



THE PIPELINE

May-June 2021

Volume 36, Number 5

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- Alex P. Swanson, Treasurer
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Diamond Anniversary Committee

- Dillon J. Swanson, Chairman
 Alex P. Swanson, Secretary
 Bradley Steen Michael Olson
 Susan Clambey Dr. Jean Hellner

Message from the Dean

Submitted by Michael Olson



Happy Spring to each of you!

As I write this letter on Saturday morning, May 15, it is an absolutely gorgeous spring day. I went for a walk earlier this morning in Trollwood Park in north Fargo. I encountered a man walking his dog and, later on, a woman walking a much larger dog! 'Tis the season for walking dogs and people...

This is my last Dean's letter for the *Pipeline*, as I will be handling over the reins of dean on July 1 to Dillon Swanson, a good friend and colleague, who will lead our chapter into the future with vigor. I will be continuing in my role as the North Dakota District Convener for the American Guild of Organists. We have our Red River Valley Chapter here in Fargo-Moorhead and the surrounding region, as well as the Northern Valley Chapter in Grand Forks and their surrounding region.

I am very much anticipating the upcoming Diamond Anniversary RRVAGO events for the 2021-2022 program year. These events were rescheduled from this current program year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee has been working very hard on a number of exciting and varied events, so you'll want to mark your calendars and take advantage of each and every program and event.

This is an exciting summer for me as I will be playing for three ordination services. I'm quite sure that I have never played for three ordination services in the same summer ever before! And there will be ten weddings at First Lutheran Church in Fargo between May 1 and August 31, far more weddings than we had last summer. Perhaps things are finally getting back to some sense of normalcy again.

I also wanted to mention the weekly organ recitals here at First Lutheran Church on Wednesday afternoons between 12:45-1:15pm. Some of you have participated in the past, and I want to encourage you and invite you to participate again if you so desire. Please get in touch with me and let me know a possible date you'd like to play. Besides the in-person audience, which is small but loyal and enthusiastic, there is a growing online audience as well. I began in-person recitals again in early July 2020 and have played a recital nearly every Wednesday since then. I used to take the summer off from recitals, but I am now playing nearly every Wednesday except for an occasional Wednesday I might be out of town.

Thanks again to each of you for your faithfulness to the RRVAGO. We are an organization which is made stronger by each person who is an integral part of the group.

Have a wonderful summer!

Michael Olson, Dean

Message from the Sub-Dean

Submitted by Dillon J. Swanson



Greetings! Happy Summer!

Hope is on the horizon, people! With every new message from the CDC and with more folks getting vaccinated, I can't help but be overwhelmed by enthusiasm and excitement for the Diamond Anniversary programming beginning in September.

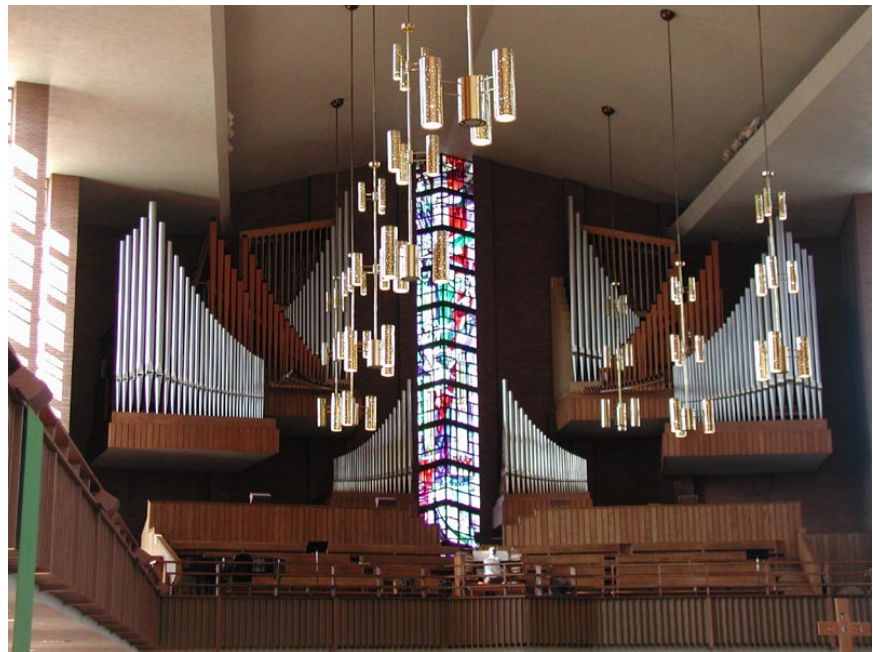
It has been my pleasure to serve the chapter this past year as Sub-Dean and I look forward to serving you in the future as Dean beginning in July. As you can see in the Chapter Administrator report, our chapter is GROWING! I only hope this continues as more and more people experience our programming this coming year.

As I reported on in the last issue of the *Pipeline* I've had the opportunity to conduct a couple of really interesting musicological studies with incredible mentors at Concordia College and abroad this semester regarding the musical rhetoric and theology found in J. S. Bach's *Clavier-Übung III*. This summer I will continue my study by learning the volume and performing sometime in the near future.

In a few short weeks I will venture out to Valparaiso, Indiana to fulfill my Organ Fellowship at Lutheran Summer Music hosted by Valparaiso University. I will have the opportunity to instruct students in a variety of classroom, studio class, and private lesson formats with my faculty mentor, Chad Fothergill.

If you are interested in participating in any of the upcoming programming or have programming ideas you'd like to be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting, send me an email! I will be sure to respond promptly.

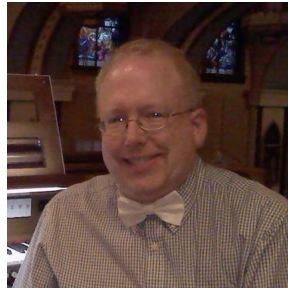
Dillon J. Swanson, Sub-Dean



Reddel Memorial Organ in the Chapel of the Resurrection, Valparaiso University

Secretary's Report

Submitted by Bradley J. Steen



Regular Executive Committee Meeting – 04/06/2021

A regular meeting of the RRVAGO Executive Committee was held on the above date via Zoom. All officers were present except for Dr. Jean Hellner.

The meeting was called to order by Sub-Dean Dillon Swanson at 7:54pm. The secretary's report was emailed to all members of the Executive Committee. Alex Swanson moved to approve the report, seconded by Dillon Swanson; motion carried. Alex Swanson moved, seconded by Michael Olson to approve agenda; motion carried.

Officer Reports

Dean's report: none. The Sub-Dean's report was given by Dillon Swanson. Dillon shared with the Executive Committee about the Bach Birthday Bash. There were seventy-one online views and the feedback has been good. Dillon hopes going forward that programs such as this can be streamed live and archived. He will look further into the possibilities. Also shared were the plans to install a two-manual digital organ in the Concordia College Centrum by Moe Organ Company of Wadena, Minnesota. Alex Swanson moved to approve the Sub-Dean's report, seconded by Bradley Steen; motioned carried. Alex Swanson gave the Treasurer's report. Dillon Swanson moved to place the report on file, seconded by Bradley Steen; motioned carried.

Old Business:

Sub-Dean Dillon Swanson reported on the RRVAGO Diamond Anniversary Year programming for 2021-2022.

New Business:

There was a discussion about starting up the First Friday Lunches, again, at the Fry'n Pan Restaurant on Main Avenue in Fargo. Bradley Steen moved that we begin on Friday, June 4; Alex seconded the motion; motion passed. Bradley will contact Patrick Jones at the Fry'n Pan to make arrangements.

Good of the Order:

Dr. Jean Hellner's mother passed away.

There being no further business, Dillon Swanson moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alex Swanson. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:42pm.

Bradley Steen, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Alex P. Swanson



Regular Treasurer's Report For the period March 4, 2021 – May 6, 2021

BEGINNING BALANCE – Checking (March 4, 2021) **\$5,621.82**

INCOME

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3/10/21	National A.G.O. for membership dues	77.00
4/7/21	Memorial for Jean Hellner's mother	20.00
4/13/21	National A.G.O. for membership dues	<u>82.00</u>
	TOTAL INCOME	\$ 179.00

EXPENDITURES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Check No.</u>	<u>Payable To/Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3/30/21	Debit Card	Election Runner for 2021 election	<u>15.00</u>
		TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 15.00

Net Profit (Loss) 164.00

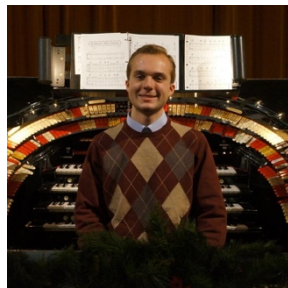
ENDING BALANCE (March 4, 2021) **\$5,785.82**

A. P. Swanson

Alex P. Swanson, Treasurer

Chapter Administrator's Report

Submitted by Alex P. Swanson



We've experienced a net gain of 2 member since the last report.

Membership Breakdown

Regular (voting)	11
Special	9
Young Organist	5
Dual Member	3
<u>Chapter Friend</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	28

Chapter Happenings



Chapter Members perform Bach Birthday Bash in form of virtual organ tour

Sub-Dean Dillon Swanson recorded various chapter members playing works by J. S. Bach in their own churches, compiling them together for a virtual Bach Birthday Bash. The virtual concert was released on Sunday, March 21, 2021, Bach's birthday.

PROGRAM:

Toccata in D minor, BWV 565i	Dillon J. Swanson, Trinity Lutheran- Moorhead
Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele, BWV 654.....	Michael Olson, First Lutheran – Fargo
Prelude and Fugue in A minor, BWV 559 (Krebs).....	Sally Harmon, First Presbyterian - Fargo
In dir ist Freude, BWV 615.....	Ryan Hardy, Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help – Rapid City
“Little” Fugue in G minor, BWV 578.....	Ruth Strawn, Sheperd of the Valley Lutheran – West Fargo
Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645.....	Rachel Horan, Trinity Lutheran – Moorhead
Sheep May Safely Graze, from BWV 208.....	Susan Clambey, First Congregational United Church of Christ - Moorhead
Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier, BWV 731.....	Oliver Knudson, Trinity Lutheran – Moorhead
Herzlich tut mich verlangen, BWV 727.....	Dr. Jean Hellner, Peace Lutheran – Fargo
HYMN: Let the Whole Creation Cry.....	Dillon J. Swanson, Trinity Lutheran- Moorhead

The video of the recital is available on the chapter's YouTube Channel at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yA3rIqBnU4g>



Dillon J. Swanson present Junior Recital for Concordia College Department of Music

Dillon J. Swanson presented his Junior Recital in partial fulfillment of the Bachelor of Music degree in Instrumental Performance (Organ) for Concordia College on Friday, April 16, 2021 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead.

The recital has been posted on the RRVAGO Facebook page and is also archived on the Trinity Lutheran Church YouTube Channel. There are leftover printed programs with program notes if anyone is interested.

Please contact Dillon if you are interested in having a printed copy. The link for the recital recording is provided here: https://fb.watch/5z_jiasFt2/.

Announcements

RETURN OF FIRST FRIDAY LUNCH!

During this time of pandemic, we have been unable to meet as colleagues and friends as we have for years on the first Friday of every month for a time of fellowship (and lunch!). These lunches have been a vital part of our chapter's connectivity and missed by many. We are happy to announce that the Executive Committee has decided to resume the First Friday Lunch gatherings beginning on Friday, June 4th at 12:00 noon at the Fryn' Pan in Downtown Fargo. All are welcome to join chapter member's for lunch and fellowship. If you have any questions, please contact chapter secretary Bradley Steen.

2021 Officer Election Results



DEAN: Dillon J. Swanson

Dillon J. Swanson is an organ performance major at Concordia College while also serving as the Chapel Organist for the campus' Office of Ministry. He joined the chapter in 2017 and has served as Sub-Dean since July 2020 and chairman of the Diamond Anniversary Committee since November of 2019.

Swanson has served as organist and music director in many churches in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota. His current appointments include Concordia College and Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, both in Moorhead, Minnesota. He will also serve as Organ Fellow for the 40th Session of Lutheran Summer Music Academy and Festival this summer at Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Indiana under the mentorship of Chad Fothergill.

Dillon is active in the Red River Theatre Organ Society, currently serving as President as well as one of the current House Organists at the Fargo Theatre on the Mighty Wurlitzer.

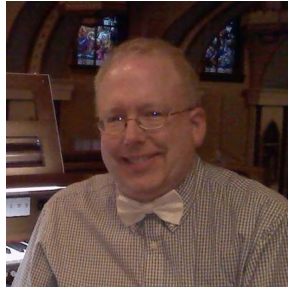
Dillon Swanson is also an avid musicological researcher with current interests in J. S. Bach's *Clavier-Ubung III*. He also a published author in the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians' magazine *CrossAccent*. His primary teachers have been Dr. Peggy Johnson and Andrew Steinberg, with special mentorship from Dr. Annett Richter and Chad Fothergill.



SUB-DEAN: Andrew Steinberg

Andrew Steinberg is the organ instructor, conductor of Symphonia, and choral area accompanist for Concordia College and the sanctuary worship director and organist at Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead. He is frequently called on as a soloist as well as a collaborative accompanist in instrumental and choral activities featuring organ, harpsichord, and piano and as musical director for a variety of music theatre experiences across the country including Concordia Theatre. At Concordia, Steinberg coaches singers into creating their own musical theatre cabaret shows, exploring the world of musical theatre literature, and preparing performers for professional experiences.

Steinberg has served as organist and worship director at congregations in the Twin Cities, Fort Collins, and the Fargo-Moorhead area. Steinberg coaches and accompanies soloists and ensembles throughout the region and nationally. He performed as solo organists in Wittenberg Germany, as part of the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, and has performed across the United States, Germany, and Scotland (University of Glasgow). Steinberg holds a master's degree in organ performance and certification in liturgical studies from Colorado State University, Fort Collins. He remains active as organist, collaborative pianists, vocal coach, and musical director for Concordia College's theatre program. Steinberg has earned credits toward a doctorate in collaborative piano. His primary teachers have been Peter Nygarrd, Dr. Joel Bacon, and Dr. Tyler Wottrich.



SECRETARY: Bradley Steen

Bradley J. Steen, Secretary of the Red River Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, is Cathedral Organist at St. Mary's Cathedral in Fargo, ND, a position he has held since May 2017. He has also served as an organist, pianist, and accompanist at Sts. Anne & Joachim Catholic Church in Fargo since January 1996. He has been a ringer in the hand bell choir during part of his tenure there.

Bradley is originally from Fergus Falls, MN where he graduated from Fergus Falls High School. He is a graduate of Minnesota State University Moorhead where he received a BA degree in History and Music. He retired from North Dakota State University in November of 2014 after being employed at the NDSU Bookstore for thirty-seven years.

He is a member of the American Guild of Organists where he has held various offices in the Red River Valley Chapter through the years, the Red River Theatre Organ Society, and the Knights of Columbus.

Bradley enjoys reading, listening to music, viewing classic television and cinema, and has an avocational interest in architecture, church history, and transportation history including automobiles, trains, ships, and airplanes.



TREASURER: Alex P. Swanson

Alex Swanson works as a funeral director at West Funeral Home in West Fargo. He joined the chapter in 2017 and has served as chapter treasurer since February 2020, also serving as chapter administrator, archivist, secretary of the Diamond Anniversary Committee, and is on the Yearbook and By-Laws/Operating Procedures Committees.

He resides on his great-grandparents' farmstead in Kragnes Township, 10 miles north of Moorhead, Minn., where he was organist of the Oak Mound Congregational Church until its closing in 2011. He now belongs to North Buffalo Lutheran Church and serves as a substitute organist and has subbed for many F-M Area churches since 2008.

He has been active in the Red River Theatre Organ Society for 10 years, currently serves as its treasurer, and is a house organist of the Fargo Theatre on the Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ.

Composer's Corner

Submitted by Dillon J. Swanson



Nadia Boulanger, 1925

Juliette Nadia Boulanger **Nadia Boulanger** **(1887-1979)**

Portrait of Mendelssohn by Eduard Magnus, 1846

Nadia Boulanger was a French composer, conductor, and pedagogue. She taught many of the leading composers, conductors, soloists, and arrangers, including John Eliot Gardiner and Aaron Copland. Boulanger worked with many music academies including Julliard School and the Royal College of Music. She was the first woman to conduct many major orchestras in the United States and Europe including the BBC Symphony, Boston Symphony, New York Philharmonic, and Philadelphia orchestras premiering works by Copland and Stravinsky.

Nadia Boulanger entered the Conservatoire at the age of 10 studying harmony with Paul Vidal and composition with Charles-Marie Widor and Gabriel Fauré; she also studied the organ privately with Louis Vierne and Félix-Alexandre Guilmant. In 1906, Boulanger became Gabriel Fauré's assistant at the organ of the Église de la Madeleine. While organ was never the focus of her career, she was an accomplished teacher and performer on the instrument. Her collection of organ works is small, but very interesting and quite approachable!

Taken from: Rosenstiel, Léonie (1998). Nadia Boulanger: A Life of Music. Norton.

Organ Works:

3 Pièces (Trois Improvisations), 1911

1. Prélude
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RefoFA_IC-o
2. Petit Canon
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aK0Et4w3vGs>
3. Improvisation
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4OeYXAFc3pM>

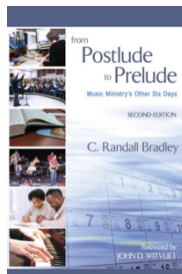
Pièce sur des airs populaires flamands, 1917

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Idcl1vbyAg>

Recommended Resources & Music

Submitted by Dillon J. Swanson

BOOKS



From Postlude to Prelude
Music Ministry's Other Six Days, 2nd Edition
By Bradley C. Randall
MorningStar (ISBN 978-1-55725-521-1), \$32.00.

From Postlude to Prelude (2nd Edition) is a newly updated resource for church musicians covering a wide array of topics representing issues and situations outside of the worship leadership aspects of the music ministry vocation. This book is an invaluable purchase! It contains current language relating to worship styles and terminology, updated tips and information regarding technology. This book was designed for church music classes and those currently involved in leading music ministries. It's a healthy 400 pages recommended for your summer reading list!

ORGAN MUSIC

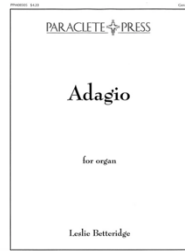


Celebration on *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Rhonda Furr

Fred Bock Music Company (SKU:800093), \$9.99.

This lovely fantasy on the hymn tune NICAEA displays a plethora of compositional techniques and registrations for any instrument of at least two-manuals. If you're looking for a fresh setting of this popular hymn, this would be a great addition to your repertoire.



Adagio for Organ

By Leslie Betteridge

Paraclete Press (SKU: 8505), \$4.20.

Adagio for Organ would make a splendid piece for any elegiac occasion or memorial service. Loosely based on two plainsong themes, one of which is the opening from the *Missa pro Defunctis* introit, "this rhapsodical work builds up to an exciting climax, and is not too difficult: the writing is warm and rich, and organ color needs to be exploited, although the instrument need not be large" – RSCM Church Music Quarterly

Upcoming Events

TUESDAY, JUNE 8th, 2021 at 7:30pm: HYMN FESTIVAL – "COLORS"

On Tuesday, June 8th, Organists Dillon Swanson and Alex Swanson will present a hymn festival titled "Colors" following the reflections of Susan Palo Cherwien found in her book *Crossings*. The hymn festival will take place at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in West Fargo at 7:30pm as part of their community outreach program involving the organ.

SATURDAY, JUNE 12th, 2021 at 6:30pm: SUNG VESPERS WITH ORGAN

Please join organist Benton Schmidt for a traditional sung Vespers, with liturgical organ music, at Saints Anne and Joachim Catholic Church in Fargo on Saturday, June 12th, at 6:30pm. Organ works of Marcel Dupré (1886-1971) and Matthias Weckmann (1616-1674) will be performed alongside Gregorian chant and Latin psalms sung by both choir and congregation.

OBERLIN ORGAN ACADEMY June 14-19, 2021
SWEELINCK STUDIES

FACULTY

MARK EDWARDS
Assistant Professor of Harpsichord

MEGAN KAES LONG
Associate Professor of Music Theory

CHRIS MARX
Associate Professor of Mathematics

JONATHAN WILLIAM MOYER
David S. Boe Associate Professor of Organ

CHRISTINA NEILSON
Associate Professor of Renaissance and Baroque Art History

STEVEN PLANK
Andrew B. Meldrum Professor of Musicology

CHRISTA RAKICH
Visiting Professor of Organ

Join us this summer to celebrate the "Orpheus of Amsterdam."

Observing the 400th anniversary of the death of Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621), faculty from Oberlin College and Conservatory of Music present 10 virtual sessions that will explore the context, life, works, and legacy of this extraordinary musician. Participants are invited to submit recordings for a virtual masterclass.



Register at www.oberlin.edu/summer-programs/organ-academy

OBERLIN ORGAN ACADEMY June 20-25, 2021
SUMMER INSTITUTE

FACULTY

JONATHAN WILLIAM MOYER
David S. Boe Associate Professor of Organ

CHRISTA RAKICH
Visiting Professor of Organ

DAVID KAZIMIR
Curator of Organs

The Summer Organ Institute continues this year in a fully virtual setting with offerings for every level of experience, including individual zoom lessons and group classes on organ history, construction, sacred music, and repertoire. Pre-recorded performances from current Oberlin students will include J.S. Bach's complete *Orgelbüchlein* and other varied repertoire featuring Oberlin's dazzling collection of pipe organs.

GUEST ALUMNI PRESENTERS

Robert and Victoria Sirota



Register at www.oberlin.edu/summer-programs/organ-academy

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