

# American Guild of Organists

# Newsletter

Utah Valley Chapter  
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## Sec'y/Newsletter Editor's Message

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This newsletter is a bit later than normal getting out this month, but my excuse is that I've been engaged in many busy and worthwhile endeavors, the most important was getting my students ready for their annual organ recital which took place November 12<sup>th</sup>. Every November I have my students share two pieces they have been working on with family, friends, and fellow students. I always invite Mark Campbell, our BYU student representative, to be a part of my student recital every year even though he is no longer my student (now studying with Dr. Bush as an organ/pre-med major) because I want to expose my students to an example of a very fine organist who went through the same process they are going through and has accomplished very good things; i.e., won first place in Utah State Fair in the Junior Division and then Senior Division two years running, auditioned for the BYU Organ Department and was accepted Fall Semester of 2000, served an LDS mission in Russia for two years, and before he left and since returning has taken advantage of every opportunity to play organ recitals and accompany choirs. I also place myself on the program of the student recital because I want my students to know that even though performing is very frightening to me, I consider it important to face my fears and keep trying to be a better performer. In fact, the challenge I gave to myself and my students this year was to see how well we could recover from any note errors we made and strive to get back into the music as seamlessly as possible. The students accomplished this goal so very well, setting a wonderful example for me.

We always hold the student recital at Provo Central Stake so the students can experience the amazing sound of the wonderful Bigelow organ which is there and be exposed to a truly fine instrument. Given the flat pedal board and the very sensitive and responsive tracker action, extra lessons are required to enable the students to adjust to the instrument to the point where they feel comfortable to perform on it. My heartfelt thanks again and forever to Mike Bigelow and David Chamberlin for the inspiring instrument they created for those who are privileged to use Opus 16.

The main objective of the preceding ramblings is to urge all of you, if you are not already teaching, to take the plunge and freely share what you know with others. I find no greater joy than helping pianists understand the organ, come to love the literature written for this great instrument, and then grow in confidence and ability so they can serve others with their music. There is no better way to learn to teach than to simply jump in and start teaching. The years I spent in the organ lab at BYU teaching Organ 115 and 116 did more to help me formulate my teaching philosophy than any other single experience I've had.

Speaking of teaching, I would like to express a heartfelt "thank you" to Ingrid Hersman for her example of loving dedication to the young people she works with in sacrificing her time and means to introduce them to the organ. Those of us who went to Salt Lake City on October 23<sup>rd</sup> were truly inspired as we observed Ingrid working with some of her young students (check [www.geocities.com/uvagonewsletter](http://www.geocities.com/uvagonewsletter)

for a few pictures - Lillian's camera was not working that day). An added treat was the opportunity of seeing the renovated historic L.D.S. Chapel on the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> South and 8<sup>th</sup> East in SLC where our meeting was held. This is the oldest L.D.S. building in use today, and it was the building where President Gordon B. Hinckley first realized that he knew Joseph Smith was a prophet and that he had a testimony of the truthfulness of the work in which Joseph Smith was engaged.

### **November 19<sup>th</sup> Event in the Tabernacle**

Remember that this coming Friday is the night when Rick Elliott will be on the Tabernacle organ playing with the BYU-Idaho Symphony Orchestra the Utah premiere of a Daniel Gawthrop Organ Concerto starting at 7:30 p.m. This will probably be one of the last events held in the Salt Lake Tabernacle for approximately two years as it will be closed starting January 1, 2005 for seismic retrofitting, etc. The Spoken Word will be moved to the Conference Center, and the noon organ recitals possibly will go to the Assembly Hall.

Rick has arranged for 20 tickets to be set aside for our Chapter. Those who are planning to attend Friday night (and I hope there will be several of you) should phone the Tabernacle Choir Office (801-240-4150) and give your name to the secretary before Friday. Just mention that you are with the Utah Valley AGO and want to be added to the list of those attending the Friday evening's concert. The resulting list of names will be given to the ushers at Door 6 so they will know who to admit to the reserved seating area towards the rear of the Tabernacle where the balance between the organ and orchestra will be the best.

The tickets will be available at the West Gate booth of Temple Square AFTER 5:00 p.m. on Friday. Prior to 5:00 p.m. they will be at the Box Office of the Conference Center. They are in Rick Elliott's name.

### **December Event**

Remember our December event will be the performance of the Community Christmas Choir led by Dr. Douglas E. Bush and accompanied by Larry Tomkinson, held at Provo Central Stake Center (5<sup>th</sup> N. 12<sup>th</sup> W, Provo) on December 19, 2004, at 7:00 p.m. The nucleus of this choir was started over 20 years ago by Doug and Larry in the old Provo Central Stake before it was divided.

The tradition has continued more "on than off" with a few changes in directors and accompanists—Dr. Mack Wilberg led for about three years in the Provo Tabernacle with Doug at the organ, Carol Dean was the organist a couple of years, and last year Mike Austin led the choir and LeeAnn Brockbank accompanied. The music is in the great tradition of the Kings College-Cambridge Christmas Eve Service with narrations and is a wonderful way to introduce the true spirit of Christmas to ourselves and our families.

### **January 21<sup>st</sup> Evening of Romantic Organ Literature**

Start practicing today to prepare an organ number from the Romantic Era to share with us at the Heritage Church Organ Company (557 N. 1200 W., Orem) on a Rodgers 3-manual Trilium Series organ January 21, 2005, at 7:30 p.m. Some of the BYU students will present short biographies of the composers represented that night. I will be "bugging" many of you between now and then to find out which piece you will be sharing with us.

### **Future Chapter Events**

<u>December 19th</u>	Community Christmas Choir, led by Douglas Bush, Provo Central Stake Center
<u>January 21st</u>	Evening of performing Romantic Organ Music, Heritage Church Organ Company (perform on three-manual Rodger'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**

11/21/04 Organ recital played by Carol Dean at Utah State Hospital Chapel at the end of East Center Street in Provo. The recital will start at **7:00 p.m.**  
Two BYU students will be giving recitals the first

part of December but no dates are set yet. I will email everyone.

Since I probably won't get a newsletter out in December, following are Pipedreams programs for the remainder of November and December.

### **Pipedreams**

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

- 11/21/04 **To Honor Saint Cecilia** . . . in tribute to the patron saint of music, concert performances on the new, multi-faceted pipe organ at the Cathedral of St. Cecilia in Omaha, Nebraska.
- 11/28/04 **Once Upon a Theatre** . . . at Ann Arbor's 75-year-old Michigan Theatre, an aging pipe organ served as keystone to the downtown's heritage preservation.
- 12/05/04 **Come On, Let's Dance** . . . whether in Renaissance style or rumba, when the pipe organ's in the mood there's no better partner.
- 12/12/04 **In Anticipation** . . . prelude to the Christmas festival, we play the 'waiting game' with a collection of music for the Advent season.
- 12/19/04 **An American Organist's Christmas** . . . with a merry mingling of composers and performers to celebrate the holiday.
- 12/26/04 **Holiday International** . . . music from many nations adds unique and distinctive flavor to our Christmas celebration.