

DR. ROBERT CUNDICK

TODAY'S PIONEER

PIONEERING ON TEMPLE SQUARE. When Robert was called to be a Tabernacle organist at a young age, he had already served a mission with his young family, playing daily organ recitals at the Hyde Park Chapel in London. During the next 27 years on Temple Square, Bob participated in many improvements that have made Church organ musicianship, the Tabernacle Choir and the weekly Broadcast from Temple Square what it is today. He originated a guest organist program, including graduate student noon recitals. He introduced four-handed organ accompaniment (two organists playing simultaneously), and was instrumental in getting women called as Temple Square organists. At a time when the Assembly Hall was being remodeled, Robert visited prominent businessmen and raised \$250,000 for a new Assembly Hall organ, two Steinway pianos, harpsichords and practice organs for the basement. He helped implement a policy governing longevity of Tabernacle Choir members, and participated in the planning resulting in the Orchestra at Temple Square.



PIONEERING IN JERUSALEM. One week after retirement, Bob and his wife served a mission as Hosting Directors at the Jerusalem Center.

At the time, there was great distrust about the Center. Bob organized a weekly concert series, with guest artists including vocalists, quartets and organists. The series became so popular among the Jewish population that the fire marshal had to enforce no seating in the aisles. When the Center was later closed to students, the concert series persisted, even to this day, spreading good will and good music.

PIONEERING IN MUSICAL COMPOSITION. Bob composed the perennial favorite "The Redeemer" for chorus, soloists and orchestra. He often arranged music for the Choir. He composed the music to "To Utah", "The Pioneer Woman", and most recently produced "The Mormon Pioneer Saga" DVD/CD and Memorial Booklet jointly sponsored by the Sons and Daughters of Utah Pioneers.

For pioneering on Temple Square, at the Jerusalem Center, and through musical tributes that memorialize the courage

and fortitude of the Pioneers,, the Sons of Utah Pioneers is proud to present the Today's Pioneer award to Dr. Robert Cundick.

BORN: 1926 in Sandy Utah to Milton & Florence Pierson Cundick.

CHARACTER: Productive, kind, energetic, soft-spoken

EDUCATION: PhD from U of Utah

FAMILY: 3 sons, 2 daughters, 24 grandchildren & 12 great grandchildren

PROFESSION: Organist, BYU Professor

CHURCH: Executive Manager of Church Music Committee, Sunday School General Board, Stake & ward organist

HOBBIES: Community service projects, fishing

SERVICE: Mills Chapter awarded him lifetime membership for his production Of the Mormon Pioneer Saga. Raised funds and founded an organ dept. at the U of U

