

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

2016-2018

Dean

Quinten Knudsen
tuba29@stny.rr.com

Sub-Dean

Sheri Peterson
sheri.peterson@gmail.com

Registrar & Treasurer

David Chamberlin
david@chamberlinmusic.com

Secretary/Newsletter

Jack Stoneman
jackstoneman@gmail.com

Web Master

DeeAnn Stone
dstone@uvago.org

Historian

Kymberly Stone
kymberly.stone@gmail.com

Education

Lori Serr, CAGO
ljzserr@yahoo.com

Photographer

Kari Nay
2karinay@gmail.com

BYU Student Representative

Kyrsten Anderson

Social Media Administrator

Nicholas Banks
nick@bbanks.net

Members-at-Large

Mike Carson
Carol Dean, CAGO
Paul Duncombe
Florence Hawkinson
Lella Pomeroy, CAGO
Linda Rehart

Dean's Message

October 2016

Hello!

First order of business: Congratulations to Florence Hawkinson for being the only person to find the tambourine picture on our website. It was next to my name in the chapter directory. It was also able to be found by searching my name on the website. Florence, you will be receiving your prize in the mail sometime...

I have recently been reflecting on my time spent as a member of the American Guild of Organists, and pondering some of the wonderful life-long friendships I have cultivated with people in the Guild, which have led to life-directing events.

I joined the Guild at the ripe old age of seventeen in my then-home, upstate New York. My organ teacher invited me to a Guild event he was hosting at his church. During lunch, I ran across the street to an ATM, and withdrew the \$37 for a student membership in the Binghamton chapter of the AGO. I knew it was exactly where I wanted to be.

Fast forward to 2012. I had recently returned home from missionary service, starting another year in the organ performance program at BYU. Enter Sheri. I had first met her in the year previous to my missionary service. When I returned, she was dean of the chapter. She invited me to participate in a master class sponsored by the chapter. This reignited my interest in the Guild. She invited me to participate in other activities, such as the local RCYO competition being held early the next year, in 2013. Although I didn't win, the experience was a vital one to my being an organist. Not only did I gain confidence in my performance abilities, I was also able to meet another friend in the chapter.

Jack, then sub-dean, was assigned to be the assistant to the competitors. In those preparatory hours, as Jack and I chatted, our acquaintanceship grew into a friendship, which is still ongoing today. His encouragement about my hymn-playing and hymn-arranging skills has given me confidence in my hymn work, and has given me many opportunities to perform in hymn sings.

Speaking of hymn sings, I met another friend at a chapter activity back in 2014. We had closed out the year with a hymn sing, where I played my newly-written

Continued on Page 2

Dean's Message, continued

arrangement on *How Great the Wisdom and the Love*. During the reception afterwards, I met Bryce, who commented positively on the arrangement, and asked for a copy. After obtaining a copy, he asked if he could share it with his ward leaders; he wanted to perform it with the ward choir. I obliged. He then invited me, with the bishop's permission, to work with the ward choir in performing the piece, and I had the opportunity to be "at the baton" for its performance. It was a fantastic experience, which has reaffirmed my love of choral music. Also, he has since gotten me hooked on Talenti gelato (not an advertisement—it's just really good). Thanks Bryce.

This is a place where you can meet life-long friends. These people, and many others, have influenced my life in more ways than I, or they, can imagine. They have helped me mold myself towards the person I am today. I encourage you to attend AND participate in our activities as you are able. It will change your life.

I look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming event, the holiday music workshop, later this month!

Love,

Quinten

Upcoming Events

Chapter Activities

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Oct 14 | Holiday repertoire workshop. 7:00 PM. Pleasant Grove East Stake Center. 825 Loader, Pleasant Grove. |
| Nov 11 | Holiday member recital. 7:00 PM. Pleasant Grove East Stake Center. 825 Loader, Pleasant Grove. |
| Jan | Organ Crawl. Location and date TBA. |
| Feb 25 | Youth Scholarship Recital. Time TBA. |
| Mar 17 | Bach Recital. 7:00 PM. Provo Central Stake Center. |
| Apr 29 | Super Saturday. 8:00 AM. BYU Harris Fine Arts Ctr. |
| May 19 | Closing Social. Potluck dinner and a presentation by Joan Stevens about her studies with Flor Peeters. |

Organ Recitals and Other Events

- | | |
|-------|---|
| Oct 9 | Eccles Organ Festival. Jens Korndörfer, Director of Worship, the Arts, and Organist at First Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, Georgia. 8:00 PM, Cathedral of the Madeleine, 331 East, South Temple, Salt Lake City. Click here for program info. |
|-------|---|

Voices from Abroad

In this monthly column, we will hear from members and friends who have had experiences with the organ and sacred music in far-flung places. This month, we will hear from Sarah Maxfield, one of the winners of last spring's UVAGO Youth Scholarship program. Sarah was able to attend the Haarlem International Organ Festival this summer.

Hi! My name is Sarah Maxfield; I turned 16 in June. I've played the organ for 4 years. This summer as part of my musical (organ) education I went to Holland for the Haarlem Orgelfestival. This was an amazing experience for me on several levels, because it taught me how to work hard and set goals to reach my dreams.

Back in December my amazing mom was looking for organ summer camps for me, and this one kept on popping up. I honestly didn't think that I would get in, because I had never been out of the US or Canada for anything, and I didn't think that my skill set at the time would get me in. But I decided to try anyway. In January they sent us the list of music I had to prepare to send in as a recorded audition. I needed to learn a Bach Trio Sonata, and a piece from Messiaen's "La Nativité." I had never in my life played that music. I met many organists who did not believe that I would be able to learn these pieces and perfect them in the time given me. So, I stepped up my game. I increased my practice time to twice the amount I was used to. I was dedicated to getting in, so I practiced the same two

Continued on Page 3

for seven months (and somehow managed to still like them).

The audition was due two months after the music had been released, and as I was between teachers, I had an amazing experience of going to different teachers to learn different viewpoints on the pieces. We recorded, and recorded, and recorded at the U and also the Cathedral of the Madeleine, but I wasn't ready. So, finally, days before the due date I recorded in my teacher's office on a small practice pipe organ. Then came the rigorous process of deciding which take was the best recording to send in. This process was hard, because they all sounded so similar. Because of that, my mother turned in the wrong recording, and had to send an apology letter and the correct recording later.

Finally, the day came that we got the results. I did not get in, except to be a passive participant. Which meant I could not play. They had to choose 8 young talents from the world, and I was the ninth best. Instead, they told me that I could still come, but only to watch. My mother and I decided to go anyway, and I had the opportunity to play on three of the organs, even though at first they said there would be no time for me to play. My favorite by far was the St. Bavo's 17th-century organ, which had been played by Mozart. If I had decided to not work, or to not come because I didn't believe I would be able to play, I would have missed out on a lot.

Sarah Maxfield



The great organ at St. Bavo's Cathedral, Haarlem, built by Christian Müller 1735-1738 and renovated by Marcussen & Søn of Denmark 1959-1961.

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

[WardOrganist.com](#)

Music for the LDS organist

Voices from Pipe Organ Encounter 2016

In this monthly column, we will have the opportunity to hear the experiences of youth who attended this year's Pipe Organ Encounter, and hopefully be inspired by their youthful enthusiasm and passionate musicianship.

Organ camp was a great experience; I met a bunch of new friends and played on about 7 organs.

On Tuesday, the second day of camp, we went to the Mormon Tabernacle and the Conference Center and we got to play on the organs at each. They were 5 manual organs with 5,000+ pipes. We also played on the 3 manual organ at St. Ambrose Catholic Church. We met our teachers, who were all really cool, and we practiced every day in various locations around Salt Lake.

On Wednesday, we went to the Bigelow Organ factory (they make tracker organs) and got a tour of the facilities and learned how pipe organs are made. We went to BYU and got a tour of the music department and had a master class with Dr. Don Cook, who is the director of the organ program at BYU. He also performed a Carillon recital for us and let us play on the Carillon.

On Thursday, we went to the Joseph Smith Memorial building and had a master class with

Continued on Page 5

Start working now on your Bach repertoire!

The annual Bach Recital will be Friday, March 17, 2017 at the Provo Central Stake Center.

Contact Carol Dean with the title of the piece you would like to play. carolorg1111@gmail.com

Another Voice from Abroad

But this voice is nearby! At our opening social last month, Lella Pomeroy shared with us her experiences behind the Iron Curtain during a Bach organ tour in East Germany in 1985, shortly before the dedication of the Freiberg LDS Temple, which she had the rare opportunity to tour. Lella's presentation was well-organized, engaging, and a joy to hear. Her photos, souvenirs, and reminiscences were a delight, but also at times sobering. So many years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, and with unified Germany a strong and wealthy country now, many of us have forgotten the terrible suffering those of East Germany experienced under Soviet control. "The Soviet Union had bled the country dry," Lella said. A few years later, one of their group guides escaped to Frankfurt and even visited Lella and her mentor Jim Welch in California. If you missed this wonderful presentation, ask Lella to share some of her stories with you the next time you see her at a chapter activity.



Holiday Repertoire Workshop

Please join us for a workshop to share holiday organ repertoire.

Members are encouraged to bring longtime favorite pieces, or something you're just now learning for this year – Thanksgiving, Christmas, or New Year repertoire – to show to others so that we can all get new ideas and be inspired to try new repertoire. This may include, but is not limited to, ideas for preludes

and postludes, organ solos, choir numbers with organ accompaniment, and hymn introductions, accompaniments and re-harmonizations. In addition, some members of the board have prepared some ideas and arrangements to share. If you have your own arrangements or re-harmonizations (in other words, music for which you own the copyright), we hope you will consider sharing something with us. If you do not own the copyright for music you would like to share, or if it is not in the public domain, we can simply show each other the sheet music and share the publication information so that those interested can purchase their own copies of the music.



Friday, October 14, 7:00 PM
Pleasant Grove East Stake Center
825 Loader, Pleasant Grove

Holiday Repertoire Recital Friday, November 11, 7:00 PM

For our November activity, again at the Pleasant Grove East Stake Center, members will have the opportunity to share holiday repertoire in a different way – by performing it! Share with us your favorite pieces. Take the chance to have a “trial run” of a piece you’re planning to use this holiday season. Performers and listeners alike will get a jumpstart on the holiday spirit. Bring your family and friends, too, so that we can spread as much holiday spirit as possible. If you would like to perform, please contact Sheri Peterson (sheri.peterson@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

Voices from Pipe Organ Encounter 2016, continued

Dr. Clay Christiansen, one of the organists for the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. We went to a concert at the Tabernacle to see Richard Elliot, who is the principal organist for the Tabernacle Choir, and got to talk to him a bit afterwards. That evening we went to the Tabernacle Choir rehearsal and to the Cathedral of the Madeleine and played the organ there.

On Friday, we went to First United Methodist Church and played on the organ there. That evening we had our recital at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral and I played a piece out of The First Organ book called Finale by Janet Corell. Both Dr. Don Cook and Dr. Clay Christiansen were at the recital, and performing for them was really awesome!

This event was a wonderful and life-changing experience. Many of the organs and sites we saw were things that most people would never see and could end up being a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Thank you to the Utah Valley chapter of the AGO for organizing this for all of us!

Ruth Perry

Pedals Pipes & Pizza

Our annual youth outreach activity Pedals Pipes & Pizza was held Saturday, October 24 at the Provo Central Stake Center. Carol Dean oriented everyone to the Bigelow Organ and played Doug Bush's arrangement of "All Creatures of Our God and King." Attendees then had the opportunity to play the organ. Tours of the organ chamber were led by Bigelow Organ employee Bryce Ferguson. Blaine Olson helped attendees understand the construction and tonal qualities of organ pipes. Lori Serr presented information about the upcoming Youth Scholarship program sponsored by our chapter, encouraging youth there to apply. Linda Rehart prepared a wonderful pizza lunch for everyone to enjoy. Many thanks to all who participated.



For more information and applications for the UVAGO Youth Scholarship Audition, to be held in February 2017, please contact Lori Serr.

ljserr@yahoo.com

For information about the AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Youth Organists, which will be held in April 2017, please visit the UVAGO website.

[RCYO Information](#)