



Pipeline

American Organist Guild—Red River Valley Chapter

Volume 27, Number 2

February 2010

Message From the Dean

Resolutions, resolutions! Did you make any resolutions this year maybe just **ONE**? If you are like me, perhaps you did with all good intentions, or perhaps you just thought



of some resolutions and decided it wasn't worth the effort. Whatever the case, we find ourselves already firmly into the year of 2010, and having already withstood the force of our first major winter storm and deep, DEEP freeze

we, if we are like the vast majority of Americans, find that the resolutions we thought about making or in fact tried to enact have already gone by the wayside. Making changes to our lifestyle is an arduous process for all of us, and yet, for many, making changes are both necessary and warranted if we wish to improve our personal lives.

Yes, change is good and sometimes necessary for growth not only in our personal lives but also our professional ones. It seems true especially for those portions of our professional life that we think are not so important – our part-time musical ones. As organists and music directors nearly all of us are part-time staff at our churches or synagogues. We engage in this work because it nurtures us, it challenges us, and it is “what we do” in our service to our fellow citizens of this world. However, because we are part-timers, maybe we don't have the resources or the energy to develop our skill set to better perform in our positions. Maybe we think we don't “need” to do more, because what we do seems adequate for the needs at hand. Maybe, maybe...

As my tenure as dean begins to draw to a close this spring, it is clear to me that we are in a very difficult place as a chapter. In the fall we, the board, set goals for the year, goals for growth, programming, and profes-

sional networking. Have we moved toward our goals? No, we haven't been able to program the events we would have liked; no, we haven't been able to grow in the ways we would have liked; no, we haven't developed a network of professional support for each other, no, it seems we haven't accomplished much at all. There is no single person responsible for this and no single person who can correct this. We are all victims but yes *we are all responsible*. This is the time of the year for change, for new resolutions. This is the time of the year that we can move forward toward the future in a positive way. Yes, we are busy. Yes change is uncomfortable, but this is the time.

What do we do to bring us out of the “funk” and into the arena of action?

I challenge each member of the RRVAGO chapter to engage in **ONE** change for the remainder of this year. I challenge us to attend in at least **ONE** chapter event. I challenge us to reach out to at least **ONE** member we haven't seen in awhile or perhaps we haven't even met, to have a cup of coffee or a quick lunch. I challenge us to attend **ONE** program or concert event that we normally wouldn't attend. I challenge us to tackle **ONE** learning experience that we know will stretch us beyond our comfort zones. I challenge us to make and act upon **ONE** suggestion to improve the chapter as we move further into 2010.

Later in this issue of the Pipeline, you will find listings of our current membership role, a schedule of upcoming member concerts and events, needs for members to step forward and serve as board members, possibilities for learning and professional certification, and new websites to engage.

Resolutions – yes, just make **ONE**!

Soli deo Gloria,

Peggy Johnson

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: Michael Olson

Treasurer: Bill Tweten (Interim)

Board Members at Large

2010: Gaylord Fagerland, Steve Eneboe

2011: Anna Goodin-Hayes, Erich Knapp

2012: Open

Board Meeting Notes

MINUTES of "discussion" from AGO board members – held Thursday, January 28, 2010 at the Thai Orchid Restaurant in Moorhead:

The following board members were present: Peggy Johnson, Bill Tweten, and Michael Olson.

Rent for our post office box is due for 2010. We decided to pay \$40 for the rental for the year 2010.

Randy Morken from Alexandria has renewed his membership. We are happy to have him as a member for this year!

The secretary's report from the last board meeting in October was approved as presented.

The treasurer's report was presented by Bill Tweten, interim treasurer. The beginning balance in the checking account was \$4754.67. There have been no receipts since the last treasurer's report. Incidental expenses from the Kim Kasling recital in the amount of \$434.51 were paid. The current checking account balance is \$4320.16. The CD balance is \$5648.51. Our total assets are \$9968.67.

Peggy discussed at some length the possibility of a "virtual chapter" here in eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. This might be some cutting-edge technology for the AGO. Perhaps members could literally "join" us from a distance in the areas of a live recital feed, a workshop or master class "webinar" or something on that order. The interactive part of this is vitally important. If people are unable to come to us for whatever reason, perhaps we could, almost literally, come to them!

What ARE we going to do as an AGO chapter? This is a crucial question as we look into the future. As board members, we are indeed looking for ideas and thoughts and insights as we decide "where to go" and what to do with this chapter. We also realize that we're not the only AGO chapter facing these dilemmas and challenges.

Bill will put together a current AGO membership list and a list of substitute organists. It's important to know who else is in our organization (and who is NOT in our group and should be, or used to be). It's also important,

especially with summertime (hopefully) coming one of these months, to have a list of substitute organists upon which to draw.

Peggy also discussed certification for a period of time. Certification is "eminently doable," according to Peggy. She discussed the fact that the fee for taking the Service Playing Exam, for instance, is high – BUT you come away with this certification which is a good thing! (I regret to say that I did not get the date, time, or location of an interest session Peggy will be having concerning certification. Watch the PIPELINE for more details concerning this...)

Sunday, March 21 is the 225th anniversary of the birth of J.S. Bach. I think it behooves ALL of us to play Bach that morning – for prelude for sure (and possibly for postlude as well).

That afternoon at 4:00 pm at Gethsemane, there will be a choral evensong which will be an AGO event to which all of us are invited. There will be refreshments served at the conclusion of this event.

The next evening – Monday, March 22 at 7:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead – several organ students of Peter Nygaard will be featured in an organ recital. Come and hear the students perform. Three of the students – Joe Trucano, Andrew Steinberg, and Beci Petersen, will be giving solo organ recitals in the spring (watch future issues of the PIPELINE for the dates and times of these recitals).

The next AGO board meeting will be Tuesday evening, February 9 beginning at 6:30 pm at Gethsemane Cathedral. Please come, ready to work hard! The board will serve as the nominating committee as we find candidates to serve as board members for the 2010-2011 program year. We will also conduct other business as deemed necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Olson, Secretary
Red River Valley Chapter, AGO

Late Winter-Spring Calendar

Events upcoming **ONE**

February 17

Ash Wednesday

February 21, 2:00 pm

FM Chamber Chorale, Virginia Sublett, conductor

Fauré requiem, Duruflé motets

Gethsemane Episcopal Church, Fargo

March 7, 2:30 pm

AGO certification exam meeting

Peggy Johnson, dean

Gethsemane Episcopal Church, Fargo

March 18, 12:00 pm

Board Meeting

March 21, 4:00 pm

Bach's Birthday Celebration

Choral Evensong

Music of Stanford, and Bach

Gethsemane Episcopal Church, Fargo

April 4

EASTER DAY

April 11, 2:30 pm

AGO certification exam preparation

Peggy Johnson, dean

Location TBD depending upon participants

April 15, 12:00 pm

Board Meeting

April 30

AGO Service playing certification deadline

May 14

AGO Colleague certification exam

May 20, 12:00 pm

Board Meeting

Help Needed!

BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

(How about another **ONE**)

Did you realize that nearly all positions on the board are available! This is a major turnover year due to one-year terms, board members who have served as "interim" (thanks Bill Tweeten!), career changes, and whatnot. If you would like to serve on the board for next year, please contact any member of the current board to make your wishes known.

Many thanks to the Outgoing Board Members:

Peggy Johnson, Dean

Anna Goodin-Hayes, Sub-dean and Website coordinator

Michael Olson, Secretary

Bill Tweten, Interim Treasurer

Gaylord Fagerland (completion of 3-year term)

Erich Knapp, (moved to Washington) ➤

AGO Certifications Coming!

Here's **ONE!** RRVAGO has been designated an official certification exam center for the region! If you are interested in taking any of the guild exams, **YOU CAN!** An informational meeting will be held on **March 7 at Gethsemane Episcopal Church 2:30 pm.** You can pick up the repertoire information, application forms, application fee information, personal coaching, and moral support necessary for a successful exam experience!

If you play a worship service with any regularity at all, **YOU CAN** pass the service playing exam and are already well within reach of the **COLLEAGUE** certification!

If you would like further information, visit the National website: www.agohq.org and click on the education and professional certification links.

Service playing synopsis

Prelude (from selected choices)

Hymn with transpositions – pre-selected by YOU

Psalm accompaniment

Anthem accompaniment

Hymn – no transposition required

Anthem accompaniment

Offertory (from selected choices)

Hymn – no transposition required

Postlude (from selected choices)

Colleague synopsis

(1) Prepared organ work from selected repertoire

(2) Choral accompaniment – Mozart *Laudate dominum*

(3) Vocal accompaniment – Fauré *Pie Jesu* (Requiem)

(4) Play 2 Hymns including introduction and 2 verses each

(5) Sight-read a short organ score

And after a 20 minute preparation period

(6) Harmonize a simple hymn, **OR** a plainsong melody **OR** accompany a folk-style hymn

(7) Transpose not more than a major second up or down

(8) Improvise 8 measures including a modulation and cadence **OR**

Improvise 16 measures on given melody involving a modulation and cadence **OR** Provide a bridge or modulation between to hymns in different keys (30 seconds in length.) ➤

In Memory

Remembering Mercedes Roos (1919-2009)

The organ world, and our chapter in particular, lost a very good friend on December 28, 2009.

Lillian Mercedes Mickelson Roos was a graduate of Concordia College with a double major in music and English. Her engaging smile and beautiful voice make it easy to understand why she was Homecoming Queen in 1940

and a Concert Choir member for all four years. Her love of music began early in her childhood with her first organ job at age 10 for the Richwood Lutheran Church in Callaway, MN. She later served as organist at Hawley Lutheran and Eksjo Lutheran in Lake Park, MN. Mercedes used her English background and organizational skills to establish various church libraries as well as the RRVC AGO Library, which she and Norm faith-

fully carried to meetings to share with those in attendance. She served as Dean of our chapter in 1981 and 1982. Everyone looked forward to Board meetings at her lovely home where home-baked goods were graciously shared. Norman is now reunited with his dear wife, Mercedes. We never saw one without the other. They leave three sons and six grandchildren. ➤

Region VI Certification Support Group

Have you considered working toward and achieving an AGO certification? A **Region VI "Certification Support Group"** has been formed and is looking for new members to join, to support AGO members in the region who are interested in or working toward any of the five Guild certifications: Service Playing, Colleague, Associate, Fellow, and Choir Master.

One of the concerns that is raised frequently by both people considering certification and those who have achieved certification is that the effort can be an isolated, lonely process, one seemingly without the support of others. This Certification Support Group will help eliminate this sense of isolation!

Two communication options will be available to the Support Group members. First, I will share your name and e-mail address with others who are interested in the same certification. You can then exchange information, thoughts, suggestions, and encouragement with each other by e-mail, and if you choose, you can arrange to discuss by phone or meet in person.

Additionally, resource people are being arranged throughout Region VI who have achieved certification levels; all certifications will have resource people designated for them. They may be contacted by any Certification Support Group member with questions. These certificate holders will be able to share their certification experience, provide suggestions for study, and offer encouragement.

To join the Region VI Certification Support Group is simple: Contact me, your Region VI Education Coordinator, at jeffverkuilen@new.rr.com, and provide to me: (a) your name, (b) your e-mail address, (c) your AGO chapter, and (d) the certification that you are pursuing or are interested in working toward.

Join the hundreds of AGO members in our region who have gone through the certification process, who can speak for the benefits of working toward and achieving certification and can demonstrate their resulting improved musicianship. And, they have lived to tell about it and enjoy the benefits! If you have any questions about the Certification Support Group, or AGO certifications in general, please feel free to contact me, and I will try to answer any questions you may have.

Bach Birthday Celebration

March 21 marks the 325th anniversary of the birth of Johann Sebastian Bach and we are going to celebrate in style! We are looking for a few members to perform as a part of the prelude and postlude portions of the choral evensong scheduled for 4:00 pm at Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral. The idea is to combine a sacred worship service (which will include a Bach cantata with orchestra and organ as the offertory) along with a member recital (somewhat limited in scope).

We'll round out the afternoon with a celebratory reception in the great hall. If you've been waiting for an opportunity to perform, this is your chance! We also need help with preparation and serving of food and beverages following the evensong. Please let Peggy know of your interest and willingness to help as soon as possible, so adequate practice times can be arranged. Make this **ONE!**

Free Bach Downloads

The complete organ works of Johann Sebastian Bach, recorded by James Kibbie on original baroque organs in Germany, are now available as free internet downloads. The University of Michigan's Block M Records label is offering free downloads of all 270 Bach works in MP3 and high audio-quality formats at www.blockmrecords.org/bach.

James Kibbie recorded the series on seven historic organs by Silbermann, Schnitger, Trost, Bielfeldt, and Hildebrandt. To date, there have been approximately half a million downloads from the site. Enjoy!

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 1-800-962-6989
bartunek@gfl.mnco.net
www.rodgersclassicorgans.com



St. Katharine Drexel Catholic Church
Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Rodgers Trilium Masterpiece 788 2008

 **Boulger**
FUNERAL HOME

is grateful for the joy your music brings to our community.

123 South 10th Street, Fargo, ND
237-6441 or 1-800-393-6441

For more information on services and charges, visit our website at:
www.boulgerfuneralhome.com

Johnson Organ Co., Inc.
SINCE 1954

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

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

FACTORY (701) 237-0477
FAX (701) 237-5423

*WHEN WORDS FAIL,
MUSIC SPEAKS.*



KORSMO
funeral service

Serving When the Need is Greatest.

409 S. 8th St. • Moorhead
(218) 233-1533 • 1-888-799-1533
www.korsmofuneralservice.com

Nelson Organ

Michael D. Nelson

Pipe Organ Tuning & Repair
Pipe Organ Design & Construction
Piano Tuning

Tel 218.995.2829

Cell 701.238.2842

Box 93, Woverton, MN 56394



Upcoming Events

September 20, 2009

General Meeting, Music Swap and CD Sale
Gethsemane Episcopal Church

October 30, 2009 ~ 8:00 pm

Kim Kasling Organ Recital
First Lutheran Church

October 31, 2009 ~ 10:00 am

Kim Kasling Organ Masterclass
First Lutheran Church

December 13, 2009 ~ 11:00 am

The Festival of Advent Lessons & Carols
Gethsemane Episcopal Church

May 14, 2010 ~ 9:00 am

Guild Examinations

Contact Information

American Guild of Organists
Red River Valley Chapter
PO Box 2223
Fargo, ND 58108-2223
rvago@hotmail.com
www.agohq.org/chapters/redrivervalley

Publication Title: *Pipeline*

Issue Date: February 2010

Statement of Frequency: Monthly, except June and July

Editors: Sheila Baumgartner & Marty Baumgartner

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 send a printed copy. Please send your information to the address above. We encourage feedback as well as submission of articles for publication. Please send your completed articles by the 25th of each month to rvago@hotmail.com. We reserve the right to accept, reject, edit or modify any submission.