



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

For more information please visit
UVAGO.org
or speak with any of our chapter members here tonight

*The Utah Valley Chapter of the
American Guild of Organists
Presents*

A Recital and Tribute to **Parley Belnap**



*Saturday, November 10, 2018, 6:00 p.m.
American Fork East Stake Center
825 East 500 North, American Fork, UT*

Welcome - Lori Serr, Dean
Opening Prayer
Tribute - David Chamberlin

Program

“Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”

Arr. Emma Lou Diemer

Marilyn Smith

Rhosymedre

Arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

Lori Serr

“We Gather Together”

Arr. Wilbur Held

Heidi J. Alley

Chorale Prelude:

“When We Are in Deepest Need”

(BWV 641)

J. S. Bach

Conner Larsen

Chorale Prelude:

“O Mensch, bewein’ dein’ Sünde gross”

(BWV 622)

J. S. Bach

David Cornaby

Rhumba

Robert Elmore

Kimberly Moody

Aria

Flor Peeters

Linda Margetts

Chorale Prelude:

“Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern”

Flor Peeters

David Chamberlin

“Annie Laurie” (Scottish Folk Song)

Arr. Parley Belnap

Claudia Johnson

“Come, Come, Ye Saints”

Arr. Parley Belnap

Marie Johnson

Prelude in B Minor

(BWV 544a)

J. S. Bach

D. Kim Croft

Please join us for a light reception
following the recital.

Inadequate. But he was always there to offer encouragement, support and to urge me to continue on. I have so appreciated his ever-present example of patience, kindness, gentleness, and meekness. — *Lori Serr*

Brother Belnap accepted me as a beginning organ student at the age when many people would be happy to retire. He was enthusiastic, dedicated and held high expectations. When I was discouraged he offered words of encouragement. I have deep gratitude and love for Brother and Sister Belnap who have welcomed me into their home and hearts. — *Marilyn Smith*

As a young 15-year-old pianist, with a slowly budding interest in organ, I attended BYU Young Musicians Summer Festival. I was insecure. After the group organ class dismissed, Parley pulled me aside and asked, "What is your name?" I was stunned. Somebody important noticed me. In less than a dozen words, Parley changed my life for the better. He was a constant, gentle force for good in my life. I will always be grateful for Parley Belnap. — *Neil Thornock*

Before I came to BYU, I was somewhat ambivalent about the church and undecided about serving a mission. His influence was a prominent factor in my choice to undertake missionary service. After I came home from my mission, I frequently sought Dr. Belnap's advice about other matters and he always responded thoughtfully. He encouraged me and his other students to think about their musical talent in terms of a stewardship, to put the Lord first in all things, and to trust that everything will work out. To myself and to many other organ students he has been so much more than just an organ teacher. He has been an advisor, a father-figure, and a friend. — *Andrew Unsworth*

I studied organ with Prof. Belnap in Salzburg (BYU Semester Abroad) and in my final undergraduate year at BYU. He taught me to think for myself as an organist — a strange concept to me at the time — and reminded me that there were often many different (and valid) ways to approach ornaments, fingering, interpretation, registration, and the other things that make up the art of an organist. Above all, Brother Belnap is kind, generous, and one "in whom there is no guile."

— *James L. Wallmann*

In addition to giving his students a good, solid foundation, Parley also was inspirational and motivating in other ways. I remember walking into Parley's studio on numerous occasions for my lessons, finding him at the organ or piano, drilling a passage, working out a fingering, grabbing a few moments here and there between lessons, never wasting a minute. He taught us all that there is no shortcut to success: it takes hard work, and not just while you're in college, but for the rest of your life! Congratulations to a wonderful teacher and example of selfless service.

Sincerely, *James Welch*

Students' Tributes

Most of the following have been shortened and edited to fit this program. Full, unedited versions are available from David Chamberlin (dchamberlin@uvago.org) and will soon be available on the chapter website, uvago.org.

I started taking organ lessons from Dr. Belnap when I was 10. He taught me to practice carefully, slowly — practicing without mistakes was better than trying to fix the mistakes later. I also have learned many wonderful life skills from Dr. Belnap. My favorite one: you get further with honey than with vinegar. There were a myriad of things he did with his gentle, quiet excitement for the organ. He managed to get things done by honey. Dr. Belnap also taught about living the Gospel. He has dedicated his life to teaching me and others to love the Lord through playing beautiful organ music. God bless you, Dr. Parley Belnap!

— *Heidi J. Alley*

I continue to use and remember organ playing tips and techniques I learned from Brother Belnap while studying organ with him at BYU 40 years ago. He oversaw organists who played for the Mt. Timpanogas Temple dedication. He was so kind and confidence-building as I had that opportunity. His gentle, kind teaching has been an example to me as I have worked as a teacher. — *Jay L. Beck*

I never had a more patient, caring, and encouraging teacher. Brother Belnap's quiet persistence enabled him to accomplish great things. Two things I will always remember him saying to me: "Gut begonnen, halb gewonnen" (A good beginning is half the win), and "Success is where preparation meets opportunity." Oh, and one more: He often quoted J. S. Bach, saying "Anyone who works as hard as I have can accomplish as much as I have." I think he really believed that.

— *David Chamberlin*

I was barely 12 years old when Parley Belnap came to the Emery Stake Center in Castle Dale, to teach 12 organ courses for the Church General Music Committee. He gave my mother and me our first glimpse into the world of real organ playing. While I was an undergraduate at BYU, I studied privately with Brother Belnap while J. J. Keeler was on sabbatical. I will always be grateful that he made me memorize the Bach Prelude & Fugue in D Major, which has served me well to this day. May the Lord continue to bless you, Parley, and your sweet wife and wonderful family. You played a seminal role in my life for which I will always be grateful. You are truly a gentle, royal prince among men!

With gratitude and love, *Clay Christiansen*

I learned valuable lessons under Parley that I use when teaching and practicing today. "Practice does not make perfect – only Perfect practice makes perfect." "Understand the connection between the message and the music, and make hearing the music an emotional and spiritual experience as well as intellectual appreciation for your technique and dexterity." "While playing hymns, read the verse and enforce it's message by breaking and sustaining with the text." There are so many things, so many memories. I want to express my appreciation to my teacher of seven years, my mentor that demonstrated the value of moral and spiritual values, and my friend that "held my hand" in times of stress and darkness.

— David Cornaby

When I showed up to register for my freshman year at BYU, Bro. Longhurst asked me if I'd object to studying with Bro. Belnap. I rather brashly – and ignorantly – replied, "Oh, anyone can help me." Little did I know how profoundly that placement would affect nearly every aspect of my entire life. I studied with Bro. Belnap for a long time, and there is much I could say. Above all, he was kind. And he was a phenomenal teacher. On more than one occasion, after having not given a perfect performance in a public recital or masterclass, I'd come to a lesson resolved to never attempt to play again. And he was always so encouraging – so reassuring – and kind... And we'd move on. Herzlichen Dank, Bruder Belnap!

— D. Kim Croft

I first met Dr. Belnap in 1977 when we moved into his ward in American Fork. He was the ward organist and I loved his organ music each Sunday. After my children were raised, he worked patiently with me for seven years. I was the enthusiastic recipient, not only of expert organ instruction, but he told me stories and experiences based on a lifetime of service through organ instruction and performance. I will always be grateful I was one of Dr. Belnap's students.

— Claudia Johnson

Claudia Johnson, my temple playing partner, and I took lessons from Bro. Belnap at his home about ten or eleven years ago. In addition to being able to hear everything that was going on with the music, he was always kind, patient, and encouraging. It was a privilege to get to know such a Christlike and talented person. — Marie Johnson:

I began taking lessons from Dr. Belnap when I was 10. When I would get frustrated, sometimes Dr. Belnap would pull out a "real" organ book and sit next to me on the bench and play a song. Sometimes I'd try a little bit of the left hand, sometimes a little bit of the right hand, and once I was tall enough I'd do the pedals. It always meant the world to me that he would take the time to make me feel better and more accomplished at playing! I'm forever grateful for his patience!

— Conner Larsen

My introduction to Parley was in the Paris, France Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1954. I was in high school then (military dependents' school). Throughout the intervening years Parley was always encouraging and kind. Now, being a "senior" organist and still playing, learning new repertoire and contributing as I can by teaching others, I owe my success and my love of the organ, the repertoire and performing to Parley Belnap, who took the time to teach and care and by so doing to be part of his gift "which keeps on giving."

Sincerely, Sandra Stonehocker Mangum

Brother Belnap was my Music Theory teacher. His crystal clear explanations of how music worked went from his squeaky chalk strokes directly into my brain and clicked with a clarity that made the system seem simple. "The best teacher is the one who kindles an inner fire, ...inspires the student with a vision of what he may become, and reveals the worth and permanency of moral, spiritual and cultural values." (Garnet) Brother Belnap is the "best teacher," and I majored in Organ Performance because of his class. What is it about this fine man that allowed him to influence my life in such a completely profound way? I think it is his family and wife, Bona; his devotion to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in all his doings; his basic unselfish, completely-lacking-self-importance desire to share all he knows; his good mind, clear thinking, and hard work ethic; his foresight to start the Summer Organ Workshops at which I taught from the beginning; his kindness to everyone. I want my life to be like Brother Belnap's. I want to influence others for good so his goodness will continue. Thank you, Parley and Bona!

— Linda S. Margetts

I loved my time studying organ under Parley Belnap at BYU. From Brother Belnap I learned life skills in music, teaching and developing who I am. Brother Belnap maintained very high expectations but expressed them in a quiet, tender way. I never wanted to come to my lesson unprepared. I knew he cared about my musical growth and invested a lot of time in my development. I am the person I am today because I was influenced by Parley Belnap's love and example.

— Kimberly Moody

The three years I spent under Dr. Belnap's tutelage profoundly changed my life. I will always remember his relentless pursuit of excellence at every lesson and performance. I will always be grateful for the Christlike and wonderful mentor that Dr. Belnap has been to me throughout my life. Much of his work has and will continue to be passed down to my own students as I try my hardest to model his unstinting example of both professional and personal excellence. With love,

— David Pickering

I first met Brother Belnap at USU while I was still in high school. When I came to BYU, I continued my organ lessons with him but I was undecided about a major. During my study there, I had moments of feeling very inexperienced and