



Pipeline

American Organist Guild—Red River Valley Chapter

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Mar/Apr/May
2014

Message From the Dean

In the movie, *Finding Forester*, the character played by Sean Connery states, "The secret to being a writer is: to write." He theorizes that if you want to get something written, you just start to write. I am using that theory right now, because I have no idea what I should use for a topic for my Dean's Letter for this newsletter! I am typing and hoping that inspiration will meet up with my fingers and away we'll go! Right now it is not working, but I will keep typing....

Sometimes I find myself practicing the organ with that same philosophy. *The secret to being able to play something is to play it.* (more than once, of course!) I find that getting it registered with appropriate voices makes a big difference in how something sounds, and then I can decide which portions are going to require more work, and how many weeks it might take to be ready for church. Deciding to "go for it" and commit to playing it on a particular week uses that theory, too! *The secret to making a decision is: to decide.*

I've made another decision: to commit to perform on our *Amazing Americans* program to be held at First Presbyterian Church, Fargo on March 30th at 4:00 pm. It will be a fun program, with lots of variety. Several members of our AGO chapter will also be contributing to the program, including Michael Olson, Bill Tweten, Ruth Strawn,

Andrew Steinberg and we hope a few others! We will be joined by guest artists, The Silver Winds Flute Quartet. The members of the group are: Peggy Hammerling, Deb Haarsager, Kirsten Carlson and Erika Tomten. They will be performing works by George Gershwin, Duke Ellington and others. *The secret to inviting performers to play is: to invite.*

Next Fall, on Sunday, October 19th, we will host a wonderful program at First Lutheran Church in Fargo. The duo, Organized Rhythm, will be our featured artists. Percussion and organ, a somewhat surprising combination with a surprisingly pleasing sound, now has its own duo of performers. Clive Driskill-Smith, the young English organist sensation, has teamed up with the young American percussion virtuoso Joseph Gramley, and the duo now offers organ/percussion performances in the North American market. Plan now to attend, and invite others to save the date as well. Dr. David Eyler, along with Concordia College, will be providing the percussion instruments for this concert. The list is long, with marimbas, xylophones, vibraphones and much more. This should be an exciting performance with a broad appeal to the general public! We will also need help from our membership to get the word out, to usher or sell tickets, to write grant applications, etc. Please let me know if you are available to lend a

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: Sally Harmon

Sub-Dean: Sonia Carlson

Secretary: Robyn Vinje

Treasurer: Tom Thoreson

Board Members at Large

2013: Alpha Roeszler

2014: Bill Tweten

2015: Jim Gurney

Dean's Letter (Cont. from Page 1)

hand! *The secret to hosting a successful concert is: to get lots of help!*

Our board meetings and First Friday lunches continue to be good ways to get to know one another and share ideas and fellowship. I hope you have the dates marked on your calendars and that you plan to attend monthly. *The secret to meeting other organists for lunch is: to remember to show up!*

Maybe the weather for our program at the end of March will be the "lamb" promised to us in our childhood when we learned that March "comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb." But perhaps it will be cold and windy and no one will feel like leaving home. Remember, however, that *"The secret to attending a performance is: to go!"*

I hope to see you in March! *Sally Harmon*

Board Meeting Notes

Minutes of the RRV/AGO Board Meeting January 3, 2014

The RRVAGO Board held its monthly meeting at the Fryn' Pan restaurant in Fargo. Members present were Sally Harmon, Alpha Roeszler, Sonia Carlson, Jim Gurney, and Robyn Vinje.

Sally announced that she received an e-mail from secretary James MacKay tendering his resignation as secretary of the board due to health concerns. The board asked Robyn to resume the position for the remainder of James' term, which she accepted.

Treasurer Tom Thoreson submitted his monthly report electronically prior to the meeting. The checking account balance as of December 3, 2013, was \$1532.31. The total checking account + CD balance was \$8428.51. The Emergency Food Pantry donations from the Christmas Sing-a-long totaled \$754.60. The bill for about \$350 for

advertising in The Forum has not been received yet.

Sally stated that she is waiting to hear from the booking agent for the duo *Organized Rhythm*. We hope to sponsor them October 19th or 26th 2014 at First Lutheran. We plan to write grants for the concert, but need confirmation from the group first.

Sally filled out the form for our nonprofit status with the help of the board, which needs to be returned by February 3rd.

We continued discussion on the workshop from the national AGO convention. We noted that our webpage needs updating. We discussed the need to increase our membership, and possibly purchasing an ad in The Forum. Personal contact with potential members works best.

Sunday, March 30th at 4:00 PM we will have Those Amazing Americans at First Presbyterian Church, with Sally as chair. Members willing to play are Sally, Alpha and Ruth Discher duo, Bill Tweten and/or Jim Gurney, and Alpha. Others hopefully will also perform.

The last meeting of the chapter year will be Wednesday, May 21st, at 6:00 PM with a potluck to be followed by the music exchange.

The next board meeting will be Friday, February 7th, at the Fargo Fryn' Pan.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Vinje, secretary

Board Meeting Notes

Minutes of the RRV/AGO Board Meeting February 7, 2014

The RRVAGO Board held its monthly meeting at the Fryn' Pan Restaurant in Fargo. Members in attendance were Sally Harmon, Sonja Carlson and Alpha Roeszler (no quorum).

- * Sonja brought a notice from AGO on half memberships - sent via email
- * A question was brought up as to how we handle contacting former or lapsed members. The Board members discussed using an old list of individual contacts or inviting other organists we know as possible solutions.
- * Sally wondered if The American Organist still had an award available for increasing our membership by a certain %.
- * The Board discussed who had the list of churches that was made a few years ago.
- * The Board discussed that we encourage churches to pay the membership for their organists.

Sally announced that the ORGANIZED RHYTHM program is slated for Oct. 26, 2014 but we are waiting to hear if the percussionist who travels with another group as well (Silk Road Ensemble) will clear that date for him. First Lutheran is confirmed for that date and Concordia for the percussion instruments.

Deadlines on grants need to be heeded.

A backup group that may be used if these plans fall through could be a 3 1/2 hour workshop by Wayne Leupold that includes teaching at the organ plus a Bach program. Or we could get one under the same company, Phillip Truckenbrod.

Sally completed the Non-profit state report and sent it in.

The March 30th, Amazing Americans, program was discussed. It will be held at 4:00 PM at First Presbyterian Church.

We are still working on compiling a list of performers. Sally got confirmation from Ruth Strawn, Michael Olson, and is confirming several others.

Respectfully submitted,
Alpha Roeszler, Acting Secretary

"Amazing Americans" Program Scheduled for March 30th, 2014

The March 30, 2014 program, "Amazing Americans" will be held at 4:00 PM at First Presbyterian Church, Fargo. Local AGO chapter member organists who have committed to playing in the program up to the date of this publication are: Susan Clambey, Sally Harmon, Michael Olson, Alpha Roeszler, Andrew Steinberg, Ruth Strawn and Bill Tweten.

In addition to these local members will be featured guest artists The Silver Winds Flute Quartet. The quartet, made up of Peggy Hammerling, Deb Haarsager, Kirsten Carlson and Erika Tomten, will perform works by George Gershwin, Duke Ellington and others.

If you would like to participate in the program, please do not hesitate to contact Sally Harmon or any of the RRVAGO Board members.

It should be a very exciting program! Encourage your friends to attend!

|| Registration Open for AGO 2014 Convention in Boston June 23-27

|| Great City—Wonderful Music—Inspired Learning—Compelling
|| Instruments—Gracious Hospitality

|| Centered in Boston's Back Bay, within easy walking to many of their great churches, this 4-1/2 day
|| convention will inspire and thrill with a diversity of instruments—from Meantone to Wurlitzer—played
|| by an outstanding international roster of organists. It will feature many recently installed instruments in
|| addition to a long list of landmark organs.

|| Not only great organs will be featured, but outstanding choral concerts, many commissioned works, a
|| diverse array of worship opportunities, and stimulating workshops.

|| The convention is created for you to be comfortably paced. Celebrate your choices.

|| Registration before January 31, 2014 is encouraged to take advantage of discounted rates. Register online
|| now at regonline.com/agoboston2014 to ensure your choices. Registration by paper is available using
|| the form in the October issue of The American Organist.

|| The Marriott Copley Place is the convention headquarters hotel. You may register for hotel reservations
|| through the Marriott's online system at <https://aws.passkey.com/reg/326GFM29-G682>, or by calling the
|| hotel directly at 800-228-9290. Ask for the AGO 2014 Convention rate of \$195/night when calling.

|| If you have any questions, please contact the Steering Committee at info@agoboston2014.org. They will
|| respond quickly to your inquiries.

|| New England beckons you to join them for an inspirational week.

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New Online Procedures in Place for Renewing AGO Memberships

The membership renewal this year will be done completely online with a system that AGO Headquarters has set up called *Oncard*. Members will be able to update their information and pay dues directly online. It will simplify things for our RRVAGO treasurer and for keeping our member information current. Members with email addresses on file will all be receiving emails from AGO in the next few weeks informing them about the new system. March 3 is when members will be able to go in and update personal information, and March 31 is when dues collection will begin for 2014-2015. Our local chapter treasurer, Tom Thoreson, has our *Oncard* set up and ready to go. Be watching for the information to come to you!

Annual Dubois Cantata to be Performed at First Lutheran Church

An annual tradition at First Lutheran Church in Fargo is to perform *The Seven Last Words of Christ*, a sacred cantata by Theodore Dubois. This year's performance will be on Wednesday, April 16 beginning at 7:00PM in the sanctuary at First Lutheran Church, 619 Broadway in Fargo. The three soloists in this year's performance will be Darci Bultema from Northern State University in Aberdeen, and David Hamilton and Peter Halverson from Concordia College in Moorhead. An orchestra of nearly thirty musicians will provide accompaniment to the piece. The First Lutheran Cathedral Choir, under the direction of David Ferreira from First Lutheran Church, will be singing as well. A freewill offering will be taken following the concert to defray expenses. Come and listen to this masterpiece which tells the Holy Week message, and bring a friend along!

Save the Date—Sunday, October 19—ORGANIZED RHYTHM

Please mark your calendar for Sunday afternoon, October 19, 2014 at 4:00PM at First Lutheran Church in Fargo. You are in for a very special musical experience. Organized Rhythm will give a concert here. Clive Driskill-Smith from England is the organist of this duo, and Joseph Gramley will be the percussionist. Smith and Gramley have performed together on numerous occasions, sharing this very special music with audiences. More information on the ticket prices will be forthcoming. Make sure to tell your friends about this unique opportunity!

|| Gifting Opportunities to Help Keep Organ and Choral Music Alive Across America ||

	The American Guild of Organists depends on the thoughtful generosity of good friends who help keep	
	music alive in concert halls, universities, and houses of worship all across America. Your support is what	
	makes the AGO the largest and most prestigious organization in the world dedicated to organ and choral	
	music.	

|| Gifts in all amounts are needed and welcomed; no gift is too small, no gift is too large! All contributions ||
|| to the AGO are 100% tax deductible to the fullest extent provided by law. ||

|| Some of the funds and their purpose are: ||

|| Annual Fund-contributions will go to work immediately by supporting Guild operations and educational ||
|| programs at the national and chapter levels. ||

|| Endowment Fund-contributions will be held in perpetuity; annual earnings support operations and ||
|| educational programs, just as the Annual Fund does. ||

|| New Organist Fund-contributions will be used to support scholarship programs for students attending ||
|| Pipe Organ Encounters (POE) this summer. ||

|| Nita Akin Fund-contributions are used to support the operations of the National Young Artists ||
|| Competition in Organ Performance. ||

|| S. Lewis Elmer Fund-contributions will be used to support prize awards in the professional certification ||
|| program. ||

|| You can contribute online or send a check to: ||

|| **American Guild of Organists** ||

|| **475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1260** ||

|| **New York, NY 10115** ||
||
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||

Announcing a John Rutter Jubilee March 21 & 23, 2014

A special celebration for all who know and love choral music is being planned for Friday, March 21, 2014 at 8 pm and Sunday, March 23, 2014 at 4 pm at Central Lutheran Church, located in downtown Minneapolis. Direct from penning an anthem for the Royal Wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton, the dean of British choral composers will lead the VocalEssence (Philip Brunelle, Artistic Director) Chorus and Ensemble Singers in a concert of his favorites. Included on the program are John's delightfully jazzy *Birthday Madrigals* and music by his favorite British romantic composers, Charles V. Stanford, Ralph Vaughan Williams and C. Hubert H. Parry. Conductor of the world-famous Cambridge Singers, John Rutter is near and dear to VocalEssence audiences, and his compositions are some of the most beloved choral music of our time. A program not to be missed!

Concert Conversations with John Birge and John Rutter will be held prior to each performance, at 7 pm on Friday and 3 pm on Sunday.

For more information, visit www.vocalescence.org/rutter

Biographical Information:

John Milford Rutter was born in London on September 24, 1945. He was educated at Highgate School, was a choir member at Clare College, Cambridge and served as director of music there from 1975-1979, leading the choir to international prominence.

In 1974, Rutter visited the US at the invitation of choral musician Melvin Olson and conducted the premiere of his cantata "Gloria" in Omaha, NE in the Witherspoon Hall of Joslyn Art Museum.

In 1981, Rutter founded his own choir, the Cambridge Singers, which he conducts and with which he has made many recordings. He resides at Duxford in Cambridgeshire and frequently conducts many choirs and orchestras around the world. He has received numerous honors and awards in recognitions of his contribution to church music.

From 1985 to 1992, Rutter suffered severely from myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME, or chronic fatigue syndrome), which restricted his output; after 1985 he stopped writing music on commission, as he was unable to guarantee meeting deadlines.

Rutter also works as an arranger and editor. As a young man he collaborated with Sir David Willcocks on the extraordinarily successful *Carols for Choirs* anthology series.

Rutter's music is eclectic, showing the influences of the French and English choral traditions of the early 20th century, as well as of light music and American classic songwriting. Almost every choral anthem and hymn that he writes, in addition to the standard piano/organ accompaniment, has a subsequent orchestral accompaniment as well, utilizing various different instrumentations.

Despite composing and conducting much religious music, Rutter told the US television program *60 Minutes* in 2003 that he was not particularly a religious man, yet still deeply spiritual and inspired by the spirituality of sacred verses and prayers.

In a 2009 interview, Rutter discussed his understanding of "genius" and its unique ability to transform lives—whether that genius is communicated in the form of music or other media. (from Wikipedia)

Positions Available — Choir Director

First Congregational UCC, Fargo, is looking for a choir director to lead the sanctuary choir. The choir participates in Sunday morning worship services which begin at 10:30. Choir rehearsal begins prior to the service at 9:00. For more detailed information, please contact Pastor Kevin Cassidy-Maloney at (701) 232-8985 or e-mail at 1stcongregationalucc@gmail.com.

Composer's Corner—Robert Elmore (1913-1985)

Robert Hall Elmore was born on January 2, 1913, in Ramapatnam, India, where his parents, Dr. Wilber Theodore Elmore and Maud Johnson Elmore, served as missionaries with the American Baptist Convention. In 1915 the family, including an older sister, Rachel, returned to the United States. They settled in Lincoln, Nebraska in 1918 when young Bob Elmore began formal piano lessons at age 6 and organ study at age 9. He wrote his first composition "Ozma Waltz" at age eleven. In 1925 the family moved to Wayne, Pennsylvania and through the generosity of a Mrs. Truman Newberry, Robert began studies in organ, piano and music theory with the famed Pietro Yon, organist of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. He commuted to New York twice weekly from age 13 to 20, and studied with Yon again in his mid-twenties.

Still in his teens, Robert Elmore was organist at Central Baptist Church, Wayne, (1925-1933) and also played for the Lincoln, Bryn Mawr Seville and Anthony Wayne theaters. His first large organ recital was on August 17, 1929, in the Auditorium at Ocean Grove, New Jersey, under management of the Puccini Grand Opera Company, with 1500 people in attendance. He was introduced by his teacher, Mr. Yon, who said: "I consider Bob Elmore the foremost American organist of the day." Thus in his early years his musical persona was shaped by influences he exhibited throughout his life: church music, classical traditions, virtuoso organ playing, lighter popular music, and a dramatic theatricality.

In the summer of 1933 Elmore earned three licentiates simultaneously from the Royal Academy of Music of London in organ, concert piano and piano accompaniment, an unprecedented accomplishment, and became an Associate of the Royal College of Organists. From 1933-1937 he studied at the University of Pennsylvania. While at Penn, Elmore was awarded the Nitsche First Prize for contribution to musical life of the school, and also the Thornton Oakley medal for achievement in Creative Arts at the University.

Elmore was on the music faculty of University of Pennsylvania from 1937-1950 and became well known as conductor of University choral groups and as organist at Commencements. He also taught at Clarke Conservatory and for many years at what is now Philadelphia College for the Performing Arts. He was organist-choirmaster of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church on Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia from 1938-1955 and was the official organist of the Philadelphia Orchestra. His one-act opera "It Began at Breakfast" was the first American opera to be televised (February 18, 1941). He was one of the prime artists of the famed Bernard R. La Berge Management (along with E. Power Biggs, Carl Weinrich, Arthur Poister, Claire Coci, and Joseph Bonnet), presenting organ recitals throughout the United States. Elmore continued his exploration of jazz elements in organ music. His works "Rhumba" and "Rhythmic Suite," both published in 1954, were groundbreaking developments in the integration of jazz and classical organ music.

In 1955 Elmore was invited to become the organist-choirmaster of Central Moravian Church in Bethlehem, PA (1955-1968). The impact of the great Moravian music tradition on Elmore's creative work was immense. The community was founded in 1742 by settlers from central Europe (Moravia) who brought with them their musical heritage. The first pipe organ in Bethlehem was installed in 1746, a small orchestra was founded in 1748, and in 1754 a complete choir of trombones (soprano, alto, tenor, and bass) was sent to the new colony, and the Moravian Trombone Choir was created. Many of the American Moravian clergy were also composers, and created many favorite Moravian hymns and anthems that are still sung today. Haydn's "The Creation" was performed for the first time in the United States in the sanctuary of Central Moravian Church in 1811, and the first complete performance of Bach's Mass in B Minor was presented at Central in 1900. Elmore was both inspired by and built upon this strong heritage.

Many of Robert Elmore's large-scale choral works were composed for Central Moravian's annual Estelle Borhek Johnson Memorial Music Festival and incorporated Moravian hymns. It was also for these festivals that he composed the "Concerto for Organ, Brass and Percussion" in 1964.

Ten years of ill health had forced Elmore to curtail his travel and concertizing and he preferred to teach, perform and compose near his home town, remaining in the Philadelphia area where he also became music director for the radio program, "The Bible Study Hour". The physical strain of travel to Bethlehem caused Elmore to resign his position there in 1968. Elmore died suddenly on September 22, 1985.

Silent Auction at 2014 AGO National Convention in Boston

The AGO National Council will sponsor a Silent Auction at the AGO National Convention in Boston in June 2014. The proceeds will benefit the Annual Fund. The auction will be run online so that all AGO members and friends may participate, and not just those attending the national convention.

A number of members of the Council have already given items and services for the Silent Auction. These include two round-trip coach airfares to Europe, two expensive bottles of wine, workshops, and CD recordings. The Council would like to invite Chapters to promote the auction, including donation of items that might be of interest to the AGO membership. This might include time-share vacations, new scores and books, complimentary registration to the regional convention, a recital or workshop.

Donors will need to establish a reasonable value for each item and a recommended starting bid. For tangible items (books, CDs, artwork, rental equivalency of a time-share week, concert tickets), the value should be tax deductible, but check with your tax professional. Unfortunately, services (lessons, a recital or workshop) are not tax deductible. The AGO will set a minimum starting bid where none is advised by the donor.

What to do with the donated items? Wait until you hear who the winning bidder was, and then mail/ship the item to the winning bidder. Shipping expense is to be covered by the donor. Items for which there is no bid will be kept by the donors.

The National Council would like to have a complete list of auction items, and a photograph of each item, by **May 1, 2014** in order to prepare the auction. The online auction will begin June 1, 2014 and end on June 30, 2014.

Send your list of donation items, photos of them, and stated values with the minimum bids for each item, to:

F. Anthony Thurman
Director of Development and Communications
American Guild of Organists
fathurman@agohq.org
212-870-2311, ext. 4308

|| Nine Summer Educational Programs for Teenagers and Adults Announced ||

|| Generous funding from the Associated Pipe Organ Builders of America (APOBA) and the American Institute of Organbuilders (AIO) will support nine summer POE programs which will be held from coast to coast. The Pipe Organ Encounter (POE) is an introduction to the pipe organ through instruction in organ playing, repertoire, history, design, and construction. These regional summer organ music institutes for teenage students provide private and group instruction in service playing and solo repertoire, opportunities to learn about the musical heritage of various religious denominations, and a chance for young musicians to meet others with similar interests. Basic keyboard proficiency is required, although previous organ study is not necessary.

|| The POE (Advanced) provides intermediate to advanced classes in areas such as organ literature, history, pipe organ construction and design, music theory, improvisation, conducting, and service playing for students who have achieved a high level of success in organ study.

|| The POE (Technical) is a program designed for students who are interested in learning the art and craft of organ building. Scholarship assistance is available.

|| The POE+ is a summer program filled with practical information and instruction for adult keyboard musicians interested in improving their service-playing skill. Participants will be introduced to basic organ skills through private instruction and classes. The weeklong experience will lead to greater confidence and competence at the organ.

|| The summer schedule follows:

|| POE for ages 13-18 ||

|| June 8-13, Fort Collins, Colo.

|| June 9-14, Indianapolis, Ind.

|| June 29-July 4, Wilmington, Del.

|| July 7-11, Manhattan, Kans.

|| July 13-18, Easton, Mass.

|| POE (Advanced) for ages 13-18 ||

|| June 29-July 4, Ann Arbor, Mich.

|| POE (Technical) for ages 16-23 ||

|| June 8-13, Stowe, Penn.

|| POE+ for Adults ||

|| June 8-13, Rockford, Ill.

|| July 13-17, Seattle, Wash.

|| POE site locations are selected by the AGO Committee on the New Organist and approved by the AGO National Council after application by AGO host chapters. The deadline for applications to host 2015 POE and POE+ programs is March 15, 2014. Applications are available from AGO National Headquarters. Partial program funding is provided to AGO host chapters.



Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 30, 2014, 4:00 PM

"Amazing Americans" Concert
First Presbyterian Church, Fargo

Wednesday, May 21, 2014, 6:00 PM

Annual Potluck and Music Exchange
Details TBA

Sunday, October 19, 2014, 4:00 PM

"Organized Rhythm" Concert
First Lutheran Church, Fargo

Contact Information

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www.agohq.org/chapters/redrivervalley

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**WHEN WORDS FAIL,
MUSIC SPEAKS.**



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