American Guild of Organists

UTAH VALLEY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER 1991 - 1992

JANUARY 1992 278 S. 2530 W., Provo, Utah 84601 NO. 5

JANUARY CHAPTER MEETING

Michael Cox
Organ Recital

Wednesday, January 8, 1992

7:30 p.m.

Provo Central Stake Center
450 N. 1200 W., Provo

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Michael Cox is the director of the chamber choir "Sacre Vocale" of Wellington, New Zealand. Because of his interest in and knowledge of Victorian and Edwardian organs, he is here for the symposium on the "Historical Organ in America" at Arizona State University.

For his recital, he will offer a varied program with emphasis on English compositions.

At BYU, he will also lecture on the subject of historical organs. The exact time and place yet to be determined.

ABOUT THE ASU SYMPOSIUM

The "Historical Organ in America" symposium will be held at ASU, Tempe, Arizona, January 12 to 16, 1992. It is sponsored jointly by ASU, the Westfield Center for Early Keyboard, and the American Organ Academy. A new 27-stop tracker-action pipe organ is being installed for the ASU School of Music by Paul Fritts and Co. Organ Builders of Tacoma, Washington.

This will be the first time in more than a decade that an international symposium will explore the American approach to 17th and 18th-century organ building. The attributes and particulars of several American organs will be examined in depth.

The lecturers, panelists, and presenters will be leading organists, organ builders, organ historians, and college teachers. The panel discussions will include issues of style, pipe construction, winding, key- and stop-action, ear training, families of pipes and speech characteristics, the impact of technology, historical vs. modern practices, and the impact of historically-based organs on teaching, performing, and church music in America.

Interested organists and builders are expected to come from 40 states, Canada, and New Zealand.

If, after reading the foregoing information, you feel you simply cannot miss this unique opportunity, please contact Doug Bush (373-1675, wk 378-2317) for ride information, etc.

THE DEAN'S DOLLOP

I have been reading a marvelous new book by Calvin M. Johansson entitled Music and Ministry: A Biblical Counterpoint. He categorizes the approaches to Christian music as aesthetic, pragmatic, and what we would call spiritual. We continue, as a Chapter, to make what seems to me to be slow but steady gains in the latter category. Why is the spiritual approach to sacred music so difficult?

When the scriptures refer to us as servants we don't particularly like it. We don't have servants anymore and we certainly do not want to be servants. We who have mastered the art of music want to be in control. But when we let the Spirit lead, we learn and experience that which can be learned and experienced in no other way.

Music conducive to the Spirit favours the well prepared. After all that I can prepare, if I follow the promptings of the Spirit in performance, phrasing and dynamics take on a subtlety and intensity that I could not manage alone. And it is never the same twice. With the sacramental hymns, which are the most repeated, this is the source of vitality.

I have known congregations who preferred the Lord-just-do-it-all-for-me-and-let-me-watch songs. Hymns, on the other hand give us the impetus to change and surmount the obstacles. I figured this out whilst listening to a brother tirade against 'Give Said the Little Stream.' I would prefer not to be constrained in all things.

Sometimes people suppose that sacred music has to be lugubrious to be reverent. Church musicians know that the only music that is in a 'frozen' style is pop music. The best of sacred music can be performed as an anthem or as a prayer, as the Spirit dictates. It is not identical every time.

My Christmas wish is that the Chapter can help us strengthen our resolve and improve our performance as church musicians.

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SPECIAL NOTICE

JANUARY CHAPTER MEETING

Arthur Henry King

Discussion on "The Renaissance of English Music, 1870-World War I"

Thursday, January 23, 1992

7:30 p.m.

Provo 3rd Ward
376 N. 700 W.

THE DEAN'S DOLLOP

The two great events that have and are shaping our tradition of Church music are the Reformation and the Oxford Movement. Luther introduced a new liturgy that included congregational singing. The Oxford Movement set out to improve the quality of hymn words and music.

Neither of these events can be considered in isolation from their political and cultural milieux. Dr. King will address the renaissance of English music in this wider context.

Whilst Wagner and Liszt on the Continent were proceeding in egocentric fashion, the English composers such as Elgar, Delius, Williams, Britten and others chose a very different course. The new winds now blowing in Church music owe much to this English Renaissance.

UPCOMING CALENDAR

January 19 - Sunday
Lois Johnson, soprano, 8:00 p.m., Provo Central Stake

January 23 - CHAPTER MEETING

February - CHAPTER MEETING
Mini Workshop on Sacred Music

February -
Salt Lake Chapter - Oral History Series, J.J. Keeler

February 16 - Sunday
Hymn Sing, 8:00 p.m., Provo Central Stake

March - CHAPTER MEETING
Thom Hinckley - Textual Analysis and its Implications for Musical Analysis

March -
Salt Lake Chapter - "Organ Plus"

March 15 - Sunday
LuJean Moss, recital, 8:00 p.m., Provo Central Stake

Contact DeeAnn Stone, 377-4728, 1510 W. 500 N., Provo 84601, about any address changes, musical events coming up, or other items of interest to the chapter.

DEAN	SUB-DEAN	SECRETARY/NEWSLETTER ED.	TREASURER/REGISTRAR	EDUCATIONAL CONCERNS
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