

# American Guild of Organists

# Newsletter

Utah Valley Chapter

2004-2005

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## Editor's Message

January is the month for setting goals. We officers of the Utah Valley Chapter AGO Guild urge all of you to set some "organ" goals this year and accomplish them. Our Dean, I'm sure, will create more inventive voluntaries on the LDS hymns as he works towards his long-term goal of writing down his musings on every hymn in the hymnal. My goals are to continue to rework my way through Bach's *Orgelbüchlein* with the goal of finding something new in each piece I hadn't noticed the first time I learned it, systemically review literature I have previously learned so I may more effectively demonstrate for my students, memorize at least one hymn per month as I have found doing so gives me much more confidence in negotiating page turns in my choral accompanying and performing, and learn a piece from a composer I have not yet sampled. Whether your goal is to learn a particular organ piece, help a pianist learn to play the organ, or pass a national AGO test, etc., take the time to write it down along with specific steps needed to accomplish your goal. If you will write out a specific, positive statement regarding your goal as if you are already in the process of accomplishing it and read it out loud at least two times a day, your subconscious mind will bring it to pass.

## January Event

Remember that Friday, 1/21/05, is our evening of sharing organ literature composed during the Romantic Era with each other. If you haven't already started doing so, get your favorite piece out and do some reviewing. I will be calling you starting next Monday, 1/12/05, to obtain titles for the program. The recital will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Heritage Church Organ Company, 557 N. 1200 W., Orem, on the three-manual Trilium Series Rodgers organ. Since I teach group organ classes in there every semester, I have a key and will arrange to let any of you in to practice in the afternoon/evening when the store is not open for business. Those of you who know what you are playing and want to get a "head start" on practice times, call me at home (375-4873) or leave a message on my voice mail at work (226-4664). Let's do potluck refreshments. At my student recital, I have all participants bring a favorite treat/snack to munch on while we visit in the afterglow of the post-recital setting. Let's do likewise for the January recital.

Meg Griffith loves to collect interesting/worthwhile quotes/anecdotes and share them. Since our January meeting is related to Romantic music, here's a piece on César Franck (1822-1890) taken from *Spiritual Lives of the Great Composers* by Patrick Kavanaugh: "In the church of St. Clotilde in Paris, César Franck was about to play his *Six Pieces for Organ*. The elderly Franz

Liszt was there to hear him. When Franck played, Liszt was visibly moved. As Liszt left the loft he said to himself that J. S. Bach must have returned to life. It was a metaphor for Franck who was described as never saying an unkind word about anyone, having a very generous nature, and who spent most of his life writing music for the glory of God.” – Carol Dean

### November/December Chapter Events

Those of us who attended the BYU-Idaho Symphony Orchestra Concert on 11/19/04 were richly rewarded. The orchestra did a great job, and Richard Elliott brought the *Concerto for Organ and Orchestra* by Daniel Gawthrop to life with his energy and command of the Tabernacle organ. It was a really fun piece to listen to, and thank you, Rick, for inviting us. There were some of us in attendance who had not had the opportunity to see and meet Daniel Gawthrop, so that was another benefit of attending the performance.

Thank you to Douglas Bush (director), Larry Tomkinson (organist), Walter Rudolph (narrator), and the members of the Community Christmas Choir for presenting us with a sacred evening of inspiring Christmas music/readings at the Provo Central Stake Center on 12/19/04. Dr. Bush indicated that this year’s program was the 25<sup>th</sup> year (not quite in succession) that this event has been presented and enjoyed by the community. Let us hope that the tradition will continue for many more years.

### Future Chapter Events

<u>February 13th</u>	Hymn Sing played by Douglas Bush, 7:30 p.m., Provo Central Stake Center, 5 <sup>th</sup> W. 12 <sup>th</sup> N., Provo
<u>March</u>	Evening of Performing Bach’s Organ Works, Provo Central Stake Center
<u>April 9th</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 BYU Organ Student Recitals

1/08/05	Shinji Inagi’s Sophomore Recital, 5:30 p.m., Madsen Recital Hall
1/11/05	Emily Spencer’s Graduate Recital, 7:30 p.m., Cathedral of the Madeleine, SLC
1/13/05	Sam Rojas’ Sophomore Recital, 7:30 p.m., Madsen Recital Hall

### Stephen Cleobury Organ Recital

This Friday, 1/07/05, Stephen Cleobury, organist/choirmaster at King’s College, Cambridge, will be performing the music of Howells, Franck, Liszt, Vierne, and Elgar, on the Conference Center organ, SLC at 7:30 p.m. The doors will be opened 90 minutes prior to the recital. Everyone will be able to get in, but tickets will insure the best seats. LeeAnn Brockbank (375-7244 or email: MBrockbank@aol.com) has 20 tickets available for anyone who wants seating on the main floor in the Plaza sections.

### SL AGO Chapter Super Saturday

This event is Saturday, January 15, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Libby Gardner Hall. Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. Call Ingrid Hersman to pre-register for classes (801-966-7966) or email at: [hersman@sisna.com](mailto:hersman@sisna.com)

Basic Organ Technique - Heidi Alley/Kimberly Moody

Hymn Playing 101 - Larry Blackburn

Improvisation Basics - Andrew Unsworth

French Organ Registration - Clay Christiansen

Play Libby’s Fulcher organ - sign up for 5 minutes to play anything you desire

Hands-on Pipe Demonstration - (only if enough request this) - different pipes will be shown and pieces representing their sounds played

### Pipedreams

Broadcast Sunday evenings at 9:00 p.m. on KBYU-FM 1/09/05 **Organa American . . .** This week’s show is a convenient collector’s guide to remarkable recordings of featuring American performers and instruments.

1/16/05 **South of the Border . . .** an exploration of composers for the organ and historic instruments in Mexico.

1/23/05 **A Bit of Battle Music . . .** quite the opposite of ‘peace pieces’, this collection chronicles the strife between good and evil

1/30/05 **One is Enough . . .** sometimes it might seem that organs can never be too large, though this music reveals beauty in smaller things, music played on instruments with only a single manual keyboard!

2/06/05 **Jean Guillou at Large . . .** revelatory attitudes and probing interpretations set this notable French virtuoso apart from the norm.