



Pipeline

American Guild of Organists—Red River Valley Chapter

Volume 32, Number 1

Mar/Apr/May
2017—2018

Message From the Dean

BUSY, BUSY, BUSY...As I write this letter to you today on Thursday, March 8, I look at the calendar and realize that three weeks from today is Maundy Thursday—and then Good Friday and then Easter Sunday and then it's early April. Where does the time go?

Our Lenten theme this year at First Lutheran Church is entitled *Anxious for Nothing*—which “just happens” to be the title of a book by Max Lucado. It is an easy read and I'm actually trying to keep up with my reading before each Wednesday Lenten service and Sunday morning worship service.

We had our unexpected snow day on Monday, March 5. I got home from some things I had to do about 10:45 and then stayed put for the rest of the day. I actually watched TV—probably more than I should have in the course of a day. I also did a little cleaning. I should have cleaned more and watched TV less, or not at all...

The David Cherwien hymn festival and master class were both incredible experiences. He is indeed a master at what he does! It was so fun to sing those hymns and hear the Concordia Chapel Choir in the balcony at Trinity Lutheran Church providing wonderful support and gorgeous descants while we were singing. And I learned some good tips at the hymn playing master class the next morning here at First Lutheran. There's always something to learn, isn't there? Thanks to Peggy Johnson and others who were instrumental in bringing David back to Fargo/Moorhead. He led

a hymn festival at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd—the midtown Moorhead location—way back in the fall of 1987 during the Minnesota Twins' first World Series experience.

Remember that as an organization, we belong to each other and each person is very important to this group. We need one another, and everyone needs us as well. If you know of others who would benefit from belonging to our group, please let me know. This newsletter actually goes to persons in the Red River Valley Chapter (based in Fargo/Moorhead and the surrounding area) as well as the Northern Valley Chapter (based in Grand Forks/East Grand Forks and the surrounding area).

Bradley Steen is always so conscientious about sending out reminders regarding the First Friday Lunch at the Fryn' Pan Restaurant in midtown Fargo, the first Friday of each month at 12:00 noon. I have piano students during the school year most Fridays from 11:30-12:30, and an organ student from 1:00 to 2:00, so I am rarely able anymore to join the gang at lunch—but I am there in spirit! It's great to gather together and eat and talk and share and learn and have fun once a month. This was Lance Johnson's idea a number of years ago, so I will always be very thankful to him for this suggestion—because we have to eat lunch anyway, so we might as well eat together with our friends and colleagues!

I had planned for a short Dean's letter

this time around, but it's getting a bit longer than I had planned—so it's time to stop and say THANK YOU to each of you for the part you play in worship at your church, in whatever form that takes. God bless you as you richly bless those in your congregation. Happy Spring (one of these days!) and Happy Easter (on April 1 this year!)

Michael Olson, Dean, RRVAGO
ND District Convener, AGO
Minister of Music, First Lutheran Church, Fargo

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: Michael Olson
Sub-Dean: Robyn Vinje
Secretary: Brad Steen
Treasurer: Brad Steen

Updates from the RRVAGO Secretary/Treasurer

Current statistics for the RRVAGO Chapter:

Checking account balance: \$4,534.68
(Bell State Bank statement available for inspection upon request)

Membership Numbers: 10 Regular
6 Special
11 Young Organist
1 Dual

28 PAID MEMBERS

(Membership List available upon request)

Most recent known expenses:

\$64 Annual Fee for the RRVAGO post office box #2223 paid in January 2018.

Submitted by Bradley Steen, Secretary/Treasurer/
Membership RRVAGO

RRVAGO Giving Back to Our Community

The following response was received for the donations received at the December 4, 2017 Annual RRVAGO Christmas Carol Ring and Sing-along:

December 26, 2017

Dear American Guild of Organists,

Thank you for your donation of \$194 on 12/21/17. We are able to provide 4 meals for every dollar that is donated to us. A \$21 donation feeds a family of four for a week. Your contribution is making a great impact to help feed those in need in our community.

We are thankful for your support!

With gratitude,

*Stacie Loegering
Executive Director. Emergency Food Pantry*

Cole Bartels, Trombonist, to Perform for Midday Concert

On **Wednesday, March 14 at 12:45 PM**, Cole Bartels will play a number of selections for trombone at First Lutheran Church, Fargo. Cole is a 2013 graduate of Moorhead High School and a 2017 graduate of Concordia College, now pursuing his master's degree. He will be accompanied by Michael Olson on piano and organ. A variety of music is planned. Come and enjoy this special performance.

Piano/Organ Duet Recital Scheduled for JS Bach's Birthday!

March 21 is the anniversary date of the birth of Johann Sebastian Bach. This year on **Wednesday, March 21 at 12:45 PM** in the sanctuary of First Lutheran Church Sally Harmon, organist and music coordinator at First Presbyterian Church, Fargo, and Michael Olson, organist and music minister at First Lutheran Church, Fargo, will present a recital of piano/organ duets as we remember the 333rd birthday of JS Bach! We know that Bach was very intrigued by the number 3 — and Michael is more than a little intrigued to realize that this is J.S. Bach's 333rd birthday! Come and enjoy this program inspired by the memorial service held a while back for Norma Halverson. Sally used to play duets with Norma at First United Methodist Church in Fargo. Sally and Michael played duets at Norma's memorial service and decided afterwards that these duets needed to be repeated at another time. Wednesday, March 21 is a very appropriate time to "do it again". The repertoire will include several arrangements of music by J.S. Bach, and perhaps some Handel and Haydn. Bring a friend and enjoy this birthday celebration.

Seven Last Words Annual Tradition to be Presented at 1st Lutheran

It has been an annual tradition for over twenty years to present The Seven Last Words of Christ cantata by Theodore Dubois at First Lutheran Church in Fargo during Holy Week. This year's presentation will be on Wednesday, March 28 beginning at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary of the church. The First Lutheran Cathedral

Seven Last Words (cont. from pg. 2)

Choir will sing the choral parts of the cantata. A 30-piece orchestra, comprised of First Lutheran members and Fargo/Moorhead Symphony players, will provide instrumental accompaniment. Featured soloists this year are David Hamilton from Concordia College, Darci Bultema from Northern State University in Aberdeen, and Pastor David Adams, Pastor of Worship and Music at First Lutheran Church in Fargo. A freewill offering will be taken to defray expenses. Please come to experience the passion story in this musical manner, and bring a friend along with you! You will be blessed.

Combined Fargo/Detroit Lakes Church Choirs in Concert

Members of the Cathedral Choir from First Lutheran Church of Fargo and the adult choir from Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Detroit Lakes will join together in concert on **Sunday, April 8 at 2:00 PM at Holy Rosary Catholic Church**, 1043 Lake Avenue, Detroit Lakes, MN. Twenty-seven members of both church choirs will be traveling to New York City on Monday, April 23 to perform in a concert at Carnegie Hall. A freewill offering will be taken to help defray expenses. This will be an inspirational and uplifting concert.

176 Keys and 100 Fingers with Ice Cream Social !

Yes! ICE CREAM!! Ten pianists will perform on duo-pianos in an exciting concert on **Tuesday, May 1 at 7 PM** at First Presbyterian Church, downtown Fargo. The performance will be followed by an Ice Cream Social. You will also find Visual Arts on display in the church Gathering Space. This event is free and open to the public. A freewill offering will be collected for the benefit of the church's Emergency Fund.

Brass and Organ Concert

The Dakota Brass quintet along with Michael Olson, organist, will present a varied concert of music as a tribute to mothers on Mother's Day, **Sunday, May 13 at 3 PM** in the Sanctuary of First Lutheran Church, Fargo. Treat your mother to a special afternoon of music. A freewill offering will be received.

Organ Workshop and New Organ Dedication at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, West Fargo

Everyone is invited to an organ workshop and dedication concert presented by Dan Miller, Rodgers Tonal Director and Concert organist at St. Andrew Lutheran Church on **Saturday and Sunday, April 21 and 22**.

Registration for the Organ Workshop on **April 21 is at 8:30 AM**. The workshop will run from 9 AM to Noon.

The Organ Dedication Concert will begin on Sunday, **April 22 at 3 PM**. The concert is part of the dedication of the installation of a new a Rodgers Artist three manual 569 organ. Refreshments will follow the concert.

St. Andrew Lutheran Church is located at 1005 First Street, West Fargo, ND. For additional information regarding this event, please contact Peggy Bartunek at any of the following:

Peggy Bartunek, P.O. Box 430, Grafton, ND

1-800-962-6989 or 1-702-360-0167

pdbartunek@gmail.com

www.rodgersclassicorgans.com

Annual RRVAGO Potluck and Music Exchange on Tuesday, May 22

Clean out your piano and organ benches, closets and old file cabinets and bring any music from your personal library that you might have as duplicates, or just don't use or want anymore to the annual RRVAGO Potluck and Music Exchange at First Presbyterian Church on **Tuesday, May 22**. Bring your favorite dish to share. Dinner will begin at **6 PM**. Lively conversation with your AGO friends is sure to make for a fun evening. Some treasures in music have been "unearthed" by those willing to dig through music in the past few years. Who knows what you might find to take home?! Invite your organ-playing friends to attend with you!

The Only Performing Piano and Bass Duo in the Nation To Perform at First Presbyterian Church

L'Ambizioso (pronounced La-ahm-beetzi-oatzo) is proud to announce renewed sponsorship from the Minnesota Arts Council and a summer 2018 concert tour stop at **First Presbyterian Church in Fargo on Thursday, June 14 at 7 PM.**

L'Ambizioso Duo has a distinctive sound as the only touring piano/bass duo in the nation. They have performed for thousands of people, from beet farmers to the President of the United States.

The duo members are Brock Drevlow, double bassist and his brother Brayden Drevlow, piano. Brock has captivated audiences by performing at a high caliber. Praised by Minnesota Public Radio as "jaw-dropping...and sensational," Brock was a 2013 Featured Artist on MPR Varsity as well as a 2015 MPR Regional Spotlight. His solo career has lead him to numerous awards and distinctions including the 2014 International Society of Bassists competition. Sharing their virtuosic sounds, Brock and his brother, Brayden, perform in a solo bass and piano duo and tour the United States together as L'Ambizioso Duo. As a professional orchestral bassist, Drevlow has been a member of the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony Orchestra, the Peabody Concert Orchestra, Bemidji Symphony Orchestra, Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra, and the 2015 NAfME All-National Orchestra at Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, TN. Brock, a Jephson Educational Trust Scholar, is pursuing a degree in Double Bass Performance at the Peabody Conservatory of Music at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD. His teachers include Dr. Gregory Hamilton, Paul Johnson, Ira Gold, and Jeffrey Weisner. Brock is from Thief River Falls, MN; he is a GE/Ronald Reagan Presidential Scholar, an Eagle Scout recipient, and comes from a musical family of 13.

Brayden Drevlow leads a dedicated musical life as a professional performer. Throughout his career as a concert pianist, Brayden has won several concerto competitions and has performed as a featured soloist alongside the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony Orchestra, the Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra, and the Bemidji Symphony Orchestra. Brayden's mesmerizing skills as a concert pianist have caught the attention of Classical Minnesota Public Radio where he has recorded in their famed Maud Moon Weyerhaeuser studio as a featured artist. In his travels as a performer, Brayden has made his name as a world-class musician, from performing on President Ronald Reagan's prized grand piano at his Presidential Library in Simi Valley, CA, to giving a private piano recital at the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Washington, DC. He enjoys sharing his music with unique people in unique places, such as performing on harpsichord at George Washington's home or performing for the President of the United States in Washington, DC. Brayden is currently pursuing a degree in Piano Performance at Concordia College in Moorhead; studying under the tutelage of Dr. Jay A. Hershberger, President of the American Liszt Society. In his spare time, Brayden is an active church organist, Ambassador for the Arthritis Foundation, maintains a private piano studio, and enjoys spending time with his musical family.

Their performance is free and open to the public.

Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists Sponsoring PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER

Renowned St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN and historic Shattuck-St. Mary's School in Faribault, MN will be the locations for a POE June 24-29, 2018. This event is a TCAGO sponsored rewarding opportunity to learn more about the pipe organ and its construction, to be instructed by experienced faculty, to visit, hear and play outstanding instruments, and to have the chance to meet and interact with peers who share an interest in the King of Instruments. POE is designed for teenagers, ages 13-18, who have achieved an intermediate level of keyboard proficiency. Previous organ study is not required.

The vibrant arts boarding school of Shattuck-St. Mary's in Faribault and the rich artistic heritage of St. Olaf College in Northfield will provide the exciting environment for a week-long immersion in the world of the organ, highlighted by a hymn festival and recreation in the beauty of southern Minnesota.

Instruction, practice, and concert facilities will be spread among the campuses of St. Olaf and Shattuck-St. Mary's, and in area churches in both cities. Featured instruments will include: Holtkamp, III manual, 90 ranks, Boe Chapel, St. Olaf; Dobson, III manual, 42 ranks, Studio A: Skifter Hall, St. Olaf; Tour to Hendrickson, II manuals 45 ranks, First Lutheran Church, St. Peter, MN.

Faculty will include professors from St. Olaf College, distinguished organist graduates of St. Olaf, concert organists and professional teachers from the Twin Cities and the Midwest.

Accommodations and meals will be at the Shattuck-St. Mary's School dormitories. The arrangements include dorm chaperones trained in safety and security, a school nurse, and piano practice rooms. For daily instruction and activities, students will shuttle between the two campuses in insured school busses.

Registration is limited to the first 20 applicants. All students must complete the online application at <https://www.agohq.org/education/poe/>. Registration for all POE events is exclusively available online.

POE Registration Fee: \$500; Early Bird Registration Fee (before March 15): \$475; Final registration deadline is May 15, 2018. Full payment is due at the time of registration. Cancellation prior to May 15: full refund. Cancellation after May 15: full refund minus \$50.

For information contact Margaret Gohman, Registrar, 14607 Cobalt Avenue, Rosemount, MN 55068
Phone: 612-212-1646; Email: mmgohman@gmail.com

Scholarship assistance is available through the American Guild of Organists. Please contact POE Director Catherine Rodland at rodland@stolaf.edu to initiate the scholarship application process. In addition, students may also contact AGO chapters or religious institutions if financial aid is needed.

AGO NATIONAL CONVENTION NEWS

agokc2018.com

Registration for the 2018 AGO National Convention in Kansas City, MO, July 2-6, 2018, continues with more than 800 people already registered to attend. Reduced rates are available through March 31.

From John Deahl, AGO, KC, Promotions:

Why do we bother having national conventions and why would I want to go?

As a Young Organist myself, I know how hard it is to find the time and the money to attend a convention. But this one has my attention. Here are five reasons to attend the 2018 AGO National Convention and four ways to make it happen.

- 1) Content. You will have the opportunity to attend concerts, workshops, and presentations by world class musicians and scholars. Don't believe me? Check them out on our website agokc2018.com.
- 2) Learning about a new city. Explore Kansas City in the Heartland of the U.S. and occupying space in two different states. You never know where that next job opportunity might come from and wouldn't it be nice to know a little something about Kansas City beforehand? For instance, did you know that the Huffington Post lists Kansas City as one of the "20 awesome U.S. cities you need to visit in your 20s"?
- 3) Networking. You will be spending a week surrounded by colleagues, potential employers, and even potential employees.
- 4) Timing. The convention falling over the Fourth of July means you don't have to take as much time off and you get the added bonus of seeing some great fireworks shows.
- 5) Camaraderie. You will spend a week surrounded by people who do not expect you to justify your choice of career, the hours you spend practicing, or your budget request. However, they may expect you to justify your musical taste!

(continued on page. 7)

2018 AGO National Convention

TO ALL AGO MEMBERS,

Registration is now open for the 2018 AGO National Convention to be held in **Kansas City, July 2-6, 2018**. After years of planning, we have assembled an incredible program of works-class organists, choirs, workshops, and continuing education opportunities. Creative worship services and world premieres of new organ and choral works by renowned lyricists and composers will be showcased in beautiful and historical organ venues.

2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI, which is of particular significance to Kansas City, home of the National WWI Museum and Memorial. Both of our convention hotels sit in the shadow of the Museum and Memorial. Much of our programming will reflect on the ways in which the Great War impacted and influenced the arts world.

Convention housing will be at the Sheraton Kansas City Hotel at Crown Center and its sister property, the Westin Kansas City at Crown Center. Registration, Exhibits and Workshops will be at the Sheraton, which will serve as the Convention Headquarters.

Super Saver rates will be available until **December 31, 2017**:

AGO Regular Member- \$375
AGO Senior 65+- \$350
Spouse/Partner- \$350
Young Organist under 30- \$250

Early Registration rates will be available **January 1-March 31, 2018**:

AGO Regular Member- \$435
AGO Senior 65+- \$395
Spouse/Partner- \$350
Young Organist under 30- \$250

The Full bus transportation package (\$175) is recommended. For Young Organists under 30, the bus is only \$100 for the entire convention. Daily and single-event bus passes are also being offered.

Please visit our convention website at agokc2018.com to register and explore all of the performers, venues, instruments, and workshops of the convention.

We look forward to seeing you next July at the convention.

REGISTER EARLY FOR THE BEST RATES!

For AGO Members Only

ORGAN TUTOR

There is an “online tutor” program available through the AGO National Headquarters (agohq.org) which introduces most everything on the organ console: the stops, keys, buttons, you name it! Small and large consoles are included. This is the first complimentary lesson of a ten-lesson course on organ registration that is available free to AGO Members.

PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

AGO Members who have professional concerns or questions about employment matters are invited to contact the AGO Career Development Hotline, a new service from the Committee on Career Development and Support. The private email, phone number, and information about the service are accessible online.

St. Olaf Conference on Worship, Theology, and the Arts “Living Breath of God”

Coming July 16-20, 2018 at St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN. Join internationally renowned St. Olaf College faculty and distinguished guest leaders for this special event, which provides professional development, networking opportunities, and spiritual nourishment for persons engaged in all facets of congregational ministry.

The conference offers ideas and practices that pastors, church musicians, artists, and lay leaders from all denominations and any size congregation can readily incorporate into their own worship experiences. Participants are invited to experience the “Living Breath of God” with the choral, organ and handbell faculty of St. Olaf College and guest faculty from a range of denominations and ministries.

The Holy Spirit is the *Living Breath of God*. From the foundation of the world, the Holy Spirit creates new life. Through prophets old and new, the Holy Spirit provokes us, opening our eyes to God’s justice and mercy. Today and everyday, the Holy Spirit empowers us in faith and action. The conference week will focus on these workings of the Holy Spirit and our daily worship will be built on this foundation.

As a college with a vibrant Lutheran faith tradition, a thriving program in the arts, and a beautiful residential campus, St. Olaf has long supported the church at large in its mission of bearing witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Concepts are introduced in conference sessions and worship services in Boe Memorial Chapel and other beautiful spaces on campus. The daily worship services refresh and inspire those who are leaders in their home congregations.

As a community of learners, the conference faculty and the participants foster spiritual renewal and affirm vocation. Participants develop personal and professional networks to call upon for support, expertise and counsel.

Guest faculty include: Donald E. Saliers, Theologian-in-Residence at Candler School of Theology, Emory University; Jer Swigart, Co-Founding Director of the Global Immersion Project; Dee McIntosh, Pastor, Lighthouse Covenant Church, Minneapolis, MN; CathyAnn Beaty, Dancer, Visual Artist, and Certified *Interplay* Leader; and Brian Childers, Director of Music for Children and Youth, Myers Park United Methodist Church, Charlotte, NC.

Michael Olson, Organist and Music Minister, First Lutheran Church, Fargo and RRVAGO Dean attended this conference last year and numerous years in the past and commented, “This is a FANTASTIC conference...and is worth people’s consideration.” Learn more at stolaf.edu/cwta.



Upcoming Events

Every Wednesday at 12:45-1:15pm

Midday Organ Recital by Michael Olson and/or guests performed in the Sanctuary at First Lutheran Church, Fargo

Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 12:45pm

Cole Bartels Trombone Recital
Accompanied by Michael Olson
First Lutheran Church, Fargo

Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at 12:45pm

Piano/Organ Duet Recital
Sally Harmon and Michael Olson
First Lutheran Church, Fargo

Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at 7:00pm

Seven Last Words Cantata
First Lutheran Church, Fargo

Sunday, April 8, 2018 at 2:00pm

Combined Choir Concert
Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Detroit Lakes, MN

Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at 7:00pm

176 Keys and 100 Fingers, and Ice Cream Social
First Presbyterian Church, Fargo

Sunday, May 13, 2018 at 3:00pm

Brass & Organ Mother's Day Concert
First Lutheran Church., Fargo

Upcoming Events (cont.)

Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at 6:00pm

Annual Potluck and Music Exchange
First Presbyterian Church, Fargo

Thursday, June 14, 2018 at 7:00pm

L'Ambizioso Duo Concert
First Presbyterian Church, Fargo

July 2—6, 2018 in Kansas City, MO

AGO National Convention

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