



Utah Valley Chapter of the

American Guild of Organists

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REGISTRAR'S MESSAGE

When Martin Luther introduced hymn singing by the congregation in his church, I'm sure he had no idea what an important and integral part hymns would play in our church services today. Karen Lynn Davidson in her book, Our Latter-day Hymns, says: "From the text of hymns that have been preserved, we can discern values, wisdom, belief, hopes and fears. A hymnbook is a testament to the unique qualities of a people."

As we sing and play the hymns, our souls are touched through music and verse. Because of the great impact of the hymns in our lives, our performance should complement and inspire this wonderful tradition in our churches.

LuJean Moss

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

We, the Executive Officers, of the Utah Valley Chapter of AGO for the year 1989-90,

Scott Mills, Dean
Claire Rogers, Sub-Dean
Carol Dean, Secretary
Lori Serr, Treasurer
LuJean Moss, Registrar

wish to express our appreciation to all of you for your support of AGO activities and for the opportunity we have had to serve you over the past two years.

We urge all of you to continue to support the planned AGO activities and the new executive officers for this next year.

NEWS FROM THE NORTH

Dr. Rulon Christiansen, organ faculty member at Weber State College, is one of seven semifinalists in the National Competition in Organ Improvisation, sponsored this year for the first time in the history of the AGO. Dr. Christiansen's improvisations were judged by Philipp Gehring, James Moeser, and Searle Wright, and were in the form of a toccata, adagio, and fugue. He will compete in the semifinals in Worcester, Massachusetts on June 22. Three finalists will be selected at that time to compete on June 27 in the final round in Boston during the national convention.

Dr. Christiansen has also been hired at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd as the new director of music and as organist. He will play for three Sunday services, accompany the adult choir, lead the children's choir, and organize chime/handbell choirs. The church contracted with Mervin Brown to restore their organ several years ago, and the new organ is nearing completion. It is a two-manual console in French terraced drawknob style (29 stops, 10 generals, 16 memories, and tracker touch). Rulon is planning to do his private teaching of organ and improvisation on this fine instrument. The dedication is set for Wednesday, May 9th at 7:30 p.m. Next year the organ will be the center of a regular concert series.

SURVEY

Enclosed with this newsletter is a survey originating with Joan Stevens, our Bonneville District Convener. Please fill it out promptly and return it to her so she may be aware of each of your needs and interests.

CHAPTER RECITAL

Our May recital is coming up fast--Tuesday, May 15th at 7:30 p.m. in the Madsen Recital Hall at BYU. The Calling Committee will be contacting you later this week for the title of your piece. We appreciate the Organ Department at BYU making it possible for us to use the Walcker this year for our recital.

Call Mary Chamberlain, the Music Department Secretary, at 378-3083 to arrange for a practice time to acquaint yourself with the organ.

PROVO CENTRAL STAKE CONCERT SERIES CHANGE

The Youth Concert set for May 20th has been cancelled, and the final Orgelbuchlein recital has been moved from May 6th to that date.

UPCOMING CALENDAR

- May 9 Rulon Christiansen Dedicatory Organ Recital, 7:30 p.m., Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Corner of 24th & Grant, Ogden, UT
 - May 15 CHAPTER RECITAL, 7:30 p.m., Madsen Recital Hall, BYU
 - May 20 Final Orgelbuchlein Recital, 8:00 p.m., Provo Central Stake
 - June 3 "Toccatas, Giges, & Fantasias" - An Organ Recital by James Drake and Kenneth Udy, 7:30 p.m., Cathedral of the Madeleine, 331 E. S. Temple, SLC
 - Oct. 27 Robert Noehren Organ Recital, Temple Square Concert Series
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CONCLUSION

The following anecdote is from "My Recollections of Church Musicians" by Dr. William H. Barnes:

"It must be evident to the readers of The Recollections that the church musicians described did not go into their chosen profession for pecuniary reward. With the exception of Mr. Biggs and Mr. Fox, who have done well financially, the rest of them managed to have a very modest income.

I am tempted to twist the adage, 'Musicians are born, not made' into 'Church musicians are born, not paid.' Other professions, such as law and medicine, produce much greater financial reward.

Organists, for the most part, are devoted and dedicated to making worthy music in the House of God. Their satisfactions are fellowship in exalted experience, their association with people of good will, and the freedom to follow the work they love. These are their rewards.

Organists have no opportunity, except in rare instances, of occupying the center of the stage with the spotlight on them, as do concert pianists, violinists, and singers. The organist is hidden behind draperies, potted palms, or other obstructions; so they certainly do not enter the profession for self-aggrandizement, or money, but for love of being good church musicians. This unquestionably includes love of the Church in its many manifestations. To make ends meet, they are willing to teach, sell organs, and play for weddings and funerals to enable them to pursue their chosen calling."
