



Pipeline

American Organist Guild—Red River Valley Chapter

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Teaching Church Music

Please join us for the 15th AGO National Conference on Organ Pedagogy co-sponsored by the Yale Institute of Sacred Music March 11-14, 2009. This year's theme, "Teaching Church Music in North America: An Old Vocation in a New Millennium" will wrestle with some of the current and crucial issues facing

congregations today.

Keynote speaker Martin Marty will be joined by Quentin Faulkner, Don Saliers, Bishop Robert Rimbo and Marva Dawn. We will hear details of representative church music programs from around the country, and leaders in the field will offer master-

classes in many aspects of church music leadership. The Yale organs will be heard in concert and liturgies. Please follow the link below to register and take advantage of the discounted "early-bird" registration which ends Jan. 31.

http://www.yale.edu/ism/events/ago_main.html

Message From the Dean

A very blessed Christmas Season to one and all—and a Happy New Year! Holiday greetings to my fellow organists, choral



directors and bell ringers! We have made it through another season of extra rehearsals, nervous vocalists and flickering, sputtering candles. But what a *gift* it is to be apart of the mu-

sic of the church—what incredible blessings we receive as we lead the hymns of the season and help to direct the musical talents of our congregations. We are doubly blessed as even our practice time is worship filled.

As we entertain the thoughts of a new year, let us make new GOALS for the upcoming year with the RRVAGO. Here's my New Years "encouragements" to all AGO members:

1. Visit the AGO national website. The website has an incredible amount of information at your fingertips. Organ music CD's and educational materials can be ordered.... Listing of Pipedream programs to catch on MPR.... And job opportunities throughout the country. (Which now can be viewed from AGO members only.... membership has its privileges!) There were over 65,000 "hits" on our national site last year alone!

2. Attend AGO sponsored events. We need your presence and want you to share in opportunities to socialize with one another! February 11th is our *Valentine recital* at 12:45 at First Lutheran, Fargo—Concordia's Student Organ recital on March 23 at Trinity Lutheran, Moorhead at 7:00—and on April 19th at Nativity Catholic Church in Fargo, we are having a BEL-Labration starting at 7:00.

3. Attend the Regional Convention in Wichita, Kansas. Get out your day planners and mark June 15-18, 2009 reserved for our Region VI North Central Convention. The website to check it out is Pipesonthepains09.org

4. Make it a goal to say "yes" when asked to help out with the RRVAGO chapter. Think of ways you can help our local chapter become an even better advocate for the organ.

We need to reach out beyond the narrow confines of our choir lofts and become "evangelists" for what we do! The inherent beauty of the organ and its repertoire will ensure its survival and ours—but it must be shared. We must continue to play our best—lead worship with our best—and be passionate about promoting our instrument!

Soli Deo Gloria,
Bill Tweten, Dean

Member Updates

Please welcome new member *Randy Morken!*

First Friday Luncheon

Who Everyone is Welcome!

When First Friday of the Month at Noon

Where Fryn' Pan
302 Main Ave, Fargo

Chapter Officers

Dean: Bill Tweten

Sub-Dean: Marty Baumgartner

Secretary: Michael Olson

Treasurer: Ruth Strawn

Board Members at Large

2009: Sonia Carlson, Alpha Roeszler

2010: Gaylord Fagerland, Steve Eneboe

2011: Anna Goodin-Hayes, Erich Knapp

Midwinter Conference at Baylor University

If you want to shorten the midwinter blues ~ consider attending the 15th annual Midwinter Organ Conference at Baylor University in Waco, TX. Marilyn Mason and Robert Plimpton will be the principal guest organists. This also marks the 15th anniversary of the Petty-Madden organ in Jones Concert Hall. Baylor is blessed with 9 pipe organs on campus, five of which are in performance halls. The conference will be held February 8-10, 2009. To register for this event, contact Baylor University School of Music at (254)710-1417. The cost for the event is \$100.00.

Dr. Marilyn Mason will perform the Dupre "Stations of the Cross" and lecture on commissioning new music.

Robert Plimpton, who served as the municipal organist in San Diego, overseeing the enlargement of the famed Spreckels organ, will play the Elmore Concerto for Organ, Brass, and Percussion. Monica Harper and Samuel Gas-kin, two young, upcoming organ stars, will be heard in recitals. Bynum Petty, the builder of the McLane Organ in Jones Concert Hall, will return to give his perspective on his career as an organ builder and musician.

Baylor will also host a Pipe Organ Encounter for adults interested in a hands-on introduction to the Pipe Organ. This event will be June 1-5 at Baylor University, Waco, TX. Contact Karen Johnson at Baylor if you know someone who is interested in registering for this event. Phone 254.710.1417. (\$425 for event, housing and meals.) 🌸

New Addition

Member Anna Goodin-Hayes and her husband welcomed daughter *Esme Alexis Hayes* into the world on Tuesday, December 9, 2008.

The family is thrilled and mom and daughter are doing well!



Board Meeting Notes

Thursday, December 18, 2008: The following members were in attendance: Ruth Strawn, Bill Tweten, Sonia Carlson, Alpha Roeszler, and Michael Olson. Two members of the program committee were also in attendance: Dawn Papenfuss and Sally Harmon.

A wonderful holiday potluck was enjoyed, including lefse and candy cane brownies.

A motion was made by Alpha, seconded by Ruth, to approve the November secretary's report. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Michael, seconded by Sonia, to approve the December treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Here is said report:

Beginning balance in the checking account was \$1172.15. \$36 was received in membership dues. Expenses were incurred in the amount of \$500.52 for the Carol Sing. The new checking account balance is \$707.63.

Carol Sing expenses: \$100 fee paid to St. Joseph's Church; \$25.20 for postage to mail posters and other publicity; \$50 to Reta Stein for playing organ; \$50 to Dr. Kenyon Williams for playing percussion; \$50 to LaVonne Rustad for playing piano; \$50 to Julie Hardmeyer for directing the children's choir of St. Joseph's Church; \$50 to the Moorhead High Carolers for singing; \$125.32 to the Forum for publicity ads (which was quite a bit less than budgeted).

The original conventional CD contains \$5484.11, and the new flexible CD contains \$5000.

The grand total of all accounts is \$11,191.74.

There was a recap of the December 7th Carol Sing. Having the kids sing from the balcony was great. The space at St. Joseph's Church is wonderful, and Mike Nelson's instrument was very nice.

It was noted that different organists played in the October 19th Organ Spectacular and the December 7th Carol Sing. Quite a few of our members played between those two programs. It is always good to hear each other play!

Mavis worked to make everything having to do with the Catholic concerns work out well. We could not read Christmas scriptures since we were in the season of Advent, but the readings were appropriate and very nice. We also knew that we needed to be out of the sanctuary by 4:00 because of other events occurring at St. Joseph's Church that same day. We also discussed the fact that the Concordia Christmas concert was at the same time – but, Concordia had four concerts if people really wanted to attend both events. Because of being at St. Joseph's Church, the Carol Sing was in the afternoon, where it has been in the evening for other years.

We discussed future sites for the Carol Sing – places we've been before as well as places we've not yet been.

If there are any ideas for the February 11th LOVE program, to email one of the program committee members: Carolyn, Mavis, Sally, or Dawn.

We had a discussion as to how to "do" AGO – the collaboration between the program committee and the board members. In some years, the board has served as the program committee. In other years, the two entities have been separate. We discussed the philosophy of spending money, particularly how it relates to the surplus from our regional convention in 2001. We need to have a budget for programs for the year, perhaps before the program year begins (or gets very far into the year). There is indeed a place for our own members, as well as a need for guest artists.

We discussed a possible Hymn Festival, and mentioned names of people to lead such an event: Mark Sedio, David Cherwien, John Ferguson, Robert Hobby, Wayne Wold, and Michael Burkhardt. This could be in lieu of a guest recitalist or in addition to a guest organist.

We mentioned that, because January 2 is the First Friday and is still during the holiday season, that we would wait for the First Friday lunch until the SECOND Friday in January, the 9, at noon at the downtown Fargo Fryn' Pan.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Olson, Secretary



Hymn Stories

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

After the War of 1812, Anglicans in America decided to establish their own seminary for training Episcopalian ministers. The Episcopalian General Convention voted to locate the school in New York City. But where in New York?

Clement Moore, son of New York's Episcopalian Bishop, was an up-and-coming land developer. He had recently become well-known because of a poem he had written, which began: "*'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house....*"

The popularity of his poem made his name a household word. The fame and increased income made him a more generous and sought-after layman.

Moore owned a large estate in the undeveloped northern region of Manhattan. He referred to it as "a quiet, rural retreat on the picturesque banks of the Hudson." Hearing that the Episcopalians needed land for their seminary, he offered a portion of his estate, and thus was born General Theological Seminary. Moore, also a linguist and Hebrew scholar, became one of General's first professors, teaching biblical languages.

Some years later, a reported named John H. Hopkins, Jr., enrolled in this seminary. Born in Pittsburgh, Hopkins had matriculated at the University of Vermont before moving to New York to pursue legal studies. But he fell in love with the Lord's work, enrolled in General, and graduated from the seminary in 1850. In 1855, he was hired as the school's first instructor of church music.

Hopkins wrote "We Three Kings" as part of a Christmas pageant produced

by General Theological Seminary in 1857. In 1863 it was published in his *Carols, Hymns, and Songs*. Interestingly enough, Hopkins most famous song was "We Three Kings" and came to be from the generosity of Clement Moore, another famous poet. 🎵

~Bill Tweten, Dean

Credit: *Then Sings My Soul* by Robert J. Morgan, Thomas Nelson Publishers

University of Kansas Sponsors North German Organ Study Tour

From July 28-August 10, 2009, the University of Kansas will sponsor KU European Organ Study Tour IV: North Germany, under the direction of professor Michael Bauer. This tour will include a significant number of the major Schnitger organs, as well as renaissance instruments, important 17th century organs by Scherer and Stellwagen, romantic organs by Ladegast and Sauer, and contemporary instruments by Ahrend and Metzler. We will also tour the Ahrend shop and have free time in Hamburg and Lübeck. For further information see www2.ku.edu/~organ, write mbauer@ku.edu, or call 785.864.9744.

Help Wanted

Electronic keyboard player at Edgewood Vista at Edgewood Village (4420 - 37th Ave. S. Fargo), \$100/month, will play every Sunday at 10.00 am (45 min. service) and every other Wednesday at 6.45 pm (45 min. service). Attendance is approximately 40 people.

If interested, please contact Rev. Art Grimstad at 701.365.8716.

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Upcoming Events

September 21, 2008, 4:00 pm

The 2008 Minneapolis National Convention Revisited
Peace Lutheran Church, Fargo

October 19, 2008, 4:00 pm

Pipe Spectacular – Music for Organ, and Others
First Presbyterian Church, Fargo

December 7, 2008, 3:00 pm

Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long
St. Joseph Catholic Church, Moorhead

February 11, 2009, 12:45 pm

A Valentine Recital – Music of Love
First Lutheran Church, Fargo

March 23, 2009, 7:00 pm

Concordia College Organ Students in Recital
Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead

April 19, 2009, 7:00 pm

BELL-abration! A Massed Performance of Handbells,
Vocal Choirs, Organ and Other Instruments
Nativity Catholic Church, Fargo

May 2009 (date/time TBA)

Event/location—TBA

Contact Information

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