

*Utah Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists  
Newsletter • January 2019*

## Engage, Support, and Uplift Every Organist

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### January Message

Miranda Wilcox, sub-dean

Thanks to all who shared Christmas music at the Informal in December, and many thanks to Blaine Olson for hosting and demonstrating the Johannus organ at the Provo Sunset stake center. I love gathering with friends, neighbors, or communities to make and/or appreciate music during the holidays. I recently discovered a poem by Mark Doty called [“Messiah \(Christmas portions\).”](#) The poem describes a community choral society gathering to sing Handel’s *Messiah*. Though not professional singers, their communal effort transcends their ordinary lives and challenges: “This music / demonstrates what it claims: / glory shall be revealed.” I particularly like the last three stanzas:

Aren’t we enlarged  
by the scale of what we’re able  
to desire? Everything,  
the choir insists,  
might flame;  
inside these wrappings  
burns another, brighter life,

quickened, now,  
by song: hear how  
it cascades, in overlapping,  
lapidary waves of praise? Still time.  
Still time to change.

As we ring in a new year, may we effect change with music. There are so many forces in the world that are tearing people apart; let us use music to bring people together.

We have exciting organ events planned in 2019. See the schedule below. We will kick off the year with an afternoon chapter recital on January 19. I am still looking for performers; send me an email at [mirandawilcox96@gmail.com](mailto:mirandawilcox96@gmail.com) if you would like to play.

Wishing you a happy new year,

Miranda

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**Editors Note:** PBS NewsHour produced a delightful video, which illustrated Mark Doty's poem "Messiah: Christmas Portions" for a broadcast in December 2011. Doty was invited to DC to read his poem, with a terrific film crew in attendance, at an Episcopal Church in Tenleytown. He explains, "I have a longstanding distrust of 'illustrating' poems in practically any fashion; usually I'd prefer to let the words do the work they were made for. But what producer Anne Davenport and her fellow PBS staffers made here delights me; the poem seems opened out to a wider audience, and the editing is so intelligently done that I don't even notice the cuts in the text made for time's sake. Four minutes on the evening news? What more could a poet ask for -- at least when it comes to speaking in the social space."

[View PBS Video](#)

## Upcoming Chapter Events



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 recital will be held at Jack Stoneman's stake center in Spanish Fork. Please invite your friends and family to join us. There are still some spots left for performers. Email Miranda Wilcox at [mirandawilcox96@gmail.com](mailto:mirandawilcox96@gmail.com) to sign up to perform.



9 FEBRUARY 2019  
883 N 1200 E PROVO  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

## Pedals, Pipes & Pizza

All youth (and parents) are invited to see the inside workings of a pipe organ, ask questions, and try playing the organ followed by pizza.

**Utah Valley Chapter  
American Guild of Organists  
RSVP: [jensdorothy@gmail.com](mailto:jensdorothy@gmail.com)**

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's home at 883 North 1200 East in Provo (Ephraim and Verena Hatch's former home) from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

*Neil Harmon presents*

**PERFORMING  
THE ORGAN WORKS OF  
FELIX MENDELSSOHN**

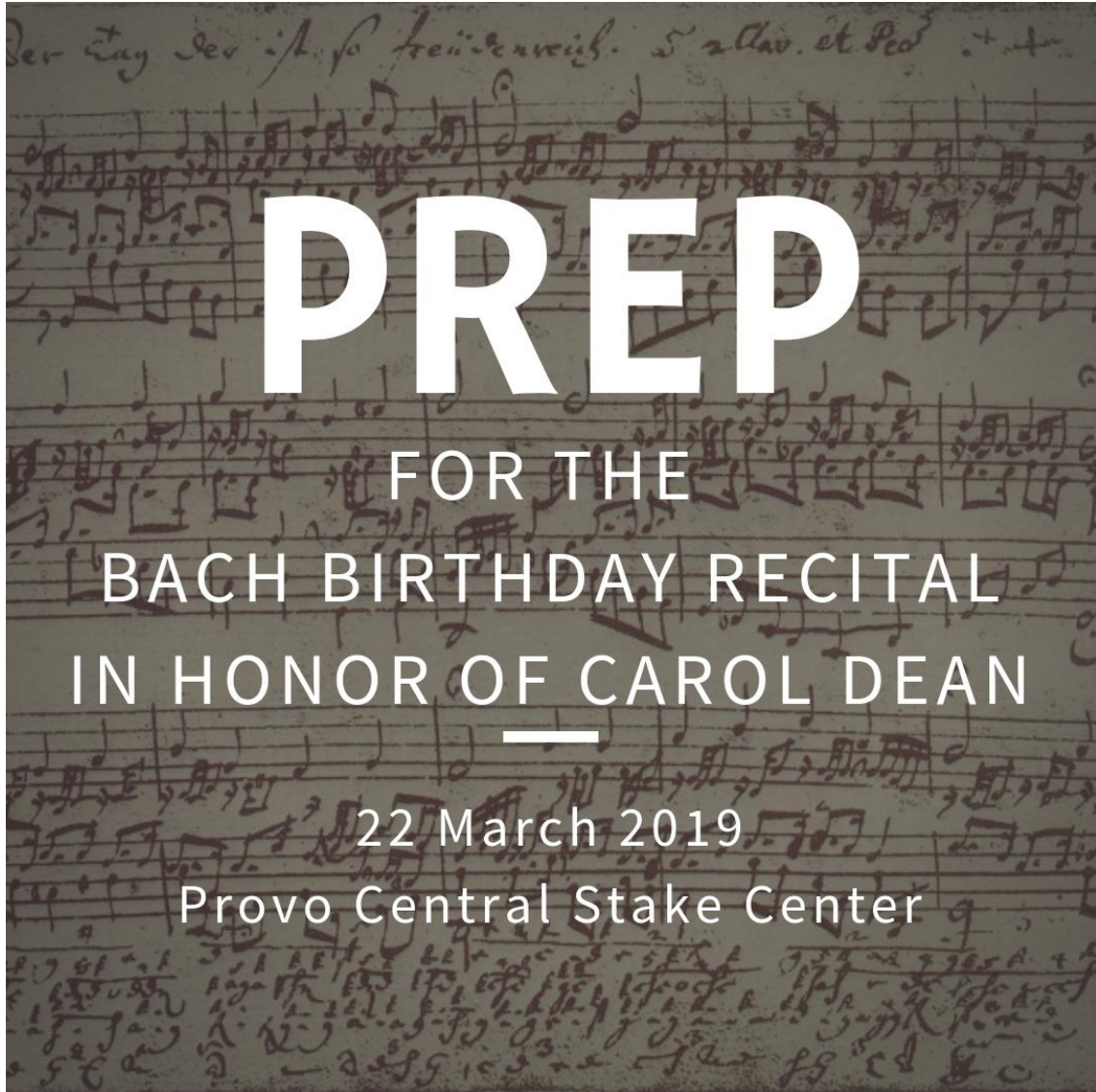


**16 FEBRUARY 2019, 10:00AM, BYU**

February 16

"Performing the Organ Works of Felix Mendelssohn" by Dr. Neil Harmon  
BYU (location will be announced in next month's newsletter).

10:00 a.m.



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](mailto:mirandawilcox96@gmail.com) to reserve your piece and a performance spot on the recital.

April 27

Super Saturday for Church Organists

Details forthcoming!

If you'd like to help the committee organize and execute Super Saturday, please contact Sheri Peterson at: [sheri.peterterson@gmail.com](mailto:sheri.peterterson@gmail.com).

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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. Visit often. Everything is just a click away.

[uvago.org](http://uvago.org)

## In Memoriam



Performers at the Parley Belnap Tribute Recital on November 10, 2018: (from left) Kim Croft, David Chamberlin, David Cornaby, Lori Serr, Kimberly Moody, Linda Margetts, Conner Larsen, Claudia Johnson, Marilyn Smith, Marie Johnson, Heidi Alley. The audio of the recital is posted at [uvago.org](http://uvago.org).

## Students Pay Tribute to Dr. Parley Belnap

DeeAnn Stone has compiled a page on the chapter's website with all of the written tributes to Parley Belnap, who passed away on November 7, 2018. Three days after his passing, on November 10, the Utah Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists presented a tribute recital to him. The recital had already been planned and scheduled for that day in the hope that Parley could attend. The chapter decided to go through with the recital, and it turned into a memorial tribute. The 11 performers were some of his past students, but many of his students were not able to attend or perform, so they were asked to submit written tributes and share some of their memories of studying with this great teacher.

[Read Tributes](#)

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## Life Sketch of Paul Duncombe

Our colleague and friend, Paul Duncombe, passed away on October 15, 2018. At his funeral in Pleasant Grove on October 22 his daughters, Marcy and Carrie, gave his life sketch, which Paul wrote himself for the service. His seven grandchildren each shared brief personal remembrances of their grandfather, and Paul and Linda's son, Robert, delivered a sermon, which was also written by Paul. Marcy so kindly sent the life sketch for us to share with our readers.

[Read Life Sketch](#)

## This 'n' That

### Announcement from National

*Panel of Advisors Sought for Committee on the New Organist*

The AGO Committee on the New Organist, directed by Michael Koenig, is seeking a Panel of Advisors from the general AGO membership.



The purpose of the Committee on the New Organist (CONO) is to introduce non-organists of all ages to the organ, and to further motivate and develop new organists. The committee creates age-appropriate means, materials, and programs for engaging them, and for enabling their development as performers. It oversees such programs and resources as [The New Organist web page](#) and PipeWorks. It also assists the CoPOE, CCPE and other committees in projects involving new organists.

The new AGO [Strategic Growth Plan](#) presents many opportunities for CONO to become a major force in engaging, supporting, and uplifting every organist – especially those new to the organ. The CONO Panel of Advisors would serve voluntarily on an as-needed basis to advise the committee in their projects and directions. The time commitment will be entirely at the advisors' discretion and can be small and occasional.

As the support of new organists represents a significant opportunity for increasing the diversity of AGO membership, both nationally as well as internationally, Michael is highly interested in collaborating with a panel that represents such diversity.

Those interested in joining the CONO Panel of Advisors should email Michael Koenig at [cono@agohq.org](mailto:cono@agohq.org) including the following information:

- Name, mailing address, email, phone
- Current activity or interest as organist
- Résumé
- A brief statement describing what you might be able to contribute as a CONO Panel member

Although there is no deadline for applications, the panel will begin functioning immediately.

Sincerely,  
Don Cook  
AGO National Councillor for Education

## 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](mailto:jenniferorganist@gmail.com).

## Membership Levels



**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. Email all items, including photos, to Mike Carson at [mcarson@uvago.org](mailto: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.