling those who tell me they would like to go to arrange for rides.

Carol Dean

Opening Social

The opening social was a huge success for the approximately 20 people who attended. Mike Ohman, theory professor and organ curator at BYU, was gracious enough to schedule his stake center for us which has a much better than average installation of a Wicks pipe organ in it.

Josh Smith, BYU organ student of Dr. Bush started off the AGO meeting with a fine performance of Bach's Concerto in D Minor after Vivaldi, BWV 596. Our Dean, David Chamberlin, then gave everyone an overview of the AGO year and encouraged each member to actively participate each month, especially during the months of January, March, and May when we are expected to share a Romantic, Bach, and organ piece of choice, respectively. Our Sub-Dean, David Worlton, then shared his organ experiences with us and urged us all to further develop our organ skills by preparing for one of the certification tests offered by the AGO Headquarters.

Dean David then shared two more of his wonderful hymn voluntaries and let us all know that sets 2 and 3

are now available (hymns 11 through 30) through him, Claire Rogers, or Keith Jorgensen s. (The first printing of hymns 1 through 10 has completely sold out.)

Doug Bush then brought the first portion of the meeting to a close with two meditative hymns in the hymn sing style, and we all sang with the side doors to the chapel propped open letting in the rays of the setting sun from a beautiful Indian summer evening. We then adjourned to Michael Ohman's home where he gave us an introduction to theater organ and the sublime gave way, in part, to the ridiculous as we watched, laughed, and truly appreciated Mike's fine talent of accompanying an old Laurel and Hardy movie upon his Allen manufactured copy of a large Wurlitzer organ. We ended with refreshments and all felt badly that the rest of you weren't there to join with us. It was a perfect evening!

It was wonderful to have two BYU organ students with the group, and we would like to encourage the students to feel free to join us for any or all of our meetings.

Our historian, Lillian Heil, took pictures all evening and they are posted on the website:

www.geocities.com/uvagonewsletter

Future Chapter Events

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| <u>October 23rd</u> | Suzuki Organ Presentation by Ingrid Hersman, 420 S. 800 E. (RSVP to Carol Dean for car pooling) |
| <u>November 19th</u> | Daniel Gawthrop Organ Concerto featuring Rick Elliott and BYU-Idaho Symphony Orchestra, Tabernacle, SLC, _____ |
| <u>December 19th</u> | Community Christmas Choir, led by Douglas Bush, Provo Central Stake Center |
| <u>January</u> | Evening of performing Romantic Organ Music, Heritage Church Organ Company (perform on three-manual Rodgers's Trilium) |
| <u>February</u> | Hymn Sing played by Douglas Bush, Provo Central Stake Center |
| <u>March</u> | Evening of Performing Bach's Organ Works, Provo Central Stake Center |
| <u>April</u> | Super Saturday at BYU with Richard Elliott as keynote speaker |
| <u>May</u> | Closing Member Recital/Potluck at Glenn and Mary Potter's home in Park City (three-manual Rodgers) |

Upcoming Organ Events

- 10/10/04 Eccles Organ Recital - Hans Davidsson, The Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY, 8:00 p.m., Libby Gardner Concert Hall on University of Utah campus, SLC
- 10/12/04 Robert Munns from England, lecture/demonstration Psalms Through the Ages , 7:30 p.m., Libby Gardner Hall . SLC (see write-up below)
- 10/24/04 Eccles Organ Recital - **our very own** Don Cook, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT, 8:00 p.m., Cathedral of the Madeleine, SLC
- 11/07/04 Eccles Organ Recital - Ludger Lohmann St. Eberhard s Cathedral, Stuttgart, Germany, 8:00 p.m., Cathedral of the Madeline, SLC

Psalms Through the Ages

Robert Munns from England will present a lecture/demonstration at Libby Gardner Hall at the University of Utah campus. In addition to a brief history on the Psalms, he will demonstrate singing Psalms with both a cantor and choir plus present organ music based on Psalms.

Anyone interested may attend the free event at 7:30 p.m., which is sponsored by the Alexander Schreiner fund, established by the SLC AGO Chapter. The free parking shuttle is available that evening from the Rice-Eccles stadium parking lot or some may wish to simply walk the two blocks up University Avenue from the stadium.

Singers for the demonstration choir that evening will meet at 6:30 p.m. for 45 minutes to rehearse the choir music involved, which ranges from easy to medium difficulty for singers who sight-read fairly well. Please have singers contact Mike Shelton, Dean, SLC AGO Chapter, by email: tellmikey@hotmail.com or call him at 801-484-1724 in advance so enough choir music will be ready. This should be a very informative and useful event for singers, choir directors, and organists.

Organ Teacher List

Any of you teachers who would like to have your name and pertinent information put on a teacher list , please email me ASAP. The Salt Lake Chapter would also like a copy of our teacher list, but they need it within the week, so hurry!!! carolog@msn.com

Salt Lake City Substitute List

If any of you would be willing to substitute as a paid organist in any of the churches in Salt Lake City, the Salt Lake Chapter would like to know. There are a few opportunities for substitutes even in our area, so email me with your name and phone no. if you are interested. Again, the SLC Chapter needs this list yesterday so hurry! carolog@msn.com

Advertisements

Carol Judd of Vernal is looking for a used church practice organ with full pedal board. If any of you are aware of such an instrument, please call Carol at 435-789-7340 (home) or 435-828-7038 (cell).

Pipedreams

Broadcast Sunday evenings at 9:00 p.m. on KBYU-FM Radio

- 10/10/04 **New Cathedral Classic . . .** Listen to a sampling of three recent installations of American-built instruments in Switzerland, California, and Nebraska. Featured Organs: 2003 Fisk at the Protestant Cathedral of Lausanne, Switzerland, 2003 Pasi at the Cathedral of St. Cecilia, Omaha, NE, and 2003 Dobson at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Los Angeles, CA
- 10/17/04 **On the Bench . . .** concert performances remind us of the challenges performers face and the delights we listeners enjoy: Mendelssohn, John Knowles Paine, Kevin Kissinger, Stravinsky, Sweelinck, Eleanor Whitsett, Guy Ropartz, Dupré, and Suzanne van Soldt
- 10/24/04 **Autumn Comes Again . . .** Michael Barone took *Pipedreams Live!* to Grand Rapids, MI, and introduced performances by area organists at Central Reformed Church.
- 10/31/04 **Phantoms of the Organ Loft . . .** some spooky and surprising evocations of things that go bump in the night , music for Halloween.