

*Utah Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
Newsletter • November 2018*

Engage, Support, and Uplift Every Organist



Message from the Sub-Dean

Miranda Wilcox

Dear Friends,

Many thanks to those who organized and attended our opening social!

In anticipation of Thanksgiving, I am grateful for the people who have nourished my life with organ music. My grandfather inaugurated organ music in my family. He grew up fascinated by street organs in Rotterdam (Netherlands). After he immigrated to Utah and started a family, he purchased a Yamaha electric organ for his children to make music. My mother learned how to play this organ, and she inherited it. When I was little, she taught me how to read music and play the keyboard on this organ. Eventually we purchased a piano, and I switched to piano lessons, but I grew up with an organ in my home and listening to my mother prepare for church meetings.

Anticipating that I would be asked to play in church, I took group organ classes at BYU as an undergraduate. I was asked to play for my congregation while in graduate school and after a few years I started taking organ lessons. Lessons opened new horizons of repertoire and beautiful combinations of sounds. Practicing became a source of joy and peace in my daily life. I am grateful to my organ teachers—Haruhito

Miyagi, Don Cook, Brian Matthias, and Neil Harmon—
for their expertise, attentive care, and encouragement.

This month let us express our gratitude to those who
introduced and facilitated music in our lives.

As a chapter, we are thanking Dr. Parley Belnap for his
dedicated organ teaching. During his thirty-three years
at Brigham Young University, he mentored thousands
of students and built up the BYU organ program. In
addition to teaching organ and music theory, he
developed a group organ curriculum and organ
certification program as well as administered a summer
workshop on church music that continues today.

When praised, Dr. Belnap says, “As an organ teacher,
I’ve enjoyed developing organists that will serve The
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I help
students learn how to manage the console as they gain
a technical mastery of the instrument for their degrees. I
stress accuracy and guide students through an
understanding of style and form. If I’ve done my job,
they will play more than the notes—they will recreate a
composer’s music in the hearts and minds of the
listeners.”

Join us for a tribute recital in honor of Parley Belnap on
Saturday, 10 November at the American Fork East
Stake Center at 6:00 pm.

*Miranda Wilcox is an associate professor of English at Brigham
Young University where she teaches medieval literature. She
has contributed her time and talents to the chapter as secretary
and newsletter editor and has served as a volunteer organist in
many of the congregations in which she has lived.*

2018 Opening Social Highlights

by Mike Carson

The chapter's opening social, which was held on October 19 in Provo, was a delightful event. It was wonderful to meet and mingle with everyone again and to make some new friends. There were about 60 people in attendance.

We enjoyed a catered meal, followed by the swearing in of the 2018-2019 officers and board members by Michael Bigelow. We also enjoyed a historical overview by our chapter historian, Laura Pettersson, of many of the chapter's past events that have promoted the guild's mission and purposes. As stated in the national bylaws:

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ.

To achieve this we:

- *Encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music*
- *Inspire, educate, and offer certification for organists and choral conductors*
- *Provide networking, fellowship, and mutual support*
- *Nurture future generations of organists*
- *Promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles*
- *Engage wider audiences with organ and choral music*

Laura used the chapter's website, which was projected onto a TV screen, to illustrate and highlight how our local chapter has fulfilled each point of the mission statement of the guild in recent years.

Following Laura's presentation, Miranda Wilcox shared photos of the organs and actual sound clips played by tour participants from the BYU organ tour to France last April. She answered questions about the organs and shared some of her personal experiences while on the tour.

A special "thank you" to Lori Serr, Miranda Wilcox, Dorothy Jensen, and Ruth Eldredge Thomas for organizing the social and making it a delightful event for everyone in attendance.



2018-2019 UVAGO officers and board members were sworn in at the opening social on October 19: (from left) Mike Carson, Dorothy Jensen, Lella Pomeroy, Lori Serr, Jennifer Morgan, Ruth Eldredge Thomas, Kari Nay, David Chamberlin, Miranda Wilcox, and Laura Pettersson. Not pictured: DeeAnn Stone, Sheri Peterson, Bradley Dickson, Glen Hicks, and Linda Rehart

Upcoming Chapter Events

November 10

Parley Belnap Tribute Recital
American Fork East Stake Center
825 East 500 North
6:00 p.m.

Former students of Dr. Parley Belnap convene at the American Fork East Stake Center to perform a tribute recital in his honor.



Dr. Belnap's former students, who are not playing on the recital, are invited to submit a brief written memory of the time they were his student and submit it to Lori Serr (lori.serr@icloud.com) by November 4.



December 7

Christmas Informal

Provo Sunset Stake Center

1560 South 1100 West, Provo

7:00 pm

Bring your favorite Christmas music and play the Johannus organ in an informal setting. Hope to see you there...so we can share!



UVAGO MEMBER RECITAL

19 January 2019

2:00 pm

1006 East 200 South
Spanish Fork, UT 84660

To play, email mirandawilcox96@gmail.com

January 19

Member Recital

Stake Center of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

1006 East 200 South, Spanish Fork

2:00 p.m.

This will be a more formal recital at Jack Stoneman's stake center. Please email Miranda Wilcox at mirandawilcox96@gmail.com to sign up to perform.

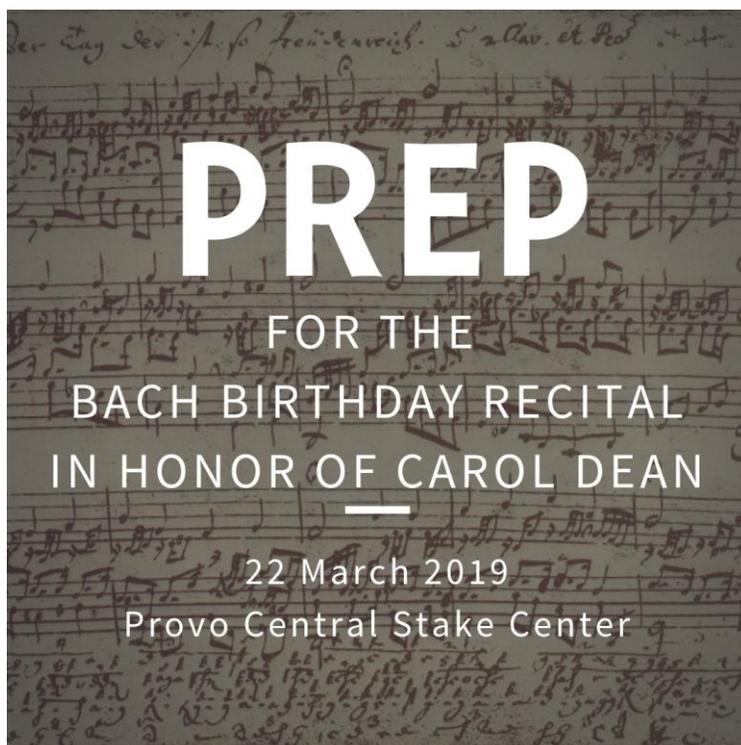
February 9

Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza!

883 North 1200 East in Provo

10:00 a.m.

All youth (and parents, too!) are invited to see the inside workings of a pipe organ, ask questions, and try playing the organ! A pizza lunch follows. This will take place in Ruth Eldredge Thomas' home at 883 North 1200 East in Provo (Ephraim and Verena Hatch's former home) from 10:00 a.m. to noon.



March 22

Bach's Birthday Recital in Honor of Carol Dean

Provo Central Stake Center

7:00 p.m.

Please contact Miranda Wilcox at mirandawilcox96@gmail.com to reserve your piece and a performance spot on the recital.

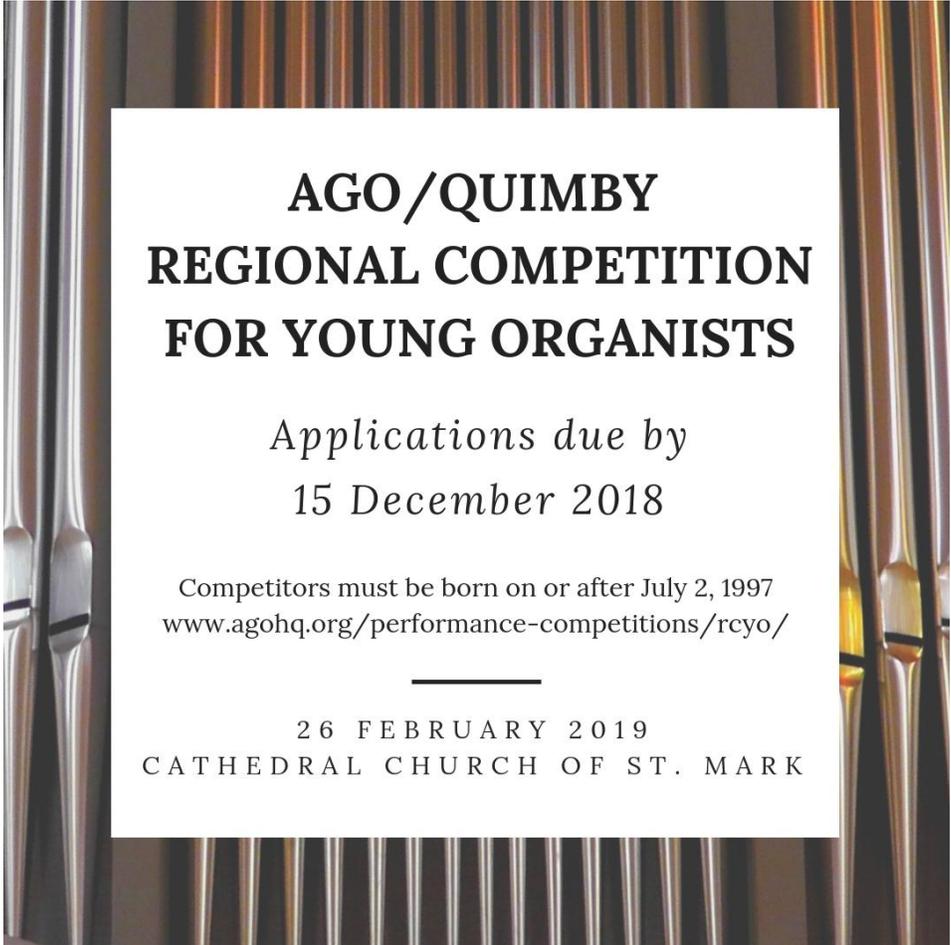
April 27

Super Saturday for Church Organists

Details forthcoming!

REMEMBER! Our chapter news and event details are always available on our website. You can also find contact information for our members on the directory page (directory password is Bigelow16). Visit often. Everything is just a click away.

uvago.org



**AGO/QUIMBY
REGIONAL COMPETITION
FOR YOUNG ORGANISTS**

*Applications due by
15 December 2018*

Competitors must be born on or after July 2, 1997
www.agohq.org/performance-competitions/rcyo/

26 FEBRUARY 2019
CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. MARK

2019 AGO/QUIMBY REGIONAL COMPETITIONS FOR YOUNG
ORGANISTS (RCYO)

Utah Competition

Hosted by Utah Valley and Salt Lake City Chapters

Contacts: Jennifer Morgan (UVAGO) & Heidi Alley (SLCAGO)

The purpose of these competitions is to encourage younger organists to pursue excellence, to gain performance experience, to develop service playing skills, and to receive recognition for their achievements.

These competitions begin at the Chapter level and conclude at the seven Regional Conventions. The winner of each Regional Competition will be invited to perform as a Rising Star at the 2020 National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

The AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions are made possible by a generous grant from Michael Quimby, President, Quimby Pipe Organs Inc.

[Official Rules](#)

Chapter History: Call for Items between 2010 & 2017

Our chapter historian, Laura Pettersson, would like to fill in some gaps in our history. She calls for historical materials, such as printed programs, news clippings, photos, etc. between 2010 and 2017 that you might have in your possession. She plans to pull chapter news and events from past newsletters, but would appreciate receiving any documents that you might have in your files. Please email her at llbpett@yahoo.com with submissions or questions. Thank you for your help!

AGO Membership Levels

The American Guild of Organists offers membership, dual membership, and chapter friend options, but understanding what these options mean can be confusing. Hopefully, this information will help you make the best membership decision for your situation. Questions? Please contact the chapter's membership coordinator, Jennifer Morgan, at jenniferorganist@gmail.com.

[Membership Levels](#)

Please note: If you have recently renewed your membership and are not on the current members list, your membership could still be processing. Feel free to contact Jennifer Morgan (jenniferorganist@gmail.com) or David Chamberlin (david@chamberlinmusic.com) to verify your status.

Current Membership



Note from Newsletter Editor: We welcome chapter and guild news and other related items that would be of interest to our members and organ friends. Please email all items, including photos, to Mike Carson at mcarson@uvago.org. Please send submissions by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the following month's newsletter. Thank you!



[Do you have Facebook? So do we!](#)

"Like" our page to stay in touch with people, events, and important information regarding the Utah Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.