3-19-2014

Campbell Organ Festival

Richard Elliot
Salt Lake City Tabernacle

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Recommended Citation
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HOLTKAMP ORGAN

The Holtkamp Organ Company of Cleveland, Ohio, is the oldest continually operating organ-building enterprise in North America. Given the realities of time, economy and history, this accomplishment alone signifies the prominent place occupied by the Holtkamp Company in the history of American pipe organ building. With a reputation for design, artistic and tonal excellence as well as attention to even the most obscure details of pipe-crafting, it is evident Holtkamp organs are among the finest anywhere.

For more than 40 years, Utah State University has found pride in being one of the few institutions of higher education to have such an instrument and be closely associated with the Holtkamp Organ Company.

During the late 1960s, Max Dalby, former USU Music Department head, and Parley Belnap, former USU professor of organ, were instrumental in selecting a firm to build a new pipe organ in the Kent Concert Hall. Through a generous donation by the Kent family, the Holtkamp organ, opus 1906, was installed in 1973. Among the larger instruments in the region, it has 56 ranks contained within 42 stops and 3,134 individual pipes. The tonal design of the organ is representative of the American classic style of organ building, a predominant style during this time.

Throughout many years, the Holtkamp organ has given support to university functions, music department and community concerts, church groups, choirs and organists. As with any complex machine, over the years it experienced its share of mechanical difficulties, problems of atmosphere, temperature, constant use and a lack of sustained maintenance. The last several years have been especially hard for the organ. But just as the future was looking bleak, generous donors stepped forward to recover some of the former glory worn away. Due to the kindness and commitment to the arts of Paul and Paulette Campbell, the organ restoration was possible.

The restoration project, began in the summer of 2011 and was divided into three phases. The first involved the reconstruction or revoicing of the majority of the pipes in the organ. Members from the Holtkamp firm visited Logan and removed more than 1,500 pipes for shipment to its headquarters in Cleveland. It required two months and a crew of six to bring the pipes into conformity with the original specifications of the instrument.

In conjunction with the first phase, the second phase began when Holtkamp representatives traveled to Logan and supervised a volunteer crew to clean the organ case, surfaces, interior workings and the remaining pipes. For two weeks, a crew of six worked to remove 40 years of dust and environmental impurities. Every remaining pipe had to be removed, cataloged and stored. Then each pipe was wiped, scrubbed, vacuumed and polished in preparation for the return of all the pipes. In late January 2012, the factory-restored pipes reunited with the cleaned pipes that stayed behind. A crew of seven kept busy for nearly a week reassembling the great Holtkamp organ.

After being reassembled, a total revoicing and rebalancing of the organ’s sound took place. Two skilled artisans spent four weeks listening and adjusting every pipe to ensure the organ regained its world-class quality and unique sound. The owner of the Holtkamp Organ Company, Chris Holtkamp, executed the third and final phase: a total upgrade to the wiring, console parts and electronics.

The console is now more capable of assisting students and performers. It can quickly assist in stop changes, has hundreds of levels of electronic memory and can even capture a performance or practice session and play it back to help students and performers as they learn and prepare for concerts and lessons. The understanding and support of gifted leaders and donors continues to play an important part in continuing the history of USU’s Holtkamp organ.
CAMPBELL ORGAN FESTIVAL

Program

La Rejouissance ("The Rejoicing") George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) arr. Richard Elliott
from Music for the Royal Fireworks

Toccata, Adagio and Fugue in C Major, BWV 564 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Andante sostenuto, from Symphonie gothique, Op. 70 Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

Final in B-flat major (Op. 21) from Six pièces César Franck (1822-1890)


Variations on America (1892) Charles Ives (1874-1954)

Prelude on "Brother James's Air" Searle Wright (1918-2004)

Sing Praise to Him, Who Reigns Above arr. Richard Elliott
Tune from the Bohemian Brethren's Songbook, 1566

Scotland the Brave traditional Scottish melody arr. Richard Elliott
Featuring the Scotsmen Pipe & Drum Corps

Zeigt mir den Schotten Ulrich Sebastian Uwe ("U.S.U.") Bach (discovered by Richard Elliott)

Toccata Georgi Aleksandrovich Mushel (1909-1989)
from Uzbekistan Suite

RICHARD ELLIOTT PRINCIPAL ORGANIST

SALT LAKE CITY TABERNACLE

Richard Elliott is Principal Organist at the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, where he participates in the daily recital series on the 206-rank Æolian-Skinner organ and accompanies the Mormon Tabernacle Choir on the choir's weekly radio and TV broadcast, "Music and the Spoken Word." As accompanist for the Tabernacle Choir he has performed in many of the world's great halls and appeared on numerous television and radio programs, including the NBC Today Show, the CBS Morning Show and A Prairie Home Companion.

Elliott appears on dozens of recordings and videos with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. In his work with the choir he has collaborated with many guest artists including Andrea Bocelli, Tom Brokaw, the Canadian Brass, Renée Fleming, Evelyn Glennie, the King's Singers, Brian Stokes Mitchell, the Oak Ridge Boys, Charles Osgood, the Osmonds, and Robert Shaw. In 1994 he recorded his first solo compact disc, In the Shadows of the Everlasting Hills, on the Pro Organo label. His second solo compact disc in collaboration with his colleagues on the Tabernacle organ staff. Elliott is a published composer and arranger of music for organ and for choir.

Prior to his appointment as a tabernacle organist in 1991, Elliott was an assistant professor of organ at Brigham Young University. He has performed extensively as a recitalist in the United States, has appeared as soloist with the Utah Symphony, and for several years was assistant organist at the John Wanamaker Department Store (now Macy's) in Philadelphia, home to the world's largest functioning pipe organ. A Fellow of the American Guild of Organists, Elliott has been a featured performer at national and regional conventions of the guild.

A native of Baltimore, Md., Elliott received his early musical training at the Peabody Conservatory. He went on to study organ at the Catholic University of America, the Curtis Institute of Music, from which he received the Bachelor of Music degree, and the Eastman School of Music, where he received Master of Music and Doctoral of Musical Arts degrees. His organ teachers have included David Craighead, Dale Krider, William Watkins, and John Weaver.

Elliott is married to a professional pianist, Elizabeth Cox Ballantyne, and they are the parents of two sons.

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By the age of 8, she was playing the piano and learning skills that would set a pattern for her life. As a young teenager, Paulette was assigned to play the organ for her church; however, she didn't know how to play. Taking a life lesson in practicality, she taught herself how to play. This dedication was just one thread in a tapestry of lifelong appreciation and dedication for the arts. In 1975, Paulette married her kindergarten sweetheart, Paul Campbell—who upon first meeting Paulette, went promptly home and carved her name on his mother's piano. Paul and Paulette raised five children. At every chance, Paulette inspired their children to be motivated learners and to appreciate the arts—especially music. Throughout many years, both Paul and Paulette have had strong connections to USU, first as students, and later as the parents of five USU graduates. Paul and Paulette have created an educated, talented and musical family.

Throughout the busy years of family life, Paulette has been committed to giving her time and support to community art endeavors. Most recently, she donated generously to enable the restoration of the Campbell-Holtkamp Organ, and in the years since the first Campbell Organ Festival has created an endowment to provide ongoing maintenance for the instrument, as well as two endowed scholarships that have already assisted many young organists to improve their skills and learn this great art.