

Utah Valley Chapter American Guild of Organists

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to enrich lives through organ and choral music.

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The Dean's Message

October 2015

Dear Members and Friends,

Thank you to everybody who assisted with and attended the opening social. I was ill and unable to attend, but received glowing reports about the event. We have several other things planned for the near future. Mark your calendars for our annual Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza which will be held Saturday, October 24. We will also be kicking off our Youth Organ Scholarship Program on that day. We are thrilled at the opportunity to motivate and train young organists. Please help spread the word. See page 3 for more details.

Last year we had several requests that not all events be held on Saturdays. For this reason, we have scheduled the liturgy class for Friday, November 6. Fr. Peter Van Hook, of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, is typically not there on Fridays, but he has graciously agreed to come in on a Friday to teach us about how the liturgy and music come together in the Catholic and Episcopal tradition. I have heard him talk about liturgical music, and believe me, this is a class you will not want to miss!

I have a student who has been preparing to play the organ for the LDS Sacrament Meeting service for the very first time. She has not been asked to play every Sunday, but volunteered to play periodically because she desires to serve. I have been working with this student, helping her to prepare prelude, postlude, and hymns. She has carefully fingered and planned pedaling for everything she will play. In addition, she has carefully prepared a variety of registration for her prelude and postlude, as well as planned hymn registration to go along with the text. I taught her to do a tenor solo on one hymn and a pedal point on another, and her hymns are really sounding fine. She has a sincere desire to do her best and play in such a way that it will assist others in their worship experience. This student's enthusiasm and musical sensitivity are admirable. I have no doubt that she will inspire the congregation.

(continued on p. 3)

Upcoming Events

Chapter Activities

- Oct 24 Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza & kick off of the UVAGO "Young Organists Scholarship/ Audition," Sharon Stake Center, 545 South 800 East, Orem, 9am-noon.
- Nov 6 Liturgy Class with Fr. Peter Van Hook, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 50 W 200 N, Provo, 7 pm. Learn how the liturgy and music come together in the Catholic and Episcopal tradition.
- Dec 13 Christmas Hymn Sing & Fireside, Spanish Fork Stake Center, 1006 E 200 S, 7 pm. Come hear special Christmas organ music, several choirs, and sing favorite organ accompaniment.
- Jan 9 Organ Crawl at First United Methodist Church, 203 200 E, SLC, 10 am. Come see, hear, and play the newly re-built 3 manual organ by Bigelow with David Chamberlin as guide.
- Feb 20 UVAGO Young Organists Scholarship Audition and performance, Sharon Stake Center, 9 am.
- March 18 Bach Recital, Provo Central Stake Center, 7:30 pm.
- April 23 Super Saturday, Harris Fine Arts Center, BYU, 8am - 3p
- May Closing Social: Frank & Franks
- July 24-30 Pipe Organ Encounter, sponsored by UVAGO and SLAGO, Organists ages 13-18 take lessons, attend master classes, and attend concerts.

Organ Recitals and Events

- Oct 11 [David Enlow](#), Cathedral of the Madeleine, SLC, 8 pm
- Oct 13 Geert D'Hollander, BYU Carillon, 6 pm
- Oct 22 Music by BYU composers, BYU Carillon, 6 pm
- Oct 23 Organ Fest VIII, Cathedral of the Madeleine, SLC, 8 pm
- Oct 30 Halloween concert by student carillonneurs, BYU Carillon, 4 pm
- Nov 6 Richard Elliott, Salt Lake Tabernacle, 7:30 pm
- Nov 8 [Christopher Houlihan](#), Cathedral of the Madeleine, 8 pm
- Jan 17 [Thierry Escaich](#), Cathedral of the Madeleine, SLC, 8 pm

Welcome New Chapter Member!

Krysten E. Anderson, Springville

Volunteers Needed

- Join the POE committee! Contact Sheri Peterson or Lori Serr.
- Edit the chapter newsletter and manage the chapter listserv in 2016. Contact Miranda Wilcox.

POE Highlights

by Anna Judkins

The AGO Pipe Organ Encounters have been a way for the AGO to reach out to the youth that are interested in the organ. The wonderful part about these camps is that participants don't necessarily have to have tons of experience to enjoy them.

I went to a POE the summer before my senior year of high school. I hadn't been taking lessons for very long, and thought I would like to explore the option of the organ as more than just an interest. I was playing mini Bach prelude and fugues and other small works. I decided to go to the New Haven, CT POE because my sister lived in the area.

I was lucky to have one of the teachers take me under his wing because he knew I was a southern belle and he was from Mississippi. I enjoyed my week there. I had private lessons every day. Even though I wasn't playing big repertoire my teacher gave me great insights into being expressive on this mechanical instrument. I went to many different master classes. I went to classes on hymn playing, organ crawls, concerts by local artists, and made connections that I wouldn't have elsewhere. The whole week was full of wonderful excursions that enriched my organ interest. I remember a concert by Fred Teardo, who was a doctoral student at Yale; he played the Liszt Prelude and Fugue on the BACH. This piece made me want to push to be able to learn pieces like that. (p.3)

Dean's Message Continued

At her last lesson, my student informed me that the week after she plays in church someone else will begin permanently playing every week. She shared that she spoke with the individual who had just been asked to be the full-time organist. She asked the individual if they played the organ and had received the response, "Oh no! But, I will just put the bass coupler on." (My student and I laughed about this because there is NO bass coupler on the organ she will be playing.) The "new" organist told my student that she had no interest in learning to play the organ and it is unlikely that she will invest in any time or training to figure it out.

I could not help but think about the contrast in what the congregation will experience the first time my student plays and the following week when the new organist plays for the first time. My intent is not to criticize or assign fault to anybody. Rather, comparing the two has caused me to reflect more upon the impact an organist may have and upon the sacred responsibility of being an organist. It has inspired me to want to improve and to recommit myself to seek for excellence. I am certain that many of you have the same desire. I challenge all of us to "walk a higher road of excellence," so that we may more fully bless the lives of others.

Sincerely, Sherri

Pedals, Pipes, & Pizza Inaugurates UVAGO Youth Organ Scholarship Program

The Utah Valley AGO Youth Organ Scholarship program will be introduced at the October Pedal, Pipes and Pizza activity. Application forms, rules and policies, and repertoire lists will be made available to those interested. Auditions for the scholarships will be in February of next year and are open to organ students 18 years old or younger and pianists who are interested in lessons introducing them to the organ.

Chapter members are encouraged to donate to the Claire Rodgers fund to support the scholarship program. Also, if you are interested in judging at the auditions or teaching lessons as part of the scholarship awards you may contact the chapter Education Chairman Lori Serr or Sheri Peterson.

Christmas Hymn Sing

The Utah Valley Chapter will collaborate with the Spanish Fork Stake to hold a Christmas hymn sing this year. It will be Sunday, December 13 at 7 pm at the Spanish Fork Stake Center (1006 East 200 South) on the 1971 Wicks II/18. Any UVAGO members who wish to accompany a hymn for the event should contact Jack Stoneman (jackstoneman@byu.edu) as soon as possible. The program will include 8-10 hymns, so space is limited for those who wish to accompany. As soon as possible, but definitely by 9/15, send Jack what carol you would like to accompany. All the Christmas hymns in the LDS hymnal are of course available. Carols not in the LDS hymnal are welcome too, so long as they are familiar enough to be sung by a lay congregation and in keeping with the sacred character of the carols in the hymnal.

POE Highlights continued

After that week, I was determined to study organ in college. Not every student that passes through a POE will want to major in organ, but it can give them a life-long interest in the organ.

Our goal for this POE is to give the students a memorable experience, to share our love of this great instrument and to encourage them to strive to be better. I loved my experience at the POE. I hope that we can come together as a chapter to create a memorable experience for all the students will be there!

Nick Banks of Pedals & Pipework

Contributed by Mike Carson

Nick Banks is, as he puts it, “a young, single adult, college student” with a passion for playing organs, especially pipe organs. He routinely searches for and locates pipe organs in churches, concert halls, event centers, and other venues in the vicinity of his home in Utah County and reports his findings on his blog [Pedals & Pipework](#). Most of the organs and their locations are given to him by word of mouth from friends and family. His posts reflect his total joy and excitement in finding, playing, and photographing the instruments.



Nick created the blog in August 2014 to document his excursions, so that all who wish to find a pipe organ in close proximity may do so. The blog can be found at: pedalsandpipework.blogspot.com. Nick has reviewed over 30 pipe organs, including a few digital organs, from Logan to Springville, with organs in Spanish Fork still on his wish list. He provides the location of each instrument with photos and a stop list. I highly recommend a visit to his site; you may be pleasantly surprised by what is found there. And, by the way, make his day; leave a comment, or use the contact form to tell him about other pipe organs in the area.

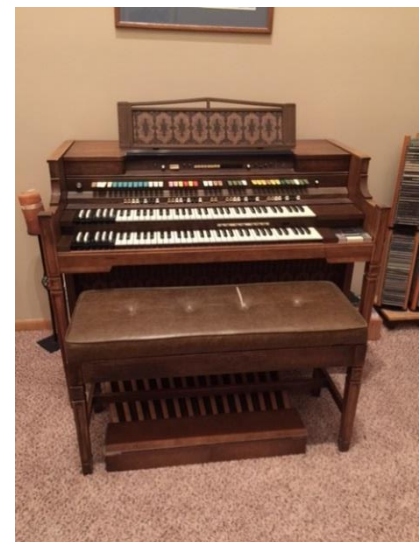
Dedication of Weissert Memorial Piano at St. Mary's Episcopal Church

On Saturday evening, October 10, at 7 pm St. Mary's Episcopal Church will celebrate the dedication of the Weissert Memorial Piano. The piano was purchased with the gifts given in memory of the Rev. Richard H. Weissert, long-time Assisting Priest at the church who died in December 2013. Fr. Dick, as he was fondly known, particularly loved church music. In fact, when he moved to Provo in the 1960s he and his then-wife Ellie joined the parish choir. After Sunday services, Dick would wander to the front of the church and spend some time visiting with the organist of the day.

The need for a grand piano arose last year when the Bishop's Committee adopted a plan to create St. Mary's Community Music Outreach Program. The program's purpose is to use the church building with its fine acoustics and moderate size for concerts, recitals, special services, and other musical events. A 6'2" Kawai grand piano was purchased earlier this year and has already been used for one opera and more than a dozen student recitals. The dedication concert will feature singers and instrumentalists from the two nearby universities, as well as the St. Mary's Chancel Choir. Ruth Eldredge Thomas, MSt Oxon, the previous Organist at St. Mary's Church, and Anna F. Judkins, the parish's current organist, will perform.

Hammond Organ for Sale

Pam Wilkison is trying to sell or donate her mother's organ. It is a Hammond Elegante, in very good working and physical condition. Her parents got a deal on it, so they are willing to take a small amount (i.e. \$300) or donate to an appropriate organist/organization. She has the organ in her home in Park City. If you, a student, or any organization you're aware of is interested or you have an idea of who she might contact, please let her know at pamelaw120@comcast.net or 435-649-4741.



Classical 89 Presenting “Organ Fest VIII”

Classical 89 is pleased to present “Organ Fest VIII” in The Cathedral of the Madeleine on October 23. The concert, now in its eighth year, features organists from the Salt Lake Tabernacle – Richard Elliott, Clay Christiansen, Andrew Unsworth, Bonnie Goodliffe, and Linda Margetts and the organist at The Cathedral of the Madeleine, Gabriele Terrone. The concert is free and will be presented at The Cathedral of the



Madeleine at 331 E. South Temple in Salt Lake City on Friday, October 23rd at 8:00 p.m.

This event is a gift to the community from Classical 89, The Cathedral of the Madeleine, and the organists. Classical 89’s Organ Fest has become a highly anticipated annual event on the Utah organ scene. This year, it is being held a little later than usual, due to issues with the performers’ schedules. We have occasionally showcased a particular composer or local organ icon; this year, we will simply feature music that we each really enjoy playing. Donations in support of Classical 89’s weekly organ program, *Pipedreams* (airs Sundays at 9pm), will be welcomed.

Information about “Organ Fest VII” at www.classical89.org or contact Anna Forsyth, Event Coordinator, at 801-615-0959 or anna.forsyth@byu.edu.

Longwood Gardens International Organ Competition

Applications for the Longwood Gardens International Organ Competition will be accepted through November 1, 2015. The Pierre S. du Pont First Prize of \$40,000 is the largest cash prize of any organ competition. The Longwood Organ is among the world’s largest concert organs, with 146 ranks and 10,010 pipes. Preliminary and final rounds will be held in the magnificent Ballroom at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. For more details, visit [this website](#). Enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at the 2013 competition in this excerpt from the documentary [Pulling Out All The Stops](#), which chronicled the inaugural competition.



Resources for Organists

“The LDS Organist”
(created by Jennifer Morgan)
www.organlessons.blogspot.com

“Pedal Points”
(created by Florence Hawkinson)
www.ldsorganist.wordpress.com

[Hymnal Trivia Quiz](#)
(created by Lella Pomeroy and James Welch)

David Chamberlin’s hymn
voluntaries
www.chamberlinmusic.com

Free music for the LDS organist
www.ldsorganist.org

Music for the LDS organist:
www.wardorganist.com

Resources for the LDS organist
www.ldsorganists.info

BYU organ information
www.organ.byu.edu

Local organ builder of fine
mechanical action organs
www.bigeloworgans.com

AGO Salt Lake City Chapter
www.slago.org

AGO Utah Valley Chapter
www.uvago.org

AGO Region IX Blog
www.agoregionixblog.blogspot.com

AGO National Headquarters
www.agohq.org

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