




The American Guild of Organists

Red River Valley Chapter

September, 1984

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1, NO. 1

A  from the DEAN.....

The fall season, with its faith and hope, is soon upon us, leaving a lazy summer behind. The highlight of early summer for about ten of us was the AGO Convention in San Francisco. It was a marvelous musical experience! I came home tired, but inspired, dragging an extra suitcase bulging with new music and a few Nieman-Marcus fashions.

This year we will celebrate the 300th anniversary of the birth of J.S. Bach. It has been my personal challenge to the program committee that our programs be educational, inspirational, and practical. They have responded with a presentation on hymn-playing, followed by a Hymn Festival, an extended study of Bach's organ and vocal works, a Bach oratorio, the Gillian Wier recital, and a program of original compositions on hymn tunes. (Perhaps there is another "Bach" among us?)

I have another challenge--for every member to contribute this year to the growth of our Chapter. If each of you would bring a prospective member to our September meeting.....

"Awake to Love and Work,"

Joan 

TREASURER'S ANNOUNCEMENT:

Phil Felde requests that you complete the enclosed 1984-85 Membership Renewal form and forward it to him by September 15. Phil also has Membership Application forms for prospective members.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM: "HELPS ON FREE ACCOMPANIMENTS FOR HYMNS"

Sunday, September 23, 1984, at 4:00 p.m.
St. John Lutheran Church, Fargo

As well as singing and hearing hymns, we will discuss the problems connected with using free accompaniments. Bring a specific example that concerns you. Organists will be: Mary Tangen, Mercedes Roos, Mary Ann Johnson, Carolyn Hensrud, and Rod Rothlisberger. Valuable handouts will enhance this meeting. See you there!

A REMINDER FROM THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

Refreshments for the September 23 Program/
Meeting: Brad Steen, Jack Close, and
Gay Mohr

Refreshments for the October 21 Program/
Meeting: Mercedes Roos, Phil Felde,
and Solveig Bartz

Remember, also, that the participation of the entire membership, either with food or donations, will be required for the large programs: Hymn Festival (Nov), Christmas Oratorio (Jan), and Gillian Wier Recital (Mar).

MEMBERSHIP Committee:

Won't you bring a guest to our first meeting--your pastor, your choir director(s), a friend, or an interested member of your congregation. If each of us shares AGO, we will grow!

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:

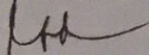
With the beginning of the 1984-85 season of the Guild, the Publicity Committee will begin publishing a Chapter Newsletter. This publication may include 1) reports from certain members of the executive committee and from chairmen of the various standing committees as well as the special ad hoc committees, such as those for the recital and hymn festival; 2) copies of chapter-origin materials, such as sample contracts, budgets, placement forms, and letters of interest to the membership; 3) announcements of future chapter meetings/programs; and 4) a calendar of musical events of particular interest to our membership. The newsletter might well be incorporated in the mailings and publicity of some of the committees, as well.

Publication of this newsletter will be facilitated by your specific suggestions as to what should be included, the best times for publication, format, and so forth. To contribute to the success of the project, you and/or the committees on which you serve should contribute progress reports, special concerns, announcements, suggestions, etc. by the first day of each month in which we meet.

This publication should elevate the level of communication within our organization, save meeting time, provide an open forum for our membership, and assist us in achieving and maintaining a professional demeanor. Therefore, please make an effort to make your contributions to it.

Finally, 1) any clever suggestions as to a title for the newsletter are welcome any time; and 2) volunteers are needed to address, stamp and stuff envelopes. Thank you in advance for helping make this venture a success.

Sincerely yours,



Rod Rothlisberger
7 Eighth Ave. S.
Moorhead, MN 56560
218-233-6603

Churches that are planning to perform Bach cantatas during 1985 may be interested in the services of the Drinker Library of Choral Music. Henry Drinker translated the choral works of J. S. Bach into English. The translations are noted for their accuracy, poetic merit, and singability. Multiple copies of vocal scores of all these works are held in the Drinker Library in Philadelphia and are available for rental to anyone.

The annual subscription to the Drinker Library is \$25.00 per year--September 1 to August 31. Subscribers are then able to rent vocal scores of Bach cantatas and other choral works for \$10.00 per 50 copies. The scores are available for six months prior to the scheduled performance. In addition, orchestral parts for many works are available for \$10.00 per set.

Churches or individuals interested in this service can write or call:

Mr. Robert Williams
The Drinker Library of Choral Music
Free Library of Philadelphia
Logal Square
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103
Phone: 215-686-5364

For your consideration.....

Ardis Witte's six-month old granddaughter, Andrea, will be receiving a liver transplant in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania soon. If you would like to help with this tremendous expenditure, send a check to:
"Andrea's Angels"
Box 213
Callender, Iowa 50523

The Pierce Company at 1019 1st Ave. N. in Fargo will spiral-bind music, laminating the old covers or a new cover, all for a very nominal fee. This precludes purchasing new music, prolongs the life of your old music, and eliminates the necessity of copying markings to new scores.

AGO CALENDAR FOR 1984-85

As you complete plans for the music in your church during the remainder of 1984 and the beginning of 1985, please keep AGO events in mind. Conflicts are inevitable, but whenever possible, try to keep the dates of Guild events free so organists, choir directors, clergy, choir members and members of the congregation can participate in our programs.

Here is a brief overview of the events planned by your program committee:

September 23 - 4:00 p.m.

Free Hymn Accompaniments

Mary Tangen and Carolyn Hensrud--
Co-chairpersons

St. John Lutheran Church - Fargo

October 21 - 4:00 p.m.

Orgelbüchlein - J. S. Bach

Jack Mohlenhoff - Chairperson

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd,
Moorhead

November 18 - 7:30 p.m.

Hymn Festival - "When in Our Music God is Glorified"

Rosemarie Johnk and Jack Mohlenhoff -
Co-chairpersons

Trinity Lutheran, Moorhead

January 6 - 7:30 p.m.

The Christmas Oratorio - J. S. Bach

Church of the Nativity, Fargo

Jack Close - Chairperson

February 17 - 3:00 p.m.

Miscellaneous Chorales and Major Works - J. S. Bach

Ruth Aerge and Peter Nygaard - Co-
chairpersons

Trinity Lutheran, Moorhead

March 31 - 4:00 p.m.

Gillian Wier Recital

Jack Close - Chairperson

Trinity Lutheran, Moorhead

March 31 - 7:30 p.m.

Gillian Wier Masterclass

Ruth Berge - Chairperson

Trinity Lutheran, Moorhead

April 14 - 3:00 p.m.

Original Compositions

Joan Bystol - Chairperson

Gethsemane Cathedral, Fargo

May

To be announced

The Red River Valley Chapter will present its Fifth Annual Hymn Festival on Sunday, November 18, at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead. The theme for this year's festival is "When in Our Music God is Glorified." The program is an overview of our hymn heritage, featuring an historic look at hymn writers and composers from the early church to the present day. Rosemarie Johnk and Jack Mohlenhoff are co-chairpersons for the event.

Organists from the chapter will lead the hymn singing, illustrating many possibilities for varied introductions and accompaniments. The organists will be assisted by a massed choir of area singers, a children's choir, a brass choir, a bell choir, an Orff 'band' and other instruments.

Specific information will be presented in future mailings. Watch for it, and plan now to be a part of this exciting event!

ORGAN DEDICATION

Sunday, October 28, 1984

St. John Lutheran Church, Fargo

3 Services of Dedication in the morning

4:30 p.m. Recital by Judy Sanders

FACULTY RECITAL

Peter Nygaard will be performing Reubke's "Sonata on the 94th Psalm" and Bach's "Prelude and Fugue in E Minor (the Wedge)" on Friday, November 2, at 8:15 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, Fargo.

Carolyn Hensrud has been named State Chairman for North Dakota

PIPEDREAMS SEASON TO BEGIN ON KCCM

PIPEDREAMS, a series devoted to the traditions and repertoire of the pipe organ, began its season on KCCM 91.1 FM on Sunday, September 9 at 9:30 p.m. Michael Barone, Minnesota Public Radio's Music Director is host of PIPEDREAMS each Sunday evening at 9:30 p.m. Here is a listing of the programs that can be heard through October:

Sunday, Sept. 16, 1984

The second program from the 1983 Lahti Festival, Finland. Three programs were recorded in concert at the contemporary Church of the Cross in Lahti. The instrument, a modern neo-classic mechanical-action organ of 52 stops, was completed in 1979 by the Veikko Virtanen firm.

Sunday, Sept. 23, 1984

The third and final program from the 1983 Lahti Festival, Finland.

Sunday, Sept. 30, 1984

Music from Saint Mark's, Minneapolis. Conversation with and performances by Cathedral organist Howard Don Small, recorded at the most prominent and musically active Episcopal church in Minnesota.

Sunday, Oct. 7, 1984

"Going on Record," a survey of recent organ discs with emphasis on the unusual and the unusually attractive. The choices are wide-ranging, covering a variety of musical styles, performers, and instruments. Domestic and imported LP's and CD's will be aired.

Sunday, Oct. 14, 1984

"Americana Visited and Revisited," another in an occasional but continuing series of programs featuring recordings from the archives of the Organ Historical Society and comments from OHS Executive Director William Vampelt. Among the historic instruments in this broadcast are several by the excellent but little-known St. Louis builder John George Pfeiffer.

Sunday, Oct. 21, 1984

"Comes Autumn Time," the music of American composer Leo Sowerby, introduced by one of his former pupils, Professor Robert Rayfield of Indiana University.

PIPEDREAMS cont.

Sunday, Oct. 28, 1984

A Reformation Festival: Martin Luther loved music and was determined that the devil shouldn't have all the good tunes. The rich body of Lutheran hymns has been an inspiration to composers for centuries. Luther's "good tunes" are heard in music by Bach, Pepping, Walcha, Aeger, Sifler, Krapf, Schroeder, and Langlais. These concert performances feature John Eggert and David Craighead at Jehovah Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Paul (1983 Van Daalen organ, 59 ranks) and John Ferguson at Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead (Holtkamp organ).

GRONSETH DUO SEEK ENGAGEMENTS

Mark and CoCo Gronseth have prepared a repertoire of piano and organ duets, organ solos, vocal solos, and piano duets and are available for services, special programs, and recitals on weekends beginning this month. For further information, call 218-236-8574 or write 2511 Brookdale Road, Moorhead, Minnesota 56560

POSITIONS OPEN

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

17th Ave. and 15th St. S.
Fargo

1 service, 1 rehearsal

Electronic organ

Salary: \$1950, 3 wks paid vacation

Contact: Mrs. Gene Grear 232-2067
Sept. 1

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2900 Fifth Street S. Moorhead

1 service, 1 rehearsal

In process of purchasing organ

Salary: negotiable; 4 wks paid vacation

Contact: Pastor Grant Lowe 236-6862

BACH'S "CHRISTMAS ORATORIO"

One of the major events planned as part of our chapter's celebration of the Bach Tercentenary Year is a performance of the Christmas Oratorio. This is a new event for our chapter, and it will require the enthusiastic involvement and support of Guild members and other people. We need to discuss the project further in the months ahead. The purpose of this article is to introduce you to the project and stimulate your suggestions and comments.

The Music and Text

The Christmas Oratorio is a series of six cantatas written for Christmas Day and the days that follow including Epiphany. The score calls for three trumpets, timpani, flutes, various baroque oboes (substituted with modern instruments), strings, organ, and continuo in addition to SATB choir, solos, and vocal ensembles. The text is the Christmas story as it appears in Luke's Gospel. We plan to do only the first two cantatas plus the final chorale from the sixth cantata. These two cantatas present the text of the first 14 verses of Luke 2. This is sung by the Evangelist (solo tenor).

Each cantata is complete in itself, both textually and musically. The first two cantatas each contain one major chorus. Interpolated throughout the choruses, solos, solo ensembles, and instrumental interludes are seven chorale settings. These include the familiar tunes, "O Sacred Head Now Wounded," "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come," and "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light." Some of the chorales are presented in the familiar Bach four-part harmonizations, and others are set as chorale-fantasias with instrumental and vocal interludes.

Choirs, Soloists, and Instrumentalists

Two church choirs, directed by Guild members, will each be invited to prepare one complete cantata. The music will be available to these "solo" choirs so they can perform their cantata in their church during Advent or Christmas. Instrumental parts will also be available, but the cantatas can be performed with organ accompaniment alone or organ and selected instrumental obligatos.

A general invitation will be made to all area church choirs and singers to join in a large massed choir to sing the chorales. Massed choir rehearsals of the chorales will be scheduled early enough in the fall to avoid conflicts with church choir programs and the general holiday rush. Any one of the chorales would work superbly as an anthem or hymn during Advent or Christmas. Therefore, the massed choir experience might stimulate the singing of Bach chorales by individual church choirs.

A chamber orchestra of professional musicians will be organized and rehearsed for the Guild performance. A Guild member will be selected to play the organ.

The Performance

The Guild performance is scheduled for January 6, 1985 (Epiphany). We have requested permission to present the performance in the Church of the Nativity in Fargo. Our request is under consideration, and we will know of their decision soon. Besides the appropriateness of selecting Nativity Church for a performance of the Christmas Oratorio, the church was selected because it has a chancel area large enough to accommodate a large chorus and chamber orchestra; it has a lovely organ suitable for accompaniment; and it has exceptional acoustics. Furthermore, the worship space will be decorated in an unusually beautiful way for the Christmas Festival. If Nativity is not available, we will consider alternative sites.

Each of the two "solo" choirs will sing the choruses, solos, and solo ensembles of their cantata with orchestra, organ, and continuo accompaniment. One tenor will sing the Evangelist role to provide textual continuity. The "solo" choirs and the massed choir will join to sing the chorales. Imagine 100-plus voices singing "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light!"

Financing the Project

A budget has been carefully developed and presented to the Board for consideration. We have reserved the loan of 150 vocal scores from the Henry Drinker Library. These are available for a nominal annual subscription to the library plus \$10.00 per

"CHRISTMAS ORATORIO" cont.

50 copies. Orchestral parts are available from Luck's for a rental of \$80. In addition to publicity and programs, our largest cost would be for instrumentalists' rehearsal and performance. A grant proposal for a production assistance grant is being prepared to be submitted to the regional arts council in Minnesota. We hope to find additional financial assistance from fraternal organizations who support arts endeavors. We believe we have a special appeal because we hope to involve a large number of people in this unique event.

Can We Do it?

Our chapter is a group of enthusiastic and terribly busy people. Those are the kind that get things done! If we believe we can do it, we can.

Because the project is new to us, we need suggestions, comments, criticism, and volunteers. As choir season begins, please urge people in your choirs and church to participate as singers. Finally, as we approach Christmas and Epiphany--the seasons of gifts--consider the possibility of our chapter presenting this "gift" of music to our communities.

Jack Close