



PIPELINE

Volume 22, Number 3

December 2005

Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long

This is the 8th presentation of "A Christmas Carol Sing-a-long" by the Red River Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. The AGO is a non-profit national professional association serving the organ and choral music fields, and is the largest member organization in the country dedicated to a single instrument.

This delightful program will feature favorite Christmas carols performed by nine area organists and pianists on the mighty 4-manual Austin Pipe Organ, including Marty Baumgartner, Susan Clambey, Gary Fiske, Norma Halverson, Sally Harmon, Carolyn Hensrud, Michael Olson, Dawn Papenfuss, and Mavis Tjon. Special guests

include Dr. David Ferreira, and the Women's Choir of First Lutheran Church directed by Kathy Ferreira.

There will be a free-will offering benefiting the FM Food Pantry. A reception will follow in the Celebration Center. Come sing your favorite Christmas carols-old and new, punctuated by thoughtful readings of this special season.

Join us Sunday, December 4, 2005, 7:00PM at First Lutheran Church, 619 Broadway, Fargo.

Message From the Dean

A few weeks ago, I had occasion to examine some of the old records of our chapter.



What I found astounded me. The membership in the 1980's was about three times as it is now. Each year, the chapter had at least one elaborate program like a church music workshop which involved many members.

Also, at that time, the chapter had many more committees which were mandated by national.

We do not have half of these now because of low membership numbers where we simply do not have enough people to fill these committees. That is why we MUST work and work to get our membership up to where we are a more viable chapter. I have been harping on this for two years and will continue in this vein as long as it takes. Each member should be responsible for signing up at least two new members each year.

Some of the members who are also board members, are being worked to their limits

trying to accomplish the 'Herculean' task of rebuilding.

Two new projects are now being undertaken. One is change the newsletter format from a direct mail piece to e-mail. The chapter is currently spending over \$600 annually for the *Pipeline*, whereby the advertising doesn't begin to cover this expense. Those who do not have e-mail, would continue to get a copy by mail so not one is left out.

The second project, lead by Sub-Dean Vicky Sieben, is to chart our expenses by obtaining a history of such going back three or four years and by the use of a spreadsheet, determine what it is costing the chapter to operate and then be in a better position to draw up a budget each year. Also, each expenditure will be coded.

~Lance E. Johnson, Dean, RRV AGO

Pipeline Gets Tuned Up

Welcome to the *Pipeline*, the 'refreshed' Red River Valley Organist Guild newsletter!

The *Pipeline* is now available for delivery via email. If you are able to receive an electronic version of this newsletter, please send a message to rvago@hotmail.com and include the email address that we should send your newsletter 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. We reserve the right to accept, reject, edit or modify any submission. Please send your articles by the 15th of each month to rvago@hotmail.com.

We hope that you find this newsletter informative and interesting!

Chapter Officers

Dean: Lance Johnson

Sub-Dean: Vicky 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

Excellent Hymn Playing Workshop

As I entered the balcony at Trinity Lutheran for the hymn playing workshop, I was so pleased to see 20 other organists enthusiastically waiting for the start of the event. Peter Nygaard, organist at Trinity and Organ Professor at Concordia College, led the workshop.

This was literally a "hands on" demonstration—as Peter played through many hymns demonstrating his experiences and suggestions for us to consider as we lead the congregation in their song. Peter focused on four areas of emphasis: tempo or pulse, articulation, registration, and phrasing.

"Thank you Peter for sharing your afternoon with us and providing us with so many great tips on hymn playing."

It would be hard to explain all the wonderful suggestions we heard, I will just hit on some comments that "stuck" with me as I look back at the event.

Tempo—So often we don't hear or feel the bigger pulse in the music and end up

playing a more 'notey' feeling with each beat. We must feel the strong beat, as an organist has no way of playing the more weighty pulse louder, they above all musicians must feel the stronger beat. So many things come together in deciding the appropriate tempo—the text, the acoustics of the room, the age of the congregation, the style of the hymn—all these must be considered.

Articulation—The organist needs to play the way people will sing. The touch and feel of the hymn should match what we expect the singers will be doing.

Registration—Peter demonstrated three distinct registrations that fit many of our hymns—a bright German sound, great for the Lutheran chorales; an English sound—thicker sound, using 8's, 4's and a soft reed on the swell; and a French sound using the principal organ sound coupled with mutation stops 2 2/3's, etc.

Phrasing/Breathing—Many great examples of various hymns and their tempo and phrasing were demonstrated. We need to allow for the congregation to breathe between stanzas—that one beat of rest is essential. We must play slow enough for the congregation to be able to articulate the words. The organist must

decide the singer's phrasing of the hymn and help to make the singer comfortable.

What a wonderful time and great learning for those who attended. Thank you Peter for sharing your afternoon with us and providing us with so many great tips on hymn playing. You made it so enjoyable and practical.

Now it's up to us to implement these ideas. Stop in for noon lunch each first Friday at the Fryin' Pan in Fargo and we can share common concerns. Hymn playing and leading the congregation is an awesome task!

~Bill Tweten, Secretary, RRV AGO

December Fargo Theatre Concerts

The Red River Chapter ATOS and the Fargo Theatre will again have noon hour Christmas concerts on December 14-16 and 19-23.

Those playing the Mighty Wurlitzer will be Dave Knudson, Steve Eneboe, and Lance Johnson. The final concert on December 23 will feature Margie Bailly on piano with vocals by Sarah Weiler.

Each is asked to bring two food items for the FM Food Pantry.

Friday Lunch Club

Join the Organist Lunch Club! This group meets every first Friday of the month at the Fargo downtown Fryin' Pan restaurant. You do not need to be an AGO member to participate. It is a great time for organists to get together.

Welcome New Members!

- Sonia Carlson
- Ruth Discher
- Sue Jordahl
- Karen Nordenstrom
- Vicky Wms Sieben
- Ruth Strawn

Concordia Presents Student Recital: A Review

On Monday evening, November 21, Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead was the setting for a student recital which featured four of Peter Nygaard's organ students and Bradley Moore, a brass student who was accompanied by Anne Hatling on piano.

Lindsay Huwe began the program with a passionate reading of Cesar Frank's "Chorale no. 3 in A Minor." Slow passages were marked with good phrasing even the mighty Holtkamp organ's polyphonic voicing does not lend itself well to this period.

Bach's Prelude in G Minor, which opens with rapid ascending scales, was played by Daniel Bruggeman with attention getting gusto.

Organ major Karen Nordenstrom, who was recently chosen as head organist for Dilworth Lutheran, played Jehan Alain's, "Litanies" which has served as a war-horse for organ majors, especially those like Karen who plan on grad school. Nordenstrom is one of Concordia's more unique students coming from a construction back round in home building where she has skills in roofing, framing and sheet-rocking.

Henri Mulet's "Carillon Suite" is reminiscent of Vierne's, "Carillon de Westminster" with a strong theme in the pedal, and was played by California student Stephanie Wikstrom.

Texas student Peter Rogahn played

trous parts from the "Five Dances for Organ" by Calvin Hampton. This series features heavy dissonance and grotesque staccato chord clusters with a repeated figure in the left hand. Hampton is regarded as one of our greatest late twentieth century organ composers having held forth at the Old South Church in Boston where he played a three manual instrument rebuilt by Charles Fisk before Hampton's untimely death.

In the future, the AGO will attempt to publicize future student recitals in the *Pipeline*. These are well worth attending by AGO members.

~Lance E. Johnson, Dean, RRV AGO

Crookston Church Hosts Hymn Festival: A Review

A hymn festival was presented by Our Saviors Lutheran church (LCMS) in Crookston on Sunday evening November 20th to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the installation of their three-manual Johnson pipe organ.

First Presbyterian organist and Northern Valley Chapter secretary Reid Froiland lead off the program with Vierne's "Carillon de Westminster". George French, instructor at UMC and organist at Trinity Lutheran participated with many varied settings of the hymns sung by the assembled multitude. The real star of the evening was Johanna Unke who is an organ major at Jamestown College that studies with Prof. William Wojnar. Unke is also an Our Saviors member and comes from a musical family. Johanna's sister Jennifer played violin, with their brother Tim on trumpet.

The churches senior choir, under the direction of Laurain Jurchens, not only provided "backup" for the singing but also rendered the anthem "Of the Fathers Love Begotten"

based on a 13th century plain chant which to this reviewer's surprise was a contemporary setting which contained threes against twos, a device that was not invented until centuries later. The Our Saviors Choir is blessed with some very fine voices.

Many very beautiful hymns not found in the ELCA hymn book were inspiring and uplifting. Scripture was read between hymns by Pastor Steven Boler and Scott Ramey with his thunderous voice.

The evening concluded with a sumptuous lunch in the church parlors. Judging by the smiles on attendee's faces, this festival was very successful and I would not be surprised if this church was to host more events.

~Lance E. Johnson, Dean, RRV AGO

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Upcoming Events

December 4, 2005

Christmas Hymn Sing ~ 7:00PM
First Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND

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

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Useful Links

<http://www.agohq.org/home.html>

Publication Title: *Pipeline*
Issue Date: December 2005
Statement of Frequency: Monthly,
except June and July