



Pipeline

American Organist Guild—Red River Valley Chapter

Volume 27, Number 7

January/February 2011

Message From the Dean

Happy February!

As the cold of January turns to February I'm finding it increasingly easy to curl



up inside and want to hibernate with a good book. Thankfully, other commitments intervene and I (like all of you) crawl out from

under the covers and venture out into the extreme temps and make my way to my assigned tasks while treading through armies of unassembled snowmen.

It is during the winter months that I am most grateful for you, my colleagues as we spend time in fellowship and in learning or performing events. There is little that gives me greater satisfaction than making music and I'm certain it is the same for you.

With that in mind, I call to your attention two upcoming events that require your participation to make possible. First the "Basically Brahms" program scheduled for March 6 at First Presbyterian Church. Sally Harmon is working very hard to organize a wonderful program of music and she needs your help in forming a mass choir. You've already received an email with the pertinent information and I'm asking your support as well. This is a

wonderful opportunity for us and our singing friends to participate in the music of a wonderful composer, and one that we may not have the resources to otherwise perform.

A second and very popular event is also set for late March – Bellabration, March 27 at 7:00 pm. This event combines a number of local handbell choirs and a massed choir in a musical extravaganza. Dawn Pappenfuss is coordinating this event and also have a need for singers for the massed choir.

For both events, the music is available, rehearsal time is minimal and the outcome promises to be simply wonderful. Why not come out into the cold and warm up with these fantastic opportunities.

In other news, the Board is beginning the work of securing nominations for next year's board. We have a number of positions to fill due to expiring terms including dean, sub-dean, treasurer, and members-at-large. Please consider supporting the chapter by offering to fill one of these positions. You can contact any board member for more details on the time commitment involved.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Peggy

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: Peggy Johnson

Sub-Dean: Anna Goodin-Hayes

Secretary: Robyn Vinje

Treasurer: Ruth Strawn

Board Members at Large

2011: Anna Goodin-Hayes

2012: Michael Olson, Marty Baumgartner, Lance Johnson

2013: Ruth Discher

Board Meeting Notes

January 20, 2011: The meeting was called to order by Dean Peggy Johnson at noon. Other members present were Lance Johnson, Michael Olson, Ruth Discher, Anna Goodin-Hayes, Ruth Strawn, and Robyn Vinje.

The minutes of the December meeting were accepted as previously distributed. Ruth Strawn gave the treasurer's report, which showed a checking account balance of \$4,469.04, a CD balance of \$5,747.36, for a grand total of \$10,216.40. Expenses paid in the last month were \$40 for the Post Office box rental, and \$237.02 for the Carol Sing-a-Long. Ruth reported the receipt of dues from Randy Morken of Alexandria, MN. The total expenses for the Sing-a-Long so far are \$512.02, and we're waiting for the bill for the treats for the children's choirs which their leaders were going to purchase. We raised \$331 for the Food Pantry.

We discussed the Monday evening for the Sing-a-Long, and it was agreed that that was preferable to a Sunday evening. The attendance was good, and kudos to the committee for that decision.

We agreed that Ruth Strawn is a good treasurer, and should remain on the board perhaps as a member-at-large if she refuses to continue as treasurer.

Peggy announced that the Basically Brahms concert will be held Sunday, March 6th, at 7:30 PM at First Presbyterian Church. Members of the community are encouraged to participate in the choir. Rehearsals will be held Wednesday evenings at 7:00 on February 23 and March 2. If they are not able to attend these rehearsals, they can practice the music with their respective choirs and then come to the massed rehearsal at the church at 2:00 the day of the performance. AGO will need to provide ushers. There will be publicity in the Pipeline. The music is available online at www.firstpresfargo.org.

Peggy also announced that Bellabration will be held Sunday, March 27th, at Nativity Catholic Church. Participating bell choirs will be from First Lutheran, St. John Lutheran, Detroit Lakes, Bellissimo, Nativity, and possibly Atonement. The program committee requested funds to purchase music for this event. Ruth Strawn moved, seconded by Anna, to give them \$100 for music. Motion carried.

The next order of business was the recitalists we plan to bring to the community. Michael has been in contact with their management companies regarding availability and fees. We will be having Chelsea Chen in the fall of 2011 (either September 18th or October 23rd). Her fee is \$2900 and up to three nights lodging, plus local transportation. Her fee includes airfare, and we do not have to pay a deposit at the time of contract signing.

Christopher Houlihan will be here in the fall of 2012 (probably October 21st). His fee is \$2500 + lodging and local transportation. His fee also includes his airfare.

Lance announced that First Congregational Church in Fargo is getting their first pipe organ, which is in the process of being rebuilt by Johnson Organ Company, and hope to have it installed by Easter. They are looking for an organist, and Mary Dickson is the contact person.

Peggy announced that we need a nominating committee, and it was agreed that the board would act as such. We need candidates for dean, subdean, treasurer, and one member-at-large. Lance and Ruth Discher will be continuing as members-at-large, and Robyn will continue as secretary. Peggy suggested that board members look at the membership list for possible candidates. Anyone interested in serving in one of these positions is encouraged to contact any member of the board. We are planning to have election of officers in April.

We hope/plan to have a social event sometime in May.

Peggy announced that the national AGO needs one computer contact person for the chapter, and Ruth Strawn agreed to do this.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Robyn Vinje

Upcoming Events

POE June 12-17 2011 in Colorado Springs, CO. What a fantastic place for exposure to the organ and organ study.

www.coloradospringspoe.org for more details.

Minnesota Varsity closes Feb. 15— an opportunity for musicians ages 14-18 to be heard on Minnesota Public Radio. www.mpr.org for more details and competition requirements.

Faith Partners

Composer Call for this year's Faith Partners residencies! First Presbyterian Church, Fargo is partnering with Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead for a composer residency starting this May. It is a \$10,000 stipend. The terms are in the PDF file attached to this email. Applications are due by February 25, 2011.

The information is also available on the website for the American Composers Forum. www.composersforum.org Applicants do not have to be members to apply.

Help Wanted

First Congregational UCC of Fargo is currently looking for an organist. The job entails playing for choir rehearsal from 9-10 am each Sunday followed by our 10:30 am service. Additional duties could include Wednesday evening services during Advent and Lent, joint services with other churches, weddings, and funerals. Lance Johnson is building a pipe organ for the church, and it should be completed sometime in late April or early May, 2011.

We have a 30 year old Baldwin organ for sale which still plays but is unreliable. If interested, we are open to offers. If either of the above are of interest, please contact the church at 701-232-8985 or Mary Dickson at 701-232-0583.

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Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 6, 7:00 pm

Basically Brahms, First Presbyterian Church,
Fargo

Sunday, March 27, 7:00 pm

Bellabration—Fantastic Favorites! Nativity
Catholic Church, Fargo

Saturday, May 7, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon

Open Console, Fargo Theater
(Lunch following at a nearby restaurant)

Contact Information

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