

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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Dean's Message

February 2017

Greetings to All!

I hope y'all are staying warm, comfy and cozy in this nice, wet winter we are having. Sometimes, the weather can be unpredictable, which is why we had to postpone our adventures at the Cathedral of the Madeleine. But, I look forward to our adventures there at another time.

There are many opportunities for us, as organists, to improve our craft. We even have some up and coming that I hope you can attend!

We have our annual Super Saturday workshop on April 29th at BYU. This day of free workshops features many of our local members instructing and helping us as we continue to learn how to better play the organ. Please contact Sheri Peterson as soon as possible if you would like to volunteer to teach a class, or help out in any way (sheri.peterson@gmail.com).

Secondly, SLCAGO is hosting the West Regional Convention this year! From June 11th-15th, organists from around the West will be convening together for a few days of instruction, concerts and recitals, networking and overall fun. I invite each and every one of you to attend at least one day of the convention. More information will be available soon at www.agowest2017.org.

Thirdly, especially for the younger folk among us (and some of the older too), there are many summer organ camps, including the POE, POE Advanced, and the Adult POE. Please see the "Organ Opportunities in 2017" box on page 3 for more information on these programs. I hope you look into some of the different programs that are available across the nation!

It is my hope that you take advantage of one or more of these up and coming opportunities!

Quinten

Upcoming Chapter Events

- Feb 25 Youth Scholarship Recital. Time TBA.
- Mar 17 Bach Recital. 7:00 PM. Provo Central Stake Center. If you are interested in playing, please contact Carol Dean carolorg1111@gmail.com.
- 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

- Feb 12 Christopher Young, Professor, Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University. 8:00 PM, Cathedral of the Madeleine, 331 East South Temple, SLC. [Information](#).
- Apr 19 Jordan Martineau recital. 7:30 PM, De Jong Concert Hall, Brigham Young University. Student of Don Cook.

Do you have any back issues of *The American Organist*?

If so, Melanie Jones would love to take them off your hands.

Please contact her at:

antiemellie@hotmail.com

The deadline for the Youth Scholarship Audition has been extended!

Please let youth pianists or organists know that the deadline for the Youth Scholarship Audition is February 10, 2017. It will be held Saturday, February 25, 2017. Rules and application forms were sent with this newsletter.

For more information, please contact Lori Serr.

ljserr@yahoo.com

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](#)

Voices from Pipe Organ Encounter 2016

In this monthly column, we will have the opportunity to hear the experiences of youth who attended Pipe Organ Encounter in July 2016, and hopefully be inspired by their youthful enthusiasm and passionate musicianship.

I have been playing the piano for almost ten years and the organ for two and a half years. I used to live in Arizona, and in my church they would ask youth to be assistant organists. I got asked and started learning how to play the organ. It was a new experience, but I quickly came to love the organ as much as I love the piano.

My piano teacher told me about the POE and it was mentioned again at an AGO activity. I was curious, and after looking into it, I wanted to go to the Salt Lake POE more than anything.

The night before the POE, I was so nervous. I didn't know what to expect or what to do. When I got there, I didn't know anyone and I was very unsure of all the pieces I was thinking of playing. Then, I met the chaperones and the other people. They were so nice, and over the course of the week I began to see them as family. We were all musical nerds that loved what we did and weren't afraid to shout it to

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Voices from Pipe Organ Encounter, continued

the heavens.

I loved all of the organs as well. They were beautiful and so fun to play. After the POE, when anyone mentioned the organs on Temple Square, I would smile really big and think “I’ve played all of those.” It made me really happy. It was an amazing experience to see all the different styles and environments that the organs had.

I loved the POE so much. It was my favorite week of the summer. I made so many friends and got to do what I love. The organ is one of the best things in my life and having a week for just that was the most amazing experience. I loved the teachers, the chaperones, the other students, and the organs. I am so glad that I got to attend and I will never forget that week.

Bonnie Walker, Orem, Utah

Organ Opportunities in 2017

Pipe Organ Encounters, for Youth 13-18

1. South Dakota, June 11-16. Early registration until April 1.
[Brochure](#) [Website](#)
2. San Diego, CA, July 16-22. Early registration until March 31.
[Brochure](#) [Website](#)
3. Hartford, CT, July 16-21. Early registration until April 15.
[Brochure](#) [Website](#)
4. Winchester, VA, July 23-27. Early registration until May 1.
[Brochure](#) [Website](#)

Pipe Organ Encounters Advanced, for Grades 9-12

1. Birmingham, AL, June 25-30. Early registration until March 1.
[Brochure](#) [Website](#)
2. Seattle, WA, July 23-28. Early registration until April 1.
[Brochure](#) [Website](#)

Pipe Organ Encounter +, for Adults

- San Antonio, TX, June 25-30. Registration until June 1.
[Brochure](#) [Website](#)

Pipe Organ Encounter Technical (Organ Building), for Ages 16-23

- Atlanta, GA, July 9-14. Early Registration until April 15.
[Brochure](#) [Website](#)

Bach’s Organ World Tour, with Quentin and Mary Murrell Faulkner, Germany, July 17-28. [Website](#)

Pipedreams Historic Organs of France Tour, with Michael Barone, May 23-June 4. [Website](#)

Resources for Organists

- [AGO National Headquarters](#)
- [AGO Utah Valley Chapter](#)
- [Utah Valley AGO Facebook Page](#)
- [AGO Salt Lake City Chapter](#)
- [AGO YouTube Channel](#)
- [Pipedreams with Michael Barone](#)

[Bigelow & Co.](#)

Local 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

[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

The BYU Organ Program

As the BYU student representative, I thought I should introduce our current BYU Organ Performance undergraduate, graduate students, and faculty. We look forward to being involved in the Utah Valley chapter!

—Kyrsten Anderson

At right is a recent picture of a visit from our organ benefactor, Marj Volkel.



Two new students this semester not pictured above:

Mike Olson

Levi Crockett



Back row (standing L to R): Dr. Brian Mathias, Dr. Don Cook
 4th row: Jake Meyers, Levente Medveczky, Bradley Dickson, Denis Nicholson, Richard Wilson
 3rd row: Dallin Baldwin, Jordan Martineau, Samantha Adair, Marcine Sawyer, Skylie Steinacker
 2nd row: Nora Hess, Taryn Christensen, Amber Schumann, Kyrsten Anderson
 1st row: Steve Schanker, Marj Volkel, Curtis Swenson

Mike Olson: Mike is from Raleigh, North Carolina and returned in November 2016 from his mission in Redlands, California. He describes his experience as: “That was hard

work, but I had a great time.” He began college this semester as a first-semester freshman. “I am excited to be here in Utah Valley with this chapter!”

Jacob Meyers: Jacob was born in Bountiful, Utah as the youngest of seven children. He has always loved music, and has been involved in it since his childhood. He began taking piano lessons when he was eight, and started taking formal organ lessons when he was thirteen. He attended the BYU SummerFest music camp when he was fourteen, and studied with Douglas Bush during that. After that summer he began taking lessons from Linda Margetts, whom he studied with for a couple years. When he was sixteen he began to study with Doug Bush, and took lessons from him until his passing. He has recently returned from an LDS mission in Brisbane, Australia and is looking forward to continuing his education.

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Amber Schumann: Amber was born and raised in San Diego, California. She completed the Music Teacher Association of California's Certificate of Merit program for piano in 2016, achieving the Advanced level with honors. During high school, she taught private piano lessons to more than twenty students in her home studio. She started playing the organ at a young age and has served as the organist in her local congregation. Amber is currently a freshman. In addition to being an organist, she is a competitive equestrian, and an amateur photographer. She is looking forward to expanding her musical abilities and continuing her organ studies in the coming years.

Bradley Dickson: Bradley has spent most of his life playing music. He started piano lessons at age four, and loved every moment of it. At age fourteen, he started taking organ lessons from his piano teacher in the summers; he loved it so much that he began studying it full-time on top of his piano lessons. He auditioned to the BYU Organ program and then deferred to serve an LDS mission in Denmark. His love for organ continued overseas: he had many positive interactions with cathedral and church organists for the national church of Denmark, as well as being able to see several historical organs there. Bradley returned from his mission in the summer of 2016 and began college that fall. He absolutely loves the organ program and BYU, and

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Through Three Feet of Snow, Uphill Both Ways, to the Cathedral of the Madeleine

Some brave souls trudged through the snow to make it to the Cathedral of the Madeleine for our planned organ crawl in January, not knowing that we had decided to cancel the activity for fear of putting our members in danger on the snowy icy roads. We are so grateful that those who did brave the weather were safe! As a bonus for their hardy spirits, they were able to see and play the wonderful Eccles Memorial Organ, thanks to the kind generosity of Dr. Gabriele Terrone, who also braved the roads to get there. Many thanks to Dr. Terrone for risking life and limb to provide a wonderful opportunity for our chapter! We hope to be able to reschedule the Cathedral of the Madeleine again for everyone sometime this spring.

Ashlyn Anderson writes of the experience: "The Cathedral of the Madeleine organ was amazing! I went to the POE camp and this organ was my favorite. Ever since the POE camp, I've been wanting to go back and play it. It was so fun! Dr. Gabriele Terrone is so good at the organ. Thank you!"



Cadence Anderson writes: "Going to play the organ at the Cathedral of the Madeleine was an excellent experience, and worth coming to! It was fun, and interesting! The Cathedral of the Madeleine has a fascinating history, and had many beautiful stained glass windows, pillars, and pipes! The sound of the organ was amazing. It has over 4,000 pipes! A significant element of the

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is so grateful for the many friends he has made in the organ program, both students and faculty.

Richard Wilson: Richard hails from Yakima, Washington as the oldest of two children. He began piano studies at the age of five after being forced into it by his mother. At age nine he began to study the organ and at thirteen determined to make music and the organ a career after having the opportunity to play the Conference Center organ in Salt Lake City. Richard is currently a freshman in the program. He plans on serving a mission following this school year, after which he will return to BYU to continue his studies. He plans on continuing his education with Master's and Doctoral degrees in music. Richard is also an avid chess player, fencer, magician, and is obsessed with all things Star Wars. He is loving his time at BYU and is very excited to see what the future holds.

Levi Crockett: Levi returned from his Mandarin speaking mission in Taichung Taiwan last semester, and returned to BYU as a sophomore this semester. We are excited to have him back!

Taryn Christensen: Taryn moved a lot as a child but settled in the San Francisco bay area. She studied piano at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music as a young adult. After high school, she moved to Arizona and continued her studies. After having her children, she took some time off to be with them. During this time, she continued to
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organ is the Trumpets that stretch out from the back of the organ. The organ has many stops and the person who gave the tour, Dr. Gabriele Terrone, has a lot of experience, and has a lot of talent in playing the organ. He was born in Italy, and has played many historic organs. He knows many stops on the organ that would make the music sound the way it did, and it sounded remarkable! The Cathedral of the Madeleine was worth coming to and I would be thrilled to go back to visit."



Finally, Angela Anderson writes of the experience: "We risked life & limb to go see and play the organ at the Cathedral of the Madeleine!! Okay not really - although it was snowing so much the event was cancelled that morning, but we discovered this when we had already white knuckled the roads and thick snow for over an hour. Despite the cancellation Dr. Gabriele Terrone graciously still came to meet those who hadn't heard the message and forged the weather! This organ is my oldest daughter's favorite and she had gently and sweetly and consistently encouraged me to go and it was well worth the effort! Each person there was given a chance to play the organ and all were marvelous to hear. My mother was one of the last to play. She began the glorious arranged for the organ piece she brought, "Angels We Have Heard on High," and within a few minutes asked if Dr. Terrone would consider playing it. He sat down and continued the piece, his eyes not on the music, and after a few moments it was clear he was not really reading the

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work as an accompanist for vocalists, instrumentalists, and ballet companies. When it was time to come back to finish her degree, she felt strongly that it should be in Organ Performance instead of piano. She is absolutely loving the instrument and is honored and excited to be studying with the faculty at BYU.

Skylie Steinacker: Skylie grew up in a family that always had a mixture of classical and world music filling her home. She is the youngest of four children, all of whom play the piano and have grown up taking lessons. Skylie became interested in the organ the moment she played a 32' pedal stop at her local church and felt the power vibrating from around her. From that moment she took organ lessons and years later was accepted into the program at BYU. She is currently a sophomore.

music as written, but improvising in such a way as I am sure I have never heard in my life. He understands the organ, and clearly this one in particular, and understands music in a way that it seemed his brilliant gift was so other-worldly that he and the music were indistinguishable from one another. It felt as though the windows of heaven were open and pouring into that beautiful organ and Cathedral and each one of us more profound joy and immense light than could possibly be contained! It was a morning to remember and carry with us, a morning that transformed us all."



Jordan Martineau: Jordan was raised in Syracuse, Utah as the oldest of five children. His interest in organ was sparked when he was called to be a ward organist at age thirteen with no previous experience. He is currently a sophomore. His interests are in church and choral music and riding motorcycles.

Samantha Adair: Samantha grew up in Dallas, Texas, the oldest of five daughters. Educated at home by dedicated parents, her family was heavily involved in music, especially in their church. From age six until she left for college she was trained in piano by her grandmother. At age fourteen she started organ lessons, and was taught for four years by her church's organist. When starting school at BYU in 2014 she began taking lessons from Don Cook, and in her second year commenced the organ performance program. She also enjoys dancing ballroom, reading, spending time outdoors, and being with her family.

Denis Nicholson: Denis has played piano for eighteen years and has been playing organ for ten years. He started piano lessons when he was six, but didn't start playing the organ until he was baptized in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, only to be called as the ward organist at age fourteen. He decided after his mission that he wanted to pursue serious organ training on top of his piano

studies. He attended Western CT State University for a year and half before transferring to BYU where he was able to pursue the study of both instruments. He originates from New York but lives in Connecticut. He comes from a very musical family, including his grandfather, who was also an organist. Denis is currently in his junior year of college.

Marcine Sawyer: Marcine is what is called at BYU a non-traditional student, which means she's older than most of the students who attend BYU. She is blessed to have a wonderful husband, six children and, best of all, two grandchildren. She studied piano from an early age and attended BYU-Idaho with a piano scholarship. After earning her Associate Degree, she took a few years off of school (almost 30 to be exact) to be a full-time mom. She began her studies again at BYU in 2015 and is excited to rub shoulders with the best people around – organists. She is currently in her junior year and enjoys playing the organ more than anything else, except playing with the grandchildren. She looks forward to her continued service, especially the opportunity to share the gospel with her family and others through music.

Dallin Baldwin: Dallin has loved making music since he was a young boy. He began playing the piano at the age of seven. In high school he was involved in his high school choir, where he would sing and accompany. He also began taking organ lessons and fell in love with the instrument. Dallin started studying Organ Performance at BYU in the Fall of 2014. He has performed in many locations, including BYU Devotionals, Freshman and Sophomore recitals, the Air Force Academy Cadet Chapel in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and St. John's Cathedral in Boise, Idaho. He has accompanied choirs at BYU and also participated in Men's Chorus and Concert Choir. He is currently the organist at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Provo, UT. Dallin plans to pursue a graduate degree in Choral Conducting. You can read more about him and hear his music at dallinbaldwin.com.

Kyrsten Anderson: Kyrsten's background in music and organ is different from most students: she never officially took any lessons until she came to BYU – rather she was self-taught. While a junior in high school, she started playing the organ and absolutely fell in love with it when Richard Elliott gave her the opportunity to play the Tabernacle Organ. She came to BYU, started taking private organ lessons, auditioned for the program, and the rest is history. During her time at BYU, she has developed a love for teaching, both in teaching BYU outreach organ workshops and private students. She plans to pursue graduate degrees in organ performance. Kyrsten also loves running and is running her first marathon in June!

Levente Medveczky: Levente comes from a big family, the oldest of five brothers. He was born and raised in Budapest, Hungary, where he spent fifteen years of his life studying music on several instruments, including the organ, piano, and cello. He graduated with organ performance from the Béla Bartók Conservatory. After his mission in Salt Lake City, he decided to move to Provo and attend BYU, where he is a senior. Currently, he fulfills the title of an Organ Scholar in the Cathedral of the Madeleine, where he has been serving since his appointment in 2016. He's very excited for the chance to be able to share his talent with the community and with those who are willing to listen.

Nora Hess: Nora grew up studying the piano at BYU, but began playing the organ in her twenties after the only organist in her small Iowa congregation moved away. She has been active as a piano teacher, amateur organist, accompanist, conductor, and member of community choirs for many years, eventually serving in the Mormon Tabernacle Choir from 2004-2014. A few years ago, Nora began more serious organ studies, and she is currently pursuing a Master of Music degree in Organ Performance. She has extensive experience teaching students of all ages and accompanying choirs, and she loves to substitute for other organists' church services. Nora and her husband Bret have been married for 36 years and are the parents of ten children and nine grandchildren. She thinks there is nothing more fun than making music all day long.

Yevgeniya Jaynes

Born in Kiev, Ukraine, Yevgeniya Jaynes graduated with her BM and MM in organ performance from BYU in Provo, Utah, studying with Don Cook and Douglas Bush. She has also completed three semesters of doctoral studies at Indiana University, where she studied with Chris Young. Yevgeniya has worked as the organ scholar at the Cathedral of the Madeleine in Salt Lake City, Utah, and as a music director at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Provo, Utah. She has performed solo recitals in the Cathedral of the Madeleine, the Assembly Hall on Temple Square, the Libby Gardner Hall at University of Utah, as well as the MIT chapel in Boston, Massachusetts. Yevgeniya also performs on a regular basis as a guest organist in the Salt Lake Tabernacle. Prior to becoming an Adjunct Faculty member in the organ department at Brigham Young University, Yevgeniya worked as an Adjunct Professor of music theory at BYU-Idaho. Yevgeniya served as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Baltic Mission. She is currently serving as an organist in her ward in Springville, Utah. Yevgeniya and her husband Justin have two children.

Dr. Brian Mathias

Dr. Brian Mathias is an Adjunct Professor of music at BYU, where he has taught since 2014. Before joining the faculty at BYU, he was an adjunct faculty member at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas, and Associate Organist at Country Club Christian Church in Kansas City, Missouri. Dr. Mathias's responsibilities at BYU include teaching applied organ and carillon, as well as courses in hymn playing, keyboard harmony and improvisation, organ registration, and organ literature. Dr. Mathias regularly performs as a soloist and as an accompanist. He has competed on the international stage in a number of organ competitions, including the 2011 and 2014 Canadian International Organ Competitions and the 2010 Grand Prix de Chartres International Organ Competition. Dr. Mathias earned the Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Kansas, where he studied organ with James Higdon and carillon with Elizabeth Berghout. He received Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from Brigham Young University, studying organ with Don Cook and Douglas Bush and carillon with Don Cook.

Dr. Don Cook

Dr. Don Cook joined the organ faculty of BYU in 1991. In that capacity, he serves as organ area coordinator, as university carillonneur, and oversees the group organ program. Formerly he held associate organist/choirmaster positions at Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, and at First United Methodist Church, Lubbock, Texas. After earning Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in organ at BYU, he received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Organ Performance from the University of Kansas. His principal organ teachers were J.J. Keeler at BYU and James Moeser at KU. For many years, he served as head of the instrumental area for the BYU Workshop on Church Music, and currently directs the annual BYU Organ Workshop, founded in 2002. He has developed and published the first multimedia organ tutorial for pianists, OrganTutor Organ 101 in several versions. The tutorial is used for private and group instruction, BYU Independent Study courses, and by individuals in at least nine countries. Dr. Cook also currently serves as AGO National Councilor for Education.