



Newsletter

American Guild of Organists
Utah Valley Chapter
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Dean's Message

Dear Chapter Members and Friends,

Did you know that there are 1,232 LDS units (wards and branches) in Utah County alone? According to the Statistical Information Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, that total includes 234 units on BYU campus, which leaves 998 regular units in Utah County. Considering that most units have more than one organist (two, three, or even four!), that adds up to a lot of organists in the valley!

This is one of the reasons every April the Utah Valley Chapter of the AGO presents its annual "Super Saturday: Training for the Church Organist." This year's event is scheduled for April 25 in the Harris Fine Arts Center on the Brigham Young University campus. Super Saturday's main focus is to help church organists improve and enhance their service playing skills through educational workshops, free 25-minute private organ instruction sessions with seasoned teachers, and social interaction with fellow church musicians.

The featured keynote speaker will be Don Cook, D.M.A., who serves on the organ faculty in the BYU School of Music as organ area coordinator, university carillonneur, and director of the annual BYU Organ Workshop. Dr. Cook also oversees the department's group organ program and, with the aid of three graduate students, has produced "The New LDS Organist," an online course of twelve lessons, designed to help pianists adapt their skills to the organ as soon as possible. Additionally, he has developed and published the first multimedia organ tutorial for pianists, *OrganTutor 101*, designed for private and group instruction.

The keynote begins at 8:30 a.m., but be sure and arrive early by 8:00 a.m. to pick up a packet of handouts and listen to Lella Pomeroy's prelude and hymn sing before the keynote begins. You won't want to miss it.

This event is a perfect first exposure to the organ for pianists, and there will also be offerings for more experienced players. The entire event is FREE, including a free luncheon. Lori Serr, Super Saturday chair, and her committee have prepared a lovely day of instruction and inspiration. So save April 25 and invite other church organists to attend with you. We hope to see you there!

Mike Carson
Dean

Young Organist Winners

A regional competition for young organists was sponsored by the Salt Lake AGO Chapter on March 7, 2009 at the First Baptist Church in Salt Lake City. One of Don Cook's students, Seth Bott, won first place in this competition. Each competitor was required to perform a work of J. S. Bach, a contemporary piece, a Romantic piece, and one of four suggested hymns. Seth performed Bach's *Prelude and Fugue in D Minor*, BWV 539; Alexander Schreiner's *Lyric Interlude*; Henry Mulet's *Thou Art the Rock*; and the hymn, "All Creatures of our God and King." Seth will be going to the Region IX "Phoenix Rising" organ competition this summer in Phoenix.

Another of Don's students, Joseph Peebles, placed second in the competition. He performed Bach's *Prelude and Fugue in G Major*, BWV 541; Flor Peeters' *Tocatta, Fugue and Hymn on "Ave maris stella,"* and the hymn, "Come Away to the Skies."

Seth will perform his sophomore recital on the new Allen organ in the Marriott Center on Thursday, April 2, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. Let's all support him!

Upcoming Events

- Apr. 2 - Seth Botts, Sophomore Recital, Marriott Center, BYU, 6:00 p.m.
- Apr. 2 - Rachel Crawford, Sophomore Recital, Provo Tabernacle, 7:30 p.m.
- Apr. 3 - Zachary Zwahlen, Senior Organ Recital, Cathedral of the Madeleine, SLC, 7:30 p.m.
- Apr. 8 - Zachary Zwahlen, Senior Piano Recital, Madsen RECH, BYU, 7:30 p.m.
- Apr. 11 - Brian Mathias, Graduate Recital, Assembly Hall, SLC, 7:30 p.m.
- Apr. 14 - Jenya Tyltina, Organ Recital, Cathedral of the Madeleine, 7:30 p.m.
- Apr. 17 - Informal at Alpine Tabernacle, AF, 7:30 p.m.
- Apr. 25 - "Super Saturday" at BYU HFAC, 8 am to 2 pm
- Apr. 26 - Rescheduled David Chamberlin Hymn Sing, Alpine Tabernacle, American Fork, 7:00 p.m.
- May 15 - Informal at the Salt Lake Tabernacle, 7:30 p.m. (for dues-paying friends and members of Utah Valley AGO)

Super Saturday - April 25

We hope you are all inviting the keyboardists in your wards and stakes to attend the Utah Valley AGO-sponsored "Super Saturday" this year. Registration is at 8:00 a.m. in the south foyer of the Madsen Recital Hall, BYU. A short "Hymn Sing," played by Lella Pomeroy, begins at 8:15, with Dr. Don Cook's keynote address commencing at 8:30.

Sessions include: Basic Organ Technique, Making the Most of Practice Time, Improvisation, Preludes from Hymns, Leading Worship through Music, Accompanying a Choir. Those wishing free individual instruction need to call Gayle Farnsworth at 801-374-0147 after April 1st. Please bring your own hymnal. Remember that a free light lunch will be served.

A Celebration of Hymns

Thankfully, David was able to reschedule his hymn sing on the Sunday night, April 26, following "Super Saturday." BYU's winter semester is all completed by then, so there should be no conflicts, even with the BYU students remaining in the area. Hopefully all who were planning to attend on February 22 will be able to make this new date.

The program will consist of festive hymn singing, including free accompaniments, descants, and organ solos -- all David's own arrangements, except one. Come early to enjoy about a 20-minute prelude program, including Bach, Mendelssohn, and more Chamberlin.

David has written and published about 100 LDS hymn voluntaries to date, each one based on a hymn tune in the LDS hymnal. In about ten more years he will have one for every hymn in the book. Twelve of them (not all published yet) are on the program. (See www.chamberlinmusic.com to order music.)

Brainstorming Session 2014 National AGO Convention

Submitted by Mike Carson

The National AGO Convention will be held in the summer of 2014 in Salt Lake City. On March 24, a brainstorming session was held by convention coordinators, Linda and Bert Margetts, in a basement room at the First United Methodists Church in SLC. Those attending from Utah Valley were Dr. Don Cook, David Chamberlin, and Mike Carson. This first "official" meeting to begin organizing committees and tossing around ideas was very productive. The Margetts informed us of what will be entailed in hosting such a huge convention. Over 2,500 registrants are expected to attend from all over the world. This will be a unique opportunity to attend such an event in our own state. I encourage everyone to plan to get involved in some way. Many volunteers will be needed to make things run smoothly, and even non-musicians who have an interest in the guild are invited to help.

The Margetts are beginning to organize the steering committee, which will consist of the convention coordinators and an executive assistant, secretary, treasurer, registrar, and chaplain. The standing committees will consist of a program committee (new music, performances, workshops, worship, etc.), a logistics committee (facilities, performance venues, housing, and transportation), and committees for vendor exhibits, the program book, advertising, webmasters, volunteers, and most importantly: gifts, grants, and donations!

If you have ANY thoughts or ideas about what you would like to see at the convention, have questions, or would like to put your name on the volunteer list, now is the time to step up and voice your opinions. You may contact the Margetts by e-mail at: l.margetts@utah.edu.

New Mormon Tabernacle Choir Associate Music Director Appointed

The Mormon Tabernacle Choir announced Friday, March 27, 2009, that Ryan T. Murphy has been named associate music director. Murphy will assume the associate music director position formerly occupied by Mack J. Wilberg, who was appointed music director in March 2008. The appointment concludes a world-wide search that began in August of 2008. (The complete article is attached to this newsletter.)

May Informal Submitted by Ruth Ann Hay

The opportunity for you to play the Salt Lake Tabernacle organ on May 15 is approaching. I will need to hear from each person who desires to participate by the end of April. This is for all dues-paying AGO chapter friends and members. You are welcome to invite friends or family to come and listen. When I receive the final count, I will be able to determine how much time each person will have and assign them a time slot. (We have the building scheduled from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.) Hymns and repertoire of any level are welcome. Florence Hawkinson's husband, who is a professional photographer, has agreed to attend and take pictures of each person. Please email me at ruthhay@q.com or call me at 801-375-2124.

Chapter Bach Recital of March 20

A big "thank you!" to Claire Rogers, organizer of this event at Provo Central Stake Center and to all the chapter members who participated in this annual event of honoring "Papa Bach." It was the 324th anniversary of his birthday.

Chapter members who participated were Claire Rogers, Susan Jorgensen, Nora Hess, Nathan Hess, Mike Carson, Carol Dean, and Lori Serr. It was great to see Nathan Hess, only eleven years old, doing such a great job on the organ.

And thanks to the Mike Bigelow Organ Company for the wonderful Bigelow Opus 16 that we all had the opportunity to play. It is truly inspirational to perform on that wonderful instrument.

Reduced Rate Deadline

The opportunity for new members to pay national AGO dues and receive nine issues of *The American Organist* magazine is quickly coming to a close. **National Headquarters will no longer be able to accept dues for the 2008-2009 membership year after April 15, 2009.** For a list of the rates and particulars, check your March AGO newsletter.

Temple Dedication

Jeanine Lepinski, one of our Utah Valley AGO members, had the privilege of playing the organ for sessions one and seven of the twelve Draper Temple dedication services.

First Hymn Sing

Susan Jorgensen, who has studied organ with Carol Dean for only two years, played her first hymn sing as a Sunday evening fireside for her ward on March 29, 2009. The evening was a great success. Congratulations on your hard work, Susan.

Important Web Sites

David Chamberlin's music
www.chamberlinmusic.com

Free music for the LDS Organist
www.ldsgorganist.org

Utah Valley Chapter AGO Web Site:
www.uvago.org

BYU Organ Information
(including off-campus programs):
www.organ.byu.edu

Salt Lake Chapter AGO Web Site:
www.slicago.org

Region IX Blog Address:
www.agor9.blogspot.com

National AGO Web Site:
www.agohq.org

Source of Music for the LDS Organist:
www.wardorganist.com

PHOENIX RISING Region IX Festival 2009 (June 22-25) www.agoinphoenix.com

Artists include Gillian Weir, Frederick Swann, Linda Margetts, Kimberly Marshal and many others. Many new and exciting instruments to be heard include Aeolian-Skinner, Bigelow, Casavants, Shantz, Sipe, Visser, and many others. Visit the Web site.

Don't forget! We now have Seth Bott, one of Don Cook's organ students, competing in the Young Organist Competition during this event.

Recipe

Hungarian Salad

½ Nappa cabbage, chopped
1 or 2 fresh tomatoes, diced
3 hard-boiled eggs, diced
1 yellow pepper, diced
1 can Niblet corn, drained
3 or 4 small dill pickles, diced
1 green pepper, diced

Add 1/4 tsp. salt to chopped cabbage and stir very well. Stir in remaining ingredients. Add 1 heaping T. Mayo and 1 T. French's mustard. Add salt and pepper to taste. Refrigerate.

Member Spotlight

Carol Dean

With Joseph Harris Ridges, builder of the original Tabernacle organ, as great, great grandfather; Joseph H. Dean, writer of music and text for Hymn 158, as great grandfather; Harry A. Dean, composer of music for Hymns 24, 112, 162 and who taught music at Snow College in Ephraim, Utah, for 30 years, as great uncle; a father who played the violin; and a mother who could sight read any music and also play and harmonize any melody she heard, it is not surprising that Carol had enough music in her DNA to love it from her earliest memories and before.

She grew up in a very small farming community in southwestern Colorado with no piano teachers closer than an hour away. With farm chores before and after school, in addition to homework, there was no time to add a long-distance piano teacher to the schedule. However, when she turned eight years old, a teacher moved to a farm about twenty minutes away. This teacher was minimally trained herself; but in the year before she moved away, she instilled in Carol an excellent sense of rhythm as she made her count out loud as she played every piece in all eight books of the John W. Schaum series. Carol's fondest memories from her year of lessons was getting to drive the family 1954 Century Buick home along the gravel county roads once her lesson was finished. (She had been driving hay trucks in the fields since age six.)

Age 12 was the start of her love for the organ. Darwin K. Wolford came to Carol's stake in Colorado to teach group conducting and organ lessons. Carol ended up taking twice-weekly lessons from him for six weeks before he returned to Rexburg, Idaho; and by the end of her lessons, she knew that the organ would play a huge part in her life from then on.

Carol played for Jr. Sunday School, then Sr. Sunday School as she got older, and took turns with her mother playing for sacrament meeting on a Hammond organ. At BYU she chose to be a business major because she was too shy and insecure to deal with being an organ performance major. In fact, she did not again take organ lessons until she, her husband, and six children (at that time) returned to Provo in 1986 and moved into a home in the boundaries of Provo Central Stake. She was mortified to find no organ in the building her first day at church; but was excited when she found out that a new mechanical action organ made by Bigelow Organ Company would be installed in the building in the coming months and that Dr. Douglas E. Bush, BYU organ and musicology faculty, was in the stake presidency.

It took a few weeks to get up enough courage to call him and ask for lessons; but doing so was the catalyst that started Carol on the road to a very satisfying period of her life—taking private lessons and being exposed to the music of J. S. Bach, returning to BYU to do the equivalent of a Bachelors in music (already had a B.S. degree in business), teaching several semesters in the BYU Organ Lab, earning her M.M. December of 1997, teaching at Church Music Workshops (later BYU Organ Workshop), teaching a group organ class for Alpine Continuing Education every semester, and, of course, teaching her private organ students and an occasional stake group organ class.

It was during her years of teaching organ classes at the Church Music Workshop that Carol felt strongly impressed to mark all the hymns in the LDS hymnal in such a manner that a pianist without benefit of a qualified organ teacher would have a better chance of understanding organ technique. This project took five years to input all the hymns and markings into the computer, and she is continually tweaking and correcting the hymns as she works with her private students and discovers errors and changes that still need to be made. She makes this book available at her cost to anyone who wants to use it and give her feedback. In addition to being a wife, mother, and grandmother, Carol feels her main calling and “niche” in life has been and continues to be training organists, especially beginners. Nothing gives her greater pleasure than turning a piano player into a fine organist, especially one who plays the hymns well.

Carol and her husband, Dana, have been married 40 years and have lived in Provo for 23 of those years. Carol says that Dana was the only young man she had dated of whom her mother approved. That was because he was the best of the lot and also because he had the same surname as her mother's maiden name. Dana is a maintenance manager for Maverik Convenience Stores and drives to North Salt Lake every day to work. In addition to teaching numerous private organ students, Carol is also a part-time secretary at Heritage Residential Treatment Center. Two sons were adopted from foster care after the Deans moved to Provo, for a total of eight children (four boys/four girls). All are out of the home now, and Carol and Dana enjoy the “quiet” with the exception of when the five grandchildren (so far) come to visit. In addition to music, Carol loves to read. While she drives to the churches or homes of her organ students, she listens to books on tape or CD in her car as well as reading at night before bed (usually three or four books a week).

Carol has served as ward/stake organist and choir director/accompanist in her ward for years. She enjoys teaching her choir from the piano, a method she learned from Dr. Mack Wilberg in her years of singing in his choirs at BYU, and then accompanies them from organ or piano during sacrament meeting. Music callings have always been her favorite positions even though she has had almost every other calling on the side--Gospel Doctrine teacher currently.

The “work ethic” is very important to Carol. She worked hard along with her father, mother, and five brothers growing up on the farm, and finds it very difficult to know how “to play.” The people she admires most in her life are those who freely give their very best in serving others and going the extra mile.

