



AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
RED RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER

Celebrating 50 Years
September 1945-1995



Volume 11, Number 4

January/February, 1995

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Choral Reading Session

and
Workshop

with
Nationally recognized

-choral conductor

-composer

-clinician

Rene' Clausen

Topics covered:

Reading and rehearsing old and new anthems by various composers

Choral warm-ups with a purpose

Rehearsal techniques and teaching aids for adult church choirs

Saturday, January 14, 1:00-4:30

Olivet Lutheran Church

1330 University Drive South

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Cost: \$3.00 for an anthem packet containing 10 selections for Adult Choirs

For more information, call 233-6967 (leave a message if necessary)

Happy New Year!

Knowing you have all been crazy trying to get it all done, my wish for you is that you have had a moment to consciously ponder the things that you are grateful for, and to possibly put your many activities and involvements into a perspective that brings you satisfaction. I managed to take a couple of "down" days, and wish to publicly acknowledge my appreciation of the people who serve as the Chapter Board. For me that means that not only does that put this whole Dean thing into a cosmic perspective, but I will be bold to say, "I've enjoyed it!"

Please note information elsewhere about the Rene Clausen Choral Reading Session, January 14th. The information is out there in a couple of different ways. See to it that you pass it on to an appropriate or interested person who may not have seen it. Rene is a sought-after clinician who happens to have a local address.

I strongly urge you to consider attending the Region VI convention in Kansas City this summer. It is for you! Apart from hosting organ conventions, K.C. has lots to offer. See information on the convention elsewhere. Once you go, you will hope to attend again. And when discussions about the RRV Chapter hosting a convention come up, you will have first-hand knowledge.

I hope to see you at some of our events. If you have something on your mind and it can't wait, call.

Marlys Herring

By all accounts, our first Community Messiah Sing-Along proved to be a resounding success. Everyone present that evening enjoyed themselves and were not bashful about immediately saying so. In addition, comments and compliments continue to surface. Many thanks to Gary Thrasher for his thorough planning for the event; thanks to Mike Olson for his help behind the scenes and for playing the organ from the beginning of the rehearsals straight through the performance. Ken and Mary Tangen and Lloyd and Dorothy Collins were the first faces seen by most as they arrived. Thanks to these ambassadors for greeting our guests most cordially and for taking tickets. Several volunteer ushers from First Presbyterian positioned themselves throughout the building to help direct traffic and answer questions, and Penny Humphrey and her family donated the food and hosted the orchestra to a light lunch prior to the concert. We thank all these folks for their involvement in making the evening a success. And, finally, for making it happen, we acknowledge the expertise of Lucy Thrasher, Peter Halverson, Daniel Gast, and the members of the orchestra.

A detailed report was submitted by Gary to the Board. Ads were placed in the Midweek Eagle and F/M Greeter, there was an article in The Forum, 500 posters were distributed, and notices were sent to churches. There were three paid professional soloists, 20 members in the orchestra, 205 singers, and 130 listeners. Total income was \$1224.00, total expenses were \$2066.00. AGO split the cost with First Presbyterian (as per agreement) with each contributing \$421.00, which was slightly less than anticipated. A complete report was distributed to each Board member; a Messiah Sing-Along file has been started for future reference.

submitted by Marlys Herring

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE TO YEARBOOK

- McFADDEN, Louise (H) 218 634-1102
Box 277
Baudette, MN 56623
- MELBERG, Keith (H) 218 736-6816
930 North Union (O) 218 739-8328
Fergus Falls, MN 56537 (C) 218 739-3340
O: First Lutheran, Fergus Falls
OTP
Substitute: W
- HERSHBERGER, Cindy (H) 218 233-0257
1914 South 6th Street
Moorhead, MN 56560
- DAHL-BARTUNEK, Peggy (H) 701 352-2565
500 Hill Avenue (O) 701 352-2770
Grafton, ND 58237
O: St. John the Evangelist
Owner, Rodgers Classic Organs

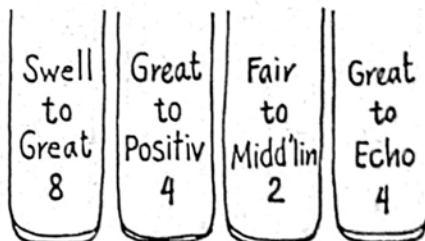
Corrections, Changes


- STEEN, Brad (O) 701 231-7761
- MOE, Allen (new address)
HCR #J Box 22A
Roseau, MN 56751
- HANSEN, Norman (H) 602 986-9600
Mesa (not Phoenix), AZ 85207

AGO BELL CHOIR DEBUTS

The newly organized AGO Handbell Choir made its first public appearance Sunday, December 18th, at Gethsemane Cathedral for the Festival of Lessons and Carols. The bells played a prelude of carol arrangements, introduced a carol, accompanied a carol, and played a postlude. The group was well received by listeners and by the lovely acoustics of the room. As a group, we felt good about our contribution, too. Many thanks to Joan Bystol for taking on the planning, training, and directing of this group, and clearing the way at Messiah Lutheran Church to allow us to use their bells and their facility for practice. Those who rang were: Judy Sanders, June Bailey, LuAnn Haugen, Sandra Fiechtner, Cindy Hershberger, Dorothy Koopmann, Vern Gessole, John Jahr, Carolyn Hensrud, Marlys Herring, and Brad Steen. The next scheduled appearance will be at the AGO Hymnfest in April. If you have any additional ideas, let Joan know.

submitted by Marlys Herring





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CHORAL READING SESSION WITH RENE CLAUSEN
SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 1995, 1:00-4:30
OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH, FARGO, ND

The "poster" on the front page gives all the necessary information about our January program, but it doesn't give you a sense of how uplifting this workshop will be. It's going to be an inspiration for all who attend.

RENE CLAUSEN is the conductor of the Concordia Choir. He also conducts the adult vocal and handbell choirs at Olivet Lutheran. He is in demand as a composer of choral music (some of which will be used at the workshop) and as a guest conductor and clinician throughout the United States. Through all of his work there is a dedication to excellence that is unique. He is dedicated to teaching people to really make music when they sing in a choir. He achieves this by getting choir members themselves to want to have their ensemble sound both beautiful and expressive. This reading session and workshop provides area choir directors an opportunity to experience Rene Clausen's rehearsal techniques as well as to hear him talk about them. He's also promised to share some of his philosophy of church music.

Members of AGO are encouraged to invite non-member choir directors to attend this afternoon workshop. We hope that the choir we form for the day will be substantial in numbers and in enthusiasm. We'll have a break halfway through the afternoon to let participants catch their breath, have some refreshments, and visit with each other. If you need more information call June Boyd at (218) 233-6967. I will return your call if you leave a message.
submitted by June Boyd

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L I S Z T F E S T I V A L
CONCORDIA COLLEGE

- January 19th
- 4:00 P.M. Opening reception, "Liszt's Music,"
Cyrus M. Running gallery, Concordia
- 8:00 P.M. John Perry, pianist, Memorial Auditorium, Concordia
- January 20th
- 1--4 P.M. John Perry, Piano Master Class, in Hvidsten Recital Hall, Concordia
- 6:00 P.M. Alan Walker, lecturer, Hvidsten's Kresge Lounge, Concordia
- 8:00 P.M. Pauli Gold & David Worth, duo-pianists, Inaugural Recital, Hvidsten Recital Hall, Concordia
- January 21st
- 3:00 P.M. Faculty Recital at Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead
- 8:00 P.M. Jay Hershberger, pianist, Hvidsten Recital Hall, Concordia

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FEBRUARY AGO MEETING & F/M COMMUNIVERSITY

The February AGO Meeting will be held in conjunction with F/M Communiversy in the Knutson Center Centrum at Concordia College on Sunday, February 5th, from 1:30 to 3:30 P.M. This will be the first of a four-part series of classes on the contributions of ALBERT SCHWEITZER in several areas. Michael Olson will be teaching the first class (February 5th). [See press release below for more information. Ed.] AGO members are able to attend the four-part course for \$20.00, which is a savings of \$8.00 over the regular cost. You will need to call Ann Zavoral [Details below. Ed.] AGO has had a tradition with F/M Communiversy for several years, and it is wonderful that the tradition continues in 1995.

For those of you contemplating singing with Lowell Larson's Master Chorale and Communiversy Singers, that course will meet from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M. AGO didn't want to compete with that choral experience. Participate in F/M Communiversy in 1995 as you are able. If you have never been a part of this great February tradition in Fargo-Moorhead, 1995 must be your year to give it a try!!

submitted by Michael Olson

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F / M C O M M U N I V E R S I T Y

Thirty years have passed since the death of Albert Schweitzer. The F/M Communiversy will examine one of the most fascinating people of the 20th century in a February course offering. Schweitzer was an organist, Bach scholar, theologian, biblical scholar, philosopher, and Nobel Peace Prize winner. He excelled in many areas, but left everything behind to become a medical missionary in Africa. Schweitzer helped edit Bach's works, wrote influential books on Bach and on The Quest of the Historical Jesus, and came to be seen later as a modern saint. On February 5th and 12th the organ music of J. S. Bach will be analyzed, played, and discussed by Michael Olson, organist at First Lutheran Church, Fargo, and Dr. Robert Pattengale, chair and professor of music at Moorhead State University. Rev. Dr. Arland Jacobson, Director of CHARIS Ecumenical Center and Dr. James Buhr will discuss Schweitzer's theological and medical contributions to the modern world on February 19th and 26th respectively. Buhr has volunteered as a physician and practiced medicine in Natal and Cameroon and is now in private practice in Valley City, N.D. The class will meet Sundays from 1:30 to 3:30 P.M. in the Knutson Center Centrum. The tuition of AGO members is \$20; senior citizens and students, \$25; others, \$28. Bach aficionados may wish to bring the Widor-Schweitzer Editions of Bach Organ Works along to the first two sessions. For more information or to register call 299-3430.

submitted by Ann Zavoral, F/M Communiversy

SPOTLIGHT ON LONGEVITY

Like most of us, MARGE POSSEHL started her career as a church organist during her teenage years. She started her formal training in the fifth grade when she began piano lessons, arriving at her first lesson playing "Minuet in G" (she had been previously learning from her mother). A native of Fergus Falls, she was pressed into service in high school by St. James Episcopal Church where she became their organist during the school year (although she had little experience as an organist). During the summers, St. James couldn't afford to keep an organist, so Marge did some subbing at Bethlehem Lutheran, her home congregation.

After high school graduation, Marge became a student at Moorhead State University. To help subsidize her transportation, St. James Episcopal increased her salary to \$3.00 a Sunday, up from \$1.50. Marge says that those years at St. James were real ego-builders, and that the congregation was always very appreciative. This was her training ground, and she is grateful to them for letting her learn on them!

After graduating from MSU, she taught 7th, 8th, and 9th grade English, 7th and 8th grade general music, and high school band and chorus at Glyndon High School. After her marriage to Dewey in 1952, she became a substitute teacher. Their careers took them to Mahanomen for four years, Iowa City for a year and a half, and Riverside, Iowa for a year where Dewey taught instrumental music and Marge taught vocal music to grades 1-12.

Marge is marking 33 years as organist at Bethesda Lutheran Church in Moorhead, and for 29 of those years she has also been the Senior Choir director. During that time four daughters were born and Dewey was often the one who got them ready for church. But with Dewey in the choir, Marge has no recollection where the girls sat! At Bethesda, Marge served on the Synod Worship and Music Committee, has been a member of the Bethesda women's organizations, and has volunteered in numerous other capacities. She received a 20-year acknowledgement as a surprise in church and was feted at a 30-year reception. She says her congregation has been wonderful to her.

Marge joined AGO for the first time in 1987, served as Secretary from 1988-1990, as a member at-large in 1991, as Dean from 1992-1994, and chaired two Hymnfests. Marge and Dewey have four daughters, Jan, Christie, Pauli, and Sara, two of whom have musical careers, and six grandchildren.

Congratulations on long and faithful service, Marge!

submitted by Marlys Herring

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SIXTY YEARS IN MUSIC !

On December 25, 1994, NORMAN HANSON completed sixty years in music. Norm said a good many of those years were running church music programs--Messiah Lutheran from 1955 to 1970 and Hawley Lutheran from 1970 to 1984. He's fairly sure that this is his 40th anniversary with the Red River Valley Chapter. Norm contributes occasionally to Pipeline. He now spends his winters in Arizona.

Congratulations, Norm!

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PIPEDREAMS

SUNDAYS - 9:30 P.M. - KCCM 91.1 FM

Jan. 15 A Celebration of Praises... festive organ solos by Mary Ida Yost and Donald Williams, and hymn improvisations by Gerre Hancock, with brass and choir, recorded at Hill Auditorium, University of Michigan.

Jan. 22 Harbach On Bach Etc... music by Gardner Read, Norman Dello Joio, William Albright, Roberta Bitgood, Cary Ratcliff, and J. S. Bach, performed by the imaginative American organist Barbara Harbach.

Jan. 29 An Historic Organ Sampler... performances from an Organ Historical Society gathering in and around Newburyport, Massachusetts.

Feb. 5 King Widor... five different soloists perform Charles-Marie Widor's famous Fifth Symphony, and Jonathan Biggers solos in the lavish, seldom-heard Sinfonia Sacra for organ and orchestra.

Feb. 12 In Black and White (I)... recitalist Herman D. Taylor provides perceptive introductions to varied works of African-American composers, recorded at All Saints' Church, Atlanta.

Feb. 19 In Black and White (II)... organists Mickey Thomas Terry, Lorna McDaniel, and Robert Scoggins explore works by African-American composers.

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DATES OF NOTE

Jan. 13 Lucy Thrasher, soprano, Hvidsten Recital Hall, Concordia, 8:00 P.M.

JAN. 14 CHORAL READING CLINIC WITH RENE CLAUSEN, Olivet Lutheran, Fargo, 1:00-4:30 P.M. (see pages 1 & 3 for details)

Jan. 17 Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Dille Center for the Arts, MSU, 8:00 P.M.

Jan. 19--Jan. 21 LISZT FESTIVAL (see page 3)

Jan. 28 Steven Woyen, organist, Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead, 3:00 P.M. Works include Bach, William Bolcom, and Messiaen. Steven, a junior, studies with Peter Nygaard.

Jan. 28 Senior Honors Concert, Memorial Auditorium, Concordia, 7:30 P.M.

Jan. 28 F/M Symphony, Timothy Paradise, clarinet, all-Mozart, Festival Hall, NDSU, 8:00 P.M.

Feb. 3 Faculty Chamber Music Recital, Hvidsten Recital Hall, Concordia, 8:00 P.M.

FEB. 5 F/M COMMUNIVERSITY: SCHWEITZER ON J. S. BACH, lecture/concert by Mike Olson, Knutson Center Centrum, Concordia, 1:30 P.M. (see page 3) * THIS WILL BE THE FEBRUARY AGO MEETING *

FEB. 5 F/M COMMUNIVERSITY OPENING CONVOCATION, An Evening with Garrison Keillor, Memorial Auditorium, Concordia, 7:00

FEB. 12 F/M COMMUNIVERSITY: SCHWEITZER (see page 3)

FEB. 19 F/M COMMUNIVERSITY: SCHWEITZER (see page 3)

FEB. 26 F/M COMMUNIVERSITY: SCHWEITZER (see page 3)

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In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths
Proverbs 3:5-6

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"Celebrating our fortieth anniversary"

**BOARD MEETING - RED RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER - AGO
Herring Residence - December 13, 1994**

Present: Marlys Herring, Jay Hershberger, John Jahr, Dawn Papenfuss, David Childs, Bob Hachmeister, Carolyn Hensrud, Brad Steen, George French, Gary Thrasher. Carolyn Hensrud was asked to record the minutes.

The meeting was called to order as we viewed pictures from the Simon Preston recital in Winnipeg, October 10th, attended by Barry Wenger, George French, and Marlys Herring.

Minutes from the last Board meeting were reviewed and noted, & approved as printed in the Nov/Dec Pipeline.

John Jahr reported a current balance of \$2523.24, with all bills paid. Approved.

There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS: 1) In honor of our chapter's 50 years, it was approved to send \$50.00 to National AGO in response to the Annual Fund Drive.

2) Marlys passed around the Guidelines For Hosting A Regional Convention, a comprehensive manual requested from New York. There has not been time to get into it yet; it was suggested we have a "Dream and Think" session soon.

3) Marlys encouraged chapter members to attend the Region VI convention in Kansas City, June 18-21, 1995.

4) John Jahr read a letter from member Norm Hanson who offers a gift of \$500.00 to the chapter for a recitalist. John will communicate to Norm our sincere appreciation for his gift and that we will use it for our recitalist in our Anniversary Year (1995-1996).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1) Membership - Carolyn reports that we have 80 members.

2) By-Law Review - Brad anticipates the committee will meet after the holidays. Using National by-laws and another chapter's Operating Procedures as guidelines, we hope to have ours published for the Chapter's review and vote in March; they will be sent to the National offices and to Region VI Convener, Linda Duckett. They will be printed in the Chapter Yearbook for the 50th Anniversary year.

3) This year's nominating committee is Joan Bystol (Chair), Ardis Witte, and Jay Hershberger. We were reminded that this Spring we will expand the at-large board members from three to six.

4) Program - Dawn Papenfuss reported that plans for the January program, a Choral Reading Session with Rene Clausen, are coming along. Music from several publishers will be included; help is needed to assemble music packets. Refreshments will be served. The event is chaired by June Boyd. Gary Thrasher gave a final report of the Messiah Sing-Along. The final cost to our chapter was \$421.00.

less than what had been budgeted. Our warm appreciation was expressed to Gary for his attention to detail in all the planning, and for the delightful and inviting atmosphere generated the evening of the performance. All Board members were given a copy of his report. A Messiah Sing-Along file has been established.

5) 95-96 Program - Jay Hershberger presented some program possibilities for next year, which included a "name" recitalist, Sing-Along, Hymnfest, Birthday Celebration, and others.

6) Grants/Funding - George French informed us of some of the grant possibilities that we may be eligible for and some of the things we could do to comply with grant guidelines. Straddling the two states is a two-edged sword; however, with coordinated planning between our programming and funding possibilities, we should be capable of gaining some grant support. It was noted that our chapter has just sent out a letter to 1500 addresses requesting financial support.

THINKING, DREAMING, PLANNING - There is a need to set aside time at each Board meeting to define our mission, focus on our future, and establish some patterns and goals. Some thoughts included Lenten Noon-hour organ concerts, Young Organists Competition, hosting a convention, a plan/network for connecting with potential/lapsed members.

Meeting adjourned. Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Hensrud, Acting Secretary

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE NAMED

A nominating committee has been named and activated. Those serving are Joan Bystol (Chair), Ardis Witte, and Jay Hershberger. They will determine which of the elected offices will be open and contact members who would be willing to allow their names to be submitted for election. In addition to the single at-large position which opens every year, the committee will secure names for three additional at-large positions as we increase the size of the Executive Board. Once elected, lots will be drawn to determine length of service of those three positions. The slate will be announced March 1st. Additional nominations may be made by petitions signed by at least five members-in-good-standing of the Chapter and submitted to the secretary (Mary Tangen) by April 1st.



FROM THE EDITOR The next issue of Pipeline will be for late February and March. DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL IS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH. THANKS!

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

Red River Valley Chapter

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Fargo, ND 58108

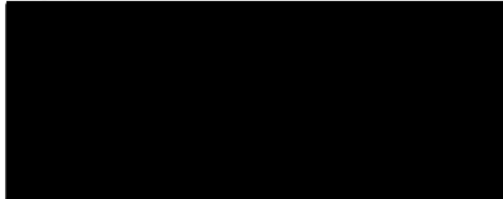
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REGION VI CONVENTION

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Kansas City Chorale
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Robert Glasgow
Susan Marchant
Linda Duckett
David Higgs
John Obetz

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Deadline: May 29, 1995

Kenneth Walker: 913-236-8600

PIPELINE Newsletter of the
Red River Valley Chapter of the
American Guild of Organists
Fargo/Moorhead

Marlys Herring - Dean
Jay Hershberger - Sub Dean
Mary Tangon - Secretary
John Jahr - Treasurer
Board Members: Gerald Berg/
David Childs/Robert Hachmeister

Contributions are encouraged in
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