

**AMERICAN
GUILD OF
ORGANISTS**
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DECEMBER CHAPTER MEETING

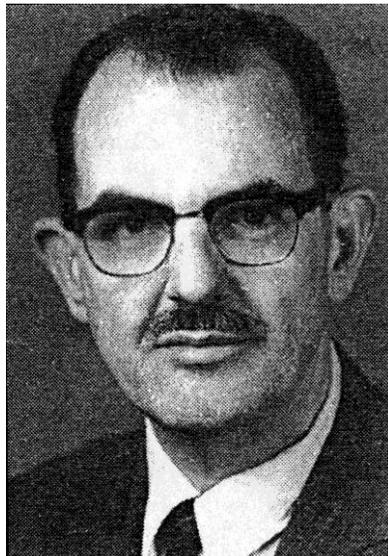
On Wednesday, December 3rd, at 6:30 p.m., we will welcome the Christmas season by having a get-together at LuJean Mosses' beautiful home, 578 N 1080 W., Provo. We will have a buffet dinner, socialize, and gather around the piano to sing Christmas songs. There will be a few surprises, too, so come join in on the fun. Bring your favorite dessert or treat to share with us (LuJean will provide the dinner).



A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT P. MANOOKIN

by DeeAnn Stone

As many of you know by now, Robert P. Manookin died on November 12, 1997. His life and music has touched LDS Church musicians and congregations throughout the world. Most of us organists will remember him for his ten volumes of hymn arrangements, as well as his choral music.



I remember him as our ward organist and choir director when I was a young child in the mid-50's in the Provo 13th Ward. My dad would faithfully go to choir practice each week to sing under the leadership of Bro. Manookin, and sometimes he would take me along to watch what they did. This experience had a lasting impression on me. It was during Sunday School opening exercises, however, that I really got to see Bro. Manookin at work. I felt it was a special privilege for our Sunday School class to be able to sit in the choir seats by the organ. (We were probably put there to keep our large group of rowdy eight-year olds quiet during the meeting.) Instead of singing, I remember

trying to sit as close to the organ as I could so I could sneak a peak at Bro. Manookin as he played. His music was masterful and sensitive; I felt like I was in the presence of someone great. It was during times like this in our ward that he tried out some of his "new" hymn arrangements—something unusual for that day and age, when there were very few hymn arrangements written for LDS hymns. I don't think any of us kids really appreciated what Bro. Manookin was doing then, but later I came to realize how much his music influenced my life.

On November 18, I attended his funeral with Carol Dean and LuJean Moss. Since many of you weren't able to attend, I thought I would give you a brief overview of what happened. I'm sure I can speak for those who attended in saying that this was a very inspirational and special funeral—one that we'll never forget. His wife and family of nine children (from two marriages) and their children filled half of the chapel. The organist, Evelyn Lee, played some of his hymn arrangements for prelude and postlude. What an honor for her!

After the prayer and welcome, the funeral began with his son James playing a tape recording that Bro. Manookin handed to him five years ago and told him to play it at his funeral. On it, Bro. Manookin recorded his feelings for his family and the gospel. It was poignant to hear his voice say, "This is Robert Manookin . . ." It seemed like he was

Utah Valley Chapter Newsletter

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right there with us. In his usual manner, he humbly instructed us not to shed tears of sadness for him, but of joy. He didn't want a long tribute made of his life, because he said that nobody knows it anyway. That brought laughter from the congregation. This statement also put his daughter, Marie Jensen, in a awkward situation when she got up to read his eulogy. She apologized to her father and reminded him that it was he who gave her the information about his life to read before he died. (He had his whole funeral planned a couple of weeks before he passed away.)

JoAnn Ottley beautifully sang two of Bro. Manookin's pieces, "In Thee, O Lord, Do I Put My Trust," which he had previously dedicated to her, and "Who Are These Arrayed In White Robes?", which she sang for the closing song.

His son David spoke next and told of the time when his dad had just finished "In Thee, O Lord, Do I Put My Trust." Brother and Sister Ottley came into his office at BYU, and Sis. Ottley sight-read it through flawlessly. At the funeral, David turned to Sis. Ottley and said the only reason it sounded better at that time than now was because the acoustics were better in his office than in the chapel.

His granddaughter Toni Beard told of humorous experiences with her grandpa. She said when her oldest son was born, her grandpa wasn't pleased with the name they chose--Trevor. Her grandpa wondered why they didn't name him "Robert." She said, "Grandpa, there are too many Roberts in the family." Then he said they should name him Trebor -- Robert backwards! "That's how Grandpa's mind works." she said. He tried unsuccessfully several times to persuade them to change the boy's name.

Toni told of when Bro. Manookin sang in the Tabernacle Choir at age 16. (His voice had been damaged in a botched tonsillectomy before then.) She joked that the only reason he was able to sing in the choir was because back in those days they didn't have to audition.

Toni also said that her grandma was upset because her husband died on her birthday. Then the family reasoned that he chose to die on his wife's birthday because she's always bad at remembering important dates -- this way she'll never forget when he died.

Larry Barkdull -- who worked closely with Bro. Manookin for several years -- spoke next. He gave an interesting account of a friend of his who once had a near-death experience in which he related seeing a large temple with people inside of it playing large keyboards. Larry said that Bro. Manookin has

probably already experienced this, since he greatly loved the temple and music. Larry said Bro. Manookin probably hit the spirit world like lightning.

Larry also told of the time when he was just a high school student who had dreams of becoming another Burt Bacharach. He took his music to Bro. Manookin, who looked it over and asked him if he had ever considered writing for ward choirs. Larry thought at the time that it would be boring to do that and never dreamed that twenty years later his livelihood would depend on it.

Bishop Jeff Gardner then gave some closing remarks, and Jerold Ottley gave the closing prayer.

Robert Manookin was a humble, sincere man who spent his days serving the Lord. All his music was geared toward lifting us toward our Father in Heaven -- he wanted no glory for himself. While he will be deeply missed, his music will live on for us to learn from and to be inspired by for generations to come. What a wonderful gift he has given to humanity.



Obituary:

Robert Park Manookin

Robert Park Manookin, Sr. died peacefully at his home in Orem on November 12, 1997.

He was born 12 April 1918 in Salt Lake City, Utah to Kerrigan Mark Manookin and Agnes Park Midgley Manookin. Married Edna Lucile Burningham June 20, 1940 in the Salt Lake Temple. Divorced. Married Helene Adele Haugan May 11, 1951 Salt Lake Temple.

Graduated from East High School 1936. Served an LDS Mission to the German Austria (East German) Mission 1937 to 1939. Received BA from BYU 1955; MM from University of Illinois 1959; Ph.D from U of U 1967. Was Professor of Music at BYU, retiring in 1980 as he and his wife, Helene, were called to serve a mission in the New Zealand Temple 1980 to 1983. They have since served three other missions together: Manila Philippines Temple, 1984-1987; Sydney Australia Temple, 1989-1990 and England Leeds, June 1993 to December 1994.

Well-known LDS composer and arranger. Active in the LDS Church all his life, having served as High Councilor, Bishop, High Priest Group Leader, Gospel Doctrine Teacher, Ward Organist, Choir Director, Counselor in Manila Philippines Temple Presidency, Counselor in Redcar, England Branch Presidency. Also served as member of Church Music Committee. At the time of his death was serving as Patriarch in Orem Suncrest Stake and as a Sealer in the Mt.

Timpanogos Temple, having previously served in the Provo Temple.

Survived by wife, Helene, and children: Robert Jr. (Shirley), Jean (Ron) Garbett, David (Sharon), Don, James (Irene), Marie (Robert) Jensen, Richard (Ellie), Edward, Barbara Hill, brother Stuart M. Manookin, sister Dorothy M. Jensen, 42 grandchildren and 31 great-grandchildren

Funeral services were held Tuesday, November 18, 1997 at Suncrest Second Ward Chapel, 130 North 400 West, Orem, Utah at 12:00 Noon. Viewing was held Monday evening November 17, 1997 from 6-8 p.m. at Berg Mortuary, 185 East Center Street, Provo, Utah and prior to services from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Ward Chapel. Interment, East Lawn Memorial Hills.



The following is an article about Robert Manookin that was printed in the Daily Herald on Wednesday, November 19, 1997, p. C1 and C2.

MANOOKIN REMEMBERED FOR MUSICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

By Laurie Williams Sowby, Herald Correspondent

OREM—He'd be embarrassed by all the attention his passing has created, but Robert Park Manookin's contributions as an LDS Church hymn composer have not gone unnoticed.

Manookin, formerly a professor of music at BYU and a prolific composer of LDS music, died Nov. 12 in his Orem home at age 79. He was buried Tuesday.

Prolific, proficient

"To me, he is the father of LDS music," said Larry Barkdull, an Orem author and friend of Manookin.

K. Newell Dayley, the associate dean of BYU's College of Fine Arts, agreed.

"I don't want it to sound overstated, but he is perhaps the most prolific and proficient writer of music for the LDS Church of this century."

Manookin published about 90 pieces, most of them hymn arrangements for choirs. Six are included in the LDS Church hymn book.

Soprano JoAnn Ottley sang two of his settings of scriptural texts at his funeral—at Manookin's invitation. With steadily failing health, he had planned his funeral and contacted participants he wanted in the program a couple of weeks before his death.

A pinnacle

Barkdull was asked to speak during the service. He, among others, described Manookin as a father figure.

"He was a mentor to more of us in the arts than any of us will ever know," Barkdull said on Monday. Manookin's model for music has spread to other art disciplines in the LDS Church.

"He was the one who really tried to do something specifically for the LDS people. Before Bob, we mostly had to go outside the church to find music that would work in an LDS worship service."

Manookin started creating choral pieces in the early 1970's. Mormon Tabernacle Choir director Jerold Ottley relied on Manookin early in his career.

The two met in 1957, shortly after Manookin finished his bachelor's degree in music. According to Ottley, Manookin served as "in-house composer" for the choir, enabling the conductor—who doesn't compose—to "say things I could not say for myself."

Ottley especially loved "Dearest [Precious] Savior, Dear Redeemer," which he considers "the pinnacle in touching souls."

Good humor

In addition to choral pieces, Manookin composed music for the New Zealand Temple Pageant, a piano concerto, sonatas for flute and oboe, several song cycles and duets and 10 volumes of hymn preludes for organ.

Jerry Jackman, whose company has published much of Manookin's work, has known him for 36 years. He recalled the composer's sense of humor and the good-natured poke he always had when he came into the office.

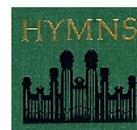
Twenty years ago, for instance, Manookin told him, "The Lord said, 'The song of the righteous is a prayer unto me.' The problem is most of the righteous are tone-deaf."

When the Utah Valley Choral Society honored Manookin and his music with a concert in 1984, the Provo Tabernacle was filled to capacity.

"His arrangements are accessible to choirs everywhere," said Lois Johnson, choral society director.

Soft-spoken and humble, Manookin was a master at deflecting praise, Barkdull said.

"I tried for years to give him a compliment," he noted. "There wasn't a proud bone in his body. If he could be of service, that was good enough for him."



MEMBER NEWS

Soon Dr. Parley Belnap and his wife, Bona, will be leaving us to serve as organist at the BYU Jerusalem Center. We would like to express our deepest appreciation for all that he has done, not only for the BYU Organ Department and the Workshop on Church Music, but also for our chapter of AGO. His influence will be greatly missed, but we know that he will be kept busy at the Center playing the organ, giving recitals, working with the choir, and other duties. What a wonderful opportunity this will be for him. Thanks for all that you have done for us, Dr. Belnap!

Shout it from the house tops! Lella Pomeroy recently passed her German test and successfully completed her Masters in Music degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara. She has worked five long years to do this. We admire her for sticking to it and finally fulfilling her dream. Congratulations, Lella!

Another exciting event in Lella's life has been her recent move from her basement apartment to a 2-bedroom red brick house in Springville. Her new address is 2595 S. State, Springville, UT 84663. Phone 801-491-0950, if you would like to contact her.

Carol Dean will be shouting from the house tops, too. She recently passed her oral exams for her masters degrees in Organ Performance at BYU. During the years that she has been working on her degree, she has accomplished a great deal and has helped many people with her knowledge and skills. We wish her the best in completing her degree.

JANUARY CHAPTER MEETING

Starting in January, all AGO members are invited by the BYU Organ Department to attend the master classes held every Thursday. The first class, which will also be our chapter meeting for the month will be held on January 8th at 5:00 p.m. in the Madsen Recital Hall at BYU. AGO members are invited to attend, but they are not expected to play.

At this first class, a schedule for the rest of the year will be handed out. The classes will be held in different locations: Madsen Recital Hall, Provo Central Stake Center, Provo Tabernacle, Salt Lake Tabernacle, Assembly Hall, and the Cathedral of the Madeleine. The Salt Lake meetings will start at 7:30 p.m., except for those at the Salt Lake Tabernacle which will start at 9:30 p.m.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On Sunday, December 14th, Douglas E. Bush, director; Larry Tomkinson, organist; and the Community Christmas Choir will present their annual Christmas Concert at the Provo Tabernacle at 7:30 p.m. Doug and Larry began the choir in 1978 in the Provo Central Stake, and it has grown throughout the years. The choir has made several recordings—audio and video—for different occasions. Please invite your family, neighbors, and friends to come. This is always an inspirational event that makes the Christmas season extra special.



MUSIC FOR A SUNDAY EVENING

For several years now, Claire Rogers has worked hard each year to present a well-prepared Christmas recital for the community. Come join her on December 21st at 7:00 p.m. at the State Hospital Chapel, 1300 E. Center, Provo, for an evening of music for this joyous season.

RECITALS and CONCERTS

- **December 6 (Saturday)**--Joseph Nielsen--7:30 p.m., and Kalo Latu --9:00 p.m., Madsen Recital Hall
- **December 8 (Monday)** --BYU's Early Music Ensemble, directed by Douglas E. Bush, will be performing the first three sections of Bach's Christmas Oratorio in the newly finished Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary of the Assumption just outside of Park City, at 7:30 p.m. The church is located on the highway between Park City and Kimball Junction. From Heber City, take the first exit to Park City, then go through Park City to the dead end at the second stop light where the road comes to a 'T', and turn right. Drive about 2 miles, and you will find the church on the left side of the street in a meadow.
- Ben Crandall, student of Douglas Bush, will be giving a recital in January at the Provo Tabernacle. Watch next month's newsletter for details.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL



Those who may still be on the fence about whether or not to register for next summer's national convention in Denver might consider the following words. George Sturm, Executive Director of the Music Associates of

America, provides an interesting perspective on organists and gives incentives to attend the AGO national convention that go beyond the early registration discounts.

"A great pipe organ, old or new, is an amazingly complicated construction, an ingenious amalgam of engineering, acoustics, musical sensibility, and unfathomable mystery. The same description may be applied to that strange clan of practitioners who have made the organ their life's passion." "The typically devoted organist intuits that meditation is the climate in which spirituality blooms, that, like all creative acts, the reaching into one's own inner self requires aloneness. Like any competent enabler, like the midwife assisting at a birth, the good organist never loses track of his listener's purpose for being there – that purpose being perhaps as manifold as the worshippers, congregants, and audience in attendance. Some come by habit, some from conviction, some out of faith and hope, some to hear wonderful music, wonderfully played. The sensitive organist provides nourishment to all. He has, after all, had training in disciplines other than music. He is often a minister of music, either by disposition or by actual certification.

"That combination of skills makes the organist more than merely a keyboard player, no matter how consummate his artistry. Not only does he frequently choose the repertory, administer all

musical matter, lead the chorus, and provide a dimension of education to young and old, he also functions as a colorful and highly individualistic connect – using music as his medium. "Nowhere could one find a more vivid demonstration of the multifaceted interests and enthusiasms of organists than at the Centennial Convention of the American Guild of Organists."*

The activities planned for the Denver convention will undoubtedly also appeal to these "multifaceted interests and enthusiasms."

**From an editorial review of the 1996 AGO National Convention by George Sturm. Copyright 1997 by Music Associates of America' reprinted from MadAminA! (1997), by permission.*

UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETINGS

December 3rd (Wednesday) – Christmas get-together at LuJean's, 6:30 p.m.

January 8th (Thursday) – BYU master class. Madsen Recital Hall, 5:00 p.m.

February 28st (Saturday) – Mini-workshop.

March (date tentative) – All-Bach member recital.

April (Saturday) – Field trip to "Hooper-nacle" (date TBA)

May 19th (Tuesday) – Closing social



Merry Christmas



UTAH VALLEY CHAPTER

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