



# Utah Valley Chapter American Guild of Organists

*The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to enrich lives through organ and choral music.*

## Chapter Officers

### Dean

Sheri Peterson  
sheri.peterson@gmail.com

### Sub-Dean

Paul Duncombe  
paulduncombe@hotmail.com

### Registrar & Treasurer

David Chamberlin  
david@chamberlinmusic.com

### Secretary

Jennifer Morgan  
MusicalMom@gmail.com

### Newsletter Editor

Jack Stoneman  
jackstoneman@gmail.com

### Web Master

DeeAnn Stone  
dstone@uvago.org

### Historian

Kymerly Stone  
kymerly.stone@gmail.com

### Education

Lori Serr, CAGO  
ljserr@yahoo.com

### Publicity

Mark Clark  
mclark@novell.com

### Photographer

Kari Nay  
2karinay@gmail.com

### BYU Student Representative

Kyrsten Anderson

### Social Media Administrator

Quinten Knudsen  
tuba29@stny.rr.com

### Super Saturday Chairman

Matt Beesley  
matthew.beesley89@gmail.com

### Members-at-Large

Carol Dean, CAGO  
Lella Pomeroy, CAGO  
Linda Rehart  
Jack Stoneman  
Mike Carson

## Dean's Message

February 2016

Dear Friends,

Recently I read something that C. S. Lewis wrote concerning the intent behind our music. It spoke to my heart and gave me cause for reflection. I would like to share his thoughts with you.

What is looked for in us, as men, is another kind of glorifying, which depends on intention. How easy or how hard it may be for a whole choir to preserve that intention through all the discussions and decisions, all the corrections and disappointments, all the temptations to pride, rivalry and ambition, which precede the performance of a great work, I (naturally) do not know. But it is on the intention that all depends.

When it succeeds, I think the performers are the most enviable of men; privileged while mortals to honour God like angels and, for a few golden moments, to see spirit and flesh, delight and labour, skill and worship, the natural and the supernatural, all fused into that unity they would have had before the Fall. But I must insist that no degree of excellence in the music, simply as music, can assure us that this paradisaical state has been achieved. The excellence proves 'keenness'; but men can be 'keen' for natural, or even wicked, motives. The absence of keenness would prove that they lacked the right spirit; its presence does not prove that they have it.

We must beware of the naïve idea that our music can 'please' God as it would please a cultivated human hearer. That is like thinking, under the old Law, that He really needed the blood of bulls and goats. To which an answer came, 'mine are the cattle upon a thousand hills,' and 'if I am hungry, I will not tell *thee*.' If God (in that sense) wanted music, He would not tell *us*. For all our offerings, whether of music or martyrdom,

## Dean's Message, continued

are like the intrinsically worthless present of a child, which a father values indeed, but values only for the intention.”

—C.S. Lewis, “On Church Music,” in *Christian Reflections* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1967), 98-99.

We endeavor to teach and train individuals pertaining to the proper technique of playing the organ. It goes without saying that a trained organist can add a lot to a worship service or a performance. Nevertheless, as I read C. S. Lewis, I was reminded that as we teach and practice technique, we must never lose sight that the desires and intentions of the heart matter also. I imagine that you most likely feel a reverence for Johann Sebastian Bach as he, through his music, gave glory to God. Let us be like Bach and as organists let our teaching and music sing “Soli Deo Gloria,” “to the glory of God alone!”

Sincerely,

Sheri

## Upcoming Events

### Chapter Activities

- Feb 20 UVAGO Young Organists Scholarship Audition and performance, Spanish Fork Stake Center, 1006 E 200 S, Spanish Fork, 10:00 AM.
- March 18 Bach Recital, Provo Central Stake Center, 7:30 PM.
- April 23 Super Saturday, Harris Fine Arts Center, BYU, 8 AM - 3 PM
- May Closing Social: Franck & Franks
- July 24-30 Pipe Organ Encounter, sponsored by UVAGO and SLAGO, Organists ages 13-18 take lessons, attend master classes, and attend concerts.

### Organ Recitals and Events

- Feb 5-6 SLCAGO [February Festival](#)
- Feb 6 [Robert Plimpton](#), Tabernacle, SLC, 7:30 PM
- Feb 14 [Daniel Roth](#), Cathedral of the Madeleine, SLC, 8:00 PM

## POE Highlights

The POE committee would like to remind everyone to contribute \$20 to help fund the POE that is being sponsored by our chapter and held in SLC this coming July. One of the biggest challenges in running a successful POE is funding. Most of the money that comes from participants is just enough to cover the cost of housing and food, which is about one-half the total budget. The other portion of the budget comes from grants and donations.

Your twenty dollar contribution will help to run a successful POE, but any amount you feel that you could contribute will be very appreciated! Your much needed contribution will help cover the cost of hosting this important event.

Please send your contribution (payable to the Utah Valley Chapter, AGO) to the chapter treasurer, David Chamberlain, 313 Yale Circle, American Fork, UT 84003.

## *It's not too late to register!*

For the Salt Lake City Chapter's February Festival. Over 20 workshops, a master class with Robert Plimpton, and a recital by Plimpton in the Tabernacle. More info here:

<http://slcago.org/february-festival/>

In addition, there will be a master class with Daniel Roth on Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. For more information, contact Alex Oldroyd [alex@slcago.org](mailto:alex@slcago.org).

## *Remembering*

### *Robert Cundick*

*(1926-2016)*

"I never saw Bob Cundick do anything with less than total commitment. He either did things 100% or he didn't take them on. Right up until his retirement in 1991 at the age of 65, he held his playing to the highest standards. The libraries at the Tabernacle are filled with examples of his prowess as a composer and arranger, including numerous organ or piano reductions of orchestral accompaniments, which are a revelation of the transcriber's art. And one doesn't have to look far to also see evidence of his passion for improving congregational singing.

Speaking personally, Bob has been a great friend and mentor over the years since I first met him in 1980 as a brand new convert to the LDS Church. Following the first "Music and the Spoken Word" broadcast I had ever experienced, he received me with warmth and graciousness. His kindness and friendship continued unabated over the nearly 36 subsequent years. I feel that I am a better person, a better father and husband, and a better musician as a result of his example and his music."

-Richard Elliott, Tabernacle Organist

*(Continued on next page)*



## Resources for Organists

[AGO National Headquarters](#)

[AGO Utah Valley Chapter](#)

[Utah Valley AGO Facebook Page](#)

[AGO Salt Lake City Chapter](#)

[Bigelow & Co.](#)

Local organ builder of fine mechanical action organs

[Hymn Voluntaries](#)

by David Chamberlin

[Hymnal Trivia Quiz](#)

by Lella Pomeroy and James

Welch

[LDS Organist](#)

Free music for the LDS organist

[The LDS Organist](#)

Resources for organists by

Jennifer Morgan

[Organ Study](#)

BYU School of Music

[Pedal Points](#)

Musings on organ playing by

Florence Hawkinson

[Pedals & Pipework](#)

Tours of local pipe organs by Nick

Banks

[Resources for LDS Organists](#)

by DeeAnn Stone

[Ward Organist](#)

Music for the LDS organist

**A fascinating [interview](#) with organist Stephen Tharp and Dr. Jeannine Jordan**

### Remembering Robert Cundick (*continued from pg 3*)

“Much has been said of Bob’s unmatched ability to obtain money for many Temple Square musical additions and upgrades which certainly do bless us here every day. I fondly remember also interactions with him before my time at Temple Square. The first was as a high school student during the time when I was studying with J. J. Keeler weekly. I was eagerly singing in Utah All-State Choir rehearsal in the Tabernacle where I had been fortunate to find a seat next to the organ console where Bob was accompanying us. Knowing that I was an organist, he entrusted me with pushing a general piston at one point where he hadn’t the fingers or feet available to push it. I remember him saying something like, “It’s general 20. If you push 19 it will eject me out of the Tabernacle!” Needless to say, I was thrilled.

Another wonderful memory was attending his eighteenth-century counterpoint class at BYU. Along with the great benefit of observing a fluent composer in action, we also were taught how to properly write manuscript, now a dying art. Bob invited us to come sit by him during any of his noon recitals at the Tabernacle when we were in SLC, and it was following one of these that he introduced me to Alexander Schreiner, with whom I later studied as Schreiner’s last master’s candidate.”

-Clay Christiansen, Tabernacle Organist

“My first contact with the Tabernacle organ world came with a telephone call from Robert Cundick in the summer of 1979. He asked if I would be interested in being a guest organist at the Tabernacle. I jumped at the opportunity, not really understanding what it would entail. From that time on, he was a special friend and mentor to me. He was always supportive, encouraging and optimistic in every circumstance, and always with his unique off-beat humor. I will surely miss him.”

-Bonnie Goodliffe, Tabernacle Organist

“Robert Cundick was my teacher while he was at BYU. During one of my lessons he received a telephone call and said he would have to cut my lesson short. He needed to go to Salt Lake promptly. A couple days later it was announced that he was appointed as a Tabernacle Organist.”

-Paul Duncombe, Sub-Dean, UVAGO

In September of last year, Clay Christiansen and Rulon Christiansen presented an organ orientation class at the newly renovated Ogden Tabernacle. You can view a recording of the orientation by clicking [here](#), and get the handout that was used at the orientation by clicking [here](#).

p.s. Substitute organists are always needed, and often hard to find. If you would like to be on a list of substitute organists, please let DeeAnn Stone know by sending her an email: [dstone@uvago.org](mailto:dstone@uvago.org)

*Welcome to new chapter members*

*Shawn R Mikkelson*

*&*

*Elizabeth Christensen*