



Utah Valley Chapter of the

American Guild of Organists

CHAPTER OFFICERS

DEAN
Scott R. Mills

SUB-DEAN
Claire B. Rogers

SECRETARY
Carol Dean

TREASURER
Lori Z. Serr

REGISTRAR
LuJean Moss

'89-90 No. 6

1160 BIRCH LANE, PROVO, UTAH 84604

MARCH, 1990

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Considering all the learning that is readily available to us through classes, private lessons, books, workshops, etc. (especially in this area) and considering what our capacity is to serve others, are we getting bogged down too much in the worldly pursuits of making another dollar and seeing how fast we can spend it, even before it is earned?

William Wordsworth gives much food for thought in lines from The World Is Too Much With Us:

The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers
Little we see in Nature that is ours...

It has been so satisfying to me to see many of our AGO members on campus taking classes, others taking lessons and giving recitals, others working on organ certification and AGO exams, and still others serving as organists in community groups and churches. And then there are those members who have progressed to the point where they can teach and be such a blessing to the rest of us.

It is so exciting to learn and to learn from different sources. As I have taken theory classes over the past four semesters, I have intentionally registered with a different teacher each time so I can be exposed to different points of view and as wide a range of experience as possible. To me sticking with only one teacher, no matter how wonderful they may be, is like having a huge library available to us and reading only one book over and over again.

Brigham Young University's Church Music Workshop is a wonderful opportunity to be exposed to many teachers and a wide range of experience. I have only been able to attend three of the eleven years, but each year I have come away with so much information.

My challenge to each of us is that we never be content to simply make it through each day in our set routines (although sometimes even that is far from simple), but that we stretch and grow. And as organists, let's never be content with what we've gained thus far; but let's continue to work toward being the very best organist that we have the capacity to be!

Carol Dean

SPOTLIGHT

This coming Thursday, March 15th, at 7:30 p.m. in E-400 HFAC, BYU Campus, Geoff Myers will be giving our March AGO presentation. As mentioned in the last newsletter Geoff has CDs and records of late 19th and early 20th century organ composers playing their own music. These are new digital recordings made from original factory rolls of Dupre', Gigout, Widor, Straube, and Reger playing their own music. Here's an opportunity to essentially take a private lesson with one of the masters.

Geoff is so personable and willing to share his knowledge and has a very diversified background in many aspects of organ experience. He received a bachelor's degree from BYU in Church Music. While doing his undergraduate work here, he also worked part-time for Mike Bigelow (he calls this his four-year organ building apprenticeship). Then from here he went to Notre Dame to study with Craig Cramer and gained his masters in Organ and Literature. Because of his experience with organ building and tuning, he was able to gain an assistantship tuning all organs on campus while at Notre Dame. He spent two and a half years at Stanford doing doctoral work and is now at BYU working toward a Ph.D. in musicology. He is assisting Dr. Bush in preparing an encyclopedia for organ which will be available sometime in 1991. This work will be Vol. 1 of three volumes devoted to the history of keyboard instruments. Dr. Bush is the editor for this volume.

Geoff was born in Hicksville, New York (located in the middle of Long Island). His father was an aeronautical engineer working with the space program. Geoff has an identical twin brother and a younger brother and sister. His first musical remembrances are of being given a record player and learning songs from the family records by playing, carefully lifting the needle up, replacing, and replaying until he learned the songs line by line. He also remembers awakening one Saturday morning to a wonderful sound (father routinely awakened the children on Saturdays with a recording), and rushing in to ask his father what instrument was playing. It was a pipe organ, and Geoff has been an ardent enthusiast of anything to do with organs since that time (around five years old).

Geoff is from an Episcopalian background. His family joined the Church when he was eight years old. He served his mission in the France Paris mission. He met his wife, Connie Willis, while he was attending Notre Dame. She

was living in St. George at the time (a "matchmaker" friend had a hand in helping the relationship develop). He serves in his ward presently as choir director and ward organist, and he also is playing for the St. Mary's Catholic Church. He loves to improvise, and he said one of the nicest compliments he ever received was being told by a member of the congregation: "I don't know what you do that is different, but I like it."

I'm sure we'll like what he has to offer Thursday night as well. Come join us!

UPCOMING CALENDAR

- Mar.15 CHAPTER MEETING - Geoff Myers Lecture, 7:30 p.m., E-400 HFAC, BYU
- Mar.17 Neil Harmon Organ Recital, 12:00 noon, Madsen Recital Hall, BYU
- Mar.18 Provo Central Stake Hymn Sing, 8:00 p.m.
- Apr.12 AGO Exam Class, 7:30 p.m., C-250 HFAC, BYU
- Apr.15 Lois Johnson Vocal Recital, 8:00 p.m., Provo Central Stake
- Apr.19 CHAPTER MEETING - Thomas Hinckley Lecture, "The Pipe Paradigm,"7:30 p.m. Bigelow Organ Factory, 130 W. 100 S., American Fork
- May 6 Orgelbuchlein Recital No. 5, 8:00 p.m., Provo Central Stake
- May 15 CHAPTER RECITAL, 7:30 p.m., Madsen Recital Hall, BYU
- May 20 Provo Central Stake Youth Concert, 8:00 p.m.

MAY CHAPTER RECITAL

We now have a date for our Chapter Recital. It will be Tuesday evening, May 15th at 7:30 p.m. in the Madsen Recital Hall at BYU. Practice times will be announced in the April newsletter. We will be calling each of you in April to get the name of your piece. Our response last year was wonderful, and we hope to have as many participate this year. Therefore, pick a piece that is not too lengthy (around five to eight minutes).

Also in May, on the 20th, is the Salt Lake Chapter Recital. It would be nice to have some of our members attend their function.

BYU RECITALS

BYU organ students give recitals throughout the year, and we try to bring them to your attention as we are made aware of them. This coming Saturday, Neil Harmon, one of Dr. Belnap's promising students is giving a student recital in the Madsen Recital Hall at noon. We need to get to know these young people and let them know that AGO people are supportive so they will feel comfortable to enter AGO chapters wherever they will reside.

Also every Monday and Wednesday at 12:10 p.m. in the Joseph Smith Auditorium, an organ recital is held given by BYU students (until end of the semester). This building will

be torn down this summer, and we don't yet know the fate of the old Austin organ in that building, so we should take advantage of hearing it as much as possible now.

1990-91 AGO OFFICERS

The nominations for the officers for next year have been overwhelmingly accepted. They are:

- Thomas K, Hinckley, Dean
- Mark T. Clark, Sub-Dean
- DeeAnn Stone, Secretary
- Joan Barnett, Treasurer
- Sigrid Klein, Registrar

Thank you, Robin Cardon, Elise Richards, and Lawrence Wiedman for your work on the Nominating Committee. We are looking forward to the 1990-91 AGO year working with these fine officers.

CHURCH MUSIC WORKSHOP

Church Music Workshop this year is July 31st-August 3rd. Registration in by July 1st is \$53. Thereafter, it is \$58. Send your check to:

- CHURCH MUSIC WORKSHOP
- BYU Conferences and Workshops
- 136 Harman Building
- Provo, UT 84602

SUBSTITUTES

If any of you would be willing to substitute as organist in the churches in the community, please let Scott Mills know, 373-7069.

MEMBER NEWS

Dr. Richard L. Elliott, F.A.G.O., is presently in Jerusalem. He was invited by BYU to give an organ recital there.

NEWS

Please call Utah Valley AGO news to:

- Carol Dean
- 375-4873

by the 4th Sunday of the month.