



PIPELINE

American Organist Guild—Red River Valley Chapter

Volume 23, Number 3

March 2006

The Contemporary Service (Part II of III)

So how did the folk music movement find its way into the protestant church? Prior to the 1960's, Catholics were not allowed to go into a protestant church for any reason. (In 1956, a friend of mine in high school told me one day that he and his girlfriend would attend a different church each Sunday as a project to see how they worshiped. One day he said, tongue in cheek, that we should pray for him as next Sunday, they would be attending a Catholic church.) After Vatican II, the two branches of the Christian church began to dialog and finally intermarriages were tolerated with a spouse, who was protestant, now attending mass with the other. Also, people became less squeamish about attending funerals and weddings in each others churches. Protestants who began attending mass with their Catholic spouse heard this music and they were fascinated with it. But, there was another parallel movement that contributed to the folk service, this one originating with pop culture.

In the 1950's, there were three popular songs that evoked God without actually saying the word. They were "He" (ca. 1950), "I Believe" (ca. 1952) and "Count your Blessings" (ca. 1956). In 1963, "Michael Rowed the Boat Ashore, Alleluia" became a minor hit. None of these however, made the top ten. Probably the greatest folk group ever helped to establish this genre as early as 1950 with the Weavers who recorded, "Goodnight Irene".

In the 1960's Folk groups proliferated and began experimenting with pop tunes that had religious overtones. Singers like Peter, Paul and Mary, and Joan Baez in the latter part of the decade, recorded war protest songs and pulled an all new group of young people in sympathy with their cause, thus the folk movement exploded.

In the late 60's, protestant churches began to introduce what became known as "Entertainment Theology" by providing supplemental song books which took their place next to the traditional hymnal and the folk service took off. Musicians who had formal training were outraged at the perceived poor quality of music and could see the day when they would be out of jobs. The first of these denominations were the so-called Evangelical churches of which many had retired their organs by 1975.

Their thinking was fairly logical: if they could play and sing music that sounded something like the folk singers on the radio, they could pull in younger people who had either stopped attending church or had never held a membership. These folk service enthusiasts held organ music, which they described as a "boring, mooring sound" as well as liturgy in utter disdain. Not to be outdone, the Catholic churches, especially the smaller ones, dropped organ all together and went to guitars. One excuse they provided was that they could never find someone to play the organ. Somehow, when a funeral came up, they could always find someone.)

In the mid 1960's, a new genre of church music came into being with the introduction of the "worship team". These originated with the Baptists and Evangelicals with the most popular being the Lowell Lundstrom Team out of Sisseton, South Dakota. These groups would be booked as you would with a theatrical act and with numerous recordings sold in religious stores, became a minor sensation, later finding themselves invited to perform as other denominations.

By the Mid 1980's, just about every denomination was offered what became known as the "Contemporary Service" where organs were considered "inappropriate". Organ companies were already experiencing a drop in sales and knowing that fewer and fewer people were studying organ went to their various professional organizations like the American Institute of Organ Builders (AIO) and the Associated Pipe Organ Builders of America (APOBA) and joined forces with the AGO to see what could be done to stem the alarming downturn in organ students. The result was Pipe Organ Encounters (POE) which would bring together young people to show them how the pipe organ works and encourage them to study organ but only after having a solid background in piano. Concordia College was already two decades ahead when they began their own sessions first called the "Teenage Organ Workshop" which became "Organ Camp", this all beginning in ca. 1965.

In the third installment, we will analyze the contemporary service and try to ascertain how it became so popular. Stay tuned...

~Lance E. Johnson, Dean

MYTHS: Reasons Why People Don't Join AGO

MYTH: AGO is just for organists. **TRUTH:** AGO is open to all interested people, and has many clergy, organ builders, and organ lovers among its members.

MYTH: AGO is just for organists working in the high church tradition. **TRUTH:** AGO is for all organists regardless of religion or denomination.

MYTH: AGO is just for organists in the Christian faith. **TRUTH:** No, AGO is for synagogues organists too.

(Credit: Martha Sobaje)

Organist Lunch Club

~First Friday of the month at Noon
~Fargo downtown Fryin' Pan Restaurant
~ Everyone is welcome!

Chapter Officers

Dean: Lance Johnson
Sub-Dean: Vicky Wms Sieben
Secretary: Bill Tweten
Treasurer: Marty Baumgartner

Board Members at Large

2006: Michael Olson, Robyn Vinje
2007: Brad Steen, Dawn Pappenfuss
2008: Sue Clambey, Sally Harmon

Senior Recital for Nordenstrom

Organ major Karen Nordenstrom will play her senior recital on Monday, April 10 at 8:30 PM (The reason for the late hour is due to several concerts that same evening at Concordia.)

Ms. Nordenstrom will play the works from Bach, Alain, and Reger. She will depart for Europe in May where she will sing with the Concordia Concert Choir. During the summer she will work at a resort near Brainerd, and in the fall she will begin her Masters program in organ. This means she will be retiring her tool belt from home building and concentrate on organ as well as choral conducting.

Ms. Nordenstrom has been head organist at Dilworth Lutheran Church since September where she has endeared herself to the congregation with playing the traditional services and accompanying the senior choir.

Rogahn to Play Junior Recital

Peter Rogahn, a Concordia junior majoring in organ, will play his junior organ recital on Sunday afternoon, April 9 at 2:30 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead. Peter's program will consist of works from Messiah, Bach, Widor, and Hampton.

Peter Nygaard, Rogahn's instructor, has found him to be one of the best organ students he has ever taught. Rogahn, who hails from Austin, TX, has plans for a master in organ performance when finished at Concordia.

RRV AGO Board Meetings

RRV AGO board meetings are now scheduled for the 3rd Thursday of each month at Noon.

If you have any business for the board, please contact the Dean or any board member by the 2nd Thursday for your business to be included on the current month's agenda.

Board Meeting Notes

Thursday, February 16, 2006: The RRV AGO Board met at Boulger Funeral Home. Members present were: Lance, Vicki, Michael, Sue, Marty and Bill.

Motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting offered by Vicki and seconded by Michael.

Treasurer's report was given. Michael moved to accept the treasurer's report and Sue seconded. Balance on hand in checking account is \$7599.28. Lance moved to have Marty check into placing \$5,000 into a CD. Bill seconded.

Lance announced that matching funds have been met for the FM Area Foundation as members have contributed towards the upcoming Olsen recital.

Vicki presented our new church mailing list. Sue had spent hours compiling this list of all area churches, and Vicki took this large inventory and entered it into a database.

We now need to take this listing—and through phone interviews- gather information about who serves as organists and choir directors in our area. Our new electronic Pipeline could then be sent to all local church musicians. The board members are now "commissioned" to help with the phone calling and asked to each do their part in calling and

gathering this important information. Vicki asks that we please return each of our "pages" with their updated information by the next board meeting. Vicki will also send out a script to help guide us in calling the churches for information.

Next, our discussion focused on the upcoming Olsen recital. Tim Olsen emailed Michael a tentative program—to include the works of Reger, Brahms, Bach, Franck, Dupre, and a new piece by Traverse. After some discussion on workshop topics, the board elected to let the recitalist, Tim Olsen, decide on the topic of his choosing.

Ideas on next year's programs were briefly discussed. A "How to Practice" seminar, Wedding and Funeral music, guest recitalist, Carol Sing-a-long were the top contenders.

Next board meeting topics: results of the phone calling efforts, concert program, list of board members for 2006-2007 and officers. Vicki moved to adjourn, seconded by all.

The next meeting is set for March 16 at Noon at Boulger Funeral Home.

~Bill Tweten, Secretary

Pipeline Profile

Bill Tweten, Secretary



I grew up on a farm east of Buxton, ND, where my parents, June and Malcolm Tweten, were busy raising seven children and running a busy potato, beet and grain operation. While learning early about strong work ethics, we still never turned a wheel on Sundays. We went to a small country church brimming with young families. It was there that my mom directed the choir, and where I learned to love singing. At 10 years old, I started singing solos and at 12 was recruited as one of the organists. My aunt Marilyn Champeau had given me piano lessons since I was in second grade and taught me so many great things. And at Central Valley Public School I had the chance to play oboe, sing tenor and direct band as student conductor.

When I was 10, I remember hearing the pipe organ for the first time at Our Savior's Lutheran in Hillsboro, ND. It was then that I first met the "King of Instruments" and wanted to learn more. Music was very much a part of my upbringing. We sang often, whistled while we worked and just had fun gathering around the piano in the evenings (No Nintendo back then.)

At Concordia College in 1976, I began organ study with Ruth Berge. She became my hero and mentor for four years. I enjoyed her devotion to teaching and her patience with me! After Concordia, I began a teaching position in Underwood, ND that filled three years with wonderful Christmas cantatas, pep band, musicals, choirs and bands....the works.

In 1983 I had the opportunity to tour Southeast Asia with Dave and Barb Anderson. We traveled to Australia, Singapore, the Philippines and Japan—singing and leading worship for many months. I had the thrill of hearing the organ at The Sydney Opera House and the Widor that I love! I believe it's the largest tracker action pipe organ in the world! Dave and Barb Anderson talked a lot about LBI (Lutheran Bible Institute in Seattle) and in 1984 I decided to attend LBI for Biblical Studies. It stands out in my memory as the most important

two years of my life. This amazing school helped to ground me in God's word. If you want to hear some great stories, ask me about LBI sometime! It was also in Seattle where I studied with an incredible vocal coach, Carlyle Kelly.

In 1985 I accepted a position as music minister in Delray Beach, FL. It was a position of youth work, choir directing, band directing, and leading worship as organist—A great time and a lot of different experiences for me. Then in 1986, I decided to change directions and to study Interior Design at Alexandria Technical College in Alexandria, MN. I focused on Kitchen Design, which to this day has become my career. The interest in interiors and design was something that I had dabbled with from second grade and on. It is a creative field and fits into the love for music and the arts for me. I had the chance to compete and won the state title in Minnesota as top designer while in college. Since then, I have completed my certification for kitchen and bath design, CKD and CBD and work at the Floor to Ceiling Store in Fargo.

Now as a father of three, and 35 years of organist work...I can tell you that the organ playing is easier! I have played organ for Highland Lutheran, Cummings; Our Savior's Lutheran in Hillsboro; Augustana Lutheran in Underwood, ND; Lutheran Bible Institute, Seattle; Trinity Lutheran, Delray Beach, FL; United Methodist, Alexandria, MN; Our Savior's in Moorhead; Bethesda Lutheran, Moorhead; and currently at Messiah Lutheran in Fargo. Deb and I actually live across the street from Messiah Lutheran and enjoy the convenience of having our church home right in our neighborhood.

While I have done so many jobs, not daring to list them all, I have always had my second job as organist somewhere...I have always cherished singing for the Lord, playing organ and leading the congregational song. It gives me strength for the week and fills my heart with joy. And instead of yoga and other methods of stress management, I find that organ practice takes me to another realm!

Have a great week and practice hard!

~Bill

NOTE: The "Pipeline Profile" has been created so members can get to know more about each other.

We encourage everyone to write their own profile and send it along with a picture of yourself (.jpg or .bmp format) to us at rvago@hotmail.com. We may need to edit content if necessary and will feature a member in each edition (space permitting). We look forward to meeting each of you!

If you are interested in getting the *Pipeline* delivered right to your email box, please send a message to rvago@hotmail.com and include the email address that the newsletter should be sent to. For those without email, we will continue to mail the newsletter as we have in the past.

We encourage feedback as well as submission of articles for publication. Please send your articles by the 15th of each month to rvago@hotmail.com. We reserve the right to accept, reject, edit or modify any submission.

A very special thank you to our supporters ...



HANSON - RUNSVOLD
FUNERAL HOME
215 S. 7th St., Fargo, ND 58103
West Side of Island Park

Is Proud to Support
The American Guild of Organists

(701) 232-3222 (800) 598-3223

RODGERS CLASSIC ORGANS

Peggy Bartunek, authorized distributor

Digital organs with or without pipes
new consoles for existing pipe organs, MIDI equipment

1- 800-962-6989

www.rodgersclassicorgans.com

SINCE 1954

Johnson Organ Co., Inc.
Pipe Organ Architects & Builders

LANCE E. JOHNSON, PRES
806 N.P. AVE.
FARGO, ND 58102

FACTORY: (701) 237-0477
RES: (218) 287-2671
FAX: (701) 237-5823

"Where words fail, music speaks"
Hans Christian Anderson



409 8th St. S - Moorhead
(218) 233-1533

George Korsmo
Greg Craychee
Colleen Lanners
Thomas Pence
Sherman Syverson

KORSMO
funeral service

Serving When the Need is Greatest

Upcoming Events

April 2, 2006

Tim Olson Concert ~ 4:00PM

Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead, MN

May 7, 2006

Family Potluck Dinner

Marty & Sheila Baumgartner res. ~ 4:00PM

2709 - 39th Ave SW, Fargo, ND



Contact Information

American Guild of Organists

Red River Valley Chapter

PO Box 2223

Fargo, ND 58108-2223

rrvago@hotmail.com

Publication Title: *Pipeline*

Issue Date: March 2006

Statement of Frequency: Monthly, except June and July

Editors: Sheila Baumgartner & Marty Baumgartner