

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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2016-2018

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Lella Pomeroy, CAGO
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Dean's Message

December 2016

Happy December!

This is a busy time of year for musicians, especially for us organists. There are additional worship services, extra concerts and firesides. We get to play out of a section of our hymnals which have lay dormant for quite a while. It is exciting!

I am grateful for the opportunity I had to perform in our member recital last month. All the performers did well. There were many great and wonderful pieces, and it was a grand opportunity to see many friendly faces. To me, this is one of the great things about the holiday season—to enjoy the company of friends and acquaintances.

This holiday season, we, as organists, get all these blessings, and more. We help facilitate, for others, an opportunity to find the Christ child for themselves. As many of us are church musicians, we are able to use our musical voice, our gifts, to bring joy to the downtrodden, lift up the weary, provide hope to the hopeless.

I am reminded of the hymn *In the Bleak Midwinter*, where, in closing, the author penned:

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can, I give him—give my heart.

Have a great holiday season, a merry Christmas, and a happy New Year!

Quinten

Upcoming Events

- Jan Organ Crawl. Location and date TBA.
- Feb 25 Youth Scholarship Recital. Time TBA.
- Mar 17 Bach Recital. 7:00 PM. Provo Central Stake Center.
- Apr 29 Super Saturday. 8:00 AM. BYU Harris Fine Arts Ctr.
- May 19 Closing Social. Potluck dinner and a presentation by Joan Stevens about her studies with Flor Peeters.

Organ Recitals and Other Events

- Dec 11 Pleasant Grove East Stake Christmas Hymn Sing. Choirs, congregational hymns, and remarks by President Brent L. Top. Paul Duncombe, organ. 6:00 PM, 825 Loader Dr, Pleasant Grove, UT.
- Dec 11 Provo Central Stake Christmas Concert. Choir and organ performances with remarks by stake president. Carol Dean, organ. 6:00 PM, 1220 West 500 North, Provo, UT.
- Dec 16 Organ and Harp Christmas Recital. Lorelea Anderson, organ. Anamae Anderson, harp. 7:00 PM, 1120 East 600 North, Orem, UT.
- Dec 18 Spanish Fork Stake Christmas Hymn Sing. Choirs, congregational hymns, and narration. Paul Duncombe, Quinten Knudsen, Sheri Peterson, Jack Stoneman, organ. 6:30 PM prelude, 7:00 hymn sing, 1006 East 200 South, Spanish Fork, UT.
- Dec 21 Christmas Concert. Kathleen Stitt, organ, with oboe, accordion, mandolin, cello, children's choir, vocal ensembles, and soloists. 7:30 PM, 3700 North 300 West, Provo, UT.
- Dec 30 James Welch recital. 12:00 Noon, Tabernacle, SLC.
- Jan 8 Eccles Organ Festival. Brian Mathias, Brigham Young University. 8:00 PM, Cathedral of the Madeleine, 331 East, South Temple, Salt Lake City. [Click here for program info.](#)

Voices from Abroad

In this monthly column, we will hear from members and friends who have had experiences with the organ and sacred music in far-flung places. This month, we will hear from Jerri Bearce, a member of our chapter who is an LDS missionary in the Tonga Nuku'alofa Mission.

My husband and I arrived in Tonga in July of 2015 to begin our 2-year mission as technical and vocational education missionaries at Liahona High School on Tongatapu Island. We have had a wonderful mission so far supporting the vocational programs for the school's 1100 students. We have participated in a wide variety of activities: training and supporting vocational teachers, implementing new computer certification programs, diagnosing and repairing faulty equipment, cleaning and adjusting sewing machines, welders, belt sanders--and much more!

As soon as we arrived, we asked if there were any pipe organs on the island (population about 70,000). The usual response was "maybe," and a suggestion that we look in one of the larger churches in Nuku'alofa, the capital city. "Maybe" is a favorite word in Tongan. The average polite Tongan does not want to say either "no" or "I don't know," because that might disappoint us when we so obviously wanted

Continued on Page 3

Voices from Abroad, continued

to find an organ. So we searched, but found that none of the large Catholic or Methodist churches downtown had any organ at all – pipe, electronic, not even a Yamaha keyboard. We learned that hymns in Tongan church services, including most LDS services, are traditionally sung a capella.

Eventually we heard that “maybe” there was an organ in a stake center somewhere downtown. A few weeks later, we were able to locate the right building, the Haveluloto stake center. There we found a Johannus model WM47-LDS, looking as if it were decades old; in fact, the organ was only 7 years old, but the salty humid air had corroded the brass fittings on the organ, making it look worn and old; and the unscreened louvered windows, often left open for ventilation, also allowed dirt and insects to take their toll. The two organists there knew that the pedals did not work, and that other things were wrong with it.

After a few minutes playing time, it became apparent that many of the stops were not working – about 20% of them, in fact. Many of the pedals did not work. Later we learned that the organ had never worked properly. Johannus technicians had flown in to install the organ, then found that the organ was still in transit, and had to leave before it arrived. The local FM group had installed it as best they could.

I play organs. I do not repair organs.

My husband does not play organs. But he repairs things.

He immediately began planning to diagnose the problems. After getting permission from the local FM group, he and I took the back off the organ, and with his knowledge of electronics, began testing with a multimeter, but there were no apparent problems. After an email consultation with a helpful Johannus representative from New Zealand, he checked the pre-amp output function and found that there was a faulty amplifier card. Sure enough, one of the amplifier cards had scorch marks.

The problem with the pedals was faulty magnetic reed switches. The picture below (next page) shows Elder Bearce, assisted by Elder Deakin, swapping functioning reed switches from the highest, least-used pedals to the lower pedals as a temporary fix.

After a frustrating five-month wait for parts (the shipping clerk at Johannus learned that Tonga is *not* part of New Zealand, but thank you for the free replacement parts!) the big day came. The Liahona High School Form 7 Electricity Class and their teacher came on a field trip to the chapel to see the organ, including a demonstration of the diagnostic process. They learned

Resources for Organists

[AGO National Headquarters](#)

[AGO Utah Valley Chapter](#)

[Utah Valley AGO Facebook Page](#)

[AGO Salt Lake City Chapter](#)

[Bigelow & Co.](#)

Local organ builder of fine mechanical action organs

[Hymn Voluntaries](#)

by David Chamberlin

[Hymnal Trivia Quiz](#)

by Lella Pomeroy and James Welch

[LDS Organist](#)

Free music for the LDS organist

[The LDS Organist](#)

Resources for organists by

Jennifer Morgan

[Organ Study](#)

BYU School of Music

[Pedal Points](#)

Musings on organ playing by

Florence Hawkinson

[Pedals & Pipework](#)

Tours of local pipe organs by Nick

Banks

[Resources for LDS Organists](#)

by DeeAnn Stone

[WardOrganist.com](#)

Music for the LDS organist



Elder Bearce and Elder Deakin repair the organ at the Haveluloto Stake Center in Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

Voices from Abroad, continued

about amplifier cards and magnetic switches and watched as the new card was inserted. Several students helped to solder the new reed switches in place.

After a quick trial to ensure that everything was working properly, the students cheered. For most of them, it was the first time they had ever seen an organ, and the only organ most have ever heard is the Conference Center organ during the General Conference broadcasts. I performed a couple of short pieces and hymns for them, and they were fascinated by the pedals, the registration and volume changes, and their first exposure to Bach.

The organ repair was a highlight of our mission, incorporating our love of the organ with the students' field trip and expansion of their practical skills.

'Ofa lahi atu, (Much love)

Sister Bearce



Students from Liahona High School cheer as Sister Bearce demonstrates the newly repaired organ at the Haveluloto Stake Center.

Holiday Repertoire Recital

On November 18th, chapter members and friends and family gathered for a recital featuring Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year repertoire. Those in attendance enjoyed the wonderful variety of holiday arrangements, singing carols accompanied by Paul Duncombe and led by Linda Duncombe, and tasty refreshments provided by Linda Rehart. Many thanks to all who participated and attended. Below is a list of soloists and their repertoire, with photos from the event.

- Linda Rehart *Two Old French Carols* by Cesar Franck, arr. Henry Coates
- Paul Duncombe *Whence is That Goodly Fragrance Flowing?* French traditional carol, arr. Dale Wood
- Becky Azera *Prelude on O Little Town of Bethlehem*, Clay Christiansen
- Blaine Olson *Medley of 3 versions of Away in a Manger*, arr. Blaine Olson
- Sheri Peterson *What Child is This?* arr. James Kasen
- Quinten Knudsen *Theme and Variations on "The Friendly Beasts,"* arr. Quinten Knudsen
- Sheri Peterson *Nun danket alle Gott*, Georg Friedrich Kaufmann
- Paul Duncombe *Fanfare (St George's Windsor)*
A Gaelic Improvisation (Bunessan)
 Both from Charles Callahan, *Thanksgiving Suite*
- Lori Serr *In the Bleak Midwinter*, arr. Wilbur Held
- Mike Carson *Alleluia (Ave Maria)*, attr. Giulio Caccini (1551-1618), Mack Wilberg, adapted for organ by Mike Carson
- Jack Stoneman *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, arr. Doug Bush
Ring Out Wild Bells, arr. Mike Carson



Soloists: (Front L-R) Lori Serr, Linda Rehart, Becky Azera, Sheri Peterson, (Back L-R) Quinten Knudsen, Paul Duncombe, Jack Stoneman, Mike Carson, Blaine Olson.

For more information and applications for the UVAGO Youth Scholarship Audition, to be held in February 2017, please contact Lori Serr.

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For information about the AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Youth Organists, which will be held in April 2017, please visit the UVAGO website.

[RCYO Information](#)

