

## **UVAGO HISTORY**

In the Fall of 1979, sixteen fellow organists gathered in the home of Ephraim and Verena Hatch in Provo to form a local chapter of the American Guild of Organists. The chapter was named the Utah Valley Chapter. Officers were selected, with Gerald Dick as the first Dean. A petition was then sent to National Headquarters for the official chartering of the Chapter. The charter was issued October 9, 1979, signed by Roberta Bitgood, the then AGO National President.

From that time to the present, there have been twenty-one Chapter Deans and Boards representing many years and thousands of hours of dedicated volunteer work planning and providing a variety of events from opening and closing socials, to a variety of informals, to member recitals, such as the Bach's birthday recital, to organ crawls giving an opportunity to play other organs, such as the Tabernacle Organ at Temple Square, the Conference Center organ, and organs in other dominations, to a variety hymns sings, to guest artists, lectures and master classes, to Mike Ohman's delightful demonstration of the Mighty

Wurlitzer accompanying silent movies, to exposure to renaissance, baroque, and romantic styles of Italian, French, and German music, to Pedal's Pipes and Pizza introducing the organ to youth, to the annual Super Saturdays with its many wonderful presenters. The list goes on and on.

As a result of the Chapters organization and the years of service by many, right here in this gathering this evening, we enjoy a community of friends who share a common cause and purpose; we are encouraged, inspired, and challenged. Definitely challenged.... Infact, often pushed out of our comfort zones. But then that helps us to stretch and improve. Right? Ultimately, we are all edified as we share this outlet for musical growth and improvement.

We say thank you. Thank you to all who have served over the years and to all of you who come to learn and grow and who generously share your talents and knowledge and expertise. If you haven't already, we invite you to view the Chapter Charter and posters identifying the Founding Members and the past and present Deans displayed in the

Cultural Hall. Thank you for coming this evening.