

SLC AGO Super Saturday *Curriculum Vitae*

Clay Christiansen completed a PhD in composition at the University of Utah and is an accomplished composer of several published organ and vocal works. His writings also include works for chorus, string quartet, woodwind trio, chamber and symphony orchestra. Dr. Christiansen's solo performances have taken him across the United States, Canada, and England. He has performed with the Tabernacle Choir in many countries of Europe and in Israel and has been a featured artist for groups such as the U. S. Air Force Band/Singing Sergeants and the Danish Radio Choir. He has been invited to perform for conventions of the American Institute of Organ Builders and the American Guild of Organists. In 1982 he was appointed organist at the Tabernacle on Temple Square and in 2008 became the senior organist. Not as prolific as the great Johann Sebastian Bach who fathered some twenty children, Clay and his wife Diane are, nevertheless, not too far behind with thirteen, and blessed with forty-one grandchildren.

Rulon Christiansen (www.pianist2organist.com) received both Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in Organ Performance at Brigham Young University, and PhD in Musical Arts and Performer's Certificate in Organ Studies at the Eastman School of Music. He has held numerous professional church positions as organist and choir director in Protestant churches in New York and Utah. He is currently Adjunct Professor of organ at Weber State University, teaches privately, serves as organist at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, and is a member of the Old Post Ward where he is a home teacher and substitute ward organist. He won 1st Place in the National Federation of Music Clubs Competition, was a finalist in the MTNA Competition, and semifinalist in the AGO Improvisation Competition, and has performed in concert in various cities throughout the United States under the auspices of Artist Recitals Concert Management in Los Angeles. His organ compositions have been performed in recital during the National AGO Conventions in Minneapolis and Seattle, at several regional AGO Conventions, on National Public Radio (Pipe Dreams), and on the Mormon Tabernacle Choir broadcast. His newest composition, *Lyric Symphony*, was recently premiered by Dr. James Welch on the Temple Square Concert Series in the Mormon Tabernacle. As a recognized expert on Louis Vierne, his articles have been published in *The American Organist* magazine, and he is well known as a contributor to the book by Dr. Rollin Smith entitled *Louis Vierne, Organist of Notre Dame Cathedral*. He is married and has two daughters and two grandchildren.

Don Cook (<http://organ.byu.edu>) joined the organ faculty of Brigham Young University in 1991. In that capacity he serves as organ area coordinator and as university carillonneur. Formerly, he held associate organist/choirmaster positions at Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, and at First United Methodist Church, Lubbock, Texas. He toured Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia with the Lubbock choir, and accompanied the Parish Choir of Christ Church Cranbrook on a singing tour of England. After earning both Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in organ at Brigham Young University, he received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Organ Performance from the University of Kansas. Currently he directs the annual BYU Organ Workshop, founded in 2002, and appears frequently as a Guest Organist at the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City. He is actively developing innovative approaches to organ instruction, including the first multimedia organ tutorial for pianists, *Organ Tutor: Organ 101*. The tutorial is used for private and group instruction, BYU Independent Study courses, and by teachers and students in at least nine countries. He and his wife Kim have six children and reside in Spanish Fork

Day Murray Music (www.daymurraymusic.com) was founded by John and Arlette Day in 1946, just ten days before they married. It has been in the same location since –growing and expanding within the confines of the old 1897 bank building in which it was originally established. Today, the renamed Day Murray Music Education House is owned by Klint and Rosanne Day and is one of the largest sheet music retail stores in the Intermountain West with customers throughout the United States and abroad. Specializing in research and ordering, DMM works with over 325 publishers and vendors and carries well over 150,000 music titles. Day Murray expanded recently by opening a new store in Lehi in 2006 and another in Orem in 2009. Our Motto is “Lasting reputations, reliable destinations.”

James Drake (septez@yahoo.com) earned an associates degree from the Royal College of Music, England, and a Masters Degree from Indiana University, as well as a DMA from University of Southern California. He has performed at Notre-Dame Cathedral, Paris; the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York; St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Roman Catholic Cathedral, London; National Cathedral, Washington D. C.; Frauenkirche, Dresden; and the Freiburg Cathedral, Germany. Dr. Drake has given numerous European broadcasts. He serves on the National Board of the American Guild of Organists where he is a member of the Educational Resource Committee. The TAO magazine (December 2006) published his article on the Alexander Technique for Organists. He has conducted numerous workshops for local chapters as well as private instruction. He has presented workshops at the American Guild of Organists National Convention in San Francisco; the National Convention of British Organists, the Royal College of Music, Julliard School of Music, New York City and Notre Dame University.

Roger Miller graduated from BYU with a B.A. in Music Education and M.A. in Music Theory. While in graduate school in Cleveland, he served for several years on the staff of the Summer Music Experience, a music camp at the Western Reserve Academy in Hudson, Ohio, affiliated with the Cleveland Orchestra's Blossom Festival. After several years as a music teacher in the public schools of Utah and Nevada, he spent the summer of 1967 as an NEH fellow at Yale University and subsequently completed a Ph.D. in Musicology at Case Western Reserve University in 1978, with additional graduate studies in Near Eastern Languages and Literature at the University of Chicago. He has also been a Summer Fellow of the Aston Magna Academy at Rutgers University. In 1982 he was appointed to the faculty of the Department of Music at the University of Utah, where he served for 25 years, rising to the rank of Full Professor before retiring in 2007. While at the University he served with Dr. Ed Thompson in the renovation project of the Gardner Hall and chaired the organ committee for the new Lively-Fulcher instrument in the Libby Gardner Concert Hall. Dr. Miller sang with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir for 20 years and recently retired after 25 years as a writer for the Choir's weekly broadcast of *Music and the Spoken Word*. He currently serves on the board of the Utah Chamber Artists and as ward organist in his North Salt Lake congregation.

Ryan Murphy graduated from Brigham Young University with a degree in piano and organ performance and pedagogy. He also has a master's degree in choral conducting from BYU and a PhD in choral conducting from Boston University. He served for four years as the choral director at the Walnut Hill School for the Arts, an internationally recognized secondary school affiliated with the New England Conservatory. He was the music director for the Tuacahn Theatre in the St. George, Utah area from 2005 to 2007 following five seasons music director at the Sundance Institute in Provo, Utah. While in Boston, he maintained an active performing schedule including collaborations at the Tanglewood Summer Festival. Ryan Murphy was appointed Associate Music Director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in March, 2009 where his responsibilities include assisting Dr. Mack Wilberg, Music Director, with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra at Temple Square in rehearsals, concerts, tours and the weekly broadcast of *Music and the Spoken Word*. He also serves as the conductor of the Temple Square Chorale, the preparatory ensemble for new singers in choir service. Ryan and his wife, Jennifer, have three children.

Jerold Ottley was music director of the Salt Lake Mormon Tabernacle Choir from 1974 to 1999. His duties with the Choir included the preparation and performance of nearly thirteen hundred weekly radio and television broadcasts of *Music and the Spoken Word*. He also led the Choir in more than thirty commercial recordings and more than twenty major tours in addition to regular concerts in the Choir's home in the Salt Lake Tabernacle. Early in his career, Dr. Ottley was a teacher and conductor in the schools and churches of Salt Lake City. Just prior to his appointment with the Tabernacle Choir, he taught on the music faculty at the University of Utah and served as the assistant chair of the music department. Since his retirement he has been involved in volunteer work; for four years as creator, administrator and teacher for the Mormon Tabernacle Choir Training School, as Artistic Advisor to the Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable, as a lay Bishop for a congregation of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and as visiting professor of music and administrative advisor at BYU-Hawaii.

JoAnn Ottley besides being a busy wife, mother and grandmother, has managed a part-time musical career. She was the volunteer vocal coach of the Salt Lake Mormon Tabernacle Choir for twenty-four years. She has taught private voice for more than forty years, including nearly a decade as professor of voice at the University of Utah. In recent years she has taught vocal technique in the Tabernacle Choir Training School at Temple Square in Salt Lake City and at BYU-Hawaii. Earlier in her career she sang professionally, soloing regularly with the Utah Symphony, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Utah Opera and Ballet West. In addition she maintained a busy schedule of appearances with symphony orchestras and as an engaging recitalist throughout the west. Mrs. Ottley has also been in demand as a clinician in local, regional and national workshops and seminars where she shares her unusual perspective about the transformative power of the human voice and singing.

Kathleen Stanford graduated from BYU in musical studies. She then went on to the University of Missouri, and ultimately came to the University of Utah for further musical studies. She has taken Organ lessons from Joan Barnett for many years and enjoys sitting in on AGO certification tests. She holds the Colleague Certification in the American Guild of Organists.

Ed Thompson received Bachelor and Masters degrees in Physics and Mathematics from BYU in 1959 and 1961. For ten years he worked on various space-science projects at Hughes Aircraft Company and the Apollo Moon Landing Project at North American Aviation. Continuing with advanced studies in music, by 1973 he had earned the degrees of Master of Arts in choral conducting from California State University at Long Beach and Doctor of Philosophy in Music Education from the University of Utah. In 1978 Dr. Thompson joined the faculty of the University of Utah and a year later was appointed Chair of the Department of Music where he also conducted the A Cappella Choir and the Utah Symphony Chorus. He retired from the University in 2003. In retirement he continued to pursue his love for fine art photography and historic photo restoration. In 2005 Dr. Thompson and his wife joined the staff of volunteers who serve the Mormon Tabernacle Choir organization during which time he served for one year as the Assistant Conductor of the Tabernacle Choir. The couple currently serve as the Audition Coordinators for the Orchestra at Temple Square. Dr. Thompson has enjoyed a life-long love for the organ and its literature and in 1965 he and his wife toured North Germany visiting the sites of the surviving organs of the 17th century organ builder, Arp Schnitger. The Thompsons have lived in Holladay since 1978, are the proud parents of five daughters and enjoy the blessings of 19 grand children.

Many of these biographies have been edited for length with permission. For full biographies, please contact the artists and/or their managers.