

American Guild of Organists Newsletter

Utah Valley Chapter #928
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Dean's Message

There was 2 inches of snow on my front lawn yesterday afternoon. It's clear that fall is here. My house has been decorated with Jack-o-lanterns since Monday last. Katie has purple lights around her bedroom doorway, so clearly Halloween is coming. I can hear the sounds of her Halloween sound effects CD wafting up from the kitchen as she is cleaning up. It's inevitable, I guess. Whether I like it or not, the year is waning, fast.

Our September AGO meeting was really wonderful! Ruth was a wonderful speaker and her presentation was informative, entertaining, and truly enchanting. We thank her with all our hearts and wish her all the best success as she begins this new and exciting chapter of her life at Oxford. Our hopes and best wishes go with her! We look forward to another report from her when she returns! I now look at walking on grass as feeling that maybe I'm a little "special," too.

This month will be equally as exciting. I am so looking forward to attending our Buxtehude night, and enjoying everyone's choices to perform. It was wonderful seeing all of you again!

As we watch our leaves turn the colours of fall, and feel the chill in the air as the sun goes down; as we begin to plan for the upcoming season of holiday activities and family get-togethers, I would like for all of us to begin to remember how lucky we all are. We are a blessed group of individuals. Talented, accomplished, blessed in every way. What a wonderful opportunity we have as a group, and as individuals, to bless the lives of others with music. Before the year comes to a close, pick something new to play for the holidays, share something with someone you love that perhaps they may never have heard before. Find an uplifting story to give to someone that may be having a hard time, give a treat anonymously to someone that may need an extra smile. You'd be surprised at the difference it may make. We could all use a little 'lift.'

Happy Halloween to all of you, and my best wishes for the new AGO year. It's off to a great start! Come share it with us!

Sincerely,
Nancy Christensen, Dean

October 23, 7:30 at the Provo Central Stake Center. A Buxtehude evening with a brief history from Dr. Bush and members sharing their Buxtehude pieces. Let David Chamberlain know what you would like to share with us by next weekend. His e-mail address is on the front.

November 15, 7:30, Marriot center organ demonstration.

December will be a Christmas program put on by members for the State Hospital Patients. We will let you know the date as soon as it is set.

January: (sometime in the middle of the month) David Chamberlain will favor us with a hymn sing. We're hoping to have this at the American Fork Tabernacle.

February: French Toccata and more. This will be an evening of French music.

March (in the later end of the month): Frank Ashdown will present an evening of his music.

April: Super Saturday

May: Closing Social

Eccle's Organ Festival Schedule

7 Oct – Heidi Alley (St. Paul's Episcopal Church, SLC)

21 Oct – Roman Cantieni (Chur, Switzerland)

4 Nov – Olivier Vernet (St. Nicholas Cathedral, Monaco)

All of these events are at 8 PM in the Cathedral of the Madeleine

12 Oct. 7:30 at the SLC Tabernacle – Jan Kraybill. Free tickets available 1-800-570-0080

JOHN STANLEY: COMPOSER AND ORGANIST

Submitted by Meg Griffith

English born John Stanley was an amazing musician, being blind at age two and later became the youngest to graduate from Oxford at age 16! He was born in London in 1712/13 and died there in 1786. He studied with Maurice Greene at St. Paul's Cathedral. He progressed so quickly that by age 11, he was appointed organist at All Hallows, Bread Street. He followed William Boyce as Master of the King's Band of Musicians in 1779. He was friendly with Handel and patterned an opera and oratorios after him. In 1726, he became organist at St. Andrew's, Holborn, having won the position from among many who auditioned. In 1734, he became organist at the Inner Temple Church in London. His playing was so admired that, when he held three organist posts, a trail of people would follow him from church to church to hear him. He composed several stage works, string concertos, English cantatas, anthems, songs and flute sonatas but is primarily remembered for his three sets of organ voluntaries. They are mostly in the slower movement for diapasons and a lively movement featuring some solo stop. - From Dr. Doug Bush, Norton/Grove Concise Encyclopedia of Music and The Harvard Biographical Dictionary of Music

Quotes of the Month

"If I don't practice one day, I know it; two days, the critics know it; three days, the public knows it."

Joshua Heifetz, Russian-born American violinist

"I never practice, I always play."

Wanda Landawska, Polish concert keyboardist

- **PIPES IN THE DESERT –
REGION IX MID-WINTER CONCLAVE**

The AGO Region IX Mid-Winter Conclave will be held in Tucson, Arizona, January 20–24, 2008.

Rich in Spanish heritage, Tucson is surrounded by the diversity of the Sonoran Desert—mountains studded with saguaro cacti, desert washes, balmy winter temperatures, and beautiful sunsets. We think that the diversity of the desert will be reflected nicely in the conclave program. *Millennia Too!*, for example, will be playing the world premiere of Stephen Sturk's *California Mission Suite*. Organist Richard Elliott will be playing Pamela Decker's *Tango for Tucson*. The closing worship service will open with a work by Tucsonan Jay Vosk, for native flute and organ, and will then focus on Joel Martinson's *Missa Guadalupe*, with the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus serving as the choir for the service.

The conclave is presenting two optional side trips that showcase the desert southwest. One trip is to Mission San Xavier del Bac, known as the "White Dove of the Desert," one of the most photographed churches in the country. Another side trip is to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. Most of the exhibits at the museum are outside and show the animals, plants, and geology of the Sonoran Desert. This is a museum like no other. It combines elements of zoos along with displays of local geology and desert plants.

Did you know that the *New York Times* called the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum "the most distinctive zoo in the United States"?

Please visit the conclave web site at www.agoixaz.com and read all about it, then print the registration form and send it in! Special registration rates are available until November 15, discounted hotel rates until December 20.

**PIPES IN
THE DESERT**

**AGO
REGION IX**

**TUCSON
JANUARY 20 - 24, 2008**

**THE NEXT
MID-WINTER CONCLAVE**

EXPERIENCE ORGAN AND
CHORAL MUSIC IN THE
BEAUTIFUL SONORAN DESERT

EXPLORE WAYS TO
RE-ENERGIZE CHURCH MUSIC

ENJOY MUSIC AND HOSPITALITY
WITH A SOUTHWESTERN FLAIR

FOR ADDITIONAL INFO
VISIT: WWW.AGOIXAZ.COM

**TUCSON, ARIZONA
JANUARY 20-24 2008**