

Utah Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists Newsletter • September 2020

Engage, Support, and Uplift Every Organist

uvago.org

In This Issue:

- Sub-Dean's Message
- September Challenge: The Organ Console
- BYU Organ Workshop 2020 Recital by Workshop Instructors
- Enhance Your Organ Skills through Certification Jennifer Morgan
- Diversify Our Repertoire Miranda Wilcox
- Inspire! Introducing the new Inspire Classic Edition by Rodgers a price-accessible organ for the home or studio
- Piping Up! Organ Concerts at Temple Square
- Eccles Organ Festival New 27th Season Announced!
- New Member Spotlight Sarah Barney
- We value your membership in the Utah Valley chapter of the American Guild of Organists
- Do you have Facebook? So do we!



Sub-Dean's Message

Heidi Rodeback

Hello Organist Friends!

In 1665, Isaac Newton was sent home from Trinity College, Cambridge, to sit out the Great Plague. Famously, that fall he discovered gravity and used the rest of the year to invent calculus.

What can we be doing as organists to improve our time during this pandemic?

Bonnie Goodliffe answered that question for us when she gave the keynote address at the 2009 BYU Organ Workshop. Introducing us to her system of list making, she told us about the list she called "poco a poco—things which can be done a little at a time." She reminded us that it is only by small and simple means that great things are brought to pass, and she promised that "one step a week or even one a month adds up to a fair distance down the road."

In that spirit, the UVAGO is making 2020-2021 a year of achieving challenges for organists. Each month, we'll suggest something small that you can do to improve your efforts. We'll help you by sharing handouts or worksheets and hosting online forums. Some months, these will take the form of a Zoom roundtable discussion; other months we'll invite you to record and post your performances online.

Click on the button below and take a minute to look at the overview for the year. You'll find there's something for everyone.

Organ Challenges Overview

If you are a pianist newly called to the organ, take September's challenge to get to know

the organ console. If you are an experienced church musician, consider January's challenge to expand your prelude repertoire or February's challenge to learn a new way to play a hymn.

Students of all stripes are invited to learn new repertoire and perform in any of three different recitals. Those tackling AGO certifications will find support from members who have been there. And the year 2020 has inspired us all to seek out and learn the works of women and minority composers. If you'll join us at our Zoom discussions, we'll even give you an opportunity to build your library with giveaways of books and music donated by Laura Pettersson.

Each of these challenges is small, but each can make a lasting difference. Please join with us to make this a year of meaningful progress. *Poco a poco*—that's how we'll get it done—little by little, together!



September Challenge: The Organ Console

September's challenge presents an opportunity to know your organ better. Do you know how to access the memories and set the presets? Have you ever wondered how the action of the keys is transferred to the pipes? Have you read through the user's manual, and do you know where to find it online? Take time this month to sort through confusing terminology and get to know your organ individually.

Click on the button below to access a series of questions about the organ console, including some online resources to help you!

<u>September's Challenge - The Organ Console</u>

Don't forget to join us for the **Zoom roundtable discussion**

Host: Jack Stoneman Friday, September 18

7:00 p.m.

Topic: UVAGO September Organ Challenge Discussion

Time: Sep 18, 2020 07:00 PM Mountain Time

To join the Zoom meeting, click on the link below a few minutes before start time, and enter the meeting ID and/or passcode, if prompted.

https://byu.zoom.us/j/91353111839?pwd=di9JakkxY2d0Nlg3eVdUcUNyUmordz09

Meeting ID: 913 5311 1839

Passcode: 483176

We'll look forward to our discussion!



New board members meet at a distance in July for their first planning meeting. From left: Heidi, David, Laura, Lori, Margo, Miranda, Ruth Ann, Dorothy, and Neil. Picture taken by Mike. Attending remotely on phones: Jennifer, Kari, and DeeAnn.

Contact any member of the current UVAGO board by email from the chapter's website at: http://uvago.org/contact/e-mail-officers/

2020 BYU Organ Workshop

Recital by Workshop Instructors



Enjoy the workshop instructors' recital on YouTube!

PERFORMERS

Seth Bott
Linda Margetts
Felipe Dominguez
Alena Hall
Jacob Hofeling
Mark Campbell
Elizabweth Forsythj
Sharee Thompson
Valerie Harris

Click to listen!

Enhance your organ skills!

by Jennifer Morgan

Have you ever wanted to know more about certification through the American Guild of Organists, or have you wanted to start working towards one of the five levels of certification? This year, as the Education Coordinator for our chapter, I'm excited to host online training or study groups for these AGO exams. If you'd like to start working on some of the required skills, participate in an overview discussion of all of the exams, solicit feedback from your peers, or would just like a little more information, please reach out to me. In the email let me know your interest and availability, so that I can create these groups. In the meantime, click the button below for more information about certification through the American Guild of Organists.

Even if certification isn't something that you're interested in right now, you may still wish to learn more about transposition, accompanying, harmonization, or sight-reading. If so, I hope you'll consider participating in these Zoom meetings.

I'm really looking forward to collaborating with you!

Jennifer Morgan
JenniferOrganist@gmail.com



Click the button below to learn more about organ certification in the AGO.

Learn More

Diversify Our Repertoire

by Miranda Wilcox

In addition to enriching our organ skills by participating in the monthly organ challenges, chapter members are also invited to accept the challenge to learn a work by a woman or minority composer and perform this piece at the member recital in May 2021.

Sadly, little of the organ music performed or recorded is by women or minority composers. Organists and audiences are missing out on forgotten gems. Every month Miranda will spotlight an organist and invite the chapter to diversify our repertoire.



Florence Beatrice Price (1887-1953)

Florence Beatrice Smith Price was the first Black woman composer to receive national recognition. She was born in Little Rock, Arkansas. Her

parents were well educated professionals and encouraged their daughter's talent for music. Florence performed her first recital at age four and sold her first composition at age eleven. In 1903 she enrolled in the New England Conservatory of Music where she studied organ, piano, and composition. Price performed regularly at the Conservatory and local churches. After graduation, she taught music in Little Rock and directed the music department at Clark University in Atlanta between 1910-12.

In 1926, she moved to Chicago with her husband and two daughters. There she studied and taught music at local colleges and conservatories. She accompanied silent movies and church congregations while maintaining a private studio where she taught harmony, composition, and piano. She also orchestrated radio programs.

In 1932, she won first prize in the national Wanamaker Music Composition for her *Symphony in E Minor*. Her <u>symphony was premiered by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1933</u>, and she became the first Black woman to have an orchestral work performed by a major American orchestra. The Chicago Daily News reported: "It is a faultless work, a work that speaks its own message with restraint and yet with passion . . . worthy of a place in the regular symphonic repertory."

Price composed <u>over 300 pieces</u>, including orchestral works, chamber music, art songs, choral music, piano solos, and organ solos. Price interwove traditional elements of European Romantism with modern American vernacular idiom in her compositions. Many of her pieces incorporate melodies and rhythms of blues and spirituals.

I encountered Price's Suite No. 1 for Organ on a <u>Pipedream's episode</u> and was intrigued by the jazz harmonies. The Suite begins with a dramatic Fantasy. The Fughetta and Air both evoke melodies from spirituals. The final Toccato delights with a pentatonic melody and syncopated rhythms in a rondo form. The Suite was composed in 1940 and premiered at Grace Episcopal Church in Chicago in 1942. Calvert Johnson edited this piece and several volumes of Price's organ music in the ClarNan Editions.

Price's organ solo <u>"Adoration,"</u> originally published in *The Organ Portfolio* in 1951, is available in score form to download at no charge from IMSLP. Listen to Dr. Crista Miller's performance.

For more information about Price, see:

http://www.florenceprice.org/, https://www.allclassical.org/womens-history-month-florence-price/, and the ClarNan editions of her music.

Inspire!

Introducing the new **Inspire Classic Edition**, built to Rodgers standards, and developed as a price-accessible organ for the home, studio, chapel or church.

To find out more contact Tyler Anderson at Anderson Organ Works! (contact information on flyer)

INTRODUCING THE **CLASSIC EDITION** inSpire

SPECIAL PRICES ON A NEW MODEL!

Make dreams of majestic pipe organ sound and beautiful orchestral voices an everyday reality.

Introducing the new Inspire Classic Edition, built to Rodgers standards, and developed as a price-accessible organ for the home, studio, chapel or church. With special limited-time pricing beginning at **\$14,995***, the new Rodgers Inspire Classic Edition delivers unmatched value.

The Inspire Classic Edition was born from a goal of supporting organists spending more time practicing at home and churches which are slowly re-opening with a high-quality

WORLD-CLASS AUDIO - E (EXTERNAL) MODEL

4 FR1 Speakers, 2 SW6 Subwoofers, & premium amplifier kit

Features a state-of-the-art external 4.2 audio system

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MORE INFORMATION



www.andersonorganworks.com







* Offer available until 9/30/20



Advertisement - Offer ends September 30, 2020

Anderson Organ Works



The five accomplished Tabernacle and Temple Square organists, Richard Elliott, Andrew Unsworth, Brian Mathias, Linda Margetts, and Joseph Peeples, plus occasional guest organists, are featured in a new online concert stream:

PIPING UP: Organ Concerts at Temple Square

- Every Monday, Wednesday, Friday at noon (mountain)
- 30-minute concerts, each featuring a different organist
- Streamed on The Choir's <u>YouTube</u>
 <u>channel</u>, <u>Broadcasts.ChurchofJesusChrist.org</u>, <u>TheTabernacleChoir.</u>
 <u>org</u>.



Announcing the

Twenty-Seventh Season of the Eccles Organ Festival

This year more than ever, beautiful and meaningful experiences are a profound necessity, and the Eccles Organ Festival is ready to launch another season of quality musical presentations at the Cathedral of the Madeleine. The festival will feature community-focused programs, with beloved performers selected from right here in Utah!. Click the button below and discover what is in store for you!

Detailed Season Schedule

New Member: Welcome, Sarah Barney!



I live in Riverton, Utah, where I serve as a ward and stake organist. I'm a beginner who became interested in the organ a few years ago when I attended the BYU Organ Workshop at the invitation of a friend. The welcoming and encouraging environment inspired me to take the leap into learning. I am a recent emptynester, married, with four children and one grandchild. I am a nurse practitioner, and I currently work for an insurance company. I look forward to being a part of the UVAGO.

Sarah Barney 801-870-5541 sarahb417@gmail.com

We Value Your Membership

The chapter appreciates your continued support of its mission to "engage, support, and uplift every organist." If you already have a membership, you may receive an email reminder when it is time to renew it. Your contributions enhance the chapter's ability to sponsor monthly organ events each year. Please reflect on how your associations in the guild have supported and uplifted you, and consider joining or renewing today!.

Learn How

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.

Photo by Kari Nay

